



THE QUACKER

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville

February 9, 2025

Events

February 11th
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 25th
[Social Meeting and Book Donation Drive](#)

March 8th
[The Reedy River Greenville: Comm Svc - TreesUpstate.](#)

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

Birthdays

Valerie Cook
February 11th
Melissa Michael
February 25th

Wedding Anniversaries

Rami Elmarkiz-Sami Michael
February 10th
Melissa Michael
February 10th

Club Meeting Location



Socializing begins at 6:00pm with the meeting at 6:30pm
Club Meetings are held at Holly Tree Country Club in Simpsonville. Come join us at 6:00pm for socializing, followed by the meeting at 6:30pm. The address is 500 Golf Club Drive, Simpsonville, SC. **Some GPS apps do not map correctly if you select "Holly Tree Country Club."** Be sure to use the address to get to the correct location.

Meeting Program/Speaker

By Ann H. Golden

This schedule is subject to change. Please check each newsletter for the most current information.

- 2-11-25 - Club Assembly - *The Rotary Foundation*, Bobby Brown, Club Foundation Chair
- 2-25-25 - **Social Hour and Book Donation Drive** (2nd meeting of the month) - 6pm-8:30pm - Piney Mountain Bike Lounge, 20 Piney Mountain Rd., Greenville, SC 29609
- 3-11-25 - Regular Meeting - *Lake Jocassee Tours*, Tony and Cam McDade
- 3-25-25 - TBD

The Rotary Foundation Fundamentals - Beth Padgett, District Foundation Chair

Beth Padgett is completing her fourth year as District 7750 Rotary Foundation Chair. She served as District Governor in 2020-21 and served as Area 3 Assistant Governor from 2013-17.



Beth joined the Rotary Club of Greenville in 1991. She served as club President in 2001-2002 and was the first woman president of the largest Rotary club in South Carolina. She has served in most major positions in her club, and she is a graduate of the Rotary Leadership Institute and now is an RLI Faculty member.

She is a member of The Rotary Foundation Bequest Society and the Paul Harris Society, and she is a Major Donor, a Paul Harris Fellow and a Benefactor. Before her retirement in 2020, she worked for 40 years in newspapers in South Carolina followed by 5 years running a local nonprofit in Greenville. She has been an avid volunteer for decades and has served on numerous nonprofit Boards in Greenville.

This month is . . .

Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

According to Rotary International, over 70 million people are displaced a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

Rotary refuses to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peace building today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our [vision](#) of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peace building, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

- **Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.
- **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,800 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.
- **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.
- **Advocates:** Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.

Shades to Celebrate Stomper's Birthday



Next Sunday, February 16, Shades will join our good friend, Stomper, at the Swamp Rabbits hockey game to celebrate Stomper's birthday. Please consider supporting the Swamp Rabbits and entertain yourself with a stellar Shades performance by our good friend and former Rotarian, Gary Farrar. Puck drops at 3:05pm

Tickets are available through the [Swamp Rabbits](#) website. Support the Swamp Rabbits because they support us!

Home & Garden Show - Feb. 21-23 - Duck Adoption Kick-off



Duck Adoptions will take place at the Home & Garden Show, our annual kick-off for this important step in the Reedy River Duck Derby process.

Many of you have signed up for a shift, and for that, the Club is grateful. Take a look at the Home & Garden Volunteer schedule. If you can join a single Rotarian on a shift, please email Meg Coffey at megcoffey@yahoo.com with the time and date that works for you.

