

Rotary Buzzer

January 27
COVID UPDATE
Dr. Mehlhaus and
“someone else” from
Public Health
possibly

February 3
David Williamson video
presentation—
sculptor and speaker
Jane Hitsman, Program
chair

February 10
Joe Smith, Prog. Chair

February 17
TBA

February 24
Planning Meeting

March 3
Craig Downs, Program
Chair

March 10
Andrew Schroeder,
Program Chair

March 17
Hans Pollard, Program
Chair

March 24
Tim Trudeau, Program
Chair

March 31
Planning Meeting

April 7
Phil Hauser, Program
Chair

Pres. Matt Ethlon

DG Steve Dakin

RI Pres. Holger Knaack

Meeting Recap

Pres. Matt welcomed everyone on Wednesday and thanked everyone who helped out with the Evening Club’s book bagging project. It was noted that every second grader in Boone County will receive 12 books over the course of the year as a result of this tremendous literacy project



Matt paid a dollar to remind members of the bond election on March 2. Because he was appointed to the school board Matt will also be on the ballot for the remainder of the term he is filling out. Lisa is hoping for an “all Midwest” Super Bowl. Pres. Matt said he

It may be a little hard to tell with their masks on but these second graders all appear to be “smeyesing” (smiling with their eyes!) after receiving their latest bags of books emblazoned with the Rotary wheel! Time will tell if they grow up to be our Rotarians but hopefully our efforts will help them “grow up” to be readers!

Lisa shared that there will be an opportunity at the District Conference for clubs to share about projects and the 2nd Grade Book Project would be something with high impact that other clubs could possibly

replicate with a bit of help.

Matt shared that tweaking of the bylaws in nearing completion and he hopes to get copies of the proposed update out to members in a week or so. He tentatively plans on having the full club vote on the bylaws update on February 24th.

Matt did share that Abby Howie will officially be joining the Ames Rotary Club in the coming weeks. Best of luck to Abby with her new Rotary club!

HAPPY DOLLARS!

has “always” been a Tampa Bay fan. Stranger things than that could be true—I just can’t think of what they might be. Steve was happy that by being able to “tune in” at 12:15 to our meeting he is also able to catch 15 minutes of the Nevada Rotary

Club’s meetings on Wednesday as well! Phil was happy that he and his wife both have recovered from COVID but he noted it was “no fun”. Glad you are both feeling better, Phil!



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Resilience can go an awful long way.

Eddie the Eagle,
English Ski Jumper



STRIPS Project—Tim Youngquist

Jamie introduced her brother, Tim Youngquist, who is an agricultural specialist in the Agronomy Department at ISU where he works on the STRIPS project. STRIPS stands for **Science based Trial of Row crops Integrated with Prairie Strips!** Matt shared that 200 years ago Iowa was largely covered with “tall grass prairies” which consisted of sturdy, deep rooted (12-15 feet deep!) grasses and vegetation that was extremely hardy and produced Iowa’s rich topsoil. Today less than 0.1% of Iowa’s land remains as tall grass prairie while 75% is covered with corn or soy beans (and only about five months of the year). The lack of cover for the soil has resulted in problems including a loss of topsoil and allowing nitrates and other chemicals to more easily get into the water system. The STRIPS project is studying the effect of planting buffer strips of native plants and grasses in

various locations alongside row crops. They have found that buffer strips planted at the “bottom” of fields (locations where water runs during rainfall) resulted in a 95% reduction in soil runoff, an 80% decrease in phosphorus, 70% in nitrogen, and a 70% reduction in tile drainage. The plants and wildflowers in the strips also serve to attract pollinators (bees and butterflies) and native birds. So far that they have been able to plant test strips covering 700 acres that impact the runoff from approximately 6500 acres of tilled farmland. He noted that they are working with farmers to identify areas within their fields that are less suitable for crop that could be converted to buffer strips which would minimize the impact on yields associated with land being taken out of production. Thanks to “Jamie’s brother” for a very interesting program!

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!