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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery

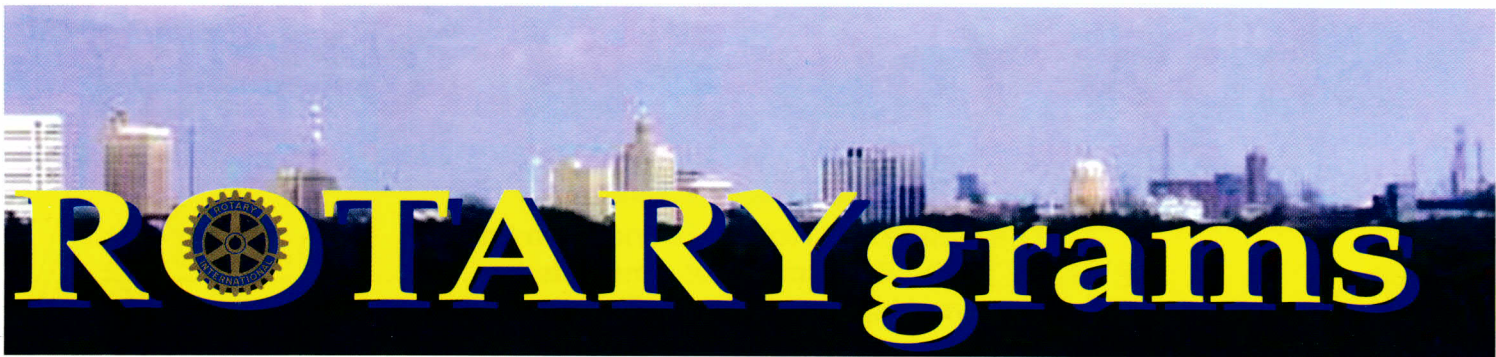


Photo by Steve Buser

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Bob Wheat-The Independence Trail



Bob graduated Anahuac High School with a profound love of two things: local history and flying. He attended Southwest State College studying engineering, then transferred to Federal Institute of Business majoring in Business.

At the age of 19, he began a career in crop-dusting, spanning 30 years and almost 17,000 hours in the air. Separate business ventures also gained a U.S. patent and several patents pending along the way.

After retiring a few years ago from crop dusting, he continues to operate his oilfield and agricultural chemical

business.

Bob is currently the Chambers County Director of the Texas Independence Trail Region, Vice-chairman of the Chambers County Historical Commission, Secretary of the Board of Trinity Bay Conservation District, and Board member-elect of the Galveston and Trinity Bay Museum-The Scow Schooner Project.

He will speak about the Texas Independence Trail Region, a brief narrative of the Texas battle for Independence.

Bob and his lovely wife Margie, reside on the shores of historic Turtle Bay, now known as Lake Anahuac.

Head Table



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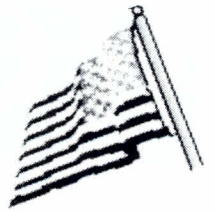
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The Beaumont Rotary Foundation and
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Your tax deductible donation of \$100 will help support the Foundation's
scholarship program, Camp Enterprise and the "A Book About Me" program for kindergarten
students throughout Beaumont
as well as the improvement projects at the Boy Scouts' Camp Urand.

During our first year with this project, we must limit
the flag installation location zip codes to 77701, 77702, 77706 and 77707.
We expect to be able to expand to other zip codes next year.

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Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
409-842-1913 • Fax: 409-842-5613
rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
Meets Wednesdays at Noon
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Future Programs

July
30th Jim Ellis - DuPont

August
6th Gisela Houseman - Mountain Climber
13th Federal Prison Warden- Constance Reese

Makeups

Monday:
No. Port ArthurHoliday Inn Hwy 69
Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:
Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
Orange.....Sunset Grove
Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:
Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:
Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:
Nederland.....Garden Tea Room

Program Review

This past week our speaker was Chuck Hunt, Regional Issues Coordinator of the 87,000 acre Big Thicket National Preserve. In his position, Chuck tracks all issues that can affect the future sustainability of the Preserve.

His presentation focused on how embracing our natural assets, outdoor recreational opportunities and our regional history can contribute to a brighter economic future and quality of life for Southeast Texas. Societal trends indicate that the families are choosing to work and live in areas offering outdoor activities with social and family interaction. Corporate America is relocating to areas with attractive open spaces, evident based on the cities with high rankings in "Best Places to Live".

Hunt is a member of the Executive Council of the Houston Wilderness Alliance, a coalition of business, conservation entities and philanthropic foundations, which encompasses Jefferson

County, the Gulf Coast and the Big Thicket National Preserve. He explained that Houston is addressing its environmental image problem in order to attract high quality employers.

Hunt offered several suggestions for developing quality outdoor opportunities in Beaumont and reminded the Club members that enhancing outdoor recreational activities has proven to be good for business development both for employers and employees throughout the U. S.

We also learned that the Big Thicket National Preserve is now on the Top Ten Most Endangered Parks in America because 1.5 million acres adjoining the Preserve are now for sale. According to Hunt, "the Big Thicket's neighborhood is changing dramatically." Thanks to Ryan Smith for arranging a great program. For more info, we can log on to www.nps.gov/bith for the National Park Service or www.btatx.org for the Big Thicket Association. Way to go, Ryan!

Birthdays

23rd Mary Ann Fiorenza(88)
Owner,
A.J.'s Discount Liquor & Deli



Born in Port Arthur, she is a graduate of Port Arthur Business School. She is the parent of Karen, Mary and Sharon, and is a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church. She enjoys cooking, and collecting antiques.

25th Angela Baker (90)
Special Events Coordinator,
Perfect Day Enterprises



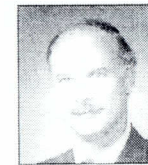
Born in Port Arthur, she and her husband Ray are the parents of Danny, and are members of Wesley United Methodist Church. She enjoys reading, traveling, and community service. Angela is a Paul Harris Fellow.

26th Roger Newton (02)
General Manager, Southeast Texas
Entertainment Complex



Born in Cleveland County, North Carolina, he is a graduate of East Texas State University. He and his wife Rhonda are the parents of Shelby, Joe and Jessica, and are members of Wesley United Methodist Church. He enjoys golf, running and biking.

29th Pat Parsons (85)
President & Chief Operating Officer,



Community Bank & Trust
Born in Lufkin, he is a graduate of Sam Houston State University, Lamar University and University of Houston. Pat and his wife Melody are the parents of John Pat Jr. and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys old sports cars and gardening.

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