

## Casper's Rotary Park



We are proud to join Rotarians around in the world in promoting this water safety and literacy project...



# The Connection

Rotary District 5440 NEWSLETTER

June 2017 • Issue 12

# Rotary





# CONTENT

The Rotary Club of Evanston is looking for clubs interested in partnering on an International Project.

## .05

## interact assembly

Interact members from around District #5440 converged on Cheyenne earlier this spring for an Interact Assembly

## 08.



## meet mr. westbrook

In this month's Assistant Governor Spotlight, we meet Fort Collins Area AG, Jerry Westbrook.

## .11

# District Governor's Message

**Barb Redder • District Governor 2016-17**

*Casper Five Trails Rotary Club*

It is hard to believe that this Rotary year has flown by and that this is my final column in The Connection.

We have had a successful year and that is all attributable to the Rotarians in District 5440. We achieved many of our goals and had lots of fun along the way.

We held three Membership Summits around the district, graduated 71 Rotarians from the Rotary Leadership Institute, and celebrated the 100th Anniversary of The Rotary Foundation with the Centennial Dinner.

We exceeded our Foundation giving goals to the Annual Fund by 20%. Our giving to PolioPlus surpassed \$135,000.00 this year which is the most we have ever given and more than double our goal. Thanks to the generous contributions and hard work of Rotarians in District 5440 we are making a difference in the world.

We just concluded our District Conference and I want to give a shout out to Liz Becher, Conference Chair, and all the Rotarians in the Douglas

“...I want to thank all of the Rotarians in the best parts of four states for your service and fellowship...”

Rotary Club, Casper Rotary Club, Casper Reveille Rotary Club, Casper Rotaract Club and to my club, the Casper Five Trails Club for all of your support during the past year and especially for all of your hard work on our very successful conference.

Congratulations to all of the award winners, including President of the Year, Jacque Niedringhaus of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins Foothills; Rotarian of the Year, Judy Boggs of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins and Rotary International Ser-

■ See REDDER on page 13

## CONTACT US

### GIVE US A CALL OR SEND AN EMAIL...

For more information about advertising and/or placing articles in The Connection.

**Kellie Tovar**

(970) 506-1036

rotary5440@yahoo.com

**Visit us on the web at:**

[www.rotary5440.org](http://www.rotary5440.org)

and

[www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict5440](https://www.facebook.com/RotaryDistrict5440)



# ROTARY PARK

## Vision Come True

by Bill Schilling  
*Rotary Park Committee*

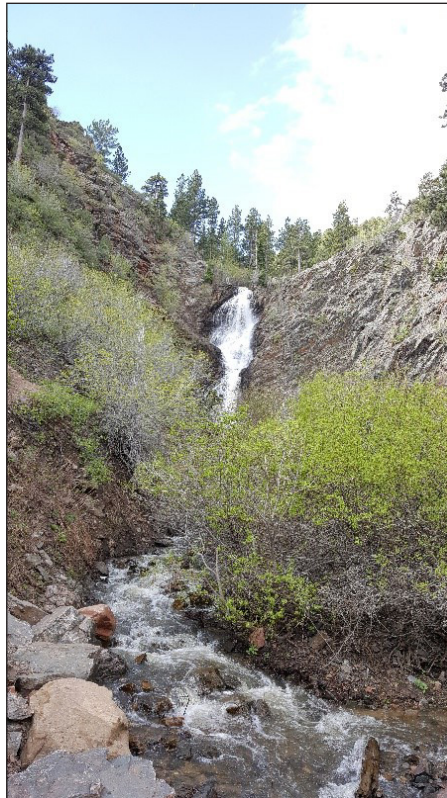
Rotary Park has been a cherished mainstay for the citizens of Casper, Wyoming for many years, dating back to settlers in late 1890s. For years, residents of Casper, and out of town visitors, have come to see Garden Creek Falls and hike on various trails adjacent to Rotary Park or picnic at the various sites beside the creek. But in the years leading up to 2010 the Park was seeing misuse and neglect. It was anything but a "crown jewel".

