



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

Vol 58 Issue 17 – May 9, 2019

LAST MEETING: May 2, 2019

President Heck Presided

No Key Guest today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Greg Thompson: Meet at DJ's Storage for the Highway Cleanup May 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

Randy announced the Service Saturday for A Little Help this Saturday, May 4th meeting at Apple Valley Park with pizza following.

Visiting Rotarian: Nick from Crested Butte Rotary Club.

Visitors: Tory Stanton from KVNf visiting to hear speaker along with two other visitors.

John announced that artist, Dan Young, will be here to paint Mount Gunnison to donate to the Rotary Club for the auction on Thursday, June 6th at Salt Pollen (Dollars for Scholars). Tickets will be sold for \$70/person.

Program: Industrial Hemp Production in the North Fork Valley

Bob Lario introduced Steve Duffy. Steve has been a North Fork Valley resident since 1985. He is an Endangered Species Biologist and local hemp grower. Steve brought several visual aids of hemp.

Industrial Hemp is in the Cannabis Sativa family (along with Marijuana). Steve made a comparison: industrial hemp is a "grape" and marijuana is a "wine". Hemp will not make you high. Less than 0.03% THC level makes it industrial hemp. If the THC level is greater than 1.0% you will get high. Hemp is still illegal in a few states, but not at the federal level.

There are 3 types: The first type of hemp is CBD, which is the type predominant grown in the North Fork Valley. The second type of hemp is a variety grown for seed (oil and protein). Third type of hemp is a variety grown for fibers, which grows 8-12 feet tall. There are 2,300 patented uses for hemp. Hemp fibers are 3½ times stronger than steel; only a spider web is stronger. This variety is used to make car bodies. They can also make wood (like bamboo composite) and building products.

A processing plant is being built in Montrose. Hemp is 100 times stronger than oak, but grows much faster. Montrose grows hemp seed and hemp fiber. Grand Junction is growing hemp seed and fiber. Delta County is

growing industrial hemp. There's a major facility in Palisade and another facility in Norwood.

The United States imports \$500M worth of hemp each year. In 2017, there was \$817M worth of hemp. The US crop could be worth \$2-3B by 2020.

When growing for CBD, you only want female plants without seeds. Last year in Montrose, Delta and Mesa Counties only one field got fertilized and seeded. Hemp pollen can travel vast distances, i.e., up to 70 miles.

The majority of hemp is grown for CBD. One CBD product is Hemp flour. It looks and tastes like Marijuana. You have to test it in order to tell the difference. Smokable flower is the least common use for the plants. Up to a year ago, they had been thinking CBD worked by attaching to CB receptors.

Once plants are grown, they are harvested, dried and stripped of all leaves and flowers and then extracted to get the FSE (full spectrum extract). The price of bulk hemp depends on the percentage of CBD. FSE is distilled to remove unwanted components and produces distillate. The final product is isolate. The yield depends on variety and growing technique. The average plant produces 1 lb. of biomass. An acre can grow 1200 to 1800 plants and can yield \$4-5K (gross) per acre. Seeds can cost \$1.00 per seed.

Major marijuana culture in the NFV contributes to the popularity of hemp growing in the valley.

Where can biomass get processed, and where is the marketplace?

Mom and pop investors are going to lose their shirts because there's so much mis-information. The price farmers are getting for crops are decreasing as more farmers get involved.

Extraction and processing are leaving Colorado and moving to New Mexico due to regulation and bureaucracy.

Major processing plants are being built in the North Fork Valley but are keeping a low profile.

Walmart, CVS and Walgreens are looking for copious quantities as cheap as they can. Anyone getting into the business should not until they have a bona-fide channel for distribution. The processing capacity is being dominated by a few individuals.

Lots of real estate activity around land sales for hemp growing.

Most common reason people buy CBD is for pain relief. Hemp can be put into gel capsules and there are a lot of salves for topical application. Mix CBD extract with hemp seed oil or coconut oil for topical or internal applications. CB receptors interact with neuro-receptors in the brain for pain. Our bodies make our own CBD, so CBD taken as medication stimulates body to make more. Hops and chocolate also have cannabinoids.

CBD is also useful for depression, anxiety, sleep disorders and constipation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- 5/16/19: TBD (Norm Lewark)**
- 5/23/19: Linda Hansen – The Abraham Connection (Jackie Parks)**
- 5/30/19: Potluck**
- 6/6/19: TBD (Kevin Parks)**
- 6/13/19: TBD (John Coombe)**
- 6/20/19: TBD (SEI)**
- 6/27/19: Swearing in of new President and BOD**

