

Rotary International District 6290

Hoofbeats and Handshakes Agenda

Double JJ Ranch – May 2-4, 2024, Rothbury, MI

CONFERENCE DAY 1

THURSDAY MAY 2

- 6:00pm-6:30pm Registration
- 6:30pm-7:30pm Dinner –Chillicuterie Board with all the fixins & Cocktails
- 7:30pm-8:30pm Session 1 – Opening remarks from DG, Jeff Coil
Learning activity
- 9:00pm-? Cabin Cocktail Crawl and tales around the campfire

CONFERENCE DAY 2

FRIDAY MAY 3

- 8:00am-9:00am Registration Open
- 8:00am-8:30am Breakfast
- 8:30am-8:40am National Anthems – United States and Canada
- 8:40am-9:00am Don't Bottle it Up – conversation about Mental Health
- 9:00am-10:15am Leadership Improv
- 10:15am-10:30am BREAK
- 10:30am-11:00am John Smarge – Importance of our Rotary Foundation
- 11:00am-11:45am What is our future up to? Presentation from students from our Life Leadership Conference, Reports on the recent El Salvador trip, Interact students.
- 11:45am-12:00pm BREAK
- 12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch – Table Discussion on the future of Rotary
- 1:00pm-2:15pm Leadership Improv
- 2:15pm-2:30pm BREAK

2:30pm-4:00pm Activity – World Café – table talks

- Mental health
- Membership Engagement
- Spreading the Service – Member Recruitment
- Why me? – Leadership succession
- Exploring Leadership Models
- Community Engagement/Story Telling
- The Rotary Foundation

4:00pm-6:30pm FREE TIME

CONFERENCE DAY 2 – cont.

FRIDAY MAY 3

6:30pm-8:00pm Dinner

8:00pm - Cabin Cocktail Crawl and stories around the campfire

CONFERENCE DAY 3

SATURDAY MAY 4

8:15am-8:30 Memorial Service

8:30am-9:15am Business Meeting and Breakfast

9:15am-10:00am John Smarge – Our continued talk on HANWASH

10:00am-10:45am Mark Luttenton - How we can make an impact in our local community.

10:45am-11:00am BREAK

11:00am-12:00am Learning Activity

12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch and Award Presentation

1:30pm-1:45pm BREAK

1:45pm-2:00pm Place your bets on horses and choose your favorite Derby Hat

2:00pm-3:30pm Derby Day Gala – A Rotary Foundation Fundraiser

3:30pm-4:00pm Closing Remarks

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOHN SMARGE



John Smarge has been a Rotarian and resident of Naples, Florida since 1982. His classification is Moving and Storage.

John served as President of The Rotary Club of Naples in 1992-93 and as District 6960 Governor in 1995-96. He was a member of the Rotary International Board of Directors in 2010-2012 and Chairman of the Executive Committee in 2011-2012.

He has served as a Rotary International Membership Coordinator, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, and as the Aide to the 2018 – 2019 Rotary International President. John has served on multiple Rotary International committees; most notably as the Chairman of the 2022 RI Convention Committee in Houston, TX.

Currently he is a member of the RI-USAID Steering Committee, and a founding member of HANWASH (Haiti National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Initiative).

In his community, John is currently on the Board and is Vice-President of the Forum Club of Southwest Florida. He is a past Board Chairman of the Naples YMCA and served as on the boards of the Boy Scouts of America, Naples Shelter for Abused Women, Naples Girls Sports Foundation and Southern Community Bank. John and Cindy have three married daughters and three grandchildren.

