



Clean Water Gazette

Newsletter of the District 6290 Clean Water Project:
Rotarians Thirsting to Serve

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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.



*Dedicated to World
Community Service*

Thirsting to Serve is a 501(c)3 foundation established by Rotary District 6290 to organize and manage District water projects.

Directors:

- Jim Van Dyke, President
- Curt Reppuhn, Vice President
- Bill Bassow, Treasurer
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- Ross Conran
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- Jeffrey Beswick
- Jim Bodenner
- Rudi Edel
- Bill Fettis
- Roger Jonas
- Ken Lahey

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“Start by doing what’s necessary, then what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

Saint Francis of Assisi

Rotary in Salt Lake City: Focus on Water

The 2007 Rotary International Convention, held in Salt Lake City June 17th through June 20th, was energized by broad interest in and increasing awareness of issues of water and sanitation. Sessions that



Bill Boyd (Rotary International President 2006-2007) and Jim Bodenner discuss the new plastic BioSand Water Filter.

focused on water were filled to capacity and many of those who wished to attend were denied entrance due to lack of room. Nevertheless, the Convention offered a variety of venues to learn about water and for new and old partners in water projects to meet, discuss options, and develop new projects. .

Many opportunities to gain information and forge new alliances were present in the House of Friendship. Two booths in the House of Friendship of particular interest were the Thirsting to Serve booth and the booth of the new Rotarian Action Group, the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG).

The Thirsting to Serve booth featured the new plastic biosand filter being distributed by International Aid. A transparent version, filled with gravel layers of different colors, allowed the 14,000 Convention attendees the opportunity to visualize the operation of the filter. Many of those at the Convention remained at the booth for prolonged periods to learn and discuss future uses of the filter, including Rotary International's President (2006/2007) Bill Boyd. Jim Gingrich, an engineer from Cascade Engineering, the company that is producing the filters, was also available to answer questions about the filter, its design, availability and production. Those interested in local distribution and installation of the filter were encouraged find out more at www.internationalaid.org.



The booth of the Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group (WASRAG) was a hub for international networking. The newly formed action group expanded with a total of more than 350 members from over 30 countries as geographically diverse as Mongolia, Mali, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Australia, Central and South America and Europe.

At the first Annual WASRAG Meeting, held at the Convention, the goals of the Group and the constitution of the Board of Directors was determined. The election of officers and Board concluded the meeting. The slate was approved with the following Executive Committee members: Ron Denham (D-7070 Canada), president, Jim Bodenner (D 6290 USA vice president, Charles Jespersen (D 6360, USA), treasurer; Ginny Ryan (D 6290, USA) secretary; and PDG Carolyn Crowley Meub (D 7870, USA) and Bob Hildreth (D4060, Dominican Republic) as members at large. The remaining directors included all of Rotary's Area Water Resource Coordinators - PDG Mohamed Abdulla (D-9200 (Kenya), PRID Kalyan Banerjee (D-3060 India), Terence Barritt (D-9470 Australia), Bernard Bellemin-Noel (D-1780 France), PDG Charles Clemmons (D-5890 USA), PDG Bangalore Lakshman (D-7630 USA) and PRID Luis Felipe Valenzuela (D-4250 Guatemala). Additionally, two members at large were elected, including, Garry Vaughan and Bob Wubbena, both of the USA. To find out more about WASRAG you may visit www.WASRAG.org.

Polio Eradication and Clean Water

Efforts to achieve polio eradication require immunizations and a partner – clean water. This is graphically illustrated in several articles from www.polioeradication.org, cited in a recent email by Tom Ewen, Assistant Chair – PolioPlus Partners Task Force – North America. In short, the polio virus may be water borne, and transmission of the virus may occur in environments where sanitation systems are substandard. The following are excerpts from the above referenced website.

“The Hidden Virus.” Poliovirus can spread widely without even being “seen”. As most people infected with poliovirus have no signs of illness, they are never aware they have been infected.

After initial infection with poliovirus, the virus is shed intermittently in feces (excrement) for several weeks. During that time, polio can spread rapidly through the community.



Collecting water at a central distribution point, residents stand in a stagnant pool of water in Katmandu, Nepal

“How is Polio Spread?” Poliovirus is spread through person to person, fecal-oral contact. Where hygiene and sanitation are poor, young children are especially at risk. Young children who are not yet toilet-trained are a ready source of transmission, regardless of their environment. Polio can be spread when food or drink is contaminated by feces. There is also evidence that flies can passively transfer poliovirus from feces to food.

The disease circulates “silently” at first and may infect hundreds of people,

depending on the level of sanitation, before the first case of polio paralysis emerges. Because of the silent transmission and the rapid spread of the disease, WHO considers a single confirmed case of polio paralysis to be evidence of an epidemic – particularly in countries where very few cases occur.

What Does This Mean for Water Projects? Adequate clean water, proper sanitation, and education are inseparable components of a successful water project.



Bathing in “clean” water, on the street in Katmandu, Nepal

Tom Ewen writes about one tube well project sponsored by a Calcutta, India, Rotary club. "They discovered that some of the villagers were coming down with eye, ear and skin infections... despite the fact that villagers were using the clean tube well water for cooking and drinking. After a survey, they discovered the villagers were continuing to do their washing and bathing in the dirty stagnant pond water. All of which proves there are no half-way measures taken once potable water is available...As an added note, they found that improving the sanitary conditions had even helped in the Leper Colony supported by the club."

