

## **Elks of the Month January-December 2022**

### **December 2022: Ronna Mason**

Sebring Elks #1529 has chosen Ronna Mason as Elk of the Month, a person who has been an Elk for 16 years. Ronna has enjoyed her Elk years by volunteering in many areas. She was Leading Knight in 2012-2013, Exalted Ruler in 2013-2014 and part of 2016-2017, and is currently the Lodge Chaplain. She has been chairman of the Lodge Activities, Orientation, Decoration, and Summer Charity Bingo. Ronna was part of the Friday night dining room team for 13 years. She currently dedicates herself in obtaining Elk grants for the betterment of our community, is a member of the Sebring Elks team that does quarterly reports to the State Elks, is Chairman of Elks National Foundation (ENF), and she enjoys baking for the Friday night dinners. Since 2007, she has been chairman of the Lodge's Public Relations. As you can see, she is a dedicated Elk who loves getting involved. Ronna says that the best part of being an Elk is enjoying the time with fellow members.

Ronna and her husband, Jim have been married 58 years, have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. They are both from King George, Virginia and moved to south Florida in 1978. They retired and moved to Sebring in 2001.



### **November 2022: Buddy Richards**

Buddy Richards has been chosen Elk of Month for November by the Sebring Lodge #1529. Buddy retired from the Highlands County School system several years ago and has given most of his free time to the maintenance of our Lodge. It is almost impossible to track the number of hours that he spends in and out of the building. The Lodge has gone through several esthetic changes as well as continuous maintenance and Buddy has been front and foremost in all of them (painting, hanging displays & pictures, remodeling, etc.).

Buddy was born in Mason, Michigan and moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. at the age of 9. He graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas, in Ft. Lauderdale. In 1982 he moved to Sebring and met his future wife, Brenda, at the Elks Lodge and they have been married 32 years. She too is very active and they are a dynamic team. Buddy has occupied several stations in the Lodge: Chaplain, Leading Knight, and currently Inner Guard and Chairman of Orientation. Thank you, Buddy, for all you do.



### **October 2022: Deanna Lewis**

Sebring Elks #1529 proudly selects Deanna Lewis as Elk of the Month for October 2022. Deanna's husband Bob, is a Lifetime Member of the Elks and she has been volunteering for years. In 2018 Deanna decided she too wanted to be an Elk and joined the Sebring Lodge in July of that year. Exalted Ruler at that time, Ken Hedges, was so happy to finally be able to recognize her as Elk of the Month in August. In the past, she has been invaluable by cashiering, running the dining room one Friday night a month for approximately 18 years, baking for various occasions, and was a member of the Decorating and Lodge Activities committees. Deanna currently is in charge of seeing that we have wonderful deserts for our Friday night meals and other occasions. She has a love for baking and we all appreciate her talent. Please contact her if you would like to help her in this endeavor. Deanna and Bob moved from Michigan to Florida and settled in Sebring in 2003. While raising her family, three girls and one son, she worked in banking. She has six grandchildren and 2 stepdaughters.



### **September 2022: Amanda Woodham**

Amanda Woodham is the Sebring #1529 Elk of the Month for September. Amanda is a paid employee of the Lodge as she is our bartender. She does so much more than just bartend. As a Lodge Member, she is dedicated to the success of the Lodge and is the epitome of friendliness and professionalism. While looking at the Lodge Website, it was noted that a visiting Elk posted that he would definitely return to the Lodge when in town due to the friendliness of the bartender and that of the Lodge itself. Amanda goes above and beyond her paid duties to ensure that members and guests enjoy their stay. She takes time to help plant flowers in the front of the Lodge and makes sure that birthday cards are available for the patrons to sign as so many members celebrate their big day with their Elk Friends. Amanda was born in Arcadia and grew up in Tampa, Florida. She has been in Sebring for 16 years, and one of her hobbies is gardening. She has one child, Ethan, who is also a Sebring Elk. She has several aunts that live in various parts of the state (Wauchula, Vero Beach, and New Port Richey) and meet in Sebring for at least a monthly get together. Three of her aunts have since joined the Lodge. Thank you, Amanda, for all you do and for bringing your family into the Sebring Elks Family.



### **August 2022: Gwen Clark**

Sebring Elks #1529 could not survive without having volunteers. Exalted Ruler, Jonathan Spiegel has chosen Gwen Clark as the Elk of the Month for August 2022. What a great choice!! Gwen has been a member of the Lodge for 5 years. She is always smiling and has such an upbeat attitude whether she is volunteering or socializing. Gwen does a great job as one of our cashiers for Tuesday and Friday nights and takes her position as Lecturing Knight very seriously.

Gwen was born and raised in Homestead, Florida and retired as Captain from the Miami Police Department where she worked for 24 years. She has called Sebring home for the last 25 years and is not only active with the Elks but volunteers at St. John's Methodist Church. Reading is her hobby and she takes advantage of the Lodge's library. Thank you Gwen for helping make our Lodge a success and a fun place to be.



### **July 2022: Billy Brown**

The Elk of the Month for July 2022 is Billy Brown; a very caring, loving, and dedicated Elk. This should be no surprise to anyone who spends any time at the Lodge and has witnessed him in action. As Bar Manager, with the help of Buddy, Joe, and Amanda, he keeps the heart of our social setting alive by running bar poker; Texas Hold'em; and Ship, Captain & Crew; and bartending for Member Bingo. On Tuesday nights prior to Bar Poker, he helps serve the meals - running from kitchen to bar carrying trays of food. With the tips he gets for the games played, he has set up a special fund to update the bar and has just been given permission from the Board of Directors to purchase 4 high standing tables and chairs to replace some of the shorter ones in the bar area.

