

Rotary Club of Belmont Bulletin



CLUB MEETING - Feb. 21, 2024
www.BelmontRotaryClub.com



Club Meeting

Belmont First Presbyterian Church
102 S. Central Ave.
Belmont, NC 28012

Time: Wednesday at 12:30 PM

Speakers

February 21st
Board of Directors Meeting

President Thomas Hunter, III presiding



February 21st
Melanie Lowrance.

Melanie Lowrance is the administrator at Gaston County Community Support Services. She will speak about the local opioid crisis and how opioid settlement funds are being used to address it. Rotarian Whitney Norton will host the program.



February 28th
Terri Ellerbe, Regional Director,
NC Department of Insurance

From an office in Gastonia, Terri Ellerbe covers five counties for the NC Department of Insurance, including Gaston, Cleveland, Mecklenburg, Lincoln and Catawba. She will speak on the role of her office in serving the citizens of this region.



March 6th
Speaker and program topic TBA.

Birthdays



Kenneth J Pahon
February 24th



Whitney Norton
March 2nd



Thomas M Hunter Jr.
March 7th



Gary E. McCord
March 12th

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

Club Officers



Thomas M. Hunter III
President



Kenneth J Pahon
President-Elect



Jennifer Grant
Treasurer



Ted B. Hall

Events

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 9, 2024, 7 - 10 PM

Haiti children's hospital fundraiser at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden with featured speaker Brooklyn Decker.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)



LAST WEEK AT ROTARY

Catawba River history flows freely at meeting



Bob Wilson
Public
Relations/Image
Chair
Webmaster



Whitney Norton
Rotary Foundation
Chair
iPast President



Michelle Petty
Membership Chair

District Officers



Debra L. Corbett
District Governor



Kevin Kendrick
DG - Elect



Laurel Roe Morris
Assistant Governor-
Gaston County

Wednesday, February 14, 2024



Bob Wilson (left), founder of Rowboat Dock & Dredge, owner of Tailrace Marina and past Rotary district governor, spoke about the history and significance of the Catawba River at a recent meeting. With him are Dr. Gary McCord (center), who hosted the program, and Belmont Rotary President Thomas Hunter, III.

"It's the power generated by the water that allowed all the towns in this area to grow."

-- Bob Wilson

Why is the river that provides our power and water called Catawba?

The people who lived here before us were the Catawba Indians, and in their language Catawba means "people of the water."

Why is a road in Mount Holly (and one in Mecklenburg County) called Tuckaseegee?

In the language of the Catawba, tuckaseegee means "river crossing." Before there were bridges, the Catawba, and later our ancestors, crossed the river near where Tuckaseegee Road in Mount Holly ends at a shallow spot in the river then known as the Tuckaseegee ford.

Why is a major street in Charlotte named Trade?

Long before Charlotte was a thriving city, it was called Charlottetowne. When the Catawba crossed at the Tuckaseegee ford carrying their goods to trade in Charlottetowne, the market was in the center of town where Trade and Tryon streets meet today.

Why is our lake named Wylie?

In 1960, it was named after Dr. Walter Gil Wylie who was the first president of the Southern Power Company which merged with the Duke Power Company in 1927.


Belmont Rotarians learned these fascinating facts about the Catawba River and Lake Wylie when Bob Wilson spoke at a recent meeting. He knows the river because he's spent much of his life leading a company he founded that specializes in building docks and marinas and dredging along the Catawba and many other rivers and lakes.



His business, Rowboat Docks & Dredging, has built more than 6,000 docks, including those at Tailrace Marina in Mount Holly, which Wilson and his wife Ineke own.

A North Carolina native, Wilson was a Morehead Scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill and served in the Vietnam War as an airman. He also served as the national director of President Jimmy Carter's work project, which is known today as Habitat for Humanity. Both he and his wife are past Rotary district governors leading more than 60 Rotary clubs in District 7680, which includes the Gaston County clubs.

In his remarks to Belmont Rotarians, Wilson emphasized the importance of protecting the Catawba River for the people and communities which rely on it for essential resources such as electricity and water and also for recreation. "It's the power generated by the water that



allowed all the towns in this area to grow," he said.

He also recounted some of the devastating floods, such as the famous 1916 flood, that hit this area before dams were built. Construction of the Lake Wylie dam began in 1925, he said.

The Tailrace Marina, a restaurant and a large apartment building now occupy land where the Superior Yarn Mill formerly stood, Wilson said. The marina's name pays tribute to the mill's history because the tailrace was the channel carrying water from the mill that had entered through the headrace to power the factory.

Tailrace Marina offers kayak, paddle board and pontoon rentals and boat slip leasing plus picnic and grilling area, full bathrooms with showers and a ship store offering snacks and beverages. The address is 1010 Marina Village Drive, Mount Holly, NC 28120. For more information, visit: <https://www.rowboatmarinagroup.com/home---tailrace-marina.html>