SPEAKER: JULIE COTTON

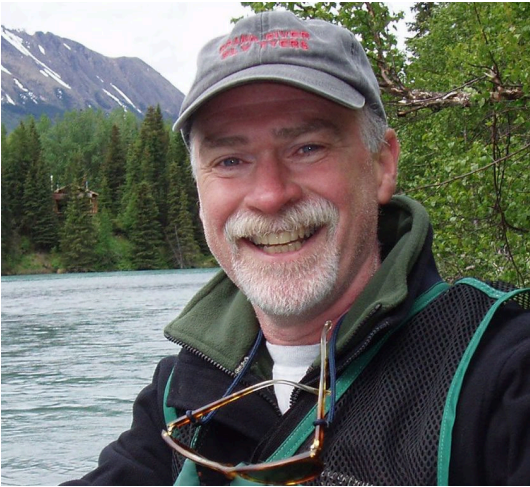


Julie originally hails from Phoenix, AZ where she attended her first Rotary meeting as a High School senior representative. She is now serving as 2023-24 President of Elkhart Rotary Club in Indiana after joining the club in 2017. Julie graduated from Rutgers, MGSA with an MFA in Acting, her BA is in Theater (emphasis in Education), and she has studied improv comedy with the Oxymorons, Sick Puppies Comedy, and iO Chicago. She founded Next Level Improv as a way to serve Recovery Center clients in FL with replacement techniques for healthy living. When you see Julie, she will have just played the title role in Peter Pan at her local theater, and, along with 2 Musical Improv friends, she will be competing in the final 4 at a local fundraising talent contest. She has been using improv to support all ages and groups in team building, communication, active listening and so much more. She is delighted to be bringing more Play to your District!

SPEAKER: STEVE FREETO



Steve Freeto, founder of GoProv, Goshen's award winning improv troupe, has been entertaining local audiences for years. Steve is a writer, a performer, an improviser, and a creative who thrives on interacting with an audience. Steve has written a book on improv and continues to teach the benefits of improv in daily life using his book "Go, Improv How to improvise your life" as the guide. Steve has devised shows that have been performed at Indy Fringe, South Bend Fringe, and venues around the midwest. As a lifelong student of comedy, Steve has trained and performed at Second City, iO, The Annoyance, and The Neofuturists in Chicago. Steve Freeto may be the most humble performer with a degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Indiana University.



Dr. Mark Luttenton has been teaching about water and aquatic life for over 40 years. His career began in the late 1970s, teaching 4th and 6th graders at a Toledo YMCA camp. After completing his graduate program, he joined the faculty at Grand Valley State University where he has taught numerous courses about water for over 33 years including classes in Central America. Currently, he is the Interim Director of the R.B. Annis Water Resources Institute and a professor of biology. He is also the program director for the Master's Degree in Water Resource Policy, and former Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

In addition to teaching classes, Mark has mentored over 100 undergraduate and dozens of graduate students conducting research focused on aquatic ecosystems. Based on his work with students he was awarded the GVSU Alumni Association's Outstanding Educator Award, and he has been nominated for the Michigan Distinguished Professor Award and the U.S. Professors of the Year Award.

Dr. Luttenton has also been deeply committed to research. He started doing research as an undergraduate at Central Michigan in the mid-1970s, and since then his research has encompassed a wide range of ecosystems. He has studied numerous rivers ranging from the Mississippi River to small tropical streams in Belize and Costa Rica. He has also worked on an array of lake ecosystems that include small ponds in the Bahamas to the Great Lakes.

Dr. Luttenton's research has included a range of topics including the impacts of invasive species, salmonid population genetics, European source populations of Michigan brown trout, juvenile steelhead survival in the Muskegon River, trout movement and habitat use in the Au Sable River, trout bioenergetics, and algal diversity in freshwater ponds in the Bahamas. More recently, Dr. Luttenton's research has focused on population dynamics of the parasite causing swimmer's itch, impacts of New Zealand mud snails on stream communities, salmonid diseases, aquatic fungi as a source of compounds to treat pediatric cancers, ecological changes in Higgins Lake, and the Au Sable River.

Dr. Luttenton has also actively supported the work of several conservation providing science-based information to groups including the Henry's Fork Foundation and several Michigan organizations. For his efforts, he has received the President's Award for Service from the Anglers of the Au Sable, the Brown Trout Award for Conservation from the Mason-Griffith Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the C.R. Evenson Conservation Professional Award from the Schrems-West Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Recognizing that sufficient clean water is essential to a healthy planet, Dr. Luttenton has now expanded his work into the area of water resource policy and established the Master's Degree in Water Resource Policy in 2019. The program now draws students from the U.S. and several African nations.