

Speaker's Bureau of Environmental Topics

Protecting the Environment is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus. Here is a speaker's bureau of 17 environmental presentations for District 5950 Rotary Clubs. The first 14 presentations are from Rotarians and non-Rotarians on a variety of environmental topics. These individuals have agreed to be listed in the speaker's bureau and are interested in giving presentations to Rotary clubs. They are all available for online presentations, and many of them will be interested in giving in-person presentations post-pandemic. The last 3 presentations are recorded presentations that would also make for a great program for a Rotary club meeting.

The first section on pages 1 and 2 gives the title of the presentation, the name of the presenter, and their Rotary and non-Rotary affiliation. Starting on page 2 you can get more details about the presentations along with contact information for the presenter. If you have questions you can email Steve Solbrack at steve@solbrack.com.



Summary

1) Solutions to the Greatest Challenge of our Time

Bethany Esse – President of Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub and Mentor with Climate Reality Leadership Corp

2) Water Connects Us

John Linc Stine – Executive Director, Freshwater Society and Member of Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub

3) Fire to Frost: A Prairie Story

Angela Grill - Three Rivers Park District Wildlife Biologist

4) "Do You Like to Eat?" – Operation Pollination Project

Chris Stein - National Park Ranger

5) Protecting the Environment – Opportunities for Rotary and the Planet

Tim Conners – Eden Prairie AM Rotary Club, District 5950 ES Action Team, Member of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

6) Urban Agriculture - Growing Food & Security on Our Own Turf

Ethan Neal – Director of Food Systems with Pillsbury United Communities and charter member of the Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub

7) Restoring Minnesota's Forests in the Age of Climate Change

Jim Manolis is the MN Forest Conservation Program Director at The Nature Conservancy

8) Climate Change Action That Grows Economic Opportunities in Minnesota

J. Drake Hamilton – Fresh Energy - Senior Director, Science Policy

9) Our mighty but imperiled Mississippi, and how we can save it

Whitney Clark, Executive Director of Friends of the Mississippi River

10) Electric Vehicles

Jukka Kukkonen is Chief EV Educator and Strategist for Shift2Electric

11) Rotary's New Area of Focus Protecting the Environment and the Challenges of Climate Change

Alan Anderson – Northfield, MN Rotary Club – Rotary Climate Action Team (RCAT)

12) Challenges and Opportunities in Urban Watershed Management

Abby Moore - Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Training and Community Learning Specialist

13) Big Solar: wildlife sanctuaries or industrial blights?

Rob Davis, Director of the Center for Pollinators in Energy at Fresh Energy

14) Protecting America's Favorite Wilderness

Tom Landwehr is Executive Director of Save the Boundary Waters and former Commissioner of MN Department of Natural Resources

15) The Most Important Thing You Can Do to Fight Climate Change

TED Talk by Katherine Hayhoe – Climate Scientist (17-minute recorded presentation)

16) Rotary Teams up with Project Drawdown

Jonathan Foley – Executive Director of Project Drawdown (26-minute recorded presentation)

17) Saving Our Oceans

Ludovic Grosjean - OceanX Group - One of Rotary's People of Action: Young Innovators in 2018 (22-minute recorded presentation)

Details

1) Solutions to the Greatest Challenge of our Time

Bethany Esse is a Climate Reality Leader through the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. She is committed to spreading awareness of the climate crisis and to working for solutions to the greatest challenge of our time. She was trained with over 900 other citizen activists in March of 2017 in Denver and served as a mentor for the Minneapolis Climate Reality Leadership Corps training in August of 2019. Bethany's goal is to tell the story of climate change and to inspire communities everywhere to take action. She will cover the causes of climate change, the impact it is having on our world, and the solutions that are available to halt, and reverse, global warming.

Bethany Esse – President of Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub and Mentor with Climate Reality Leadership Corp
bethany.esse@gmail.com

2) Water Connects Us

Water connects us. It is responsible for human health as well as the health of our ecosystems and economy. No matter where you live, work or play, everyone plays a role in protecting and restoring our freshwater. Learn the facts about Minnesota's water and how you can protect and conserve it.