2025 Home and Garden Show Volunteers .DOCX

2025 Southern Home & Garden Show – Greenville Convention Center
February 21 - 23, 2025 - Schedule of DATs and Rotary Volunteers

Time	Friday – 2/21/25 10am to 7pm	Saturday – 2/22/25 10am to 7pm	Sunday 2/23/25 Noon to 5pm
10:00AM to Noon	DAT: 1. Elizabeth Clarke 2. Prudence Taylor	DAT: Augustine Literacy Project 1. Mark Bacon 2. Meg Coffey	
Noon to 2:00PM	DAT: 1. Elizabeth Clarke	DAT: STRIDES Tutoring 1. Ann Golden	Noon – 2:30pm DAT: Rollin' Tigers Bballers 1. Bhuvnesh Sharma 2. Meg Coffey
2:00PM to 4:30PM	DAT: 1. Eric Krichbaum	DAT: Mauldin Miracle League 1. Valerie Cook	
4:30PM to 7:00PM	DAT: 1. Rami Michael (may have Melissa and kids with him) 2. Laurie Rappl	DAT: 1. Melissa Miller (may have Brian and Garrett with her)	2:30 – 5pm DAT: Harmony Rainbow Girls 1. Alan Calloway 2. Prudence Taylor
TBD – Feb. 19 or 20			
SET UP: Feb 19, 2025 at 5:30pm	Need 2 Rotarians to help Meg 1. Alan Calloway		

What do you do? You support a Duck Adoption Team and help answer questions about duck adoptions (experienced DATs need less support than newbie DATs), sell souvenirs, talk about the charities supported by the Reedy River Duck Derby (use this [document](#) to get a start on groups we supported from the 2023 Duck Derby), talk about Rotary and what our Club does, as well as Rotary in our area and around the globe.

Parking this year has gone up to \$10 per vehicle. Everyone will have to pay the cost of parking, but admission to the show will happen with an exhibitor badge you pick up at the entrance to the show. These badges need to be returned to the same location at the end of your shift. And please wear your Rotary name tag as well.

Every member is expected to support the Duck Derby with a shift at the Home & Garden Show. Meg is the contact person for all things Duck Adoption Teams (DATs) with regard to the Duck Derby, so feel free to reach out with any questions.

Next Moves: Sponsorships



Adoptions continue to trickle in and, at the time of printing this edition, we have 2,890 adopted ducks. We are making progress!

At this point, everyone in the Club should be handing out the QR code for duck adoptions. We'll have a nicer version of these business card-sized marketing tools at Tuesday's meeting so you can hand them out to all you know and come in contact with as you talk up the merits of the Reedy River Duck Derby.

Another way to make duck adoptions happen is through an "adoption paper." Those are currently being printed, and we hope to have them by the time the Home & Garden Show starts on February 21.

Sponsorships, including new and repeating sponsors, continue to come in, and you are encouraged to move any work you have started for potential cash sponsorships to completion. The other parts of sponsorship are the in-kind (such as The Frosting Fairy donating duck-shaped cookies for our VID party) and prizes. We're grateful to Publix for their donation of 52 \$100 gift cards! The prizes given in past years have been wonderful, and we are especially appreciative of the gift card type of prize sponsorships. What businesses do you have relationships with that might be willing to donate a gift card to their establishment?

Any questions about sponsorship should be directed to Ann Golden. For prizes, contact Laurie Rapp.

2025 Duck Derby Next Meeting

The next Duck Derby meeting is scheduled for February 18 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Use the link below to join the meeting and get up to speed for the 21st Annual Reedy River Duck Derby.

Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: DD25 Steering Committee

Time: Feb 18, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88488980925?pwd=hbrMPqCsOQriqm99k7mPPwzIbtuXPY.1>

D-7750 Membership Chair

Wow, the first month of the year is already behind us! How are your personal New Year's resolutions coming along? How are you tracking toward your membership goals?

Join us for a Membership Booster Session on February 22, 9:30–11:30 AM—online via Zoom. This special session is designed to celebrate successes and equip clubs with additional tools to achieve net membership gains and boost overall performance.

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA FOR THE G.I.M.M.E. SESSION?