That all began to change. Participation in a Rotary International "visioning" process in 2009 led to Rotary Park improvements being the number one club priority. A comprehensive multiyear development plan was established, the Rotary Park Master Plan framework. The sale of Great Duck Derby tickets and volunteers helping out at "Rotary Park Work Days" has resulted



in many improvements to this public park. The park today is truly a "crown jewel".

History. On April 27, 1932 the Rotary Club of Casper purchased the 40 acre parcel of



land at the base of Casper Mountain a few miles south of Casper. This included the 105-foot Garden Creek water falls. Rotary transferred the land to the City of Casper with the understanding it would be used as a public park on February 21, 1938. Natrona County purchased land abutting the Park in 1969 and began to oversee the Park's usage and maintenance. Picnic tables were located beside the creek and a new bridge was constructed. A shelter was built by Rotary Club of Casper as well. In 2012, the Park's ownership was transferred to the County: but most importantly it included a Memorandum of Understanding between Rotary and Natrona County which included both a Quitclaim Deed and Rotary's multi-stage updated Master Plan. This agreement was signed on March 5, 2013.

Rotary Park Master Plan. In 2009, the Casper Rotary Board began discussing the need for new signage and other improve-

ments as outlined in the first Master Plan. Construction of a new main entrance sign and the building of additional parking at the lower end of the Park commenced in 2011.

In 2012, the pace of improvements accelerated. Past President Bill Schilling met with representatives of GSG Architecture and CEPI regarding ways to access the Bridle Trail. Tom Brauer standing at the creek bottom proclaimed, "Why not build a bridge?!" That summer a new 500 -yard trail from the upper loop to the lower parking lot was built; there were three Rotary Park "work days." In December, the Rotary Board agreed to have a bridge built.

The winter of 2013 was mild and allowed some early work days at the Park. By the end of March, 71 Construction completed the



new bridge in time for a June 17th dedication. Rotarians and community leaders attended and enjoyed an unobstructed view of Garden Creek Falls for the first time.

■ See **ROTARY PARK** on page 13

# WANTED:

## International Partners



The members of the Rotary Club of Evanston, Wyoming would like to invite other clubs to be part of a stove project in Guatemala.

We want to provide 345 stoves for seven villages and 2800 people at only \$130 per stove. The total cost of the project is \$44,000. The recipients are Mayans in the Cuchumatanes Mountains who live on one crop of potatoes a year.

They currently have open fires in their homes. The stove design we are buying is locally made, has been used in other parts of Guatemala and can be serviced by the villagers.

The stoves will be vented, to get rid of indoor air pollution. They also use 65-80% less wood, which is good for the environment. It will reduce mudslides,

which are a big problem in Guatemala.

As this goes to press several clubs have joined us and we only need \$20,000 more to fully fund the project.

If you have international money left in your budget this year or are looking for a project for next Rotary year, please consider joining us.

This is our third project in Guatemala. We have had successful water and sanitation projects in this same area. We have visited these villages four times and know the needs. Of great importance, we have a great partner in the Rotary Club of Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

If you are not familiar with Guatemala, it is a country with significant needs. Distribution

of income is highly unequal with the top ten percent of the population consuming forty percent of the resources. Most of the government money is spent in the cities excluding most of the indigenous Mayan population.

More than half the population lives in poverty with 15% living in extreme poverty. The indigenous groups make up 38% of the population with a poverty level of 76% with 28% living in extreme poverty. This is a remote area of Guatemala near the Mexico border and we have seen the need first hand.

All of our projects are sustainable as the villagers are required to charge an annual fee for repair and replacement of the stoves. We are happy to answer any questions. Contact Person: Julia Murray at [jmjmur@gmail.com](mailto:jmjmur@gmail.com).



---

# CHILD SAFETY NO. 1

---

## Estes Park Rotarians share water safety message with students

by Rita DuChateau, Rotary Club of Estes Park

What does a father do on the anniversary of the tragic drowning deaths of his two sons? If that father is Paul Jeffrey Foreman of Pinewood Springs, he dons a grey and tan costume and spends a few hours as Josh the Baby Otter at Estes Park Elementary School.

And if you're a kindergarten or first-grade student, you learned about water safety through literature and song. You also received a copy of the Josh the Baby Otter book and CD, coloring pages, a sticker and a chance to hug Josh during recess.

