



## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

### Reptile Rescue (With a Little Help from His Friends!)



**Jason Clark**  
**Southeastern Reptile**  
**Rescue**

Jason Clark truly enjoys his work! He discovered that love as a 7-year-old youngster as he found a snake in his backyard. He quickly became involved in rescuing and preserving snakes and other reptiles. Fast forward a number of years, and we find Jason and his family operating a premier, highly-certified, multi-state reptile rescue and educational business – Southeastern Reptile Rescue. Their business motto is, *Preserving Nature One Snake at a Time*. And, they perform lots of reptile rescues, many coming from 911 calls. He is often called to rescue reptiles that were once pets. They work with law enforcement in confiscating illegally obtained and held reptiles, some of which are restricted from being shipped to the U.S. Recently, Clark and his staff removed a number of cottonmouth snakes from a culvert being replaced by the Clayton County Water Authority. And, his wife Sarah missed Thursday's presentation to perform an alligator rescue! Rescued reptiles are offered for adoption, but most are placed in "foster care", being on loan to zoos and nature centers. Jason first earned pay for his hobby and passion by offering small educational programs. That aspect of the business has continued to increase. They own a 32-foot trailer that can be towed to various locations and events for the educational programs. That trailer will be used in programs 65 days this year, and they will present 300 one-hour programs this year on stage. Their Wildlife Camp is filled to capacity each year. They offer a snake-aversion training for dogs. They filmed 6 episodes on Animal Planet and maintain an active presence on social media and YouTube. And, plans are underway for their recurring Volunteer Trip that provides on-site training for the many volunteers they need for their programs and for providing support for other efforts, such as assisting with the production of eight movies in the area. Many of those trained volunteers eventually become certified in reptile rescue and management. Jason introduced a few of his other friends to the audience. One was a Honduran curlyhair tarantula, another a cottonmouth from the Clayton County Water Authority rescue, a nonpoisonous corn snake, and a timber rattlesnake. The tarantula is not a reptile, but reptile specialists are often called upon to offer advice on their care as pets. It is venomous but it really uses the venom and bite to capture prey (usually insects and other invertebrates). Jason dispelled some urban legends

about cottonmouths saying that they are not as aggressive as people say. If they swim or move towards a boat or a person, they are likely looking for food or refuge, rather than chasing or pursuing. But, they do have a dangerous bite. The timber rattlesnake has an even more dangerous bite with enough venom to kill two people with one bite. There are three species of rattlesnakes in Georgia, and all counties in the state can have rattlesnake inhabitants. They often are not seen because their greatest protection from humans and predators is their camouflage. While Jason did not show a copperhead, he acknowledged that it is the most common poisonous snake encountered in our area. The bites of copperheads, however, have the weakest venom of poisonous snakes in the U.S. But, venom from a bite can have long-lasting effects that differ from person to person. Jason recommends that you never harass or try to capture or kill a snake. Go to [snakesrus.com](http://snakesrus.com) for more information, and add Jason to your phone contacts (404-557-2470) to alert him to rescues or to ask for assistance.



BE THE INSPIRATION



"It's just about impossible to think of any animal that is more hated, more feared and has more myths attached to it than a snake. It is for this reason that we focus much of our efforts on reptile education. When you get a person to open up their mind, let down their guard and begin to appreciate the least respected of all animals, then the rest that nature has to offer is more easily accepted and cared for as well." ....Jason Clark



# THE GRIFFITARIAN



President Randy Peters presented Jeff Jordan, GSCS Partners in Education Board Chair, with a donation in support of their support of classroom teachers in our local public school system.

## GABRIEL DELLER AGUIAR GRSP STUDENT

Anna and Skipper Burns report that Gabriel is settled in his Reed Hall dorm room at UGA. Classes begin Monday with Gabriel taking Media and Pop Culture, Landscapes and Memories, Hypermedia, and Human Geography. He's already making new friends with the other GRSP students and is looking forward to their August Conclave at Brasstown Valley Resort. Gabriel will be visiting our Club meeting on September 13 to make a brief presentation. He will visit in Griffin on Thursday and Friday but plans to return to Athens on Saturday to attend the UGA - Middle Tennessee game. We look forward to Gabriel's visit, and we thank Anna and Skipper for serving as his host family.

**ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN, GA**  
**PO Box 473, Griffin, GA 30224**  
**Club Number 4129**

### OFFICERS

President	-	Randy Peters
Vice-President	-	Tom Gardner
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Treasurer	-	Art Hammond
Secretary	-	Yvonne Langford
Sergeant-at-Arms	-	George Granade
Club Chaplain	-	Wade Miller
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## DISTRICT 6900 AND ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

### ED OUTLAW

Assistant District Governor

### COURT DOWIS

District 6900 Governor

### BARRY RASSIN

Rotary International President

## JOIN GRIFFIN ROTARY ONLINE

[griffinrotary.org](http://griffinrotary.org)

### FOLLOW

## ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact President Randy if you are interested in being a member of a golf team for the Partners In Education fundraising tournament in October at City Park.

Please keep Sonny Hunt and Bobby Chappell in your thoughts and prayers. Both are at home.

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR OFFICIAL VISIT SET

DG Court Dowis will visit our Club on August 30<sup>th</sup> for his official visit with us. There will be a reception for DG Court the evening of August 29<sup>th</sup>. Our September Board Meeting will be held at 10 AM at FBC just prior to our weekly meeting on Thursday.

## Club Calendar

### AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MONTH

August 16	Carroll Lastinger, Chief Scientist Vizitech USA
August 23	Tawanda Johnson Importance of Branding
August 30	District 6900 Governor Court Dowis Official Visit to the Club  10 AM Board Meeting

## Our Rotary Family

### BIRTHDAYS

August 10	George Granade
11	David Luckie
13	John Newton
16	Tamara Ison
18	Bill Hardee
31	Rita Cavanaugh

### ANNIVERSARIES

August 15	George & Jill Granade Jim & Jayne Kirby
21	Wade & Jill Miller
23	Josh & Lauren Sprayberry
31	Thom & Linda Sandwich

## MEETING MAKEUP INFORMATION

Monday - 12 Noon	Henry County	PJs Sidewalk Café, McDonough
Monday - 12:15 PM	Fayetteville	IHOP, Fayetteville
Monday - 6:30 PM	Coweta-Fayette	Senoia Coffee Company, Senoia
Tuesday - 12 Noon	Barnesville	Lamar Co. College & Career Academy
Tuesday - 12 Noon	Jackson/Butts Co.	Daughtry Park, Jackson
Tuesday - 12:15 PM	Thomaston/Upson Co	Thomaston-Upson Senior Center
Wednesday - 7:30 AM	Griffin Daybreak	J. Henry's Restaurant, Griffin
Wednesday - 12:15 PM	Clayton County	Holiday Inn, Jonesboro
Thursday - 7:15 AM	Fayette Daybreak	Windham ,Peachtree City
Friday - 12 Noon	Newnan	Newnan Country Club, Newnan

## THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



100 YEARS OF DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD