

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

**April 21 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
Chris Puttock, Adj Prof UofMD, "Oyster Reefs"**

Dr. Chris Puttock is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland and a member of the College Park Rotary Club. He will be speaking about environmental matters and oyster reefs. Dr. Puttock was born in England, lived in Australia for 34 years as a botanist and flora writer for Flora of Australia. In Maryland/DC he is engaged in flora projects as a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution, designing gardens as Chief Botanist for the Monarch Sister Schools Program and, is the Executive Director of Chesapeake Natives.

April 28 – 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm

**April 29-May 1 – DisCon 2011 Turf Valley Resort
Register at rotary7620.org**

May 5 – 6:30pm – Service Project at Manna Food

**May 12 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
Stella Koch, Audubon Naturalist Society**

**May 19 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
Corkey Hay DeSimone, Author**

May 26 – 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm

June 2 – 6:30pm – Service Project at Manna Food

**June 9 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
SEEDS Haiti Project**

**June 16 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
"Outlook for Energy" by the ExxonMobil Coalition**

June 23 – 6:30pm Social - Normandie Farm

June 30 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm

**July 7 - 6:30pm – Meeting - Normandie Farm
Joy Hatchette, Maryland Insurance Administration**



Bob Nelson spoke to the annual combined meeting of the four Rotary Clubs of Harford County on April 20. [L-R] Southern Harford County President Ronnie Davis, Bel Air President Linda Aaby, Aberdeen President Sheryl Davis Kohl and Havre deGrace President Rory White. Bob received a gift of a handmade duck decoy.

April 14 Meeting Report



Our guest speaker was Rotary Scholar Evgeniya Kazazaeva who speaks three languages, English, Russian, and French, and became an interpreter for Rotary. Her personal goal is to speak about the misperceptions about her native area, Siberia. Most assume that it is a remote farming area, but it is highly developed with gas, oil, chemicals and steel manufacturing. The City of Tomsk where she attended the university was built in 1604 and has a population of 600,000 today. It has a long winter as it snows from November to about April. Her father is an entrepreneur, and her mother studied education but she focuses on gardening. The city of Tomsk worked on projects with the Europe Union Commission to establish better relations with Russia. She was involved with Rotaract Club and completed projects with the local orphanage. In the US she attended the Troy University Masters Program and spent time visiting local elementary schools in the Troy/Ozark areas, and participated in a 5k Rotary Run for Cancer.



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District 7620 Environmental Committee Meeting

Meeting for one hour following Rotary Club of Potomac Bethesda (6:30pm) 7:45-8:45 pm, April 21, 2011

Agenda

1. Introductions and individual aspirations, announcements, apologies.

2. Action Items from Previous Minutes

a) Updates for the District Conference and environmental projects (April 29-May 1, 2011).

Table 1. District Environmental Project Map (Leader - Charlie Garlow).

Table 2. Oyster Reef Project display (Leader - Chris Puttock).

Table 3. Oyster Tank (Leader - Steve King)

Table 4. Other environmental projects (Monarch Sister Schools Program - William Dent).

b) Main program for the evening: Breakout session at the District Conference (April 29-May 1, 2011) (Leader - Chris Puttock).

c) Chesapeake Bay/Watershed project focusing on oysters (Leader - Steve King).

d) RI convention 2011 (May 20-25, 2011). (Leader - Chris Puttock).

3. New Business

Developing Goals for the Environmental Committee

a) Ocean Conservancy connected with District Secretary wrt clubs doing bay cleanups in September. We need to find clubs that will engage in this. College Park already committed with Charlie Garlow leading the way.

b) What do we consider is a sustainable Rotary Project? Where does the environment fit in?

4. Next EC meetings

April 28-30: DisCon, Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD, 7620 DisCon presentation and table

May 9-17: TBD. RI New Orleans prep

June (TBD)

Next EC-Oyster Reef Subcommittee meeting (TBD)

Australian Rotarians Raise Money for Blood Bank

By Arnold R. Grahl & John Feary RI News - 19 April

RI Director Stuart Heal and his wife Adrienne (left) and RI President Ray Klinginsmith and his wife Judie at the groundbreaking for the cord blood bank in Perth, Western Australia, Australia. Photo by John Feary



Rotarians have raised US\$6 million for a new cord blood bank in Perth, Western Australia, Australia, that will help patients facing life-threatening illnesses.

RI President Ray Klinginsmith participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the facility, a centennial project of Rotary clubs

throughout the state, in December. During a multidistrict conference in March, the participating districts celebrated reaching their funding goal.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service will operate and manage the blood bank, which will be on the third floor of the organization's building in Perth. The project will cover construction, equipment, and certification costs, and contribute to the first four years of operating expenses. The facility is expected to be completed this month.