International Aid – District 6290’s Partner in Honduras

Rotary may provide funding, enthusiasm and international contacts, but it rarely does the job alone. District 6290 and its member clubs have focused heavily on addressing the severe water problems of the mountain villages of Honduras. But, little could be done about these problems without the help of International Aid (IA). This non-profit Christian relief agency, with offices in Honduras, Ghana, the Philippines, and Spring Lake, Michigan, works globally to address both chronic and catastrophic problems. Focusing on health care, the agency has been cited as among the best 30 ministries by Ministry watch. Over the last decade IA has responded to more than 100 manmade and natural disasters



Building a Lorena stove



Discussing water distribution systems

including: 9/11, Katrina and other U.S. hurricanes; the Southeast Asian Tsunami; and the Pakistan earthquake. It has delivered over 500 million dollars in relief supplies to over 170 countries. In addition to its high profile relief work, IA is heavily involved in multiple development efforts focused in the areas of community based health care, disease treatment and prevention, and leveraging the agency’s network of partners to provide products, equipment, and knowledge based services to people in need world wide. How do Rotarians in Michigan, or Iowa or elsewhere build a vented stove, identify community needs for improved water, install a biosand water filter, or find the virgin gravel for such a filter? How can we find and help villages that aren’t on the map and are only accessed by rocky trails without names. How do you efficiently place the 2,000 BioSand Water

Filters that fill a container in the 2,000 isolated homes that need them most. With IA in the country, working with the people and the Honduran government, it is possible.

The Rotarians of District 6290 and beyond have been fortunate to be able to partner with the committed staff of IA, learning where and how to help. Those Rotarians who can't visit project sites are assured that the funding they provide is being used wisely and prudently. We are fortunate to have a partner in International Aid. Working together we can get the job done.



IA works to improve the health and wellbeing of those in remote villages in Honduras and elsewhere



Installing a plastic BioSand Water Filter

To learn more about IA, its work in Honduras and elsewhere, and opportunities to visit and work in project sites in Honduras, visit www.Internationalaid.org. To keep the projects rolling, support Thirsting to Serve.

INVESTERS FISH FOR PROFIT IN CLEAN WATER

By John Waggoner, USA Today¹

Investors are pouring money into the world's most valuable commodity, water. Three exchange-traded funds, mutual funds that trade on stock exchanges, now focus on companies that hope to take advantage of shortages in clean water. The largest fund, PowerShares Water Resources (PHO), has seen its assets hit \$1.7 billion in under two years.

Why is water suddenly so hot? Among the reasons:

450 million people in 29 countries suffer from water shortages, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

20% of the world's people lack access to safe, clean drinking water.

¹ This article is reprinted from USA Today, May 23, 2007.

By 2025, an estimated 2.8 billion people will live in areas with scarce water resources..

Lack of clean water is “a bigger killer than AIDS in Africa,” says Bruce Bond of PowerShares, which manages PowerShares Water Resources. “People are drinking contaminated water, getting sick and not being able to stay hydrated.”

Two other water EFTs, Claymore S&P Global Water Index Fund and First Trust ISE Water Index Fund (FIW) made their debuts this month. A fourth, also from PowerShares, will start trading June 7. Water Resources, the oldest of the funds, has gained a sparkling 28% since its start in December 2005.

As water becomes scarcer, cities and towns must invest in infrastructure, such as aqueducts, water mains and treatment plants. Fast-growing cities and businesses, particularly in emerging markets such as China and India, need lots more clean water. “We felt there were opportunities in water,” says Christian Magoon of Claymore Securities. “It’s where infrastructure meets commodities meets global investing.”

The funds try to distinguish themselves by where they invest and what they invest in. The PowerShares fund focuses on U.S. companies. “The U.S. is a big player in water,” Bond says. “There’s a lot of growth here.” Its biggest holding is Valmont Industries, which makes agricultural irrigation equipment.

The Claymore fund, which is invested in 16 countries, follows a worldwide stock index. Its largest holding: Veolia Environment, a French company that provides water-management services. PowerShares Water Resources follows the Palisades Water Index of companies in the water industry.

The funds define a water-related company in varying ways. For example, General Electric is the third-largest holding in the PowerShares fund while GE’s Water & Process 3% water exposure might not be enough for water-investing purists.

Water ETFs cover a tiny specialized sector, so are more volatile than broader-based ETFs, such as those that track the S&P 500. Unlike most mutual funds, which investors buy directly from fund companies and are priced once a day, ETF’s are traded continually on stock exchanges.

What Can You Do To Help?

The problem of bringing clean water to people world wide may appear staggering. Nevertheless, there are things that each of us can do to help.

- If you would like to volunteer for Thirsting to Serve at the Water Conference, special events or the June 2007 Rotary Convention in Los Angeles contact Sue Bodenner, Sue@BishopHills.com.
- The new DVD **Rotary: The Water Story** is now available. It has been professionally produced, features speakers from District 6290, as well as those from Africa, Asia and elsewhere and addresses a wide variety of technologies and issues. It runs about 20 minutes and makes a great club meeting presentation. To request a copy contact Jim VanDyke: Jim@abbit.biz.

Thirsting to Serve, Rotary District 6290 Water Project, Inc is a 501(c)3 foundation established by District 6290 leadership to organize and manage District and club water projects. The designation of the 501(c)3 by the IRS was issued March 6, 2007 and now contributions to Thirsting to Serve are tax deductible. Thirsting to Serve supports a variety of water projects, as well as educational programs about water problems and solutions. Thirsting to Serve also coordinates the efforts of partnering Rotary Clubs and Districts.



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 enclosed** _____

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.rotarydistrict6290.org
and select the "Clean Water Website".

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