Billy has lived full time in Sebring for about seven years; moving from the western part of Virginia. After 30 years of working for the US Postal Service, he decided to retire and spend more time playing golf (which he does quite well, by the way). Billy enjoys baseball and is a diehard fan of the Washington Nationals baseball team. Thank you, Billy, for being such a big part of our Sebring Elk "team".



### **June 2022: Dave Travers**

The Sebring Elks #1529 is very grateful for the love and dedication by the June Elk of the Month, David Travers. He has been a loyal member for the last 30 years and has donated time and money into the beautification of our Lodge. Dave is a true fixture to our Texas Hold-em held once a month at "Billy Brown's Casino" aka Jolly Corks.

Dave is the owner of Sebring Custom Tanning. He has been married to his better half Becky Travers for 52 years and is the father of our exalted ruler's wife and fellow Elk, Christy Spiegel. Dave is also a life member of Sebring Firemen, Inc., and sits on the Highlands County Fair Board. He is as proud to be an Elk as we are to have him. Thank you, Dave, for all you do.



### **May 2022: Ron Schilffarth**

The Sebring Elks are very thankful for the love and dedication shown by the May Elk of the Month. Ron Schilffarth has been a steady force in the success of this Lodge and has given many years of volunteering to Elkdom and especially to the Sebring Elks. Ron has been a "true and faithful member" and has held the position of Esquire for thirteen years. Also, throughout these years, he worked Bingo and did outside landscaping at the Lodge. Ron has worked hundreds of hours in our kitchen both on Tuesday and Friday nights as well as special events. He currently oversees fish nights and the baking of most all the breads served.

Ron worked overseas and he and his wife Suzanne (who is also an Elk) lived in China and Korea for seven years. After retiring they toured the USA for 2 1/2 years in an RV and finally settled in Sebring in 2005. The Schilffarths have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Thank you, Ron, for all that you have done and continue to do.



### **April 2022: Darlene Quel**

Sebring Elks #1529 is acknowledging the hard work and dedication that our outgoing Secretary has given to the Lodge. Exalted Ruler Jonathan Spiegel has selected Darlene Quel as the Elk of the Month for April 2022 and the membership respectfully thanks her for all that she has done these past four years. Darlene was born and raised in Sturgeon, Pa, and worked for an insurance company for 29 years. She retired as a Claims Representative.

Darlene and George Quel, a Past Exalted Ruler from this Lodge, have been married for 40 years and between the two of them, they have 4 children, and 8 grandchildren. After visiting family here for several years, they decided to move to Sebring in 2010. Thanks again for all you did as a dedicated member and as Lodge Secretary!



### **March 2022: Mark Richardson**

Mark Richardson has been chosen Elk of The Month for March 2022 by the Sebring Elks Lodge #1529. This honor is well deserved as Mark is a true and loyal member who is always looking to better the Lodge. For several years he has been promoting building a dock on the Lodge's shore on Lake Jackson and his tenacity has finally paid off. Funds are being raised and he is heading the committee to complete the project. Mark believes in the ideals of Elkdom and is spreading the word on community involvement by the Lodge and consequently is bringing in many new members. Mark helps with maintenance, clean up, and has served as an officer (Esteem Loyal Knight).

Mark is a graduate of Sebring High School and has had a wide range of work experience: Machine shop operator in Richardson's Auto Parts, Production Manager/Caladium Flower Grower, Landscape Contractor, Avon Park Housing Authority's Project Manager & Clerk of Works and is currently a Residential Contractor. Elkdom is a family affair with the Richardson's--his wife Mona is also an Elk and deceased father, George Richardson was a member of the Brotherhood.



### **February 2022: Annie Carr**

Sebring Elks #1529 is enjoying an influx of new members. Annie Carr is one of those and has graciously given her time to the Lodge by serving dinners on Friday nights. As you can see by her smile, she is such a pleasure to be around, and we are very grateful for her help.

Annie was born and raised in Canton, Ohio and moved to Sebring one year out of high school in 1998 to live with her half-brother. In 2014 she married the love of her life, Greg, who is also an Elk, and they have 2 sons. Annie says one of the greatest joys of her life is to serve others. She has chosen a profession where she does just that (serving others) as she has worked for the past 12 years as an advisor for a financial services company. Thank you, Annie, and we look forward to many more years of your smile!



### **January 2022: Richard Vosburgh**

ER Wainetta Holmes picked a new member who has quickly made great contributions to our Lodge: **Richard Vosburgh** is named Elk of the Month for January 2022. Richard and his wife of 8 years, Kim Albritton, joined the Sebring Elks in November 2021. In his new member paperwork, he volunteered to take over the Lodge's website and in December we asked him to do just that. The website had not been updated for three years and within one month he updated every section and has set up the processes to keep new content coming to him so that he can get it posted. He suggests that you go to our Facebook page, and on the left section under "About" you can click on the website and save it as a Favorite. We welcome Richard as our newest Webmaster!

Richard was an Army Brat when at 15 years old his family moved to Sebring in 1967; and Sebring has been his hometown ever since. He has 40+ years of senior level Human Resources experience in global organizations. In 2014 he retired as SVP & Chief HR Officer at KEMET Electronics Corporation and moved from Fort Lauderdale back to Sebring. Prior to that he was SVP-HR at MGM Resorts International in Las Vegas and has held VP-HR positions at HP (in Houston and Singapore), Volkswagen (in Germany) and Hyatt Hotels & Resorts. He's also worked for Campbell Soup Company, Gallup, and PepsiCo in support of Talent and Organization Effectiveness. The author of numerous journal articles and three books, he has a PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (1979 from USF), was Chairman of the HR professional society HRPS, and was Executive Editor of the **People + Strategy** journal. His parents were long time Sebring Elks beginning in the late 60's.

