

L to R: Cheryl Goodman, Jimmy Wedincamp, President Jane Durden.

"Zika Virus Program presented to Kiwanis"

"The Kiwanis Club of Swainsboro held its weekly meeting, Tuesday night, June 28, 2016 at Catered Creations at 7:00. With President Jane Durden presiding, we had 21 members in attendance with no guests.

The program was hosted by Cheryl Goodman, who introduced Dr. Jimmy Wedincamp, Dean of the School of Math and Science at East Georgia State College. Jimmy has called Emanuel County home since he moved here in the 6th grade. He is a medical Entomologist and gave us an update on the Zika Virus and its potential impact on the Southeast. The first reported case of the Zika Virus was in 1954, but only lately has it been a concern. Zika is a flavivirus, related to Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, West Nile Virus, and Japanese Encephalitis Virus. There are two strains of the virus, the African and Asian Strain. Carried by the Asian Tiger Mosquito and Yellow Fever Mosquito, it can also be transmitted by sexual activity and from mothers to newborn babies. The virus is amplified in humans, making it more of a potential danger. The symptoms of the virus are fever, rash, joint pain, and blood-shot eyes, but babies from infected mothers can be born with birth defects. Protection against mosquito bites is important in this area since we have both types of mosquitos in the Southeast. The 5 D's instruct us to drain standing water which breed mosquitos, discard those sources that collect water, dress in long sleeves and leg coverings, daytime is the best time to be outside because of fewer mosquitos, and Deet insect repellent keeps the mosquitos away.

Chair Frank Patrick reminded us that we will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for the kids at Herrington Homestead at noon on Friday, July 15th and hot dogs for the kids in the "Summer Reading Program" at the Franklin Memorial Library at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday July 21st. Talk to Chair Frank Patrick if you can help. "First Friday at the Morgan House" will be on July 1st starting at 5:30 p.m.

If you would like to become a member of the Swainsboro Kiwanis Club, please contact our Membership Chair Linda Lamb at 478-237-5188 or e-mail her at hsdurden@bellsouth.net. Also, if you would like more information about our Club and the many community service projects that we do each year, go to our Club website at: <http://www.swainsborokiwanis.org/> or to our Swainsboro Kiwanis Club Facebook page.