On May 8, 2016, Jeff could not save his sons Daniel, 7, and Paul Jacob, 10, after they fell into the Little Thompson River in Pinewood Springs. But he hopes to prevent other tragedies by educating children across Colorado about water safety, one class at a time.

To date, nearly 1,000 Colorado students have met Jeff Foreman (or his mom, Jan Foreman) as Josh the Baby Otter and received a copy of the book.

"I just hope this effort makes a difference," Jeff Foreman said. "We'll never know the true results, but we hope it will help."

■ See OTTER on page 7

## OTTER from page 6

To help spread this important message, the Rotary Club of Estes Park purchased kits with books, CDs, coloring pages and stickers in English and Spanish. On May 9, Rotarians and friends interacted with the students in eight classrooms, sharing the story of a young otter learning to swim.

The partnership began in March when Jeff's father, Paul Joseph Foreman, a member of the Broadmoor District Rotary Club in Colorado Springs, made a presentation to the Estes Park club.

His story inspired a spontaneous collection that netted \$750, enough to buy kits for all Estes Park kindergarten and Grade 1 students.

meeting Josh at recess. The Foreman family chose materials from the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation.

"It's fantastic that kids are learning to be safe in the water and know to always be with an adult," said first-grade teacher Anne Leija. "I am happy they are getting this important lesson, especially in our area of mountain lakes and streams."

Paul and Jan Foreman help out frequently and express their pride in their son's courage. They were at Estes Park Elementary May 9, helping in the school and on the playground.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control show that drowning is the number one cause of unintentional death for children ages 1-4 and the number two cause for children ages 1-14. The same study indicates that an average of 10 U.S.

---

**To date, Rotarians have donated over \$400,000 for materials provided by the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation.**

---

"Rotarians believe in 'Service Above Self.' This was a tremendous opportunity to work with children on an important topic and to support a family that is trying to help others," Rotary Club of Estes Park member and project coordinator Chuck Bonza said. "We are proud to join Rotarians around the world in promoting this water safety and literacy project."

Students joined with the adult reader and their teacher in reciting the Josh the Baby Otter pledge. They listened to the song, "Learn to Float," and then worked on coloring and puzzle pages before

children drown each day. Globally, it is estimated that one child drowns every minute.

Rotarians around the world have embraced Josh the Baby Otter's message of water safety.

To date, they have donated over \$400,000 for materials provided by the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation for early elementary students.

According to the foundation, over 250,000 children have already received the materials. Rotary estimates it will add 40,000 to that total in 2017.



**Volunteers from the Estes Park Rotary Club teach young students about water safety.**

# 2017 District #5440 Conference



*Ramesh Ferris, Polio Survivor, with our inbound youth exchange students.*



*Krishna Murthy (center) of the Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary Club was honored for his work in Rotary with the Service Above Self award. He is pictured here with PDG Phil Murphy and PE Chris McMahon both of the Fort Collins Breakfast Rotary Club.*



*DG Barb with the President of the Year Jacque Niedringhaus of the Fort Collins Foothills Rotary Club.*



*DG Barb with her great friend and PDG (District 5750) Michelle Schaefer*



*District Polio Chair Judy Boggs was awarded the Rotarian of the Year Award for 2017-18. Here she is pictured with the 2015-2016 Rotarian of the Year winner Phyllis Abt.*



*DG Barb and Don Redder with RI President's Rep Holger and Susanne Knaack. This clock was dedicated and donated to the City of Casper by the three Casper clubs and the Casper Young Professionals Rotaract Club.*

# Interact Assembly



## ***Story and photos courtesy of Dr. Michelle Aldrich***

Interact Clubs joined together on a snowy April Saturday to hold the first Interact District Assembly to be held in many years. Each participant received an event t-shirt provided by First Education Credit Union of Cheyenne. Cheyenne Community Rotaract and LCCC Rotaract provided workshops in parliamentary procedure, team building, leadership skills, and event planning. Following the morning workshops, the student enjoyed a quick visit from District Governor Barb Redder.

