



Rotary District 6220

## Environmental Sustainability District 6220 Task Force Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 1 – May 2023

### Introduction

*This is the first issue of a quarterly newsletter which will inform Rotarians of what clubs in District 6220 are doing for the environment and environmental education. It will also share informative articles and suggestions for reading from Rotary Sue Vater Olsen, librarian at the Scandinavia Village Library, and an active member of the Rotary Club of Waupaca's Environment Committee. – Trey Foerster*

## Environmental Sustainability Task Force 2022-23 Report

*Submitted by Trey Foerster, Co-Chair*

In October 2022, a zoom meeting was held with Kate Florek (Wausau) and Trey Foerster (Waupaca), co-chairs, with Heather Huebner (Greater Portage County) and Erica Huss (Marquette).

So far, the Task Force has drafted a charter, conducted a survey of District clubs, created a project possibility list, heard of the progress of the Michigan UP Nature Conservancy connection, and also heard about the Tree Promise with the Girl Scouts.

Goals were outlined:

- (1) Better capture what District is already doing with highway cleanup, tree plantings, and pollinator plantings.

- (2) Provide project guides/tool kits to clubs and engage non-Rotarians in projects/programs.
- (3) Provide a speakers list to clubs.
- (4) Created a District environment email for the Task Force.
- (5) Request quarterly reporting by clubs of what projects/programs they did, collect for distribution on District Facebook page.
- (6) Re-engage former committee members.

On Feb. 7, 2023, Trey and Kate met via Zoom and created a plan of action for the third and fourth quarters.

- (1) Create a “regular” newsletter once a quarter to send out to clubs.
- (2) Ask clubs to give us info to share with other clubs.
- (3) Update clubs about things that are going on.
- (4) Work with clubs on environment-related grants.
- (5) Create an annual challenge for clubs.
- (6) Contact clubs and inform them of the new direction of the Task Force and invite each club to let the Task Force know what they've been doing.

Progress on goals has been limited. Clubs responding to the survey totaled 11: Clintonville, Greater Portage County, Iron Mountain-Kingsford, Lakeland, Marquette, Marquette West, New London, Rhinelander, Wakefield-Bessemer, Waupaca, and Wausau. All these clubs have environmental projects especially highway and trail pickup.

A speakers list has been created but not distributed.

The lack of success of the Task Force has been the lack of interest by clubs to participate on the District level. Perhaps a quarterly emailed newsletter may provide the necessary resource for clubs so they may be informed of

environment-related events and successes of clubs in the District.

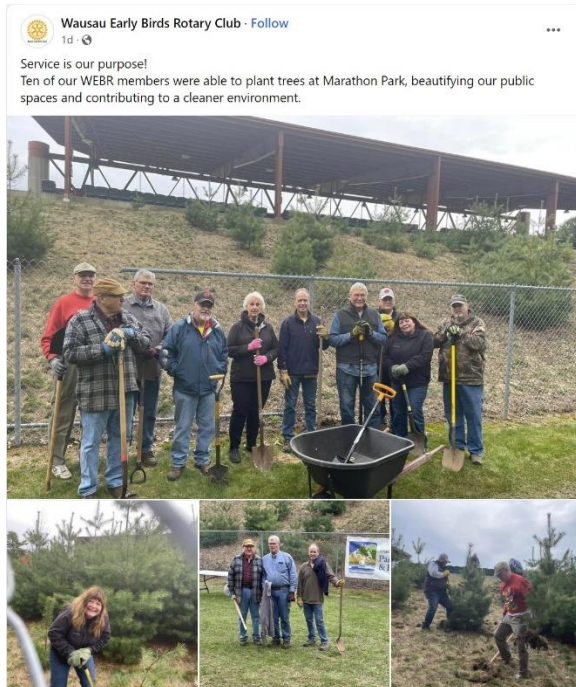
The Task Force needs to recalibrate for the 2023-24 year.

## What Rotarians Are Doing

In this portion of the newsletter, we will present clippings from club Facebook pages which have to do with environmental work and education.







Service is our purpose!  
Ten of our WEBR members were able to plant trees at Marathon Park, beautifying our public spaces and contributing to a cleaner environment.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Wausau Early Birds Tree Planting  
Thursday - April 27 - 2pm to 5pm  
Marathon Park

please contact Gary to help: grbezucha951@gmail.com

**Wausau Early Birds Rotary**

**HIGHWAY CLEANUP**  
Monday - May 8 - 5pm to 6pm

Meet at the corner of N and KK in Rib Mountain  
in the church parking lot

bags and vest provided wear boots and gloves!  
Questions contact Gary Bezzucha 715-573-0276

Social to follow - All are welcome!  
rsvp to utnehmer@gmail.com by 2pm Monday, May 8th

**Trey Foerster**  
April 17 at 8:38 AM

Time to recycle your old unwanted electronics

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2023 10:30AM - 1:00PM  
SWAN PARK - 909 BRAINERD DRIVE, WAUPACA WI  
FOLLOW THE SIGNS FOR 'SWAN PARK'

