



Rotary Messenger

Rotary Club of Eau Claire

Editor: Jerry Reinecke

July 20, 2009

In This Issue

- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund
- New Members Approved by Board
- Greeters and Classification Talks Schedule

Guests

- Bill Klish – Prospective Member and guest of Marcia Van Beek
- Jon Fields – Prospective Member
- Craig Jameson – guest of Peter Scobie
- Ed Foy – guest of Scott Johnson

Leave of Absence

- Sherry Mohr (5/7/2009 – 8/7/2009)
- Barb Wiedenbeck (7/21/2009 – 10/21/2009)

The 4-Way Test

Of the things, we think, say or do:

1. Is it the 'Truth'?
2. Is it 'Fair' to all concerned?
3. Will it build 'Goodwill' and 'Better Friendships'?
4. Will it be 'Beneficial' to all?

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Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund presented by Scott Humrickhouse, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

(Thank you to Scott Humrickhouse for providing this program summary.)

Scott Humrickhouse, Regional Director of the Wisconsin Department of Resources, told us about a government program we have here in Wisconsin that is truly unique. It's a program that connects all of us – to our heritage here in Wisconsin and to histories yet unwritten, the ones that belong to our children's children.

Scott earned his masters degree in chemistry from Luther College, and then was a research assistant at Washington State University where he earned his masters in environmental engineering. From there he took a job writing Environmental Impact Statements at Argonne National Laboratory outside Chicago, which was and is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. After concerns that the Department of Energy might be eliminated under the Reagan administration, he joined the DNR, which he indicated has "... turned out to be a heck of a career".

Despite the recreational DNR-bashing that is a popular pastime, which he can understand, Scott has found that it is a great place to invest his professional energies. The employees at the DNR help make it the special place it is. They are passionate about their work which makes it enjoyable and rewarding. For Scott and most of the employees, it's about science and it's about public service and it's about the wild beauty of nature, so essential to the human spirit. And it's about



Scott Humrickhouse has been Director of the DNR's West Central Region for the past twelve years, with responsibility for overseeing all DNR operations within a 19-county area of West Central Wisconsin. During his 28 years of service with the agency, Scott has worked in the Madison office and three regional headquarters.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Scott is a 1978 graduate of Luther College, where he earned a degree in chemistry and had the great fortune to sing for Weston Noble as a member of the Nordic Choir. He has a masters degree in environmental engineering from Washington State University, and worked at Argonne National Laboratory for one year prior to joining DNR.

Scott and his wife Debbie have two grown children, and two yellow labs and a pair of cats at home. Away from work Scott loves hunting, barbeque, trout streams, college wrestling, and spending time at his log cabin in Rusk County.

Our Calendar

July 27 – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis by Board Member Mike O'Meara

August 3 – Chippewa Theater Guild Update by Ann Sessions

August 10 – The Year of an Exchange Student in France by Oliver Goulet

August 17 – Living in Spain During the Spanish Civil War by Angelo Armendariz

August 24 – The World of Professional Bike Racing by Tom McCarty

August 31 – Raising Alpacas by Vince Schroeder

September 7 – No Meeting due to Labor Day Holiday

September 14 – Club Assembly

Officers/Board of Directors for the 2009-10 Rotary Year

President – Jacqe Lahn

President-Elect – Jon Niebergall

Vice President – Sara Antonson

Secretary – Mary Knight

Exec Sec / Treas – Jerry Reinecke

Past President – Don Huebscher

Avenues of Service:

Club – Angela Hite

Community – Bob Schmidt

International – Mark Morse

Vocational – Marcia Van Beek

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the lasting nature of what they do. According to Scott, when it all works right, the decisions they make and the actions they take make our natural world a better place. But perhaps more importantly, it'll make the world a better place for our grandchildren, and their grandchildren.

