



May 2022 Volume 6 Issue 11b

SPECIAL EDITION:

Environmental Projects Showcased at 2022 Rotary International Convention

Showcasing Rotary Environmental Projects at Houston Convention

Sunday, May 29, 2022



Biodiversity

SPECIAL ISSUE: here's your preview of events, exhibits, and breakout sessions which will showcase Rotarians' environmental projects throughout the Rotary International Convention June 2-8 in Houston. If you have Rotary colleagues who are going, share this newsletter with them.

For your graphic delight, we reveal the projects featured on each of ESRAG's six theme banners in the House of Friendship. Thank you to everyone who shared your photos with us to inspire fellow Rotarians to protect our beautiful planet! Don't forget to visit [ESRAG's EXPO virtual exhibits](#) as well as our in-person House of Friendship booths 722 and 720.

Photo: the new urban apiary spearheaded by the Rotary Club di Benevento, Italy is one of a rapidly-growing worldwide network of Rotary-sponsored pollinator projects.

Connect with us on social media



Sign up for RAGTIME June 2

Sunday, May 29, 2022

If you're coming to Houston this week, start your Rotary adventure with RAGTIME, from 6-9 pm on Thursday night at the Houston Downtown Aquarium. All of Rotary's Action Groups are participating, so this is a wonderful chance to find out about their projects and network about collaborating with ESRAG. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and music while you visit Houston's aquarium. Guests are welcome. [Book your \\$50 tickets here.](#)

Photo: Justa Stove in Guatemala. ESRAG's Cleaner Cookstoves Task Force helps Rotarians choose stoves that fit the culture and economy of the

community. These technologies dramatically reduce families' exposure to dangerous particulates.



Pollution Solutions

Vote by June 2 for ESRAG Directors

Sunday, May 29, 2022



Circular Economy

Rotarians with an extraordinary array of environmental expertise and leadership experience are candidates for election to ESRAG's board, with voting open through June 2. If you are an ESRAG member and haven't voted yet, you can access your ballot in the May 18 **email from Patricia Armstrong, Chair ESRAG Nominating Committee**, with the subject line "Please vote now for Open ESRAG Board Positions." The sending email address is mailservice@iMembersDB.com. Pat's email will link you to the candidates' profiles. Click, read, and enjoy an inspiring glimpse of fellow members' knowledge and dedication.

Photo: This Green Menstruation project in India and the Donations in Kind network in Australia are outstanding examples of how Rotarians are benefitting communities by promoting circular economy and reducing what goes into dumps, rivers, and landfills. Dr. Mina Venkataraman, wearing the hot pink jacket, is a current member of ESRAG's Board.

ESRAG Party June 6 at Magnolia Hotel, 6:30-9 pm

By Karen D. Kendrick-Hands, ESRAG Director

Come to the Library at the beautiful Magnolia Hotel, five blocks from the Convention Center, for a wonderful evening of fun, friendship, food, and (re)connecting. We have all traveled so far and we all have to eat anyway: let's take this opportunity to gather informally. Bring your name tag, decorated with your ESRAG member ribbon. NO KEYNOTE speaker - no powerpoints, no podium photographs - but let's take a group picture halfway through the evening. [Register here](#). Sign up right away if you plan to come: our event space can only accommodate 50 people, so it's first come, first serve. Our head count is due at the hotel event office by Thursday, June 2 at 5 pm EDT. The ticket price is \$55 to (barely) cover our costs. We will enjoy passed appetizers, salad bar, and a quesadilla station. Cash bar.

If you sign up to come: we are using a new payment system called Pay Merchant, which functions in all countries where ESRAG has members. Please note that you need to scroll down all the way, even below the "accept terms and conditions" button, to see all the questions you need to answer for your payment



Food Systems

to go through. If you are bringing a guest, just enter the total number of tickets you need when you register for yourself. Thank you!

Photo: A growing number of schools in the US State of Maryland are reducing their food waste, some by over 80%, through the Lunch out of Landfills strategy spearheaded by Rotarian Joe Richardson. Students just won passage of a state law funding the expansion of the program across the state. Your ESRAG dinner will include plant-rich options and you can choose just how much food to put on your plate.