1. Practical membership expansion ideas and tools: Discover actionable strategies to help your club grow. When leaders see success, they strive for more—we're here to deliver just that.
2. Success stories from District 7750 clubs: Learn from the achievements of fellow clubs and find inspiration in their approaches.
3. Year-to-date (YTD) success track review: Understand how clubs are performing and identify opportunities for improvement.
4. Public Image and Public Relations discussion: Explore ways to elevate your club's visibility and attract new members.

The G.I.M.M.E. session is a powerful reminder that it's not too late to have a significant impact. Let's work together to expand our reach and welcome additional quality Rotarians into our community. If you're motivated to grow, we have the tools to help you succeed! Take a moment to review your club's performance as of January 1, 2025, and lock in two hours on February 22 to push your membership growth to new heights. Your participation is key to making the 2024-25 Rotary year a standout model for growth and success! Register to attend on DACdb.

More District Grants in 7750

Reprinted from the February 2025 District 7750 newsletter.

More Rotary Clubs are using their District Grants to make a difference in their local communities. The number in bold print is the amount of the District Grant.

SIMPSONVILLE Dictionary **\$1,500**

The Simpsonville Rotary Club will distribute dictionaries to all 3rd graders in the eight elementary schools in the Simpsonville area. Twenty Rotarians are involved, and 1,300 students will benefit. The total budget for the project is \$3,500.

SIMPSONVILLE Shop with a Cop **\$500**

The Simpsonville Rotary Club will provide gifts for families at Christmas through a program sponsored by the Simpsonville Police Department. The families participating in the program have been impacted by crime.

SIMPSONVILLE Rotary Christmas **\$500**

Simpsonville Rotary Club again will participate in the annual Christmas toy giveaway for the community. They will provide toys for the event that also will include performances, free food and rides.

benefit from the project. The total

SPARTAN WEST Victims' Rest Space **\$2,500**

The Spartan West Rotary Club will help furnish a space in the Spartanburg County Courthouse for those who are victims of domestic violence. The space will be furnished with comfortable furniture with the goal of providing a soothing and comfortable space. Twenty-seven Rotarians are involved, and 2,500 people will benefit from this project. The total budget is \$5,000.

SPARTANBURG Science Fair **\$2,500**

The Spartanburg Rotary Club will support the Piedmont Science Fair as the sole sponsor of this event. Funds will be used for the following: Equipment Rental, Refreshments, Student Materials, Gift Cards for Prize Winners, and International Science Fair Costs for Winners. Fifty Rotarians are

involved, and 500 students will benefit from this project. The total budget is \$12,500.

TRAVELERS REST Children's Garden \$800

The Travelers Rest Rotary Club will work on a phased educational garden that teaches children about plants, colors, animals, and other topics. Also helping with the project is Girl Scout Troop 3370.

UNION Magic of Reading \$2,500

The Union Rotary Club will distribute grade-level reading books and book bags to kindergarten children in four public elementary schools and one private school in Union County. Thirty-four Rotarians are involved, and 450 children will benefit. The total budget for the project is \$7,750.

WALHALLA Special Needs Bikes \$1,000

The Walhalla Rotary Club will help purchase special bicycles for the schools' developmentally challenged students. This will allow them to experience the joy of being a child.

WESTMINSTER Pedals Possible \$1,000

The Westminster Rotary Club will help fund an adaptive bicycle for a school in the Westminster area. This will help special students receive the benefit of body movement and motion that they normally are not able to experience.

WINNSBORO Outdoor Food Pantry \$1,000

The Winnsboro Rotary Club will provide at least two publicly accessible food pantries. In 2019 Winnsboro was designated as a food desert by South Carolina DHEC.

YORK School Readiness \$3,000

The York Rotary Club will distribute school readiness packs to young children up to 5 years old. The packs will be tailored to aid these children with ELA and math activities to enhance their math and literacy skills as they prepare to enter school for the first time. Twenty-five Rotarians are involved and between 100 - 200 families should benefit. The total budget is \$6,000.