One of the finest examples of that, and a truly tremendous program that we have here in Wisconsin, is the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. There is nothing quite like it anywhere else. Other states have come to the table late, with habitat preservation programs of varying strength, but nothing else can compare to the rich legacy of Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund.

This visionary program funds the acquisition, protection and preservation of natural habitats through revenues generated by the sale of bonds. During its first 20 years, the Stewardship Fund has protected nearly a half million acres in Wisconsin - some of the most beautiful, most environmentally important wild lands we have in this state.

The program has its roots in the work of some of Wisconsin's (and America's) finest and best known visionaries. In 1951, under the guidance of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold and plant ecologist John Curtis, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation to sponsor a natural area protection program. It's now called the State Natural Areas program, and it is housed within the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources. Today there are more than 560 sites in Wisconsin's system of nature preserves.

In 1961, Gov. Gaylord Nelson signed the Outdoor Recreation Act Program, Wisconsin's first comprehensive, long-term land acquisition program. Six years later, it was renewed by Gov. Warren Knowles. During its 31 years, the program protected 54,000 acres of land with a one-cent per pack tax on cigarettes.

In the late 1980s, a committee chaired by Spencer Black, with Warren Knowles as a member and Gaylord Nelson as an advisor, forged a successor to ORAP – the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program. State bonding would provide \$25 million a year. That grew to \$60 million a year under Gov. Thompson, and when Gov. Jim Doyle signed the bill most recently reauthorizing Stewardship for another 10 years, funding was increased to \$85 million a year.

Were we to have started this program today, it would be too late to save many of the gems that have been protected over the past twenty years. Just think for a moment what Wisconsin would be like right now without the Stewardship Fund.

Remember much of the land access common fifty years ago has been lost. Increasingly, farm owners sell leases for hunting rights once given freely to neighbors. Privately held timber lands are no longer open to the public as they were for generations.

Not everyone can afford to buy their own patch of paradise. Without Stewardship, we already would be evolving into a state where many Wisconsin residents could no longer find the peace of nature within a reasonable distance of their homes. If that were ever to happen, we would have evolved into something less than we once were. And that would be a shame.

Well, thankfully, this is not our fate.

For example, just a few miles north of here lies Hallie Marsh where the DNR and the local chapter of Pheasants Forever and other local partners, including Chippewa County, are patching together a large, contiguous block of wetlands, grasslands and upland woods that will help dozens of species

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Rotary District 6250
www.rotary6250.org

Rotary District 6250
Newsletter
www.rotary6250.org/newsletter

survive into the next century.

In future years, crowds will still gather at gorgeous Phoenix Park on Saturday mornings to buy fresh vegetables and crisp spring rolls at the confluence of the Eau Claire and Chippewa rivers. Few in that crowd will know they are standing on what was once an industrial wasteland... heavily contaminated with lead and coal tar and a toxic smorgasbord of other wastes.

Few will know the role played by their state government in restoring this riverfront. Few if any in that crowd will know the Stewardship Fund helped make it possible. And that's OK. It's only important that they enjoy the natural beauty of the river, with its healthy populations of game fish, and that they realize a simple truth: "In another 50 years, Wisconsin will be a different place because of what we do today."

New Members Approved by Board

At the July 21 meeting, the Board of Directors approved **Bill Klish** and **Jon Fields** as our Club's newest members. Bill is an Emeritus Professor with Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, and recently moved back to his hometown of Eau Claire. Jon is a business coach with The Growth Coach, and is in the process of relocating to the Eau Claire area.

Bill and Jon will be formally inducted into our Club at an upcoming meeting. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Bill and Jon and welcome them to Rotary.

Greeters and Classification Talks Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Classification Talks</u>
July 27	Dan Baltramonas and Kyle Krieg	None
August 3	Bob McCoy and Ed McMahon	None
August 10	Susan McLeod and Mark Morse	None
August 17	Timothy Wood and Jon Niebergall	None
August 24	Angie Niska and Julie Pangallo	None
August 31	Bill Klish and Mary Reinert	None