John Linc Stine – Executive Director, Freshwater Society JLStine@freshwater.org

3) Fire to Frost: A Prairie Story

The changing seasons of a prairie offer an always changing perspective from fire to frost. Discover the diverse animal and plant life that call the almost 1,000 acres of restored prairie home at Crow-Hassan Park Reserve. Management is ongoing through prescribed burns, seed collecting, invasive species control, bumblebee surveys, and much more. Not only is Angela hands on in field work but shares a passion of storytelling through co-hosting The Wandering Naturalist podcast. Enjoy this virtual nature wandering through the prairie. Angela Grill, Wildlife Biologist with Three Rivers Park District Angela.Grill@threeriversparks.org

4) "Do You Like to Eat?"

If you do, we invite your Club to learn about ESRA's Operation Pollination project. This project was adopted by the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group in August 2020. ESRA's Pollinator Committee encourages Clubs from Canada to Mexico to engage in this simple, inclusive habitat restoration/education effort by collaborating with your Rotary partners. Learn about the Three Easy Steps to get your Club on its way to implementing a FREE Protecting the Environment Area of Focus environmental project today. Chris Stein, National Park Ranger, National Heritage Areas and Large Landscape Initiatives Chris_Stein@nps.gov (402) 881-1387

5) Protecting the Environment – Opportunities for Rotary and the Planet

Rotary members are tackling environmental issues the way they always do by coming up with projects, using their connections to change policy, and planning for the future. Learn more about what Rotarians are doing in our District through club Environment committees and the District ES Action Team and learn what Rotarians are doing globally through the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG). Tim Conners – Eden Prairie AM Rotary Club, Member of District 5950 ES Action Team, Member of ESRAG timothyconners@gmail.com

6) Urban Agriculture - Growing Food & Security on Our Own Turf

Learn about the Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub District Grant Project to install solar panels and water catchment on the hydroponic Freight Farm at North Market in North Minneapolis. You will learn about hydroponic and outdoor farming in an urban environment, such as North Minneapolis. The talk will include information about the broader food system and hunger relief system. Ethan is an experienced leader and innovator in urban farming and community garden projects that not only produce fresh fruits and vegetables to fight hunger in the heart of our neighborhoods, but they also provide leading-edge education and internship opportunities to young people and build a self-sufficient food system from the soil up. Ethan Neal - Director of Food Systems with Pillsbury United Communities and charter member of the Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub EthanN@pillsburyunited.org

7) Restoring Minnesota's Forests in the Age of Climate Change

Learn about the history and current challenges of the Northwoods forests and what The Nature Conservancy is doing to address these challenges. Minnesota's trees and forests enrich our lives in so many ways. Beyond their visual splendor, they provide shade, wildlife habitat and places to walk, bike, hunt and enjoy the outdoors. They also provide a critical "Natural Climate Solution" that pulls carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Jim Manolis is the MN Forest Conservation Program Director at The Nature Conservancy james.manolis@TNC.ORG

8) Climate Change Action That Grows Economic Opportunities in Minnesota

J. Drake Hamilton is an acclaimed national speaker on effective climate action that benefits the economy. She is an expert in climate and energy policy at the state and national levels. Her responsibilities include scientific analysis and policy development of clean energy solutions to global warming that will maximize economic opportunities. She will describe Minnesota's leadership on clean energy and climate justice.

J Drake Hamilton - Fresh Energy - Senior Director, Science Policy Hamilton@fresh-energy.org

9) Our mighty but imperiled Mississippi, and how we can save it

Thanks to dedicated advocates, our metro Mississippi has transformed from a convenient dumping ground to a central part of our metro identity. Today, trails grace its banks, eagles soar above, and fish thrive below. To protect it, however, we must face unparalleled threats: habitat loss, redevelopment that may harm rather than enhance our riverfront communities, and new pollutants (especially agricultural). Learn how Friends of the Mississippi River works with public and private partnerships and thousands of volunteers, members, and advocates (aka River Guardians) to meet these challenges head on.

