



August 23, 2022

St. Simons

Rotary Spray

Volume 23, Number 7

August 16 Meeting

**Rena Ann Peck GA Rivers Network
Kim Badnarek Okefenokee Swamp Park
Twin Pines Titanium Mining Update**



Rena and Kim have been working together on the protection of the Okefenokee which affects much of coastal Georgia. The current emphasis is on a couple of initiatives that involve building a conservation economy around the region. They want to make sure Okefenokee is recognized as a World Heritage Site. (It has been on the list for more than 40 years). They are also working with the Okefenokee Experience Tri-County project to attract capital investment into the region to grow tourism that will help support the refuge. We learned from their video some interesting facts about the Okefenokee....It is one of the last fully preserved wetlands in the U.S. Over 80% of the water in the swamp is from rainfall. The refuge has been having more frequent droughts resulting in more frequent large wildfires when the peat moss base dries out and becomes fuel. The Okefenokee is a swamp, but the refuge also includes Trail Ridge which connected to the swamp. Trail Ridge was heavily mined in Florida causing loss

of wetlands, and poor, unnatural vegetation regrowth. Mining in Trail Ridge will loosen the soil causing the water level in the swamp to be reduced, destroying the natural habitat.

There is also an alligator research team working in the swamp, taking tissue samples to study their diet, health, and lineage as well as studying behavior. The species is threatened by loss of habitat and undesirable interactions with people such as feeding.

Kim volunteered to host a SSI Rotary road trip to the Okefenokee including lunch. She and Rena also encouraged us to contact our legislators to support the protection of the Okefenokee from titanium mining.

August 23 Meeting

Heather Kellen 6920 District Governor



Heather holds a Doctorate in Physical Therapy and has practiced for 17 years holding positions of area director and vice president of operations for outpatient and rehab organizations. She also works as an adjunct teacher at Central Georgia Technical College instructing Physical Therapy Assistants. Heather holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications/Journalism and worked in Alaska and Washington as a news reporter for newspaper, radio, and television before moving to Florida for graduate studies.

Heather is a proud member of the Perry Rotary Club where she has been a member since 2008. She has been active in the club serving as Community Service Chair, Youth Services Chair and Club President in 2014-2015. She has served District 6920 as Disaster Response Chair, End Polio Now Ambassador and Rotary

Leadership Institute Director and Facilitator. Heather has represented Rotary International administering polio vaccines in India, as member of a Vocational Training Team to Myanmar, and as a participant in Rotary Day at United Nations.

She also contributes time and energy into her local community serving as a member of Toastmasters International, Perry Chamber of Commerce, and Board member of the Perry Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Heather was recognized with the Star President Award and Club of the Year recognition during her term as Club President. She received her club's Rotarian of the Year award, the Governor's Leadership Award, and Emerging District Leader Honor. She is a Paul Harris Major Donor, Paul Harris Society member, and Will Watt Fellow.

Rotary Leadership Goal: I want to be a forward-thinking leader that helps to create a District where we are able to meld the history and traditions of our district forefathers with the diverse leadership of the future.

The meeting on August 23 will be HYBRID - at the Best Western and by Zoom

Zoom 12:45 PM for 1:00 PM meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/981201782?pwd=cmZzRjFqRi9HVdYzQjczRDRnSnBqQT09>

Meeting ID: 981 201 782 Password: 345472

One tap mobile: +1 929 436 2866



MEMBER NEWS



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

Guests at August 16 Meeting
Phil Waldrop - Big Canoe, GA rotary
Cecil Coke - Macon Rotary, now on SSI

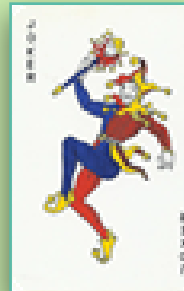
Birthdays



Mike Harris
Debbie Britt

Congratulations

Beth and Mickey were
married on Aug 13!!!



ROTABUCKS AUGUST 9

\$45

And the winner was...

Dick James

but no Joker!

Please direct all Rotary Cares to Jonna Kerrigan at jonnak@ameritech.net or to President Tate at tater56@bellsouth.net



Four Way Test

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** &
better **FRIENDSHIP**?

Is it **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?



Deviled eggs. Tuna casserole with Swiss cheese and lemon. Big salad with cucumbers, tomato and avocado. Chef's choice dessert.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Upcoming Meetings

August 23 Board Meeting 11:00 AM

Support Meet The Pros, our annual fundraiser. Please donate 2 bottles of wine (minimum value \$25 each) to this year's fun new "Wine Pull."

Polio has reemerged. The PolioPlus Society of District 6920 wants to raise over \$1M for Rotary's Number One Priority, the eradication of polio. RI is asking each of us to commit to making a \$100/year donation to its PolioPlus Fund. Those who make that promise by filling out the form will become members of the The PolioPlus Society of District 6920 and will (so long as supplies last) receive a special gold medallion signifying their dedication and commitment. If you would like to contribute and don't have a form, please contact Chip Lewis or Bev Trainor.

ROTARY WEBSITES

www.ssirotary.org - St. Simon Rotary Website

www.rotarydistrict6920.org - District 6920 Website

www.facebook.com/rotaryssi - St. Simons Rotary Facebook

www.facebook.com/Rotary6920 - District Facebook Page

Click on address to go to page

Area Rotary Club Meetings

Brunswick	Brunswick Country Club	Thurs, 12:00 pm
Golden Isles	Kemble Center, SGHS	Wed., 7:30 am
Jekyll Island	Jekyll Island Golf Club	Wed., 7:30 am
St. Simons	Best Western/Zoom HYBRID	Tues., 1:00 pm