



SERVICE Above Self

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<http://www.RotaryInUrbana.org> Club # 3294

Urbana Country Club – Tuesdays – Noon

Upcoming Events:

March 18, 2008 - "Iwo Jima: The Pivotal Battle of the Pacific in WWII"
Urbana Rotarian, Veteran [Ray Elliott](#); *Introduction by Dan Perrino*

March 25, 2008 - "WILL's Ready To Learn Programs"
WILL Outreach Coordinator, [Molly Delaney](#); *Introduction by Marilyn Kay*

The Rotary District Meeting is May 2-3, 2008. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

There will be a Rotary District 6490 dinner on April 9 at 5:30 with guest speakers [John Wright](#) and [Michael Smith](#). Donors please watch for your personal invitation.

[Naomi Jakobsson](#) invites us to attend a regional hearing prior to a General Assembly to address budget challenges faced by Illinois. Please come to Parkland College on March 18, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in Building D to participate. Numbers of attendees matter!

Repatee for March 11, 2008

President [Deb Rugg](#) welcomed us to the Urbana Rotary Club.

Greeter: [Robert Mussey](#) introduced our visitors:

From Champaign—[Craig Rost](#) and from Carbondale—[David Sharp](#)

Members with guests: [Derrick Helm](#) with his wife and guest, [Ladonda](#), who has taught kindergarten at Leal for 13 years.

[Michael McCuskey](#) with guest, [John Taylor](#), lawyer

Make-ups: [Lissa May](#) at Murray, KY

Thought for the Day: [Ralph Langenheim](#) quoted Robert E. Lee and shared a message about the vicissitudes of patriotism.

Music: [Dick Cogdal](#) played America for us on the piano. [Roscoe Pershing](#) led *a cappella* versions of “Oh What a Beautiful Morning” and “Toora Loora Loral, that’s an Irish Lullaby” Roscoe also shared that the music committee is redoing the song books and would welcome our suggestions on songs to add or delete.

Announcements:

[Anna Merritt](#) thanked those who volunteered to Read Across America: [Doris Wenzel](#)—who brought books to give away, [Brud Leighton](#), [Ray Elliott](#), [Mike Murphy](#), [Janet Summers](#), [John Maloney](#), [John Haltiwanger](#), [Deb Rugg](#), [Gail Rost](#), [Betsy Hendrick](#), [Marilyn Kay](#). Brud appeared both in the News-Gazette and on channel 3. Thousands of children showed up for the event. [Mike Murphy](#) delivered the rocking chair to Carle Clinic.

[Chris Scherer](#) reminded us that the late [Paul Luedtke](#) made a gift to Urbana Rotary with the intention of matching \$100 for anyone who does not yet have their first Paul Harris designation. Donations can be made to help win the fight against polio. Checks may be made payable to the Rotary Foundation for Polio Plus. The memo may indicate *in memory of Paul Luedtke*. Please give your contributions to [Chris Scherer](#) or [Kermit Harden](#) and thank you for helping honor a distinguished Rotarian by supporting this worthy cause.

The Savoy Rotary Club contributed \$700 to our water well project in Malawi. They raised \$400 of that total by selling cookbooks and by their weekly “kitty can”. The balance of \$300 was raised by their interact club.

[John Muirhead](#) reminded us to nominate a member of our community who is not an Urbana Rotarian for the Vocational Service award.

Sergeant at Arms: [Joe Rank](#) began with the good news that he spotted 15 robins in his yard. Spring is on the way.

[Brud Leighton](#) cheerfully contributed extra for appearing in the News-Gazette and on Channel 3 despite the fact that he was blissfully unaware of his notoriety.

[Don Wendel](#) mentioned an outstanding job assembly at Lakeland College with wonderful help from [Anna Merritt](#). The year is off to a good start.

[Doris Wenzel](#) gave us another clue to guess her favorite commercial. So far we know that it:

- 1) involves a car and 2) the car is red.

[Deb Rugg](#) was ready to guess and then remembered that Doris already shared the answer with her!

[Bob Bender’s](#) grandson went on to State and lost a wrestling match with the guy who came in second.

[Chris Scherer](#) congratulated [Gerri Kirchner](#) on her selection as a delegate in representing Hillary Clinton in the election.

[Judy Maloney](#) brought Urbana calendars for sale. Please contact Judy if you would like to purchase one. They are \$12 for an unsigned version and \$20 for a calendar signed by the mayor.

[Michael McCuskey](#) is off to judge the teams at spring training and gleefully contributed to the shoe as he anticipates a great week.

There were three Leal alums in the crowd—so noted because of our guest, [Ladonda Helm](#). [Dick Cogdal](#) was there when it was still called the new school!

Today's program: [Marilyn Kay](#) introduced our speaker [Gary Jackson](#), University of Illinois Professor Emeritus and Naturalist. He spoke on “Finding Nature in Central Illinois”. Gary and his wife, Dixie, enjoy gardening, hiking, and photography in addition to being good cooks. Gary Jackson is author of the book [Going after the Cows](#).

Prof. Jackson's then shared a slide presentation that took us through the seasons and captured various flora and fauna found within 60 miles of Champaign-Urbana. These stunning photos were taken at Allerton Park, Middlefork, Portland Arch Nature Preserve, and Meadowbrook Park.

We were treated to flora such as: cottonwood trees, bloodroot, nodding trillium, yellow lady's slipper, orchid, dogwood, paw paws aka Missouri banana, bluebells, iris, spiderwort, coneflowers, echinacea, milkweed and fauna: Cooper 's hawk, deer, ducks, frogs, mussels, redwing blackbirds, milkweed beetle, dragonflies. We heard tell of coyotes, a bobcat, and mink.

Prof. Jackson reminded that there is beauty all around us. We may all walk with a sharper eye the next time we wander in these locales.

Next week's program: [Ray Elliott](#) will speak on “Iwo Jima, The Pivotal Battle of the Pacific in World War II”

District Newsletter link: <http://www.Rotary6490.org/Newsletter.cfm>

Written by [Lissa May](#)