



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

November 30, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 22

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Chad Pregracke The Bison Bridge

Sept. – Nov. Calendar

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|--------|--|
| Dec 5 | - Rotary Reindeer Ramble |
| Dec 8 | - Rotary Holiday Party Circa 21 Starts with 5pm Salon Party |
| Dec 7 | - RIHS Chamber Singers 2021 Holiday Show |
| Dec 14 | - TBA |
| Dec 21 | - TBA |
| Dec 28 | - TBA |
| Jan 4 | - TBA |
| Jan 11 | - TBA |
| Jan 18 | - TBA |

The Mississippi River was literally Chad Pregracke's back yard while growing up near East Moline, IL. The son of educators and river enthusiasts, KeeKee and Gary Pregracke, Chad and his older brother, Brent, spent the majority of their time on, in and around the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Between his childhood and first job as a clam digger, it didn't take long before realizing that he didn't like what he saw - above or below the river - and decided to do something about it. What started as 'one river, one piece of garbage at a time' turned into Living Lands & Waters full time. At the age of 17, Chad started making calls to government agencies to notify them of the problem, assuming someone would take care of it. Year after year passed by and the problem only worsened. In 1997, Chad decided that if no one else was going to clean up the river, he would. In 1998 at the age of 23, Chad founded Living Lands & Waters. Today, the organization has grown to include a full staff and fleet of equipment. The crew averages nine states a year along the Mississippi, Illinois, and Ohio Rivers, as well as many of their tributaries. Most recently, Chad expanded the mission of the organization to include Student Educational Workshops, The Million Trees Project, Adopt-a-River Mile, Invasive Species Removal and The Great Mississippi River Cleanup. To date the organization has removed 11,409,108 pounds of trash, involved 120,097 volunteers, educated 11,386 students, and planted 1,631,431 trees. Now Pregracke wants to turn old I-80 Bridge over the Mississippi River into a crossing for bison. Crazy, you think, so was the dream of a 17-year-old kid to clean up the Mississippi River! But Pregracke is getting it done! Chad Pregracke is not one for small or conventional ideas, and he is trying to drum up support for his latest; and if he gets his way, bison may roam high above the river on the current Interstate 80 bridge where Illinois meets Iowa. Pregracke said, "This might sound crazy, but I actually want the westbound lane dedicated to a small herd of bison. People would stop – I mean, right now, people are just, 42,000 cars a day are going over that bridge – and they're just going." The 55-year-old bridge is on its last legs and is scheduled to be replaced. Pregracke says demolishing the bridge will cost 32 million. "I'm not trying to build a bridge; I'm trying to save and repurpose a bridge." Chad wants to raise money to turn the bridge into a national monument where bison can wander from one state to the other, and people can stop and maybe stay a while. He spoke with U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos who agrees it would be great for her district. Bustos even pitched the idea to members of President Biden's cabinet. Pregracke envisions an acreage of land on each side of the bridge dedicated as a National Park and stocked with Bison. The west bound lane of the bridge would dedicated solely for "Bison traffic." The east bound lanes of the current 4-lane bridge would be converted into a walking, observation, picnic, and recreation area for "people" visitors. What might develop beyond that with restaurants, gas and convenient stores, souvenir shops, and motels is unknown, but is definitely possible. Why bison? That's what will put us on the map and make the Quad Cities a unique destination for millions. Please check out www.bisonbridge.org, and join over 30,000 others like Chad's creative idea! You won't be solicited!!





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Cindi Gramenz, 1st Vice Pres.
Eric Westphall, 2nd Vice Pres.
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Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
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Program Chairs

2021-22

Aug-Sept – Gary Rowe
Oct - Nov – Frank Lambert
Dec-Jan – John Wetzel
Feb-Mar – Kai Swanson/
Dave Hodge
Apr-May – Kathy Trone/
Jeff Rose

Club Notes & Announcements!

- WELCOME GUESTS** – Today our Club welcomed three visiting Rotarians. Mark Zimmerman, of the Davenport Club, Duncan Cameron of the Naples Florida Club, and we were particularly honored to have District Governor David Bills from the River Cities Club with us today. Dick Fislar was a guest of wife Mary Fislar; and Mark Werning and Dan Breidenstein joined us from Living Lands and Waters. We love having guests at “The Number One Club”!
- DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED** Today was our final collection for November's educationally motivating items. Next week we start our December Collection of **construction paper and drawing paper**. We need to supply 300 Earl Hanson student and want each to get a fully supplied summer bag to “Keep Them Engaged”. Bring paper or your donation for the December cause! .
- REINDEER RAMBLE IS SUNDAY!** Checking the sign--up sheet it looks like we are still needing some volunteers to help administer the race. Help is needed. Some will be outside directing runners or offering water. Other helpers are needed inside at the Speak Easy where refreshments will be served and awards handed out.
- HOLIDAY PARTY at CIRCA 21!** – Rotary has 45 signed up to attend our party a week from tomorrow. Kiwanis has just four attending. We look forward to seeing everyone that reserved at the pre-show Salon Party at 5pm.
- WE ARE MAKING SCARFS FOR KIDS** – Tuesday, December 14 right after our meeting at the Botanical Center. Stay a few minutes, tie a bunch of knots and we'll have the job done. Our goal is 100 scarves in 15 minutes. If we have enough help we can do it! NO SKILL REQUIRED (my kind of job!).
- ROTARIANS WILL BE RINGING THE BELLS** at the Rock Island Hy-Vee from 10am until 4pm on Saturday, December 11th. Why not schedule your grocery trip that day and say hello to your fellow members who will be at the doors staffing the Salvation Army kettles. While there, drop in a donation!
- NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net

BELL RINGING – ALL SIGNED UP AND ALL SHIFTS COVERED – THANKS!



Rock Island Rotary is scheduled to ring the bell for the Salvation Army on **December 11th** at the Rock Island HyVee from 10am until 3pm. We will be covering both doors, so we need four people for each shift. Club members have all shifts covered! Thanks.

Email mark.mayeski@edwardjones.com if an emergency will force you to cancel. Backups, in case needed, can sign up!

| Time | East Door | West Door |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00 | <u>Gary Rowe</u> | <u>Ruth Lee</u> |
| 10:00 | <u>Bill Stengel</u> | <u>Cindi Gramenz</u> |
| 11:00 | <u>Bud Phillis</u> | <u>Jim & Judy Nordquist</u> |
| 11:00 | <u>Sue Rector</u> | <u>Anne McGlynn</u> |
| 12:00 | <u>Rick Devinney</u> | <u>Steve Morenz</u> |
| 12:00 | <u>Howard Beck</u> | <u>Judie Gelaude</u> |
| 1:00 | <u>Holly Sparkman</u> | <u>Ametra Carrol</u> |
| 1:00 | <u>Tom Sparkman</u> | <u>Jo9hn Phillips</u> |
| 2:00 | <u>Kai Swanson</u> | <u>Molly Shattuck</u> |
| 2:00 | <u>Jenni Swanson</u> | <u>Tom Hammar</u> |
| 3:00 | <u>Marcy Bell</u> | <u>Kim Calhoun</u> |
| 3:00 | <u>Kevin Koski</u> | <u>Rick Emery</u> |

Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces



“Keep them Engaged” Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School



The Goal: Collect and assemble items in engaging Summer packs for every student at Earl Hanson Elementary School. That means we need 300 of each item!

DECEMBER GOAL: We are looking for construction paper/drawing paper!

Bring your donations of paper or cash to our meetings each week in December

FOUNDATION TUESDAY ON THE SPOT CHALLENGE

Foundation chair Bud Phillis spoke about the Rotary Foundation, pointing out that we have polio on the run with just 1 case diagnosed in 2021. He urged members to continue supporting the Rotary Foundation to get the job done and eradicate the disease from the earth. President Justin then threw out a challenge for Rotarians on the spot to donate, and Bud offered to match whatever was raised. Justin set a \$1,000 goal **which was reached in about 2 minutes and exceeded!** Thanks again to Rotarians and our fanatical support for the Rotary Foundation!

The New 2021-22 QUAD CITY DINING TOUR BOOKS ARE HERE!!

Chair Bud Phillis had the new Dining Books at our meeting today and they are going fast! The cost remains just \$35 for over 300 Buy-One, Get-One- Free coupons at 150 Quad Cities area restaurants! Better yet, for each book sold Rock Island Rotary receives a \$10 donation! In addition to numerous restaurants from fast food to luxury dining, the Book contains a Circa 21 Coupon you can any time through October 2022. **That savings alone more**



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today the Raffle featured wine, a fabric bowl, and cash. The first ticket drawn was held by Frank Lambert who took the cash and donated to the Foundation Tuesday fund. Sue Rector had the second winning ticket and gleefully grabbed the Angela Campbell fabric bowl. John Olinger took home the bottle of fine wine! Thanks to all who participated in today's raffle. All proceeds from our weekly raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. Thanks to those who participated!

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Eric Westphall had a short but very productive session today. Starting by asking for Happy/Sad Dollars, Ruth Lee had a sad dollar for the Vikings loss. Duncan Cameron had two dollars for the Iowa football and basketball wins and was assessed another dollar for failing to fill out a visitor's card. Sue Rector put in \$10, and Jim Nordquist, John Wetzel, and Mark Zimmerman added dollars for the Iowa wins. Mark then added \$100 in recognition of no longer owning any property in Rock Island after more than 4 decades as a business and property owner there. Gary Rowe put in happy dollars for the Illini football and basketball wins. Eric then turned to fines assessing Howard Beck and Molly Shattuck an early leaver fine and then noting his dedicated support for our Angel Tree project, levied a fine on all members who have not taken a name from our Angel Tree. It all added up to a very productive and profitable day!



