

**D**r. Michael Barbour was introduced by Holly Elmore as a distinguished expert in marine estuaries and environmental science, highlighting his extensive career, including his work with the EPA and contributions to water quality initiatives. He presented the Healthy Ponds Guide, emphasizing the importance of assessing and improving the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of stormwater ponds to enhance ecosystem sustainability. The discussion also touched on community engagement and the need for effective communication regarding environmental issues.



The meeting concluded with Dr. Martin answering questions and sharing personal anecdotes about his involvement in local environmental initiatives. See an article about our meeting and a summary recording at the link below

The Regeneration in ACTION Magazine article, [Welcome Michael Barbour, Ph.D to the Ei Advisory Council](#),



### Meeting Dates

March 100 Central	18th
April 100 Central	1st
April 100 Central	15th
April FIELD TRIP	29th
May 100 Central	6th






**Andrea Martone**  
Director of Communications & Public Relations, Selah Freedom

- D**id you know:
- Human trafficking occurs in every U.S. zip code, with California, Texas, and Florida having the highest rates.
  - About two million children are trafficked annually.
  - 1 in 9 children face online sexual solicitation.
  - Selah Freedom has supported over 100 organizations in 20 U.S. states and 5 countries.

These figures underscore the persistent issue of human trafficking and the efforts of organizations like Selah Freedom to address it through awareness, prevention, outreach, and residential programs.

Andrea will elaborate on all the above at the March 18 Rotary meeting. Her expertise in anti-human trafficking issues stems from working for the past seven years for Selah Freedom, a Sarasota-based anti-sex trafficking nonprofit that is the largest in the state of Florida. Her professional career spans over 30 years of working as an educator in New York (Long Island); as an Editor-in-Chief of a large New York community weekly chain; as a VP, Media Director at two of the top PR agencies in NYC; and currently working as a public relations consultant to Selah Freedom. In addition to her work with Selah, she is also a passionate journalist, writing about human interest topics, arts, culture, music and theatre for magazines, social media and online sites from Tampa/St. Pete down to Sarasota County.



April 6th  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
RINGLING COLLEGE  
ROTARY ECO DOCUMENTARY



The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay is encouraged to visit the Jacaranda EcoPARK on the morning of Saturday, March 29th. This will be a very special day in which two high school Rotary Interact clubs will dispatch students into the field to plant several hundred trees. Enthusiastic support of this effort will be warmly welcomed.

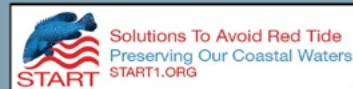
# PLANTING DAY



**MARCH 29 | 9AM - 12PM**  
**JACARANDA ECOPARK**

We are planting the Jacaranda Living Wall and Woodland River Forest. Have fun and help your community!

