

Rotary
District 6780



Club of Cleveland

Woodsong Forest School Is a Hidden Gem

By Cameron M. Fisher on Monday, October 3, 2022



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

Speakers

October 04, 2022

BiskitNV
BiskitNV will be discussing their business

October 11, 2022

Little Country Farm and Petting Zoo
animal rescue and events

October 18, 2022

Dr. Hermilo Jasso-Professor of Economics Lee University
The current state of our economy and his predictions for the future

October 25, 2022

Vista Corp presentation

November 01, 2022

Pam Moore with Special Spaces

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President



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President -Nominee



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We were privileged to welcome Bonnie Cretton, founder and director of Woodsong Forest School to the Rotary podium on September 27. She shared her vision of a holistic, nature-based education that takes place at Woodsong, located at Johnston Woods. Since Bonnie first presented to Rotary four years ago, the school has grown from 20 students to 150, and now welcomes learners from pre-K through 4th grade. They also have a faculty of 20 teachers.

Woodsong has a diverse student body and operates out of cabin classrooms for each grade using natural materials where possible. They spend a lot of time outdoors and in all weather, so students witness nature at every level.

Bonnie, who is also an adjunct professor at Lee University, said, "When I was a kid, I would climb a tree as far as I could. It gave me sense of strength and freedom and I felt alive...we need more tree climbers!"

The Woodsong experience allows for children to learn in the most natural way, while still covering the traditional topics of math, reading, writing, social studies, and more. Bonnie says the students are taught the Montessori method, but with such additional learning techniques such as nature immersion, place-based education, and play-based learning, with the belief that "play is the work of a child." Curriculum is child-centered and interest-led.

"We want our students to discover who they are and bring this into the world in a positive and kind way," Bonnie concluded. "We see children as whole persons, and seek to develop, not just their physical bodies, but their hearts and character as well."

To learn more about Woodsong, visit their Instagram page [@woodsongschool](#).

October 4th Program: Natosha Versa, Founder of Biskit NV

By Donald Leon Shahan Jr. on Monday, October 3, 2022



With over 20 years of hospitality and foodservice experience, Natosha Versa is delighted to offer Biskit NV, a home-made and southern restaurant to this area. As the visionary, Natosha is focused on hospitality and providing foodservice to this community in excellence. Her focus is not just providing foodservice to those who patronize the restaurant, but to the community at large participating in feeding the hungry and homeless.

Biskit NV is the continuation of dreams of her parents and grandparents and many more. Natosha may be the visionary for Biskit NV but it began generations before her. Her parents were restaurant owners which provided the opportunity to also manage cafeterias and provide hotel foodservice in a local hotel. Throughout this time her aunty could always be found frying the family recipe chicken. Natosha and her siblings along with cousins and other family members would often work and manage these locations.

So, upon completing her MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Administration and almost 20 years in corporate America and a lot of thinking sessions with her family, Natosha envisioned the concept for Biskit NV and is continuing to advance the dream and legacy of her family. She is now a full-time restaurant owner who is expanding her brands footprint into mobile foodservice or otherwise known as a food truck. Biskit NV is a southern hospitality restaurant that is known for its mile-high biskits and its warm environment. Biskit NV is "more than a biskit."

Dictionary Project 2022 was a Success!

By Lyle Swartzel on Monday, October 3, 2022



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Governor

Birthdays

James Barrett
October 3rd
Max Phillips
October 3rd
Ken R. Jones
October 3rd

David Ray
October 5th
Rufus Triplett
October 12th
Ken Dew
October 22nd
Russell Dyer
October 27th



The Dictionary Project for 2022 has wrapped up. Once again, it was full of fun and excitement as over 60 Rotarians visited 17 Cleveland and Bradley County Elementary Schools and 11 private schools. Funds from the Cleveland Rotary Foundation allowed the club to give out approximately 1300 dictionaries to the area's third graders.

This project has been an annual event for many years; teachers look forward to Rotarians visiting their classrooms. The goal each year is to give every third grader in Cleveland and Bradley County their own dictionary. These dictionaries are delivered before the third graders learn dictionary skills. The project saves the school systems money and provides each child with their own dictionary to take home. Although it is a great benefit to the education of the children, most Rotarians love to see the excitement in the children's eyes as the books are passed out to them.



One story for this year's project is from Rotarian Matt Wiseman. While he was waiting for his daughter at gymnastics he noticed a young lady reading a dictionary. He asked her where she got her dictionary. She said I go to North Lee and the Rotarians gave it to us today.



Thank you to everyone for making this project another success and making a difference in children's lives.

The numbers:

1300 Dictionaries given out

62 Rotarians Participating

210 service hours recorded

New World's Record for sorting and labeling the Dictionaries

Countless smiling 3rd graders.







Club Meeting

Cleveland
Meets at Museum Center at Five Points
200 Inman St E
Cleveland, TN 37311
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM