



## **THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE**

### **Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley**

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) [www.rotary5470.org](http://www.rotary5470.org) [www.paoniarotary.org](http://www.paoniarotary.org)

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180

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**LAST MEETING: April 21, 2016**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** James has agreed to organize the Hwy 133 cleanup May 6, 9am. Meet at the storage units.

The pancake breakfast will be held June 25, for which we will all sell tickets. Put the date on your calendar.

District Assembly on April 30 will be held in Grand Junction. New members and officers are especially encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet other District Rotarians and load up on new ideas.

**PROGRAM:** Greg Thompson introduced Ron Godin to talk about hops growing. He has lived in the valley for 15 years, working at CSU Rogers Mesa Research site until it closed. He is a CSU soil scientist and agronomist with a Ph D from CSU and undergrad degrees from Univ of Arizona. He became interested in hops when he first came here in 2001 and started research on them at that time.

Craft beer brewing and hops sales are booming. The Pacific NW is the hops capital where there are large acreages. Hops from there sell at \$8/lb. In Delta county, the largest hops farm is 40 acres and our hops sell for \$15/lb. Local brewers like local hops.

Ron gives classes on growing hops. The first rule is know how the brewing process works. As there are ~100 varieties of hops, each giving a different flavor to beer, be sure to grow the variety brewers want. Cascade variety is particularly popular. Be aware that establishing, operating and maintaining a hops farm is both expensive and labor intensive. Count on spending \$18 - 20,000/acre to establish the plants and \$6 - 8,000/acre to maintain the farm. Ron said he knew of 12 men working on an 8 acre farm right now, re-establishing the plants. However, one might expect a yield of \$12 - \$15,000/acre.

Hops is a perennial that grows 20' in 6 - 8 weeks and lives for 20 - 30 years. It grows up two cords per plant that are tied to an overhead structure. Planted in rows that are 12' apart, one can grow 1200 plants/acre. Hops reproduces via rhizomes. It is quite cold hardy. However, it requires as much water as alfalfa and needs to be kept weed-free. It needs lots of nitrogen, thus organic hops crops are not very productive. Besides, there is no demand for organic hops.

A hops plant produces thumb size cone, with as many as 10 pounds of cones per plant. It is the oil balls in the cone that flavor beer. The hops plants stop growing when daylight shortens. The cones are ready to harvest when they start to dry and no longer smell grassy. At harvest time the plants are cut, the cones removed by a large picking machine, dried to remove excess moisture, then baled for shipping.

Hops has been grown for 100 years in the Pacific NW. 2009 saw the first hops planted in Delta

county. Our growing conditions are better because there are fewer pests and diseases to attack the plants in our dry climate. Also local hops benefit from cool nights and have high acid levels. The higher the acid level, the fewer hops needed in brewing. Despite the cost, Ron thinks it is a good time to get into the business, as people around the world are developing a taste for our beer.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:** The April Rotary theme is The Rotarian Magazine. Below are excerpts from a lengthy essay Paul Harris wrote for the first issue of The National Rotarian.

Vol. I. January, 1911. No. 1. "RATIONAL ROTARIANISM", by Paul P. Harris, National President.

[Part 3] The Rotary mark must become a guarantee of quality. Membership in a Rotary Club must be equivalent to an A1 rating as to credit goods and service. . . . There is nothing dishonorable about straightforward business find it where you will. Business is not undergoing trial in this tribunal.

Rotary is a new concentration of forces and possesses potentialities which no other club or organization possesses. This may be said of it even in its local aspect. When considered in its National aspect it occupies a position which is unique, without parallel. There is no civic or semi-civic organization in existence which is in a position to exercise the influence on national affairs that Rotary is. Entrenched as it is in every important American city its power to sway national legislation to the right is supreme in all clubdom. May our visions become enlarged. We need a wider perspective and a fuller patriotism in Rotary.

We must keep up the standard of membership. One's loyalty to Rotary may often be measured by the caliber of the men whose applications for membership he brings in. If he reaches up above himself for his candidates, it means that he has the welfare of Rotary at heart. If he stoops down to drag a makeshift of a business friend or customer on board, it generally means that he has his own individual welfare at heart and thinks to derive business benefit from the favor he has conferred. It would be difficult to fathom the depth of the injury such motives can be responsible for in Rotary. [Women were not allowed into Rotary until the late 1980s.]

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April 28: Mark Roeber, "State of the County"

May 5: Kathy Welt, on West Elk Mine and the coal industry

May 12: Brian Wegner, on his time as a nuclear sub commander

