

## President's Ponderances

On November 12 and 13 Rotarians from throughout Central Illinois will gather at the Urbana Holiday Inn for the District 6490 annual conference. If you would like to be a late registrant, details are available at [www.rotary6490.org](http://www.rotary6490.org). Important social issues, such as long term health care, health care literacy, water projects, character education for children and many others are on the agenda. Several members of Decatur 180 will be there, so you'll be among good company, as well as have the opportunity to make new friends.

Speaking of friends, bring one of yours to Rotary. He or she will be guaranteed a good program, a good meal, recognition, and lots of fellowship. There is a good chance your guest will know someone else at the meeting, demonstrating our community diversity. Membership growth is one of our priorities, and I have a shiny new penny to bet that someone in your business circle would be receptive to an invitation to join Rotary.

Your Rotary Board members have made some significant commitments for the benefit of the community, of which you should be aware. Before the end of the year we will be making the second to last installment on our \$100,000 pledge to the Decatur Park District for the development of Rotary Park. Your Board also voted to allocate \$5,000 to fund a project that will commemorate the Rotary Centennial. We will be melding our funds with those of the Decatur Metro and Forsyth Sunrise clubs. While the details have not yet been worked out, we hope the effort will result in a memorial that will be around for the Rotary Bicentennial.

Additionally, your Board members will be approving \$11,000 in grants to needy community agencies, and sponsoring a series of billboards early in 2005 to mark our 100th anniversary.

Author and Minister Max Lucado said, "The people who make a difference are not the ones with the credentials, but the ones with the concern." That describes your Board members and all of you as Rotarians.

Stu



## Renewing the Past

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Director, Joel Brunsvold was the speaker at our October 25 meeting. In addition to providing our club with an overview of the IDNR's organizational structure, Director Brunsvold made a

very special announcement. The IDNR presented the Decatur Park District with a \$35,000 grant and will be teaming with them to complete the renovation Dreamland Lake in Fairview Park.

(continues p4.)

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' mission is to protect and manage the natural resources of Illinois. We work diligently to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. The agency is organized into a network of offices whose duties are specialized to meet the changing needs associated with our mission.

## Excellence in Our Youth

Christine Blackwell



Another example of academic and athletic excellence here in Decatur was recognized at the October 25th Rotary Luncheon. Two exceptional MacArthur High School Seniors, Christine Blackwell and Matt Howard, were honored for their achievements both in the classroom and on the playing field.

Illinois Power, The Decatur Athletic Council and our Rotary Club jointly sponsor the Scholar/Athletic award.

Each month one female and one male, from one of the three Decatur high schools, is recognized and awarded a monetary donation from Illinois Power, along with a plaque.

Christine is the National Honor Society Vice President, a member of the Youth Leadership Institute (2003-2004), involved in Student Council (4 yrs.) and plays the rumpet in the Wind Symphony, Marching Band and Pep Band (4 yrs.). Christine is ranked 19th of 245 students with a 4.814 grade point average. Her athletic resume includes playing volleyball all four

years, lettering in 2003 & 2004 and leading the team in digs and serving percentage. She also played softball her freshman and sophomore years, lettering as a sophomore. Christine plans to attend the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana to pursue a career in Elementary Education. Christine's coach had this to say about her, "Christine is a girl who gives one hundred percent and plays up to her potential every game."

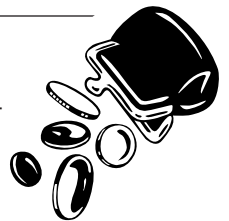
While being involved in Architecture & Engineering, Matt received an Outstanding Draftsman Award. He also played the saxophone his freshman and sophomore years and won an Outstanding Soloist Award. He played Football all four years, was a letterman 3 years, all county 2nd team defensive linebacker in 2003 and Team Captain & fullback in 2004. He also played tennis in 2004, ran track one year and was on the wrestling team for one year. Matt's coach had this to say about him, "Matt is a dedicated hard worker. He is dependable and is an asset to our football team." Matt plans to attend Wabash College in Indiana to receive a pre-professional degree in Architectural Engineering and would like to compete in football while in college.

Matt Howard

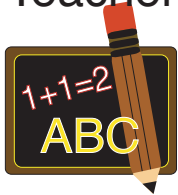


## Penny Fund

During the month of October our group elected to do a little something different with the donations to the Penny Fund. Typically the money collected from the Penny Fund & Happy Bucks would be donated to a local charity. This month, at the suggestion of Tom Brinkoetter, Decatur Rotary 180 will send these contributions to the Pelican Bay Rotary Club in Naples, FL to go toward a Florida Hurricane Relief fund. The Pelican Bay Rotary Club will in turn match the amount that we send. October donations to the Penny Fund and Happy Bucks totaled \$354.40. Our November contributions will go to Community Foundation Rotary Fund.