The cord blood bank - the first in the state and the fourth in the country - will store tissue types that are not available elsewhere in the world, including those from ethnic groups indigenous to Western Australia.

Cord blood, found in the umbilical cord and placenta after childbirth, is a rich source of blood-forming stem cells. (The umbilical cord, placenta, and the blood they contain have no function after birth.) Stem-cell transplants have advantages over bone marrow transplants in the treatment of patients with diseases of the immune system or blood, such as leukemia. The collection process is noninvasive, and involves a simple blood transfusion. There is also a lower risk of tissue rejection, infection, and similar complications.

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Gail Lazzaro, senior scientist with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service in Perth, says public cord blood programs allow any matched patient in the community to receive donations. "The blood bank will give healthy mothers giving birth to healthy babies the opportunity to donate cord blood for the good of the whole community," she says. The facility will link to the Australian cord blood registry. At a given time, about 1,100 patients are on search lists across the country for cord blood or bone marrow donations.

"The [Western Australia] cord blood program will be able to help fill the gaps in the national cord blood registry by focusing on the unique ethnic mixes in this community," Lazzaro says. "It is patients with rare tissue types who are unlikely to find suitable matches."

The centennial project launched in 2004-05 after a selection panel of non-Rotarians reviewed more than 50 proposals. The blood bank proposal was submitted by Inner Wheel clubs in Western Australia.

The medical nature of the project carries on a Rotary tradition in the region. In 1955, for Rotary's 50th anniversary, clubs in Western Australia raised funds to build the state's first medical school, at the University of Western Australia.

Lotterywest, an independent gaming agency supervised by the government, contributed \$2 million to the blood bank project, which also received support from corporate donors. Rotary clubs raised an additional \$1.2 million through a variety of fundraisers.

Peter McKerracher, an assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator and project committee chair, says the blood bank has helped strengthen clubs throughout the state and enhanced Rotary's image in the community.

"Clubs across Western Australia have supported this project, and have been united in their support of it, for over five years," he says. "We are confident this facility will continue to serve the community for many years to come."

Parts of this story were adapted from *Rotary Down Under*

Rotary And Oikocredit Launch Strategic Partnership

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News – 13 April 2011



A dairy cooperative in Githunguri, Kenya. In 2009, clubs in Kenya and the Netherlands received Foundation funding to upgrade dairy farms and provide vocational training for the Oikocredit-supported milk cooperative near Nairobi. Photo courtesy Oikocredit International

The Rotary Foundation Trustees have reached an agreement with Oikocredit International, a Netherlands-based cooperative financial institution that promotes socially responsible investing, to form the first strategic partnership

under the Foundation's Future Vision Plan.

Through the partnership, the Foundation will offer packaged grants for Rotary clubs and districts to work with microfinance institutions within the Oikocredit network. Together, these institutions and Rotarians will identify local needs, develop effective approaches, and structure training programs to improve entrepreneurs' business skills.

"This strategic partnership with Oikocredit enables Rotary to work with a globally recognized leader in the field of microfinance in order to make a meaningful contribution to poverty reduction," said Foundation Trustee Chair Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar. "It allows Rotary club members to directly contribute their valuable expertise and skills without administering the loans directly."

Individual Rotary clubs have worked successfully with Oikocredit partners in the past. In 2009, clubs in Kenya and the Netherlands received Foundation funding to upgrade dairy farms and establish training farms belonging to an Oikocredit-supported milk cooperative near Nairobi. The result was an increase in the quality and quantity of milk production.

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What does Oikocredit offer Rotary?

Oikocredit is a cooperative financial institution that offers loans or investment capital to microfinance institutions, cooperatives, fair trade organizations, and small- to medium-size enterprises in the developing world. Investors earn modest financial returns and the knowledge that their money is being used to fight poverty and promote fair trade in an environmentally responsible manner.

Founded in 1975, Oikocredit has US\$684 million (480 million) invested in over 800 organizations in more than 70 countries, benefiting more than 20 million people through its microfinance partners.

"Knowledge and training are as important as financing," explained Tor G. Gull, Oikocredit's managing director. "Oikocredit's financing relationship with local entrepreneurs and microfinance organizations means we also see the need to help them strengthen their capacity to develop further, both economically and socially. Rotary funding and expertise from volunteers will greatly facilitate this effort."

Rotary Foundation Global Grants support large, international projects with sustainable, high-impact outcomes in Rotary's areas of focus. Packaged global grants developed by the Foundation and Oikocredit align with the area of economic and community development. Because the administrative work of designing the project and finding a cooperating organization has already been done, Rotary clubs and districts can focus on identifying beneficiaries, providing technical expertise or direct service, and publicizing the project.

One hundred districts are participating in the Future Vision pilot, a three-year test of the Foundation's streamlined grant structure, which began 1 July. All districts will begin using the model on 1 July 2013.