### THANK YOU TO SURF'S PROJECT SPONSORS:



### ...AND PROJECT DONORS AND SUPPLIERS:



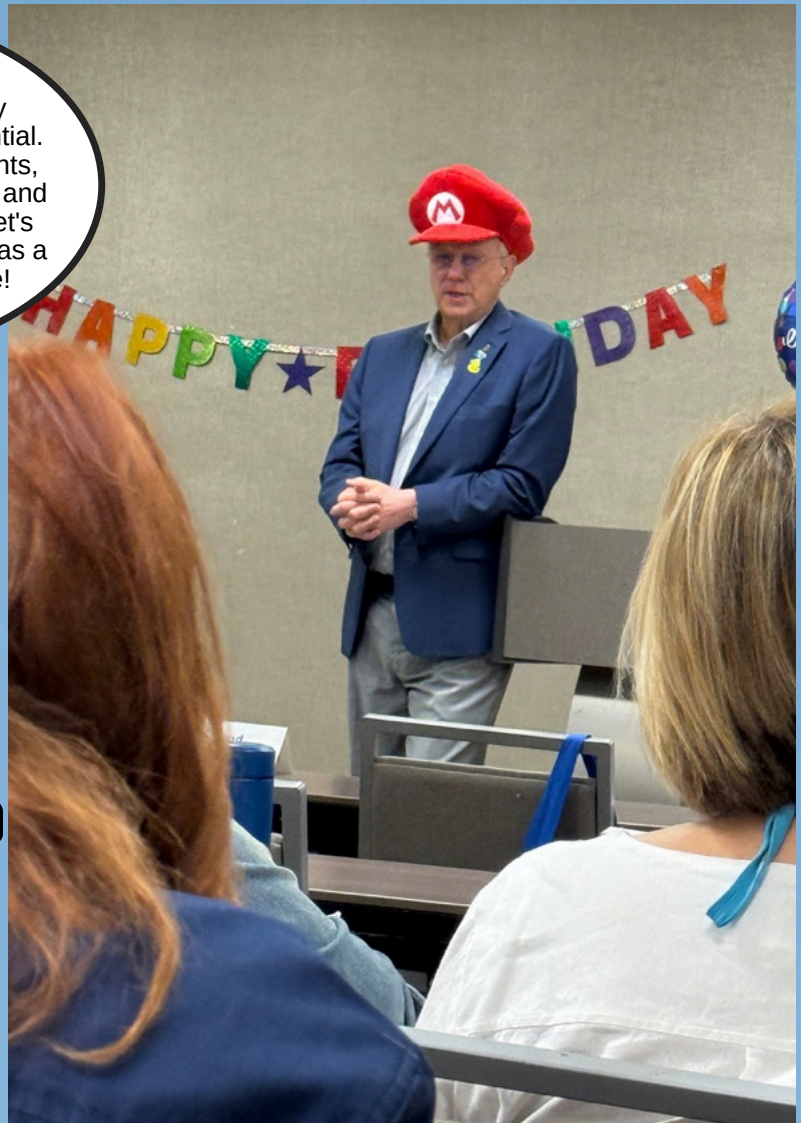
# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bring garden gloves if you have any!

# "SUPER MARIO" PRESENTATION

The 2025-26 Presidents got to soak in some wisdom from RI President-Elect Mario in an intimate District breakout session at Florida PETS!

The message is clear: incorporating fun into Rotary meetings and activities is essential. By prioritizing enjoyable moments, members will be more engaged and look forward to participating. Let's make sure that every meeting has a touch of joy and camaraderie!



President-Elect Carol Mitchell with incoming Area 8 Governor Don Synder from the Sunrise Club.



President-Elect Carol Mitchell with Area 8 Governor for 2024-25 Barry Levinson

# A Moment with RI President-Elect Mário César Martins de Camargo

## Florida PETS (President-Elect Training session) Orlando February 28-March 2

Area 8 Governor Barry Levinson and his wife  
PDG Pam Akins attended the PETS program in Orlando.  
Pam will be President of the Sarasota Club on July 1st during their centennial year.



### Tips for the President- Elects

1. Dreaming Big
2. Unite
3. Focus on Merit and Results
4. Plan in writing
5. Take Action
6. Prepare for Failure
7. Show Results
8. Follow-Up
9. Enjoy the Experience
10. The Role of Rotary: Build bridges and foster connections in a divided world.



Club of  
Sarasota Bay



To my friends at the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay:

RC Sarasota Bay generously gave \$1700 to RC Phnom Penh this past year in support of our club's programs in Cambodia. \$1500 came from foundation funds, and an additional \$200 came from a private donation. In December, I sent you a report on how we spent the first \$1000 of this donation - in support of a project we call Phoenix Kids, which pays for surgeries of young burn victims, generally kids in rural area who get badly burned by falling into kitchen fires or boiling water.

Today, I am pleased to report how we spent the remaining \$700 of your donation - to help fund a new project we have established to support a mobile reading facility in the southern Cambodian city Kampot. Called the Kampot Inclusive Reading Corner, it is a free lending library giving kids access to books in English and Khmer. It operates on the weekend on the Kampot riverside and is staffed by two Khmer bilingual teachers. We are excited to support this new initiative, and grateful to RC Sarasota for the financial contribution that has help us launch the project. Below are some pictures of the mobile reading facility in action. A big thanks from all of us for your continued support of our work in Cambodia. Your contributions make a difference. I'll be back in Sarasota in April, and am looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Best regards, Bill