**FREE TO RECYCLE ELECTRONICS**  
Please remove all batteries from your electronics prior to the event

Computer Towers	Cords/Wire	Laptops	Audio Equipment
Tablets/eReaders	Cell Phones	Routers	Desktop Printers
Satellite Boxes	Power Supplies	Telephones	Gaming Systems
Christmas Lights	VCRs/DVD Players	iPods	Most Small Electronics

We unfortunately do not accept smoke detectors, thermostats, or thermometers

**ELECTRONICS WITH RECYCLING CHARGES**  
We accept cash, debit card, credit card, or check. Checks can be made out to 'Recycle That Stuff'

Flat and Tube Computer Monitors	\$20 ea	Microwaves	\$15 ea
Flat and Tube TVs (29" and under)	\$20 ea	Dehumidifiers	\$20 ea
Flat and Tube TVs (30" - 49")	\$40 ea	Dorm-Size Refrigerators*	\$20 ea
Flat and Tube TVs (50" - 60")	\$60 ea	Window Air Conditioners*	\$20 ea
Wood Console or Projection TVs	\$60 ea	Large Copy Machines/Printers	\$15 ea

\*We unfortunately do not accept full-size refrigerators, full-size freezers, or central air conditioning units

**FOR YOUR SAFETY AND OURS, PLEASE:**

- Wipe down all materials prior to the event
- Put materials in a trunk, truck bed, or trailer
- Stay in your vehicle at the event, we will unload you
- No batteries or light bulbs

EVENT QUESTIONS? CALL 920.955.3760

**WAUPACA AREA**  
Chamber of Commerce

**RecycleThatStuff.com**  
Resource Solutions

Can't make the event? Waupaca County accepts electronics for a fee, year-round, at their Processing and Transfer facility in Manawa. [www.WaupacaCountyRecycling.com](http://www.WaupacaCountyRecycling.com)



Trey Foerster · March 28 · ...



#### Details

10 people responded

Event by North Central Conservancy Trust and Central Waters Brewing Company

Central Waters Brewing Company

Duration: 2 hr

Public · Anyone on or off Facebook

Join North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT) at Central Waters Brewing Co. for an Earth Week Tap Talk presentation about land conservation in Central Wisconsin.

Speakers include Chris Radford, Executive Director of NCCT; Anna Haines, Professor and Director of the Center for Land Use Education at UWSP; and Ryan Haney, Water Resource Specialist at the UWSP Center for Watershed Science and Education and Conservation Easement Landowner.

Presentation starts at 5:30 P.M.

Questions & Social to Follow

Open to Public, All Welcome See less



Rotary Club of Waupaca

47m · ...

Travis Bassett received a \$700 Rotary Education Grant to start a gardening education program at Iola High School. Travis and Tamela McCartney have 40 middle and high school students growing plants from seeds in the high school greenhouse after school. They plan to sell some of the plants in a sale in May and the rest will go home with the students to be planted in their own garden.

#iola #waupaca #Rotary



## Other Clippings



Ice Age Trail · Join

Ice Age Trail Alliance · 5h · ...



Ice Age Trail Alliance

5h · ...

Mark your calendars! Celebrate the start of summer with the Central Moraines Chapter's Annual Hike-A-Thon! 🌿🌸

Join the chapter on June 17, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for a hike along the Plover River Segment.

Enjoy family-friendly fun in the Northwoods! Experience a rock hop across Plover River, hardwood forests, a boardwalk through a cedar wetland, a scavenger hunt for kids, and more.

Multiple hiking distances are available, all hikes are self-paced, and shuttles provided. Suggested donation at registration is a minimum of \$25/person (\$10 for kids), and register by May 25 to receive a FREE Hike-A-Thon t-shirt!

For full event details and to register, visit:

<http://bit.ly/3FWGiUr>

Dulac

## Environmental reading list

Courtesy Sue Vater Olsen, Librarian

Scandinavia Public Library

Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C65960>

My Double Life, Frances Hamerstrom

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C37194>

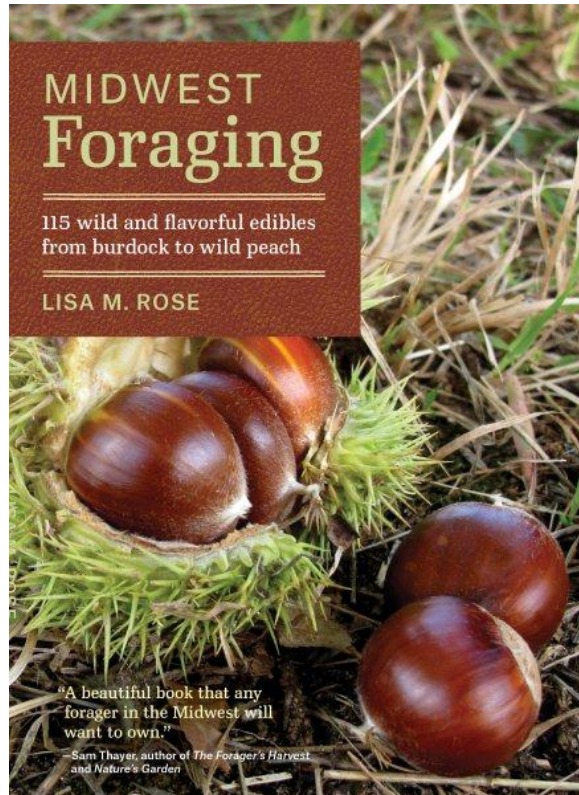
Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin, Lynn M. Steiner