## Teacher of the Month



Susan Kreher a Family Consumer Science Teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School was

presented with this month's Teacher of the Month award. Susan has been a full-time teacher for the past six years. For the three years prior to that she was a substitute teacher while she worked on her MS degree in Consumer Education. Although this is a second career for her, Susan feels it is what she was always intended to

do. She says, "Nothing feels better than making a difference in the lives of others. My students make a difference in my life, and when they call after several years to share some news or ask my opinion, I know I've made a difference in theirs as well." One of Susan's co-workers had this say about her – "Mrs. Kreher is a bright light in everyone's day at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Her positive attitude about school, work, students and peers often encourages and brightens the day of all that encounter her."



November is Rotary Foundation Month. Promote the good work that The Rotary Foundation is doing worldwide by sharing the wealth of Foundation information on the RI web site with fellow club members and your community. In the Foundation section, you can get the latest news about global polio eradication and learn about Every Rotarian, Every Year and other Foundation programs and initiatives. Looking for an application for an Ambassadorial Scholarship, Marching Grant, or Foundation service award? You will find all that and more by clicking on the "Materials for Download" link at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

## BULLETIN BOARD

\* For those of you who were not able to attend the 10/18 Rotary meeting, you will have another opportunity to hear Millikin President Doug Zemke on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Old King's Orchard Community Center. Dr. Zemke will be the featured speaker at a benefit honoring one of Decatur Rotary's former members Merlin Outcalt and his wife Ruth Ann. Proceeds raised from the benefit will go toward the purchase of a van for the Old King's Orchard Community Center aimed at helping young people. The Old King's Orchard Neighborhood ranks second in youngest population, second in most racially mixed and second in poorest community categories for Decatur. The only community to exceed in these categories is public housing. Merlin and Ruth Ann Outcalt helped start the Old

King's Orchard Community Center, located at 815 North Church St., in 2000. If interested making a contribution or attending please contact Jim Sober at 864-4125 x100 or [jimmysober@yahoo.com](mailto:jimmysober@yahoo.com). The meal is at no cost, reservations are preferred but not required and donations will be accepted at the event.

\* As mentioned in Stu's letter, the Grants Committee will be accepting applications for grants awarded during the 2005 calendar year. An application form will be available on our Web site. November 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline. The Grants Committee will present the list of recipients at the December board meeting, and grants will be awarded in January and February.

## November 1, 2004

The University of Illinois' Men's Tennis Team is one of the best in the country. Coach Craig Tiley will join us and let us know how he developed and continues to develop winning teams. You will enjoy him—he also has a great sense of humor!

## November 8, 2004

To commemorate Veterans' Day, we welcome several veterans of the Korean War to Rotary. TellAmerica is an organization of Korean War veterans who present programs in the schools to educate children about this often forgotten war. Floyd Cooper, Duane Boriff, and Dave Mayberry, all Korean War veterans, will share some of their experiences in Korea with the club.

## November 15, 2004

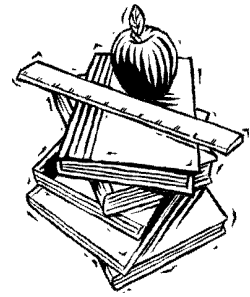
Many of you may remember Chris Gandy of U of I basketball fame. Chris was Co-Captain of the 1996-1997 team and 2nd Team All Big Ten. Chris will share with us an inspiring story of how college athletics helped him transition to the business world. Today, Chris owns his own financial services firm and works with athletes, key business people and minorities.

## November 22, 2004

Did you ever wonder who develops the artistic renderings that let all of us "see" the Decatur Treasures, the Mound & 51 development? Kent Massie is a landscape architect and "The Man Behind the Plan". Kent and his wife, who is also a landscape architect, have worked on many projects throughout Central Illinois. He will share some of his experiences as well as bring examples of intriguing projects to the meeting.

## November 29, 2004

Branin Lane knows a lot about Enova Oil. He is the Research Manager, Nutritional Science at ADM Research. Branin will talk with us about some of the very interesting developments in his work at ADM.



## The Gift of Reading

As a tribute to our weekly speakers, Rotary Club makes a monthly donation to a pre-selected School of the Month. Thanks to the generosity of all our previous speakers, a \$60 Speakers Honorarium went to Decatur Christian Elementary School for the purchase of library books. Durfee Grade School will be the recipient of our November gift.



## Renewing the Past (Cont.)

Dreamland Lake has served as a popular family spot for nearly a century. Since the early 1900's, youngsters have tried to lure the "big ones" from the depths of the lake. Throughout generations, Dreamland Lake has continued to be a cornerstone of family activity in Decatur. Now the home of the Decatur Park District's Urban Fisheries program, the lake has provided the first fishing experience for many Decatur children. Through the generosity of the IDNR, as well as the community and corporations, Dreamland Lake can continue to serve families and our community for years to come.

## Rotary 180 Officers

**Stu Ellis - President**  
**Dave Brandon - President Elect**  
**Heather Stoa - Secretary**  
**Steve Furrow - Treasurer**  
**Miley Palmer- Immediate Past President**

For a list of board members and committee chairs visit our website at:  
[www.decaturreotary.org](http://www.decaturreotary.org)