

Meet Our Guest: Host Rotarian Bill Schafer, Guest Speaker Rob Ruzicka, Research Scientist Coral Research Program Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

CLUB BIRTHDAYS:

Larry Peggs	October 4th
Doyle Lawson	October 10th
George Donovan	October 12th
Al Shields	October 15th
Greg DeLong	October 25th (Honorary member)
Tom Limroth	October 27th
Sheryl Davis	October 30th

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES:

Bernadette Homan	October 6, 2021	4 years
Jerry Klein	October 27, 2021	4 years
Ron Perez	October 02, 2024	1 year

CLUB EVENTS:

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming club events:

October 25th "Haunted Graveyard" Seminole City Center: Please see Robby to volunteer

Nov. 8th Food Drive. Time will be 9 am - 12 pm. Location will be held at Lake Seminole Country Club. See Linda Bass to volunteer.

Dec. 6th Toy Drive. Time will be 9 am - 12 pm. Location will be held at Lake Seminole Country Club. See Linda Bass to volunteer.

Holiday Spirits - drawing will be held at the weekly meeting of Dec. 10th. All members receive 10 tickets at \$25.00 each. See Lorie Whitney for details if any questions, she has tickets for all members.

Rotary Club of Seminole Officers 2025-2026

President	Robby Groover	Sergeant at Arms	Stephen Basteri
President Elect	Jerry Klein	Bulletin Editor	Bernadette Homan
Secretary	Lorie Whitney	Past President	Mike Lurie
Treasurer	Tom Limroth		

District 6950 Website - www.rotary6950.org
Seminole Rotary Website - www.seminolerotary.org
Rotary Club of Seminole P.O. Box 3313 • Seminole, FL 33775-3313
Club Meetings held at the Bayou Club 7979 Bayou Club Blvd., Largo



**SEMINOLE
SMOKE
SIGNALS**



ROTARY 2025-2026

Club Number 4289

October 22, 2025

PRAY FOR TODAY:

God, help me honor You with the first and best of everything You give me. Let my giving reflect trust in Your continued provision. Remind me that all I have comes from You and belongs to You. Amen

PROGRAM THIS WEEK:

October 22nd - Host Rotarian Bill Schafer, Guest Speaker Rob Ruzicka, Research Scientist Coral Research Program Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

HOST ROTARIANS FOR THE OF OCTOBER

October 29th - Host Robby Groover, Guest Speaker TBD



Rotary Guest Speaker 10.22.25 Rob Ruzicka

Research Scientist Coral Research Program Fish & Wildlife Research Institute

100 8th Avenue SE
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
Office: 727-892-4127
Cell: 727-242-0557
<http://www.myfwc.com/research/habitat/coral/>



Rob Ruzicka has been with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission since 2008 and has been leading and directing the Coral Research Program. They do a variety of things including the long-term monitoring and health assessments of the reefs in South Florida, coral genetics to look at the relatedness and connectivity of coral populations in the Caribbean and the coral rescue project.

You can find more information about our projects here:

1. <https://myfwc.com/research/habitat/coral/cremp/>
2. <https://myfwc.com/research/habitat/coral/disease/rescue/>

Education

Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA (2003-2005)

M.S. Marine Environmental Science

Thesis: *Sponge community structure and anti-predator defenses on temperate reefs of the South Atlantic Bight.*

Hanover College, Hanover, IN (1992-1996)

Bachelor of Arts: biological sciences

Relevant Professional Experience

Coral Research Program Administrator, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (2008-present)

- Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Program & Disturbance Response Monitoring
Principal Investigator responsible for program development and management; strategic planning; establishing and maintaining partnerships; and promoting cooperative science.
- Scientific and team leader for the Florida Coral Rescue Project, responsible for the development, authorship, and implementation of the Coral Rescue Plan; coordination of the collection and distribution of wild corals to >25 coral care facilities nationwide including universities and accredited zoos and aquariums; creation of a genetic management plan for restoration of Florida's Coral Reef;
- Directly supervise a diverse team of 6 local and 6 remote staff, developing work plans and prioritizing assignments to accomplish program objectives including completing annual field sampling; designing and implementing research and conservation projects; and coordinating across teams, contractors, and partners to complete required grant deliverables.
- Collaborate with federal, state, county, university, and NGO partners to support marine conservation policy and identify corrective actions to reverse coral reef decline in Florida.

Relevant Publications

- Manzello D, Cuning R, **Ruzicka R**, et al. Heat-driven Functional Extinction of Caribbean Acropora Corals from Florida's Coral Reef. *Science* (2025), in press.
- Harper L, Huebner L, O'Cain E, **Ruzicka R**, Gleason D, Fogarty ND. Multi-year coral recruitment study across the Florida Reef Tract reveals boom-or-bust pattern among broadcast spawners and consistency among brooders. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* (2023) 721:39-58. <https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14399>
- Toth L, Stathakopoulos T, Kuffner I, **Ruzicka R.**, Colella MA, Shinn EA. The unprecedented loss of Florida's reef-building corals and the emergence of a novel coral-reef assemblage. *Ecology* (2019) 100(9), e02781. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.2781>
- **Ruzicka R.**, Colella M, Porter J, Morrison J, Kidney J, Brinkhuis V, Lunz, K, Macaulay K., Meyers M, Colee J. Temporal changes in benthic assemblages on Florida Keys reefs 11 years after the 1997/1998 El Niño. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* (2013) 489:125-141. <https://doi.org/10.3354/meps10427>