

August 20, 2007

This Week's Program
"How to Lose a Lake" – Charlie Parson, Professor of Geography, BSU
Next Week's Program
Classification Talks

Important Dates to Remember

District 5580 Conference

May 1-4, 2008, Dickinson, ND

Rotary International Convention

June 15-18, 2008, Los Angeles, CA

Upcoming September Programs

Sept 3 *No Meeting – Labor Day*
Sept 10 Dept of Employment/Economic
 Development – *Dan McElroy*
Sept 17 United Way – *Becky Nahvi*
Sept 24 Early Childhood Family Education –
 Vicki Wangberg
Oct 1 Raptor Center – *Bubba Schwartz*
Oct 8 Youth Exchange Welcome – *Kristen*
 Addison
Oct 15 Meandering Mississippi – *Robert*
 Melchoir

Meeting Location

PLEASE NOTE: The August 27th meeting will be held at the Bemidji Boys and Girls Club.

Recent Rotarian Visitors

Gene Gordon, Dubuque, IA
William Jindra, Fullerton, CA

Proposed for Membership

Samantha Meemken, Learning Center –
proposed by **Amy Saeland**
Nathan Pocharst, Diversified Builders –
proposed by **Chris Keenan**

Rose Sale

Roses are getting ready to bloom throughout Bemidji. Our club's annual Rose Sale will be co-chaired by **Karson** and **Wendy Ottness** this year, and they are gearing up for this major fundraiser. A dozen red or lollipop colored roses will sell for \$15.00, and the blooms will be ready for pick-up on October 12 and 13. Now's the time to get your customers lined up. Stay posted for ticket availability and further information.

Storage Option

Are you storing some Rotary items in your home? You should know that we now have a storage area at the Super 8 Motel courtesy of **Kevin Williamson**. You may want to transfer that Rotary material to a new home. Check with **Kevin**.

Rotary Around the World

Clubs help Filipinos squeeze livelihoods out of coconuts.

The Rotary clubs of Fort Collins, Colorado, USA, and Metro Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines, help turn waste into profit for Philippine coconut farmers and their families in the small village of Ibajay.

With the aid of a US\$5,000 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, the two clubs implemented the Coconut-based Livelihood Project. The program gives local coconut farmers the supplies and labor to turn wasted coconut husks into "coconets," which have environmental, economic, and social benefits for the community.

The project increases employment levels for women, out-of-school youth, the elderly, and physically disabled citizens while reviving the coconut industry. Before the project, most women had almost no earning capabilities. They now have become wage earners and are empowered to participate in community development. Also, employing the out-of-school youths in the community has drastically decreased the rate of petty crimes.

The country's largest source of agricultural waste is coconut husks, which are usually left to rot or burn, thereby releasing greenhouse gas. Farmers now use coconets as geotextile nets to help provide an environmentally friendly solution to land erosion and degradation. Another husk byproduct, coconut dust, is used as a soil enhancer, mulch, and stock for organic fertilizer.

The Rotary Club of Kalibo donated labor and materials to help construct the expansion of the work and storage shed. It also sponsored training sessions in making twine and nets.