A video was also shown promoting the community service project that was schedule for May 13 and 14

on the Windriver Reservation. Lunch was also provided by First Education Credit Union. After lunch the Interactors, Rotoractors, and Rotarians all worked together, to pack Chemo Care bags that will be distributed beginning in June to chemotherapy patients at the Regional Cancer Care Center in Cheyenne.

Plans are under way for an Interact Leadership Training to take place in Cheyenne on Saturday, October 7 from 9 am-3pm. For more information, contact Steve Misch ([smisch1@msn.com](mailto:smisch1@msn.com)), District 5440 Interact Chair or visit the District website ([www.rotary5440.org](http://www.rotary5440.org)) to sign up. Registration is free to students, registration is for headcount purposes only.





Do you remember those sweet, juicy Palisade Peaches you bought last summer? Well, they are back and Poudre School District has a whole new class of 3rd graders who are excited to get their very own dictionaries that are funded by the purchase of peaches by great people like you!

These peaches come in 20-pound boxes at a cost of \$40 each.

To order your peaches visit [RotaryPeachSale.com](http://RotaryPeachSale.com) or call 970-460-6481 by August 16th.

IMPORTANT: There is a big change from last year concerning the delivery of your peaches. Delivery will take place on August

26th at Hughes Stadium in Fort Collins from 7:00AM to 11:00AM. Historically we have delivered the peaches at the Peach Festival. This year, however, the Peach

on August 26th at Hughes Stadium from between 7:00AM and 11:00AM!

You will see many other peach vendors in the community, but

## Rotary Club of Fort Collins - Breakfast Annual Peach Sale

Festival is a week before the pick-up and at a different location. Also, the pick-up is earlier in the day so it doesn't conflict with CSU's first football game at the new stadium.

Be sure to pick up your peaches

remember, this sale is the original and only sale that supports literacy programs dedicated to Poudre School District students.

This year's major sponsors are The Coloradoan, TRI-102.5 /Town-square Media, Learning Express Toys, and Overland Sertoma Club.



“If this Rotary of ours is destined to be more than a mere passing thing, it will be because you and I have learned the importance of bearing with each other's infirmities, the value of toleration.”

~ Rational Rotarianism,  
The National Rotarian, January 1911

## AG SPOTLIGHT

This segment is designed to introduce you to our hard working Assistant Governors. An "AG" must have served as club president and agree to serving a 3-year term to be qualified for this position.

### The role of an AG is the following:

- *Provide support to the clubs in which they are assigned*
- *Provide support to the District Governor during their official club visit*
- *Assist incoming club presidents in entering goals in Rotary Club Central*



### Fort Collins Area AG - Jerry Westbrook

Jerry Westbrook is Assistant Governor for the Fort Collins clubs, consisting of Rotary Club of Fort Collins, Fort Collins After Work, Fort Collins Breakfast and Fort Collins Foothills.

Jerry has been a member of the Loveland Rotary Club for 33 years and a Loveland resident for 43 years. He served as Club President in 2011-2012. A graduate of Rotary Leadership Institute in 2010 and currently serving on eight committees.

Jerry enjoys being involved in the community and lives the motto of "Service Above Self." He has served as President of Thompson R2-J School Board, Northern Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Larimer County Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Colorado Association of School Boards, United Way of Larimer County and Emerald Glen Homeowners Association.

Jerry's career was in land and water resourc-

es. He retired in 2004 after 25 years with the Bureau of Reclamation and 18 years with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

He grew up on a farm in northwestern Kansas. He was a 4-H Club member for 6 years and a graduate of Fort Hays State University with a BS degree in Agriculture.

He met his wife, Nancy while attending college and were married in August following graduation. She was an English major and taught language arts in high school and middle school.

They have three children and five grandchildren. Their oldest daughter is a graduate of CSU, second daughter graduated from Kansas State University and their son is a graduate of CSU and Washburn University Law School. We are fortunate to have our children and their families living nearby in Loveland and Thornton.

## REDDER from page 3

vice Above Self award recipient, Dr. Krishna Murthy of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins Breakfast.

Thanks to all the clubs who obtained Governor's Citations, Conference Attendance Awards and Membership Growth

Awards. It was good to hear of the club projects, both locally and internationally through the different Service Awards that were presented at the conference. Kudos to all of you!

