



Promenade Estates Phase 1 Planting see pages 3–6

At

Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting July 7	100 Central	Dr. Anshu Chandra, a Rotarian, helped establish an eye clinic in Haiti, and will join us via Zoom.
July 21	100 Central	Noelle Tenaglia, outgoing president of Riverview Interact Club
August 4	100 Central	Christy Vogel – From Silence to Sounding Joy: Hearing, Hope, and Service in Action.



Charles Reith, Ph.D., was a featured speaker at the Environmental Hub at the RI Convention in Taipei, presenting our Jacaranda microforest as a model. He highlighted the recent planting of a ceremonial tree by the incoming RI President in April, and Rotarians from around the world – including the United States – inquired about launching similar projects in their own communities.. “It’s been a joy here in Taipei to share with audiences our model of success in propagating microforests into various neighborhoods, where the benefit meets the need.” – Charles Reith, Ecologist and Sarasota Bay Rotarian. ThankCharles!

At


Spotlight:

Mike Ansel

New Member

Meet Our Newest Member

Mike Ansel is an engaged community member dedicated to enhancing the environment through collaboration and service. His passion for open water swimming, gardening, and cycling fuels his commitment to our shared goals.



Mike's Story

I sit on the Palmer Ranch Master Association Natural Assets Committee with Dr. Reith, Carol Mitchell and Bill Sullivan and have attended several RCSB meetings and events and feel a shared interest in community and environment. As an open water swimmer, gardener and cyclist I have a strong interest in the environment which seems to line up well with Rotary.

In my professional career I led large budgets and projects so am comfortable in this space.. I also helped build, develop and lead global teams so my experience with these and international travel may prove useful.



Roots of Community: Planting Promenade

Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Leads Stage 1 Planting
on World Environment Day



Community Volunteers
World Environment Day

Rotarians & community at
work in Promenade Estates

On World Environment Day, June 5, 2026, Rotary Clubs gathered at Promenade Estates with shovels, seedlings, and the kind of community spirit that turns a bare waterway embankment into a native forest corridor. Rotarians in signature red joined neighborhood volunteers of every age — working side by side along the waterline, setting plants into mulched ground marked with pink flags, each one a promise for the future.

"No Mow Afforestation" signs posted throughout the site signal what this project truly is: not landscaping, but legacy. A living native forest taking root along the Promenade waterway — one that will support local wildlife, filter stormwater, and stand as a lasting testament to what a community can accomplish when it shows up.

60

Native Species
Planted

\$2,500 each

Sarasota Bay & Sunrise

~\$60K

Total
Investment

1 Year

Full
Timeline

Club of Sarasota Bay

Rotary

District 6960



Sarasota Area Rotary Clubs Plant a Microforest

COMMUNITY SERVICE • PALMER RANCH • JUNE 5, 2026



Volunteers from five Sarasota-area Rotary clubs planted hundreds of native trees at Promenade Estates Microforest Park, Palmer Ranch, June 5, 2026.

The project was born out of necessity. After Hurricane Debby and the 2024 storm season left streets in Palmer Ranch underwater, the Palmer Ranch Master Association formed a stormwater management task force. The Promenade Estates Microforest Park is their first major initiative — and Rotary made it happen.

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay and the Rotary Club of Sarasota Sunrise each contributed \$2,500 to the project, with additional support from area clubs and grants. The driving force behind the effort is Charles Reith —ecologist, Sarasota Bay Rotarian, and president of the stormwater task force — who conceived and organized the planting.

PARTICIPATING CLUBS

- Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay
- Rotary Club of Sarasota Sunrise
- Rotary Club of Sarasota
- Rotary Club of Sarasota Southside
- Rotary Club of Southwest Florida



— Charles Reith, Ecologist & Sarasota Bay Rotarian

Charles Reith speaks with Spectrum News BN9: planting site.

"Every tree, when it's in full health, lifts up to 100 gallons of water a day," said Charles Reith. "When there's water in the soil, they lift it and move it to the atmosphere." Reith likened each tree to "a thousand umbrellas" — their leaves trapping rainfall before it ever hits the ground.

"It will help take the flooding off of the street," added Carol Auricchio, president of the Palmer Ranch Master Association and member of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Southside, "so that it doesn't keep flowing to someplace else that you don't want it."



AS SEEN ON SPECTRUM NEWS BN9

Watch the full story:

URL: [baynews9.com—PalmerRanch](https://www.baynews9.com-PalmerRanch)

www.sarasotarotary.org

Club of Sarasota Bay
Rotary
District 6960



Deep Roots, Strong Neighborhoods

A COMMUNITY OF ALL AGES

World Environment Day • June 5, 2026 • Promenade Estates



FATHER – DAUGHTER PRIDE



**YOUNG HAPPY
VOLUNTEER WATERING**



FREE LEMONADE STAND



GENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE



**"END POLIO NOW" ROTARIANS
PROMENADE ESTATES**

If there was one image that captured the morning, it was a small boy in a lime shirt and a green bucket carefully watering a newly planted seedling — utterly focused, already a steward of the earth.

All around him, the same spirit played out at every age. A father knelt in the mulch beside his daughter, guiding her hands as she set a native fern into the soil. An elderly volunteer worked steadily from her garden kneeler, planting a longleaf pine with practiced patience and a great smiling face.

Three neighborhood girls set up a lemonade stand at the edge of the planting area, their handwritten sign reading: "Do you want free lemonade?" — a perfectly generous answer to a warm Florida morning. Red-shirted Rotarians in "End Polio Now" shirts worked the rows alongside naturalists and first-time planters, a reminder that Rotary service knows no boundary of scale.

Club of Sarasota Bay

Rotary
District 6960



Planted with Purpose: How Rotary is Growing a Microforest in Palmer Ranch

A TREE FOR DICK • Honoring Club Member Dick Mahaffey



Among the morning's plantings, one held a meaning beyond ecology. Club members gathered to plant a memorial tree in honor of Dick Mahaffey — a beloved Rotarian whose dedication to Sarasota left a legacy no storm could uproot. A photograph of Dick was placed at the base of the tree as it was set into the ground: here is where he belongs. Growing.

World Environment Day calls on communities worldwide to take action for our planet. The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay answered with dirty gloves, aching backs, and a waterway corridor that looks more like a forest than it did the day before.

Stage 1 is planted. The work continues. Service Above Self.



Story Photo Credits:

Janalee Heinemann, Bill Sullivan, Tim Rumage, Carol Mitchell, and Mike Ansel

Club of Sarasota Bay

Rotary

District 6960



Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay • District 6960 • World Environment Day 2026