ESRAG now has two House of Friendship booths – 722 and 720



Just ten days ago, another Rotary group offered ESRAG the use of booth #720, right next to the ESRAG Booth #722, coordinated by Karen McDaniels, which features ESRAG's six themes. The second booth will showcase ESRAG's Plastics Solutions and lithium-battery ion recycling project. Heartfelt thanks to ESRAG's Clari Nolet and Lori Cloutier for your agility in taking this opportunity to inform Rotarians from all over the world about this vital set of environmental solutions. Both booths are right across the aisle from the giant Future of Rotary exhibit, so ESRAG will enjoy outstanding visibility with Convention participants from all over the world. Be sure to stop by and enjoy ESRAG's new exhibits including the fabulous medley Laurie Zuckerman created of short films showcasing environmental projects from six continents. Your project might be one of them!

Sustainable Living

Photo: This e-auto rickshaw, sponsored by Rotary District 3131 in India, dramatically reduces the pollution and the operating costs for this widely-used mode of transportation. There is an estimated 3 million three-wheeler passenger rickshaws in India alone.

Four RI Convention Breakouts Feature Environmental Projects

By Patricia Armstrong, ESRAG Chair-Elect

ESRAG members are presenting four breakout sessions at RICON 2022. If you're attending the Convention, consider signing up for these breakouts and recommending them to Rotary colleagues who are going to Houston.

- **Community Assessments for Environmental Grants, June 6, 1:30-2:30 pm:** Dr. Christopher Puttock (USA) hosts a panel sharing their experience carrying out community needs assessments for watershed, pollinator, and habitat projects.
- **Nuestros Rios y el Ambiente/Our Rivers and the Environment, June 6, 4:00-5:00 pm:** Salvador Rico (USA) will describe successful, replicable river projects and partnerships from several countries.
- **Rotaractors and Rotarians Together Make an Impact, June 7, 1-2 pm:** Carlos Montoya (Mexico) brings you good news on how Rotaractors and Rotarians are bridging the generational divide to develop impactful environmental projects.
- **Climate Change Adaptation for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), June 8, 9:30-10:30 am:** Michael Terrelonge (Jamaica) and an expert panel will share information on the impacts, implications, and responses of SIDS, a group of 85 nations which are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change. The talk will outline actions to mitigate the impacts and build



Climate Solutions

resilience.

Photo: spearheaded by Rotarian Nathan Thomas, DG 2022-23 for D7710, the U.S. nonprofit All We Are has provided solar electricity to over 100,000 people in Uganda, and equipped local teams to maintain the installations. These projects provide reliable power for schools and clinics, powering community economic development.

ESRAG Annual General Membership Meeting June 23 at Noon UTC



Oceanographer Mark Eakin, PhD, will keynote ESRAG's Annual General Meeting this year. Dr. Eakin created and led Coral Reef Watch during his 28-year career with NOAA, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Combining satellite temperature data and climate modeling, the system has accurately predicted every major mass bleaching event since 1997, giving reef managers early warning that enhances their ability to conserve reefs and the ecosystems they sustain, including fisheries. Eakin served as chief science advisor for the documentary "Chasing Coral," which won the audience award for Best U.S. Documentary at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and the 2018 Emmy for Best Nature Documentary.

ESRAG Directors will share highlights of the 2021-22 program year. We'll also welcome the newly-elected Directors and thank and say farewell to those who are completing their service on the Board. [Register here.](#)

Photo: NOAA (US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

ESRAG's Green Road Conference Rescheduled for 3 Virtual Sessions in August

We're delighted to announce that ESRAG's 2022 Conference will be held virtually on three consecutive Mondays: **August 8, 15, and 22**, with each session offered twice to accommodate people in different time zones. The title is **Working for our Future, Rotary International's Mission for the Environment**. Please share this invitation with anyone within and beyond Rotary who wants to protect our planet so all can thrive. Working for our Future will cover the same topics as the Green Road to RICON hybrid conference originally scheduled for June 3 in Houston. Here's the overview:

- Session 1: Strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources (biodiversity and food systems)
- Session 2: Advance environmental sustainability (energy, climate and pollution)
- Session 3: Foster harmony between people and the environment (environmental equity, circular economy, sustainable living)



Please save the dates! We'll send you registration information in the June or July newsletter.

Photo: CR Hanumanth, Reforestation Chair for ESRAG's South Asia Chapter, has mobilized Rotarians across India to partner with tribal networks and government agencies in reforestation projects using indigenous bamboo. This is a prime example of a high-impact Rotary biodiversity project.

The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group operates in accordance

with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.