Whitney Clark, Executive Director of Friends of the Mississippi River wclark@fmr.org

10) Electric Vehicles

Electric Vehicles (EVs) provide a new opportunity for cleaner and more efficient transportation. This presentation surveys the technology behind the shift to electric, the models available in Minnesota, and how EVs are charged. Jukka Kukkonen is Chief EV Educator and Strategist for Shift2Electric. An automotive engineer by training and a former Ford area manager, he has worked with the EV market for over 10 years. He also teaches EV Market and Technologies at the University of St Thomas. For more info visit

www.Shift2Electric.com.

Jukka Kukkonen is Chief EV Educator and Strategist for Shift2Electric jukka@shift2electric.com

11) Rotary's New Area of Focus Protecting the Environment and the Challenges of Climate Change

Talk briefly describes the science of climate change, and then details the new focus area and how it gives clubs the "green light" to work on climate change issues, including projects large and small, and how this will help the most people possible and attract younger people to join Rotary. I describe one of the big, important solutions, a carbon fee and dividend, plus how individual Rotarians and clubs can help.

Alan Anderson – Northfield, MN Rotary Club - Rotary Climate Action Team (RCAT) luckyduck49@gmail.com

12) Challenges and Opportunities in Urban Watershed Management

Population density, impervious surfaces and pollution in the urban environment pose significant challenges for protecting the much-loved and depended-upon, Mississippi River. Join us to learn more about the ways in which the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) partners with local governments, organizations, and communities to protect and improve water quality and habitat in the watershed. Examples of green infrastructure projects, partnerships and community engagement will demonstrate the variety of ways that we work to address these challenges.

Abby Moore - Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Training and Community Learning Specialist
AMoore@mwmoo.org

13) Big Solar: wildlife sanctuaries or industrial blights?

Since 2013 Minnesota has gone from just a few acres to several thousand acres of solar farms. As this new land use emerges, are there trade-offs in a clean energy future?

Rob Davis, Director of the Center for Pollinators in Energy at Fresh Energy davis@fresh-energy.org

14) Protecting America's Favorite Wilderness

Hear how a proposed sulfide-ore copper mine threatens the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and what a locally led coalition is doing to prevent it.

Tom Landwehr is Executive Director of Save the Boundary Waters and former Commissioner of MN Department of Natural Resources tom@savetheboundarywaters.org

15) The Most Important Thing You Can Do to Fight Climate Change – TED Talk

The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: Talk About It! How do you talk to someone who doesn't believe in climate change? Not by rehashing the same data and facts we've been discussing for years, says climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe. In this inspiring, pragmatic talk, Hayhoe shows how the key to having a real discussion is to connect over shared values like family, community, and religion -- and to prompt people to realize that they already care about a changing climate. "We can't give in to despair," she says. "We have to go out and look for the hope we need to inspire us to act -- and that hope begins with a conversation, today." Listen to the November 2018 TED Talk with over 3.8 million views.

https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine_hayhoe_the_most_important_thing_you_can_do_to_fight_climate_change_talk_about_it?language=en

16) Rotary Teams up with Project Drawdown

Project Drawdown Executive Director Jonathan Foley reports on the new collaboration between Rotary and Project Drawdown to empower communities across the world to reduce carbon emissions. This recorded presentation was given live on World Environment Day on June 5.

Project Drawdown's mission is to help the world reach "Drawdown" — the point in the future when levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and start to steadily decline, thereby stopping catastrophic climate change — as quickly, safely, and equitably as possible.

More info on Project Drawdown at www.drawdown.org

<https://vimeo.com/429947741>

I recommend starting the video at 4:32 and ending at 30:35 for a 26-minute presentation.

17) Saving Our Oceans

Ludovic Grosjean was named one of Rotary's People of Action: Young Innovators in 2018. Learn about sustainable solutions to help preserve our oceans for future generations. We can all take simple steps to help create a sustainable future for ourselves, our children, and their children. Ludovic is a Chartered Engineer and Oceanographer. In 2019 he was named as one of Australia's Most Innovative Engineers. In 2018 he was selected to showcase his work at the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya. He is past President of Melbourne City Rotaract Club.

[Saving Our Oceans Presentation](#)

Password: 5R@=\$f?0

The presentation ends at about 22 minutes, followed by 18 minutes of Q&A and discussion