Finally, I want to thank all of the Rotarians in the best parts of four states for your service and fellowship during the 2016-2017 year.

Don and I enjoyed visiting all of your clubs and spending time with all of you.

Thanks for all you do in your community and around the world. Together with 1.2 million Rotarians around the world, we truly are an integral part of Rotary Serving Humanity and it has been an honor to serve as your District Governor.

## ROTARY PARK from page 4

During that same summer there were numerous "work days" along with an ambitious Eagle Scout project to build a trail from the east side of the new bridge up to where two observation decks were slated for construction. The Wyoming Conservation Corps (W.C.C.) team forged out a stout trail up the mountain beyond the observation decks to access the Bridle Trail.

2014 saw continued Park improvements including: an east side mountain trail, three observation decks, a 500- yard trail on the west side of the creek from the upper loop to near the lower parking area, Rotary benches, a sign at the very bottom of the road leading to Rotary Park, and the gift to Rotary of land near the half way point of the Bridle Trail.

In 2015 work at Rotary Park continued with many ambitious projects were started. These projects included: a new Information Kiosk was completed; a new 50 -yard trail on donated land two miles up the Bridle Trail near the southern Park boundary was completed by Eagle Scouts; a new Rotary Bench by the creek; two observation decks; safety cable on a steep trail to the observation decks; plus a new picnic table with benches.

In 2016, additional cables be-



yond the observation decks were installed on the 800-yard east side trail and discussions took place regarding the importance of a bathroom and additional parking at the lower level of Rotary Park. These improvements were deemed necessary because park usage had more than quadrupled since 2012.

2017 plans are moving forward with excitement. A kiosk identical to the 2016 installation will be installed at the lower end of the Park. Also, a new public bathroom with rock walls is slated for construction. Additionally, there are plans to expand parking adjacent to the lower parking lot and to lay the foundation for an octagonal picnic structure similar to the one built by Rotary in the 1990's near the upper parking lot.

Vision Realized...Since 2011 work on the Rotary Park Master Plan has resulted in making Rotary Park a must place to visit.



It truly is a public park aligned with Rotary's belief in "service above self." The Rotary Park Committee, led by Bill Schilling, with Vice Chairs John Lawson and Steve Loftin, has involved 81 Rotary Club of Casper volunteers, 211 volunteers total, and 722 volunteer work hours during eleven Rotary Park Saturday "work days." The Rotary Club of Casper is committed today, and for the years ahead, to making Rotary Park the best it can be.

16 YRS & UP - \$ 5 • 15 YRS & UNDER - FREE



# PEACH FESTIVAL FORT COLLINS

FUN  
FOR THE  
WHOLE  
FAMILY!



PALISADE PEACHES AVAILABLE!



FortCollinsPeachFestival.com

- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- FOOD & BEVERAGES
- PEACH-THEMED EVENTS
- PEACH PIES
- PEACHLING AREA
  - FACE PAINTING
  - JUMPY CASTLES
  - CLIMBING WALL
- PEACH BEER & MARGARITAS



All funds from this event benefit the Rotary STEM Education Fund and the Fort Collins Rotary Clubs' service projects.

# Rotary

## District 5440



### U P C O M I N G   E V E N T S

#### **District Leadership Training**

Jul. 21-22, 2017  
Embassy Suites  
Denver, CO

#### **CCRYE Inbound Orientation**

Sep. 21-24, 2017  
TBA

#### **2017 Fall Assembly**

Oct. 7, 2017  
Little America Resort  
Cheyenne, WY

#### **2017 Fall Interact Assembly**

Oct. 7, 2017  
Triumph High School  
Cheyenne, WY

#### **2018 High Country PETS**

Mar. 2-4, 2018  
Denver, CO

#### **2018 Spring Assembly**

Apr. 7, 2018  
Little America Resort  
Cheyenne, WY

#### **2018 District 5440 Conference**

May 3-5, 2018  
Estes Park, CO

# SEE YOU SOON

**Share your club's projects, events, and milestones with the rest of Rotary District 5440,** by sending your photos and stories to Kellie Tovar at [rotary5440@yahoo.com](mailto:rotary5440@yahoo.com)