Information on how pilot clubs and districts can apply for packaged global grants to work with microfinance institutions within the Oikocredit network will be available soon at www.rotary.org

Four Ways To Promote Rotary Peace Centers

By Joseph Derr RI News – 14 April 2011



Former Rotary Peace Fellow Nai-Hua Wu says the opportunity to learn about conflict resolution was the best experience of her life. Rotary Images/Alyce Henson

Former Rotary Peace Fellow Nai-Hua Wu says the opportunity to learn about conflict resolution was the best experience of her life.

"I truly feel that this world is a better place because of Rotarians' efforts," says Wu, who attended the Rotary Peace Center at International Christian University in Tokyo from 2005 to 2007. "It was my first experience with what Rotary is all about. There is no division of nationality, and Rotarians work together for a better world."

Wu, now pursuing a doctorate in management at Texas A&M University's Mays Business School, is one of more than 500 graduates of the Rotary Peace Centers program. Many former peace fellows work for high-profile nongovernmental and international organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

Prospective candidates have until 1 July to apply for fellowships starting in 2012.

Here are four ways you can promote the program and find candidates in your community:

1. Involve the media

Send out press releases to the local media asking them to promote the Rotary Peace Centers program and the upcoming application deadline in an article or news broadcast. Write letters to the editor expressing the need for peace in these tumultuous times and highlighting the work of Rotary Peace Centers and alumni.

2. Reach out to the community

Hold informational sessions and invite the community. A current or former Rotary Peace Fellow could serve as

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your guest speaker, and you could show the Building Peace DVD as part of the program. Get permission from your local college or university to share brochures or post materials in high-traffic areas on campus, such as student centers. Peace fellows can come from the professional sphere too, so be sure to send brochures to libraries, community groups, and other local organizations.

3. Give presentations to other Rotary clubs

Local club members may know the perfect peace fellow. Give a guest presentation at another club in your district or region to inform fellow Rotarians about the program. This can also help open a dialogue about peace, which is central to Rotary's mission.

4. Spread the word

Talk about the Rotary Peace Centers every chance you get, from club and district meetings to dinner parties. You can also promote the program through social networks like Facebook and Twitter, and through your club or district newsletter or website.

Whatever approach you take, the secret is persistent networking, says Bob Fels, who has served as a member of the Rotary Peace Centers Committee and chairs the Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee for District 9800 (Australia). "The essence of our approach is get Rotarians to use their networks to ask organizations that employ peace workers to identify candidates. However, you have to persist with the organizations. Keep knocking on the door."

DisCon 2011 April 29-May 1

By Bob Nelson, DisCon Chair

Welcome to DisCon 2011! Our committees have been planning for many months to bring you an exceptional conference and I want to personally thank everyone who has been involved. It has been a joy to work with our extremely dedicated core team: Governor Jay and First Lady Geetha, Vice Chair Nancy Szlasa, Hotel Liaison Sara Torrence, Executive Secretary and Registration Chair Sherry Whitworth and Treasurer George Hurlburt.

Our vision for DisCon 2011 is to bring top-ranking speakers that will be of the most interest to Rotarians as well as provide programs for the entire family. We realize that you need to manage your time and

resources efficiently, so we have brought the conference to a central location in our district for the first time since 2008. We have moved the golfing outing to Friday morning and reduced the number of overnight stays from three to two saving 30% of the cost on both lodging and meals over last year. Our conference facility has been recently renovated and is looking better than ever.

Fellowship is one of the central reasons people join Rotary and Friday afternoon is focused on learning more about the international Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups from leaders and members of these groups traveling from as far away as Canada and Croatia. The food stations concept at Friday's dinner gives a more social atmosphere and we will be enjoying the 38 youth of the renowned Duke Ellington Show Choir. This is the first conference since the fifth avenue of service, New Generations, was created and we have tracks on Interact and Rotaract on Saturday morning and afternoon respectively. If the chairs become a little hard and you need to take a stretch break, you can still obtain tickets for the two tours on Saturday to Ellicott City and Fort Meade.

The conference theme "Healthy Rotarians Serve Humanity" is particularly highlighted on Sunday morning where experts on health and fitness provide their insight on keeping us all in the best possible shape to serve. Take advantage of the health screening offered on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Since I have had a career with NASA and am currently "NASA Emeritus," we couldn't have a complete conference without hearing from a former astronaut at Saturday's luncheon who is also a Rotarian and holds the record for the longest extra-vehicular activity (EVA).

Please let me know if there is anything we can do to make your weekend getaway at Turf Valley Resort even better. If there are any challenges, just let us know and we'll get it right!

Have a wonderful conference!

**Please send news articles and photos to
Bob.Nelson@NASA.gov
for inclusion in the newsletter**

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