Service/Rotary Opportunities



Take advantage of these service, learning, or meet-up opportunities coming up. More information and the opportunity to sign up are available on [DACdb](#).

2-22-25 - G.I.M.M.E. Membership Recruiting via Zoom - 9:30-11:30am - via Zoom

Gaining Impressive Membership Momentum Everyday is the focus for this informative session designed to celebrate successes and equip clubs with additional tools to achieve net membership gains and boost overall performance.

2-25-25 - Social Hour and Book Donation Drive (2nd meeting of the month) - 6pm-8:30pm - Piney Mountain Bike Lounge
Come enjoy a beer on tap, food from a local food truck, and great

conversation! Bring your gently used books to donate to the Greenville Literacy Association. Guests welcome too! 20 Piney Mountain Rd., Greenville, SC 29609

3-8-25 - Trees Upstate - 8:30am-Noon - 100 Brookstone Dr. Easley, SC 29642

The project will plant 30 trees at the Windy Hill Manufactured Home Community. The planting demonstration starts at 9, so please be prompt to get through on-site sign in. Friends and family are welcome!

All participants must also register on the TreesUpstate website using this link

(<https://treesupstate.org/> volunteer/) prior to the event. Look for the "Sat. 3/8 9 am Tree Planting @ Powdersville" label. Detailed instructions regarding the event will be provided by TreesUpstate to registered volunteers.

3-15-25 - Greenville St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival - 9am - ??

Join Club Members as they accompany Shades and Quacky down Main Street to the festival at

NOMA Square. Wear your most festive St. Paddy's Day gear (some available for use as well). DACdb sign-up for this event available soon.

3-29-25 - ReCraft Creative Reuse Center - 10:30am-1:30pm - 2439 Laurens Road
Help organize craft supplies and donations at the ReCraft Store. They're helping keep hobbies alive and keeping items out of the landfills! You can come for all or just part of the time. Sign up on DACdb.

4-5-25 - Shed Party #1 - 9am-Noon

Come to the Club's storage shed at The Space Shop storage facility, H6, 1868 Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC. Read entry instructions for code 1052. Club members will inventory and organize souvenirs and sales booth gear in preparation for Derby Day.

4-19-25 - Shed Party #2 - 9am-Noon

Final organizing at the Club's storage shed at The Space Shop storage facility, H6, 1868 Woodruff Road, Greenville, SC. Read entry instructions for code 1052.

Remember to register for the above opportunities at DACdb and follow instructions within each volunteer opportunity that may require a second sign-up on the organizing group's website.

Library Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer at the Greenville County Public Library

The Library offers several different opportunities to volunteer. Prudence Taylor volunteers at the Friends Shop at the Hughes Library, headquarters for the library system. The shop is open Wednesday - Friday, 10 am - 3 pm. The store sells used books and some retail items, including greeting cards, puzzles, etc. All funds raised go to support programs for children, teens, and adults. The Library also holds book sales at its Five Forks Branch Library. All funds raised from the book sales go to support the library system's programs for children, teens, and adults.

Other ways to volunteer include:

- Assisting children's librarians with preparation for various programs for youngsters.
- Sorting books for book sales.
- Processing new items to be shelved for the first time.
- Looking over the shelves to make sure all items are in proper order.
- Shelving books.
- Serving in some capacity at special events, including keeping track of door counts or assisting attendees at a table.
- Helping patrons who are using public computers.

You do not have to be a member of the Friends of the Library to volunteer. The volunteer coordinator is Amy Pecht. Contact her at volunteer@greenvillelibrary.org or call 864-527-9286. A volunteer application is available online <https://www.greenvillelibrary.org/volunteer>. Be sure to let Elizabeth Clarke know if you volunteer and how many hours you contribute to an event/organization so the Club can keep track of our service.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities



Feed & Seed - 701 Easley Bridge Road, Suite 6010, Greenville, SC - The fresh food box programs provide individuals facing food insecurity with a healthy variety of fresh produce, including items sourced from local farmers. Feed & Sees relies on the generous support of volunteers to help us pack boxes in a warehouse which will be delivered to sites in Pickens, Oconee and Abbeville counties.

