

Bloomington Rotary Roundabout ~ July 16, 2024

Next week



Don Byrd and William Ellis will speak about Braver Angels in the Frangipani Room and on Zoom. Braver Angels is a national grassroots organization dedicated to reducing the toxic polarization of American politics. Don Byrd, a computer scientist, worked in academia and in business. William Ellis moved to Monroe County in 1999. He is currently vice chairman of the Monroe County Republican Party, a member of the Ellettsville Town Council, and co-owner of an Amazon business based in Ellettsville. Both work with Braver Angels statewide.

News of the Week

J.T. Warring, a member of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, updated us on the Myanmar Water Management Systems Project, which started in 2006. J.T., who was celebrating 50 years in Rotary with a cake for all of us to share, spoke about the more than 70 water management systems that have been completed in Myanmar. Because of the challenges now facing Myanmar, a new program, working with the Mormons, will start soon in Thailand and Cambodia.



Teachers Warehouse Supply Drive July 13

The Teachers Warehouse Supply Drive was a grand success. Twenty-four Bloomington Rotary club members and their spouses volunteered at six stores. They were joined by teachers, members from other Rotary clubs, Crane employees, and regular TW volunteers. These enthusiastic volunteers collected many bins of school supplies that will help get the next school year off to a good start in the six counties served by Teachers Warehouse. According to organizer Anne Bright, new records were set for both supplies (valued at \$29,898) and cash (\$3,675). Congratulations and thanks to all Rotarians who volunteered for this service project.





Hoosier Hills Food Bank July 26

We still need three volunteers to complete the afternoon shift at Hoosier Hills Food Bank on Friday, July 26, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. (with optional lunch at 11:30). Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094BA9AE2BA75-50186227-hoosier#/>

Lunch Buddies

The new lunch buddy list is available. Take this opportunity to catch up with a friend or meet a new Rotary friend.

<https://bloomingtonrotaryfoundation.box.com/s/tu4jhssvhsxhealy9qi759dowvu00u yo>



Charles Pearce and Glenda Murray had a lunch buddy encounter.

July 16 Program:

Connie Shakalis introduced Mary Carol Reardon. Mary, who is a member of the Johnson Creamery family, spoke of growing up in Hoosier Acres and playing and walking in the woods nearby. As an actor in New York, she realized she needed some activities outdoors, so she joined the Sierra Club and became an avid hiker. When she returned to Bloomington, she served as a reading specialist at Fairview School and began hiking trails in the Hoosier National Forest. Mary spoke about Hays Trail and Pate Hollow Trail, which is a six-mile loop. She began working with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC IRIS) group. Mary's specific project is to remove Japanese stiltgrass from the Pate Hollow Trail. When the weed is pulled before it blooms, you can put it on a stump or log and leave it. It will not reproduce. If it has flowered, it has to be pulled and bagged and removed from the forest. The seeds stay viable in the ground for about five years, so this is a long-term project. This year the weed wranglers plan to take a boat to the middle of the trail, rather than using so much time hiking into the middle of the six-mile trail. There will still be stiltgrass in the woods, but the trail and the area around the trail will be clear, allowing the wildflowers and ferns to grow again and the insects and butterflies to come back. The volunteers focus on the trails to keep people from carrying home seeds on their clothes or shoes. The DNR has cut multiflora rose in Pate Hollow and used insecticides. The Hays Trail is in the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Area, so people can't use power tools or insecticides. The volunteers go back year after year to work on the project.

In the question and answer period, Mary explained that the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Weed Wranglers pull all the weeds in a designated area. You can make an appointment with someone from MC IRIS, and they will identify the weeds you have in your yard. Legislation has been proposed to enlarge the Deam Wilderness, and Mary supports passage of the bill. As for the question of logging in the national forest, the Forest Service supports planned logging, while some other groups oppose it.



The July 16 celebration of service is available at <https://youtu.be/3kx5AczptEE>

Updates: Our July 16 Celebration of Service

President **Traci Jovanovic** welcomed us with a quote from Marie Curie: “You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, each of us must work for their own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.”

For our reflection J.T. Warring updated us on the Myanmar Water Project.

Past President **Winston Shindell**, father of President **Traci Jovanovic**, presented her with the Rotary President’s pin.



Sandy Keller introduced guests:

- J.T. Warring, visiting Rotarian
- Nay Lin Htut, guest of J.T. Warring
- Elijah Ramos, guest of J.T. Warring
- Donald Mitchell, guest of J.T. Warring
- Linda Stipp, guest of J.T. Warring
- Diana Hoffman, guest of Liz Feitl
- Linda Whikehart, guest and spouse of John Whikehart
- Lisa Wickes, guest and spouse of Steve Wickes

Birthdays this week:

- **Amy Gharst** and **Jerono Rotich**, July 17
- **Fred Dunn**, July 20
- **Charlie Osborne** and **Ashley Wesley**, July 21

Thanks to Sandy Keller for greeting us and introducing guests; J.T. Warring for the reflection; audio producer Tylar Martin-Nichols; Zoom host Claire Kest; camera/mic operator Michael Shermis; executive assistant Natalie Blais; and *Roundabout* reporter Glenda Murray.

No member anniversaries this week.

Reporter: Glenda Murray

Photographer: Alain Barker and others