



# Clean Water Gazette

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

August, 2005

Volume 2, No.4

**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.

## Inside this issue:

**Clean Water Project is a Winner**

**Ross Conran takes up the Seabrook Challenge**

**RI Centennial Convention – New Friends and Opportunities**

**Bio-Sand Filter: Fidelity brings Integrity**

**Site Visits Planned: See the Project First Hand**

## Clean Water Project is a Winner

Five years ago, few of us in District 6290 knew how great the world wide need for clean water was, how much we could do to address the problem, and how far we could come in just a few years of effort. With 1.2 billion people without access to clean water and with 5,000 children dying each day from water borne diseases, the challenge might have seemed insurmountable. But Rotarians, working together across the globe, have repeatedly shown that they can make a difference. This was certainly the case during 2004/2005.

Dave Seabrook, District 6290 Governor during this period, showed his foresight when he established the Seabrook Challenge. Dave challenged every Rotarian in the District to give \$50 to the District's clean water project, Rotarians Thirsting to Serve. Each gift made it possible for one more home in a third world country to have clean water as the result of installation of a new bio-sand filter.

**Rotarians in District 6290 took up the challenge of poor water in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Honduras. Responding to the challenge, the District's Clean Water Project - Rotarians Thirsting to Serve received contributions in excess of \$87,000. As a result of this generosity, 1,700 more families now have access to clean water.**



Contributions have been received from nearly every club in the district and as far away as Calgary, Canada and California. Rotarians outside of District 6290 have contributed to the district's water project, donating more than \$20,000. The District's water project has also been supported by many non-Rotary partners, including Traverse City Charities (\$20,000) and the Grand Haven Community Foundation (\$17,320). In all, a total of \$188,532 was raised for water projects during FY 2004/2005. Congratulations to Dave Seabrook and the Clean Water Project Committee.



*Dedicated to  
World  
Community  
Service*

**Rotarians Thirsting  
to Serve:**

**The District 6290  
Clean Water  
Project**

**Committee  
Members**

Jim Van Dyke, Chair

Bill Bassow

Jeffrey Beswick

Jim Bodenner

Jack Henderson

Ken Lahey

Jeff Marshall

Dr. Don Moss

Dr. Ginny Ryan

## Ross Conran: District 6290 Governor for 05/06 Takes up the Seabrook Challenge



### Ross Conran puts a new face on Dave Seabrook's winning challenge

Ross Conran, District 6290 Governor for 2005/2006, knows a winner when he sees one. With momentum for the water project at a high, he has decided to make the Seabrook Challenge an important part of his tenure as District Governor.



Never one to do thing on a small scale, Ross announced his intention to continue the Seabrook Challenge during a celebratory evening at Berlin Raceway. Rotarians joined the parade at the Raceway where the transition of the project from Dave to Ross took place. A total of 91 adults and 16 children, not including the Seabrook and Conran families, were at the Raceway for the event.

The parade lap was led by Si Workman, a Rotarian from Spring Lake, and his family. He drove his fire truck and was followed by Fremont Rotarians in the Fairview Floral Shop van and the Grandville Rotarians in the Birthday Tribute car.

The parade was followed by an exciting evening of races. Dave Seabrook competed, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in his first race and 4<sup>th</sup> in his second, despite losing a tire in the process. He was, thus, unable to compete in his third race. Berlin raceway capped the evening off by presenting \$100 to Dave Seabrook (racer) and Ross Conran (timer) for Rotarians Thirsting to Serve.

The challenge has now entered its second year. Again, each Rotarian in District 6290, is challenged to give at least \$50. Each gift will bring clean water and better health to one or more families for decades. Clubs in the District will receive materials to help promote this challenge. Forms are being provided to all clubs. These may be used for



**Ysabel Hildreth**, wife of Rotarian Bob Hildreth of the Dominican Republic, **Don Moss**, District 6290 Governor Elect, **Dave Seabrook**, Past Governor of District 6290 and **Ross Conran**, Governor of District 6290, enjoy the evening at Berlin Raceway.

making donations and requesting receipts and gift certificates. Donors may note that the donation is a gift or memorial, and may receive, via email, materials suitable for presentation. Clubs will also receive a quarterly update on their progress in achieving 100% participation.

Checks should be made out to "HHOP - Rotarians Thirsting to Serve," and mailed to:

HHOP-Rotarians Thirsting to Serve

P.O. Box 514, Grand Haven, Michigan 49417.

**If you do not use the prepared contribution form, please make certain to note on your check your Rotary club affiliation so that your club can receive credit for your donation.**

All donations are tax-deductible. Internal Revenue Service regulations provide that contributions under \$250 DO NOT require a receipt for substantiation, a cancelled check is acceptable. If requested, your receipt, additional information and/or a gift certificate will be provided via e-mail to reduce cost to the project and improve efficiency. If you would prefer conventional mail you may request this and should include your full address.

---

## Getting the Word Out



Clean Water Project supporters take every opportunity to inform the public about the world wide need for clean water. Curt Reppuhn (President of the Gaylord Rotary Club), Jim Bodenner (Water Project Committee member), Sue Bodenner (Chairman, District 6290 World Community Service Committee), Peace Corps Worker Heather Medina, and Rudi Edel (Gaylord Rotary World Community Service Chairman) were happy to be able to discuss the Rotary District 6290 Clean Water Project on Gaylord's Oldies 101.5 radio station.

