

CLEAN WATER GAZETTE

Newsletter of Rotary District 6290

April, 2009



Thirsting to Serve
international clean water projects



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Rotarians Thirsting to Serve: Our purpose is to help people improve their access to clean water. Our role is to provide the leadership and coordination to execute a sustainable business model for Rotary Clean Water projects.

Thirsting to Serve is a 501(c)3 foundation established by Rotary District 6290 to organize and manage District water projects, dedicated to World Community Service

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Thirsting to Serve Clean Water Conference 2009 Water, Women and Hope



Mark Tucker, Holland Rotarian and Dr. David Manz, developer of the HydrAid Water

The Clean Water Conference, held on March 7, 2009, was a resounding success and had something for everyone. It had a unique focus (women and water), a new format (with lots of opportunities to network and discuss issues with the experts), a new congenial venue (Calvin College), and a broader audience.

A highlight of the Conference was the presence of student Interactors. If the future of Rotary is with young members such as Interactors, the future of Rotary is in good hands. Committed Interactors (shown below from Spring Lake) provided a dimension of enthusiasm and commitment to the Conference that parallels that of seasoned Rotarians.

Breakout sessions allowed everyone to focus on their special interests, and intriguing speakers brought new perspectives to the global water crisis. An especially worthwhile aspect of the conference was the opportunity for attendees to speak one-to-one with people who they otherwise might not be able to get to know.



Colette Martin-Wilde, Grant Coordinator,
The Rotary Foundation

Colette Martin Wilde, pictured left, has worked with the District on our 3H grant as well as other projects. It was a pleasure to meet her in person and to thank her for all that she has done for District 6290.

The experts were there to help in a one-to-one format. Pictured above, Mark Tucker from Holland, discusses water purification issues with Dr. David Manz, who has developed the patented HydrAid filter that is being used in many Rotary funded projects.

The themes of the speakers were significant and well spoken. Mary Dailey Brown, from Sow Hope, spoke eloquently about the common plight of women as those who produce most of the food of the world, do most of the work, and

are often chattel. She described how the bourdon of clean water and water availability typically falls upon women and upon those who have no say in water management. Lamisi Mbillah, with the Guinea Worm Eradication Programme, Ghana, expanded on the relationship between water and women and the effect of this upon the family and social environment. Suzanne Golas, of Water Spirit, detailed the consequences of privatization of water. She described how privatization of water distribution typically fails to improve purity or access. However, it does increase the cost of water, negatively impacts local employment, and has its greatest negative Impact upon women.



FUNDRAISER FOR HYDRAID FILTERS

Interactors from Spring Lake, shown above with Jim Bodenner of International Aid, voiced their enthusiasm for water projects. The Interactors invite all who are interested to join them at their fund raiser for HydrAid Filters. They are having a:

DIVE-IN

**At the Spring Lake Fitness and Aquatic Center,
Friday, March 27th, from 5:00 pm till.....**

**Float in the pool and watch water movies- mermaids early in the evening,
sharks later, interspersed with the Rotary Water Video**

\$3 per person or \$10 for the family

Pizza, pop and chips will be available for purchase
Support Interactors and their water project

THE BULLETIN BOARD



Issues of clean and accessible water are squarely on the Rotary map – look to Birmingham, England and the Rotary International Convention for details.

On Friday, June 19th, the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group will hold its **Second Annual Water Summit** at the NEC. For more information about this event and to register, visit www.WASRAG.org.

The momentum of the Summit will carry through the Convention, as Ron Denham, Chair of WASRAG, will deliver the first ever plenary session devoted to issues of clean water and water access. And, while you are in the House of Friendship, stop by the Thirsting to Serve and WASRAG booths to hear the latest and talk to friends.

Upcoming Trainings in Water Technologies Detroit, Michigan USA

Two trainings on water technologies are being held in September, 2009 in Detroit. They are designed to help you do a project, not just fund one.

Biosand Filter Workshop, Sept. 4-18: These 4 days will be devoted to learning the science of and techniques to build a water filter and implement a filter project.

