

FOR THE JOURNAL

Seneca Water Plant operator Danny Phillips, Ben Turetzky and Barb Burch of FOLKS and Australian Rotary Exchange member Melinda Louden at the Seneca Water Plant.



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Barb Burch of FOLKS and Australian Rotary Exchange member Melinda Louden in the FOLKS lab.

FOLKS hosts Rotary visitor

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Friends of Lake Keowee Society (FOLKS) recently had an opportunity to host an Australian Rotary exchange member.

The diverse group of professionals visiting from North Queensland Australia included Melinda Louden, who is the Environmental Coordinator at Townsville Port, located adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

"We planned the day to start with a short meeting at FOLKS headquarters followed by a 'sampling run' to gather water samples for chlorophyll measurements and to do dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity and pH profiles," said Barb Burch, "but a rain storm took care of the boat trip, so we continued discussing what Melinda did and what FOLKS did."

Louden was surprised by the use of individual septic systems so extensively. In her area of Australia, when a developer is building a community or subdivision, they are required to connect to a sewer line, at their cost, she explained. The distance could be as great as 6-8 kilometers.

After lunch the group toured the Seneca Water Plant. This state-of-the-art dissolved air floatation design has greater throughput than the older units in the plant and, rather than precipitating the solids, it utilizes extremely small air bubbles to bring the solids to the top where they are scraped off in a pre-set time interval. Louden was quite impressed with this new process.