WE DID IT LAST YEAR – WE’RE GOING TO DO IT AGAIN!!

Scarfs for Kids

Sue Rector will provide the materials and will even have done all the cutting! All we need is “ALL HANDS ON DECK” to tie knots! That’s right, all you need to do it tie knots. No tools, no experience, no skill needed! We will do the project immediately after our club meeting on Tuesday, December 14. If you can give us 15 minutes, we can knock out 100 scarves and send them with our Angel Tree gifts to the kids at Earl Hanson School. Please mark your calendar and plan to stay a few minutes after the meeting on the 14th.



Need a Stocking Stuffer or Dinner Favor?

Raffle tickets are now available from Ruth Lee for the May 2022 drawing. The major sales promotion will occur after the first of the year, but we are making tickets available now for anyone who wants them for use over the holidays. Email Ruth at rotarianruth@gmail.com or see her at next week’s meeting if you are interested. Tickets are \$20. Thanks.



Didn’t Get an Angel Tree Child Today?

With Covid and many folks laid off for extended periods of time, the needs are greater than in the past. Earl Hanson teachers identified students that they fear are looking at a pretty bleak holiday season. In the past our Angel Tree typically had between 25 and 35 “Angels”. This year there are 60! We need, or should we say the Kids need Rotarians to step up and ensure that little hearts experience joy, not sadness this Christmas. We still have names on the tree!

Contact or email Molly Shattuck and she will select an Angel for you. You can request a boy or girl and can even zero in on an age if you wish. You can call Molly at 309-781-9446 or email her at molly@hammarcps.com. She will get you the details and all the information you need to be “Santa” for some darling child. The suggested budget is approximately \$40. If you can’t do the shopping, you can just donate, and Molly and our Rotary elves will handle the shopping for you.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUNDAY?

The weather is predicted to be beautiful, and it very well might be one of the last opportunities to spend some time outdoors. Why not spend an hour or two supporting a Rock Island Rotary Club Activity? Our annual Rotary Reindeer Ramble kicks off at 9am Sunday starting at the Speak Easy located next door to the Circa 21 Theatre. Stop down to watch the race, maybe help out if needed and asked, or join in the fun as a walker or runner. You can register Sunday Morning starting at 8am at the Speak Easy. If you just want to watch and enjoy you need not register. If the race is anything like our past Reindeer Rambles you may see Santa Claus, reindeer, or any number of other costumed characters participating in the race. It’s a ton of fun and the runners love to see spectators along the course cheering them on.



SAVE THE DATE



ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE



Register On-Line: https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=135535

SUNDAY December 5, 2021 9:00AM

START & FINISH – CIRCA 21, 1828 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201

COURSE - Flat & Fast, scenic, accurate, wheeled distance.

SHIRTS - Size guaranteed to pre-registered runners and walkers

RUNNER'S AWARDS-- Overall male and female 3 awards per ages 0-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+

WALKER'S AWARDS-- Overall male and female, 3 awards per age groups 0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+ ALL THIS PLUS GREAT FOOD & DRINK!

REGISTER ONLINE - **GETMEREGERED.COM/ROTARYREINDEERRAMBLE**

REGISTRATION FEES – Pre-registered, postmarked not later than 11-20-20 **\$25.00**

Rotary members **\$23.00**

After Nov 20, **\$30.00** for all!

PACKET PICKUP & REGISTRATION 7:30AM to 8:45AM RACE DAY

GRAND PRIZE! GIFT CERTIFICATE for two for CIRCA 21. for pre-registered runners only!
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! NO EXCEPTIONS!

If you have questions call Dick or Mary Fislar at 309-788-0500 or e-mail
cruisemaster18@yahoo.com

-----CUT HERE-----

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM (MAY BE DUPLICATED) PLEASE PRINT!!!

First name _____ Mid _____ Last Name _____

Age race day _____ Date of birth ____/____/____ Male _____ Female _____ Run _____ Walk _____

Circle shirt size S M L XL XXL (ADD \$2.00 for XXL) Phone ____/____/____

No shirt option _____ deduct \$5.00 if you choose no shirt!

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

WAIVER (MUST BE SIGNED) In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do hereby release and discharge Rock Island Rotary, the City of Rock Island, any sponsors, supporters, or volunteers, for all claims of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner arising or growing out of my participation in the ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K Run or Walk. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event, am physically fit, and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Participant, or Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROCK ISLAND ROTARY Mail entry and payment to ROTARY, P.O. Box 4271, Rock Island, IL 61201. NO REFUNDS RACE WILL BE HELD REGARDLESS!