

# The Rotozark

Greeter: TBD

Rotary Club of Springfield #2387

Established June 1, 1919

Invocation, Pledge, &amp; Four Way Test: TBD

## This Week at Rotary: Update on the Darr College of Agriculture, Dr. Melissa Bledsoe



Dr. Melissa Bledsoe, Interim Dean of the William H. Darr College of Agriculture since July 1, 2023, has spent the last 10 years as a professor of plant and soil science in the Environmental Plant Science and Natural Resources Department. Bledsoe is an alumnus of the College of Agriculture, earning a B.S. in Horticulture, and M.S. in Plant Science focusing on plant physiology and allelopathy (plant to plant biochemical interactions). She then received her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri with Dr. Dale Blevins, focusing on soil fertility and plant nutrition in forage crops. There she investigated forage systems in Missouri, such as tall fescue-based pastures, and worked on improving the nutrient content of the forage for grazing animals.

When she's not teaching courses in soils and plant physiology, she mentors student organizations such as the Agronomy Club and Horticulture Club, advises students, and mentors and trains graduate students in her soil and plant analytical lab. Recent research studies at MSU include a variety of cropping systems, ranging from garlic and goji berries, microgreen production, to silvopasture systems (integrating tree production and grazing) in the Ozarks. Her recent collaborative USDA NIFA-funded grant incorporated drone-based imaging and measure-

ment of tree canopy and stress in an established silvopasture system at MSU's Journagan Ranch.

## Coming Attractions

**Next Week, Sept. 19**—CVB, Mark Hecquet

**Sept. 26**—TBD

**Oct. 3**—Jeopardy! What it's like to be on the show!

## Upcoming Calendar Events:

**Sept. 19**—Board Meeting at Kentwood Hall, 10:30am

**Sept. 20**—Springfield Symphony Orchestra Service Project at Creamery Arts Center, 10am-2pm

## Springfield Symphony Orchestra Service Project

On September 20th from 10am-2pm at the Creamery Arts Center (411 N Sherman Pkwy.) we will be assisting the Symphony with some office type work that includes folding, labeling and sorting some correspondence that is sent out to their mailing list of approximately 1000 households.

3-4 volunteers are needed for each two-hour slot (10-12 & 12-2) or you can come and stay for all 4 hours! A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting or you can email Kim Pittman if you would like to volunteer.

## Rotary Theme for September: Basic Education and Literacy Month

Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

## Roseann Bentley Musical Playground Donations

To make individual donations to the Roseann Bentley Musical Playground, visit [ParkBoard.org/BentleyPlayground](http://ParkBoard.org/BentleyPlayground). Be sure to include "Downtown Rotary" under "Company/Organization".

## Pay fines via PayPal!

Scan the QR code below or search "downtownrotaryspringfieldmo@gmail.com" to find us!



Visit our club website at

***[DowntownRotarySpringfieldMo.org](http://DowntownRotarySpringfieldMo.org)***

## September Birthdays

9/3—Michael Clarke, Keith Noble & Sam Smith  
9/4—Sean Balisle  
9/8—Nyla Milleson  
9/9—Clif Smart  
9/11—Jerry Tourville  
9/13—Linda Martineau & Ram Nayar  
9/16—Tamera Jahnke  
9/18—Michael Bishop-Jones & Adam Kampa  
9/20—John Mihalevich  
9/25—Aaron Jones  
9/29—Miles Sweeney

## September Anniversaries

5 years—Matt Suarez  
8 years—Karl Schmidt  
11 years—Janet Dankert & Brigitte Marrs  
12 years—Clif Smart  
14 years—Shelley Evans  
28 years—Bud Greve  
30 years—Keith Noble & Carol Williamson  
31 years—Shara Cash

**Board Members:** President, Matt Suarez; President-Elect, Lisa Bakerink; Secretary, Melissa Briggs; Past-President, Gail Noggle; Treasurer, Steve Bach; Director, Michael Bishop-Jones; Director, Abby Glen ; Director, Steve Shanholtzer; Director: Trudy Smith; Executive Secretary, Kimberly Pittman

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