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C185944>



Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, Elizabeth Czarapata

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C149133>



Midwest Foraging, Lia M. Rose

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C440967>

Walk When the Moon Is Full, Frances Hamerstrom

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S181C370988>

## Tree Planting with Girl Scouts

By Sridhar, PDG

One of the sessions was devoted to District's commitment to Empowerment of Girls and Young Women through Grants. Here is a genteel reminder to avail of such an opportunity to Grow Rotary Through Service. Hope you will rise up to the occasion!

## Background

Rotary District 6220 has identified "Grow Rotary Through Service" as its theme to encourage collaboration between our Clubs and other service organizations in addressing the needs of our communities. The collaboration between our District and the Girl Scouts of the Northern Great Lakes, launched in 2022 has identified Empowerment of Girls and Young Women as its focus. One the four major initiatives identified by the Task Force for collaboration is **the Girl Scouts Tree Promise** that seeks to plant 6 million trees by the year 2026. To protect and honor new and existing trees is entirely consistent with the Rotary International focus on Protecting the Environment. To assist clubs in the addressing of our common cause, Rotary District 6220 offered 10 matching grants of \$500 each. Three clubs were successful during the first round. Several clubs expressed a need to extend the timelines to include a Fall effort to plant trees. This announcement is for 6-7 remaining \$500 matching grants with new dates the Empowerment of Girls and Young Women Grants. **Empowerment of Girls and Young Women Grants 2023.** The focus of this year's Empowerment Grants will be centered around **Tree Promise**. These **matching grants** of \$500 each to specifically to assist clubs collaborate with their local Girl Scout troops, to plant trees in local communities where there is a pressing need or an opportunity to conserve the environment. For this collaboration to be successful, we need active involvement Rotarians to work with other supportive organizations such as the Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation and such to determine the community need, sourcing the plants/trees and planting and caring for the trees.

Proposals should clearly indicate any active, hands-on participation by Rotarians and their families, Rotaractors/Interactors/RYE Students where possible. **Project Completion Date: All tree planting under this grant must be completed no later than November 7, 2023.** Some important dates to note: - Deadline for submitting proposals: May 15, 2023 - Grant Decisions: May 25, 2023 - Project completion date: November 1, 2023 - Project Reports are due: November 7, 2023. Please complete the attached grant application form and mail it to Lisa VanderKelen at [lvanderkelen.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:lvanderkelen.rotary@gmail.com) no later than **Friday, May 15, 2023.** To establish contact with local Girl Scout Troops, please contact Gwen Taylor, Director, Program & Inclusion, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes at [info@gsnwgl.org](mailto:info@gsnwgl.org) or 888-747-6945. For more information regarding the Empowerment Grants, please contact: IPDG Sridhar at (920) 205-4484 or [rotariansridharb@gmail.com](mailto:rotariansridharb@gmail.com).

## Biodiversity beats climate change as talking point

*By Saijel Kishan  
Bloomberg Green  
May 3, 2023*

The topic of biodiversity may sound just as amorphous as ESG. But compared with climate change, it may be an easier subject to broach with US investors who lean Republican.

Biodiversity refers to [forests](#), oceans and other ecosystems, as well as efforts to protect them. It's an area that isn't politically fraught like subjects such as "net zero," said John Hoepfner, who runs US stewardship and sustainable investments at Legal & General Investment Management America.

"Using phrases related to carbon emissions instantly becomes a highly political

conversation in a Republican state," he said. Yet conversations related to deforestation, water and land use are more unifying. "Habitat conservation has support across the political spectrum," he said.

Biodiversity involves conservation and restoration of natural habitats, as well as promoting sustainable practices. And since it includes more tangible topics like land and water rather than net-zero goals that are far off in the future, it's easier for people to grasp, Hoepfner said.

Money managers have started biodiversity strategies to invest in companies that they say will help minimize harm to natural habitats.

A [survey conducted](#) in March by Penn State University and political consulting group ROKK Solutions found that most Republican and Democratic voters say corporate environmental action is relevant to their financial futures. More than 55% of GOP voters agreed that efforts such as land and water conservation, waste management and biodiversity were germane to the future finances. For net-zero goals, support in the ESG investing survey slumped to 42%.

## Want to include your club's activities in the next quarterly newsletter?

To submit articles and information please email Trey Foerster, Co-Chair, Environmental Sustainability Task Force at [trey.foerster@outlook.com](mailto:trey.foerster@outlook.com).