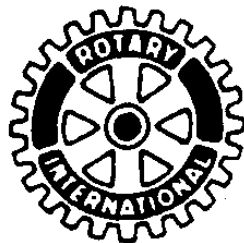


Check our web site – www.waunakeerotary.org



Waunakee Rotary Club

April 27, 2006
Vol. 38, No. 42

George Archibald, founder of the International Crane Foundation, was the speaker at the April 20 meeting of the Waunakee Rotary Club.

George described the variety of cranes and how many of them bordered on extinction.

In Japan, red crown cranes numbered about 1,000, but the number has risen to about 12,000. A concern is that this crane population is too concentrated because they flock to one preserve where people like to feed them.

Sand hill cranes are fairly common in Wisconsin now. Their number in Wisconsin was reduced to about 100 in the 1930s, but that population has risen to about 12,000 now, George said.

The whooping crane population was down to 16 in 1940.

The mission of the International Crane Foundation is the conservation of these birds. There are 15 types of cranes in the world, and the Crane Foundation, headquartered near Baraboo, has 22 employees in various countries.

Cranes need wetland, and the foundation works hard to preserve that habitat. The cranes also need space and an unpolluted surrounding.

Cranes are interesting birds and are famous for their courtship dance. One variety applies mud at the base of its neck in preparation for courtship. They are long-lived and mostly monogamous. One crane reached age 84 at the Foundation.

Cranes lay about two eggs a year, and the male and female share the chore of incubation. They eat such things as earthworms and dragon fly larvae. A chick grows from a height of four to five inches to six to eight feet in just a few months.

Cranes are an important symbol in many cultures.

The foundation conducts tours and studies cranes in their natural habitat. Scientists and conservationists come from throughout the world to study and get support for grassroots conservation efforts, George said.

Other items:

- Donna Murphy and Larry Felsheim presented the Rotary Club with a contribution for the Rotary lights. The money was left over from fund-raising for the legal fight to allow the nativity scene to remain in the Village Park during the Christmas season.

- Jim Tubbs and Scott Cochems have agreed to co-chair the June 23 golf outing. They may be talking to Rotarians about donations of raffle prizes or hole sponsorships.

- Service Club Olympics is coming up. Larry Felsheim announced that we need a chair for the Cribbage tourney. This job is easy, Larry promises.

Guests: Harriet Statz, Mitzi Kust, guests of Ray Statz; Donna Murphy, guest of Rich Murphy.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

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Calendar of Events:

May 19-21, District Celebration
June 23, golf outing
Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oktoberfest

Birthdays: April 27, Bob Nicholson;
May 2, Jim Jukes.

Anniversaries: April 28, Scott and Melanie Cochems.

Prayers: April 27, Susan Vergeront; May 4, Leonard Allen; May 11, Bruce Engebretson, May 18, Kim Wilde; May 25, Pat Durden.

Programs: April 27, Kim Lengfeld and Tom Laufenberg classification talks; May 4, Club Assembly; May 11, Project Linus, Jean Hensen; May 18, Collector's Choice, John Kreuger; May 25, Shelter from the Storm; June 1, Club Assembly; June 8, Wisconsin Sports Development Corp., Ron Vincent.

Greeters: April 27, Msgr. Jim Kramer and Dave Kruchten; May 4, Ed Kruchten and Neil Kruschek.

Signs you have grown up:
• Your friends marry and divorce instead of "hook up" and "break up."

- You go from 130 days of vacation time to 14.

- Jeans and a sweater no longer qualify as "dressed up."