What to expect on packing day: Arrive at Feed & Seed prior to 10:00am so that you have time to sign in, wash your hands, and put on hairnets and gloves. We will circle up to discuss our Fresh Food Box programs and go over food safety guidelines. We are a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) facility and do require all volunteers to comply with the following expectations:

- Closed-toed shoes required.
- No shorts or dresses.
- Hairnets are required. PPE will be provided.
- Beard Nets are required for the bearded folk. PPE will be provided.
- Gloves are required. PPE will be provided. Hand-washing will be required prior to putting on gloves.
- No Jewelry Allowed. (exception plain, solid bands).
- No Food or Drinks in the warehouse area.
- No Personal Bags in the warehouse area.

Work takes place until about 1:30pm. New volunteers must complete a waiver prior to their first volunteer experience! Click [here](#) for Feed & Seed website for more information and sign waiver.

Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.

Meals on Wheels - Deliver hope, friendship, independence and more. When you get involved with Meals on Wheels, you are delivering so much more than daily nourishment. You deliver friendship to those who spend their days alone. You deliver independence, allowing people to age in their homes with dignity. You deliver hope to those often forgotten. Volunteer your time, refer someone who needs help, or make a donation. No matter how you get involved, you'll deliver more than meals. [Volunteer Application | Meals On Wheels Greenville](#). Prudence Taylor regularly volunteers with Meals on Wheels and would be a source of information if you have questions.

Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.

The Children's Museum of the Upstate - [Volunteer - TCMU Upstate \(tcmupstate.org\)](#). Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.

Trees Upstate - is a nonprofit organization founded in 2005. Their mission is to **plant**, **promote**, and **protect** trees in the Upstate. They **plant** trees in parks, schools, and neighborhoods, **promote** the benefits of trees, and **protect** by providing education and technical support to help inform policies and systems change. Though they are dormant in the summer months, they will have volunteer opportunities at this link: [Volunteer - Trees Upstate](#). **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

Contribute to The Quacker

The Quacker is produced using DACdb on a **computer** and texted information takes additional manipulation from phone to computer. If your phone takes high-resolution pictures (HEIC), they are not compatible with DACdb and, therefore, an additional step to convert those files to JPEG, JPG, or PNG has to take place. If you use EzStory in DACdb, please send an email stating the name of your article. If you are unable to use EzStory, submit something for *The Quacker* by **emailing** the copy and pictures in the above format to megcoffey@yahoo.com. Newsletters are put together on Sunday afternoon prior to the Tuesday meeting.

Club Mailing Address

Please use this address for all club correspondence, remitting dues (unless you pay online), and Duck Derby business.

Rotary Club of Reedy River Greenville
Box # 500
325 Rocky Slope Rd, Suite 104
Greenville, SC 29607

Speakers

Club Meeting

The Reedy River Greenville
Meets at Holly Tree Country Club (2nd & 4th Tuesdays Only)
500 Golf Club Dr. Holly Tree Country Club
Simpsonville, SC 29681
Time: Tuesday at 06:30 PM

Club Leaders

[Rachel Rutkowski](#)
President

[Prudence Ann Taylor](#)
Secretary

[Alan Stewart Calloway](#)
Club Director
iPast President
Membership Chair

[Robert L Brown Jr.](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Rami Elmarkiz-Sami Michael](#)
President-Elect

[Laurie M. Rapp](#)
Treasurer

[Meghan A. Coffey](#)
Club Director
RYLA Chair
Bulletin Editor

[Elizabeth Foster Clarke](#)
President-Nominee

[Mark William Bacon](#)
Charities Committee Chair

[Ann H. Golden](#)
Program Chair
Club Director