

ROOSTER CALL



PLATTEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Currently Meeting 7:00 AM Fridays at Country Kitchen, Hwy 151, Platteville, WI

Platteville Optimist Weekly Bulletin – Friday, March 17, 2017

Attendance: 26 members attended – Tim Boldt, Duane Borgen, Paul Budden, Charlie Clark, Howard Crofoot, Eileen Engelke, Gary Engelke, Beth Frieders, Kevin Haertzen, Dave Jones, Maxine Lane, Steve Lane, Doug Martin, Gary Munson, Fern Nall, Tom Nall, Leon Neuheisel, Jerry Schewe, Bob Stephens, Barb Stockhausen, Ernie Thalmann, John Urness, Diane Van Natta, Ron Weier, Bob Weier and Wayne Wodarz

Guest: Our Speaker today Dr. Chris Baxter

Mystery Greeter: Paul Budden was mysteriously greeted by Steve Lane. Paul was pleased to be greeted even though his ticket wasn't blessed with the luck of the Irish.



Joker Draw: Not such a lucky day for Charlie Clark who cut to find the 6 of Spades and received his \$2. Steve Lane's ticket was luckier as it earned him a door prize donated by Charlie Clark. It was a large container of Sour Smog Ball candy which Charlie had won at the PHS Scholarship event. See Steve if you would like some of his candy, he will gladly share.

Birthdays/ Anniversaries: Happy birthday to Jerry Schewe on March 19th.

Announcements:

** Members are reminded to sign up for the Membership Spring Lunch on Saturday, April 8th from 11-1 pm at the First English Lutheran Fellowship Hall. **Please email Maxine Lane your reservations by April 1st.** Thanks for bringing a friend and helping to build our club membership.

**Tri-Star Basketball will be held on April 23rd at UWP. Two or three more members are needed to make the event run smoothly. Watch for more information about the sign up.

Program: Dr. Chris Baxter, a Prairie du Chien native, our speaker today was introduced by Ron Weier. Dr. Baxter is a professor of Soil and Crop Science at UW-Platteville and also serves as a statewide Nutrient Management Specialist for UW-Extension. Courses he teaches include Soil Science, Soil Fertility, Nutrient Management, and Soil Physics. He also advises students on independent research projects and conducts research and extension programming in the nutrient management and soil fertility areas and serves on the Pioneer Farm Research Advisory Board. He is the coach of the UW-Platteville Collegiate Soils Team, advises the Agronomy - Soil and Water Conservation Club, and directs high school competitions in agronomy and land judging.

Dr. Baxter shared his unexpected journey to the 1st New Zealand soil judging contest in December 2016 with 10 students on his soil judging team. His contact to the event was a professor he met in 2014 at the first international soil judging contest he attended. His story and PowerPoint included all of the studying they had to do to prepare for the trip to New Zealand. Study included the differences in terrain, climate, and agriculture between our country and New Zealand as well as in the different parts of New Zealand. Their trip included opportunities to meet famous people who taught them about the soil, mountains, earth quakes, and history of New Zealand of Queensland and other parts of the country. The present agricultural threat in New Zealand is to the bird population which is being harmed by the Australian opossums and weasels.

Their team was the only one from the United States to compete. His photos showed the trenches the students worked in to describe the various levels of the soil including the horizon, color, texture, and structure of the soil in the 50 minute blocks of time they were given. In New Zealand only graduate students study the soils and so it was a great opportunity for these ten undergrad students. He was proud of them as they placed first in the competition.

Funding for the experience had to be done quickly as there were only six months between acceptance into the contest and the contest. Part of the funding came from the extra-curricular student fees paid yearly by the students. Another \$12,000 was from groups like Mound City Bank, Certified Crop Advisor, Badgerland Financial and alumni. They raised the \$40,000 needed for the trip. Dr. Baxter said that the group really enjoyed all aspects of their trip and were grateful for the opportunity to participate.



Adjourn: The meeting adjourned.

~~~~Minutes taken and drafted for Rooster Call by Fern Nall.



***Happy first Day  
of Spring This  
Week!***

**UPCOMING SPEAKER:** *March Speakers are arranged by Ron Weier*

March 24: Linsay Hollingsworth/Jen Collins, Student Abroad Program  
March 31: Tim Zauche, Thrivent Charitable giving