## RI Centennial Convention: New Friends and Opportunities



**Rotarians Thirsting to Serve** was well represented at the Centennial Rotary International Convention in Chicago this June. Armed with brochures designed by the Grand Rapids Press and their usual enthusiasm, Sue and Jim Bodenner seemed well prepared for the convention. Little did they know that over 5,000 Rotarians would visit the display over the five days of the Convention. There was great interest in the success of the Bio-Sand Filter and the opportunity to discuss the Bio-Sand Filter Health Impact Study. David Manz, the filter's designer, was available to educate people about the problems of clean water, and possible solutions. The response was overwhelming.

Sue and Jim Bodenner both grew up in Dundee, Ill, and went to high school there. Thus, they were especially delighted to meet many Rotarians from Illinois at the Convention, including "Bonnie" from Dundee. The Bodenners and Bonnie found that they had many common interests, and Bonnie took the time to stop by the Clean Water display to learn about District 6290's Thirsting to Serve Water Project. When the Bodenners returned to Michigan they were surprised to find that a check for \$2,500 had been sent to the Water Project from the Dundee Rotary Club. Sue did some investigating, and discovered that Bonnie, one of the 5000 visitors to the display, is Bonnie Emberton, immediate past president of the Dundee Rotary Club. As a result of shared reminiscences and Bonnie's generous support, the District 6290 Clean Water Project received a most appreciated gift.

## Bio-Sand Filter: Design Fidelity Brings Integrity



The Bio-Sand Filter (BSF), designed by David Manz, Ph.D., is a form of slow sand filtration. It is unique in several respects. It may be used on a demand basis (that is, as required). The filter is easily cleaned and uses no consumable parts that must be replaced. It is readily constructed, using inexpensive materials that are accessible world wide and in third world countries. The initial cost of the filter is typically the only cost incurred, and, the filter can be made for as little as \$50. But, there is a catch. The filter must be built as designed, and those using the filter must be trained on proper use and maintenance. If not, the filter may not perform at maximum efficiency, resulting in the presence of unwanted pathogens and sickness or death to those who drink the water produced.

Laboratory tests and field experience have demonstrated that the Bio-Sand Filter (BSF) works. But, to assure that the filter will be successful in the field, the filter must meet specifications. The integrity of the filter is maintained through fidelity to its design.

The design of the filter is deceptively simple. Nevertheless, the design is protected by two U.S. patents and other international patents. Dr. Manz owns all rights to humanitarian applications of the technology, and does not request any royalties from its use in these applications. The University of Calgary owns all rights to commercial applications of the technology, providing Dr. Manz a portion of royalties received.

**Dr. Manz assigns the right for organizations and groups to use the BSF technology based upon their preparedness to learn about the technology and disseminate it responsibly. His approval is readily gained by ensuring that whoever uses the technology takes adequate and appropriate training.** Failure to gain Dr. Manz' approval prior to using the technology has several consequences. First, it is an infringement of his rights and a violation of his patents. Perhaps, most important, it may result in the construction of faulty filters that imperil those who use them and damage the credibility of the process.

Dr. Manz suggests that "Rotarians should be very careful when looking at Point of Use technologies. They need to be sure they are looking at credible and effective technologies. They need to be sure that the technologies are appropriate to the cultures or communities...They need to be sure the technologies are sustainable and will be used without Rotarian involvement after all Rotarians have left."

**To find out more about the Clean Water Project and  
Rotarians Thirsting to Serve**

**Go to:**

**[www.RotaryDistrict6290.org](http://www.RotaryDistrict6290.org) and select "Clean Water Website"**

## Site Visits Planned: See the Water Project in Action

If a picture is worth a thousand words, being there in person is worth more than a million. The opportunity to meet those who are using the filter and hear their stories brings to life the true significance of the Clean Water Project. For this reason, the Clean Water Committee and the World Community Service Committee of RI District 6290 have sought to identify opportunities for Rotarians and their friends to travel to the Dominican Republic and Honduras to see water projects in action.



### Contact us:

If you have a question, a comment or an idea to share, please let us know.

Jim VanDyke, Chairman  
District 6290 Clean Water Project  
Jim@Abbit.biz

Sue Bodenner,  
Chairperson, District 6290  
World Community Service  
Committee  
Sue@Bishophills.com

Ginny Ryan,  
Newsletter Editor  
VSRyan@AOL.com

Trips are currently scheduled for:

- November, 2005 – the Dominican Republic: contact Charles Jespersen, RI District 6360. [CZJ1270@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CZJ1270@sbcglobal.net)
- January 27, 2006 – the Dominican Republic: contact Sue Bodenner. [Sue@Bishophills.com](mailto:Sue@Bishophills.com)
- Spring, 2006 – the Dominican Republic: contact Joyce Joyce. [mrsjoyce@wideopenwest.com](mailto:mrsjoyce@wideopenwest.com)
- Honduras, 2006. contact Bill Fettis, Grand Haven Rotary. [wjf@ipa.to](mailto:wjf@ipa.to)
- Honduras, 2006. contact Gary Grinwis, President, Shelby Rotary. [Farmbureau@oceana.net](mailto:Farmbureau@oceana.net)

In addition to seeing Rotary projects, there are many opportunities on these trips to meet local Rotarians, experience these countries as guests rather than as tourists, enjoy the many pleasures of the local culture, and learn about yourself and others. It is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed.