Rainwater Harvesting in Developing Countries, Sept. 19 will detail the need, appropriate use and technology of this strategy of water collection and storage.

More information will be available in the next issue of the Gazette. If you can't wait, contact Eileen Heasley, Executive Director of **A Vision For Clean Water** for more details: ehesley@avisionforcleanwater.org.

2250 HyrAid Filters for the Dominican Republic

In April, 2008, the Rotary Foundation approved a large matching grant for 2250 HydrAid filters for the Dominican Republic. The grant, which matches funding from 30 clubs in five districts, as well as funding from Thirsting to Serve, will provide point of use water filtration in 2250 homes, and is a dynamic example of the power of Rotary relationships.



By November of 2008, all of the funding challenges had been addressed, funding was in place, and the filters were manufactured by Cascade Engineering of Grand Rapids, MI. Two months later, the container of 2250 filters arrived in Santiago, Dominican Republic, after a delay in delivery

due to an unplanned detour to Freeport, Bahamas.

The project now is in full swing, and Dr. Alexandra Martinez, President of the Santiago Gurabito Rotary Club reports that by the middle of January, three trainings have been held. Hygiene, including hand washing, is an important part of the project, and is included in the training.

Debbie Banks, Rotarian from Houghton Lake, and David Crow, from the Santiago Monumental Rotary Club in the Dominican Republic, should be congratulated for their perseverance and dedication to this major project.



Alex Martinez in yellow, David Crow in red

World's first Virus-filtering Water Bottle

By Jaymi Heimbuch
EcoGeek.org

Buzz up!



Talk about truly practical eco-tech.

The Lifesaver is a portable water filter system, offering clean water from any water source. Setting aside how handy this is for backpacking, this could be a huge leap forward for ensuring safe drinking water in developing countries, disaster areas, or war zones where clean water is in short supply. And it's far more palatable than other icky but earth-friendly water filtration ideas.

The inventor is Michael Pritchard, who thought of the concept in response to recent natural disasters. The basic science is in creating a filter smaller than the smallest virus, which is 25 nanometers across. The filter, therefore, has holes 15 nanometers across, successfully trapping even the feistiest of disease-causing bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi, and other waterborne pathogens. It is the world's first filtration water bottle to achieve such thorough filtration.

The most important feature of the Lifesaver is the fact that it is useable by anyone, even children. Unscrew the base, dip it in a water source, screw the base back on, and quickly pump the water through the filter. The user can then drink the water right from the bottle.

And the filters are replaceable, but they won't need to be replaced often – each filter can treat more than 1,050 gallons of water before shutting itself off, making them that much more practical and safe. Even better, [zero chemicals are used!](#)

Creating something that is so simple to use, yet provides a truly high-tech solution is a really big deal for disaster relief. While pretty expensive for an individual to purchase (\$229) these are affordable for governments and organizations to purchase and provide in relief efforts or to soldiers. And, a version for salt water is on the way. To see the lifesaver in action, go to:

www.lifesaversystems.com



ROTARY District 6290

Thirsting to serve

Rotarians in District 6290 and beyond are encouraged to participate in Thirsting to Serve, the Clean Water Project. Each club member is encouraged to support the Project with a \$50 donation. This donation is sufficient to fund the construction of a water filter capable of providing up to eight families with clean drinking water or, combined with other contributions, will build community wells, distribution systems, reservoirs, etc. in underdeveloped countries. Checks should be made out to "Thirsting to Serve," and mailed to:

Thirsting to Serve:
P.O. Box 514
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

Please include your:

Name: _____ **Amount Inclosed** _____

Address: _____ **ZIP:** _____

Phone _____ **E-MAIL** _____

Rotary Club Affiliation – Name: _____

Club number _____

You will receive a receipt for your donation. If you would like additional information about the project or a gift certificate please note this below.

Additional information about the project ? Yes ? No
Gift certificate ? Yes ? No

If you want a gift certificate, please provide the name of the recipient you wish to be on the certificate:

For more information about Thirsting to Serve go to: www.Thirstingtoserve.org

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