

The Roundtable

**Published Mostly Weekly by the
Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Club**

www.bangorbreakfastrotary.org

May 18, 2017

Chair Persons

The red wheelchair glowed in the light of today's brilliant spring morning. David Wells, former president and current member of the Ellsworth Rotary Club, delivered the wheelchair and described the project that provides wheelchairs to Panama, Belize and Costa Rica. This is the third year that the club has donated the chairs.

"Three percent of the world's population is in need of mobility devices, such as wheelchairs, crutches or canes," he said. Some individuals had never been able to walk, and moved about on the ground using their hands. There are polio victims and multiple amputees.

Showing a photograph of one recipient of a wheelchair, we saw the young man smiling broadly as he was finally able to move about freely. Being on the ground, such as he was, carries the stigma of "being unclean."

Until this morning, when the Bangor



Breakfast Rotary

joined with its

support, the Ellsworth Rotary, Bangor Noon Rotary and the Plymouth, New Hampshire Rotary Club provided the financial support to purchase and deliver wheel chairs.

Panama received 115 wheelchairs in 2015. In one case, a young man had cerebral palsy and could not speak; his parents had to physically carry him everywhere. The special wheelchair freed him to be mobile. The cerebral palsy chairs are specially made and cost about \$700, plus \$150 shipping.

Belize, where there are many industrial accidents leaving victims unable to walk, received 125 wheelchairs in 2016. Wheelchairs enable job seekers to find work.



This year, the clubs distributed 120 wheelchairs to Costa Rica. Individuals can donate chairs, if they wish. Volunteers receive intensive training before going, and each trip is accompanied by two physical therapists.

The wheelchairs are made in Asia, cost \$165 each and last eight-ten years. Mr. Wells invited us to travel with his group to La Romana, Dominican Republic in February 2018 where they will check on logistics for the next wheelchair donations.

Ken Nagle, who introduced Mr. Wells, and who is the new chairman of the Club's Appropriations Committee, can provide more information about donations.

David Wells



Et Cetera

President Kristy Kimball, buoyed by the rise in endorphins brought on by the lovely, certifiable spring morning, invited us (again) to the Bangor City Forest Cleanup project this Saturday from 9-11 am. Bangor Noon Rotary and Old Town Rotary will grab rakes, brooms, gloves and shovels. Meet in the main parking lot at the Forest.

John Quinn reported in the Interact Club's end-of-year activities, including one that lots of hands help make fun: washing all the YMCA busses. On June 3, the members will help in a warehouse in Portland; **Shawn Lewin** has details. **Paul Miragliuolo** fined John for his appearance on TV.

Prize-winning gift donations are flowing in, according to **Ken Huhn**. He is coordinating them for the Business Expo on May 24, 4:30-7:30 at the Cross Insurance Center.

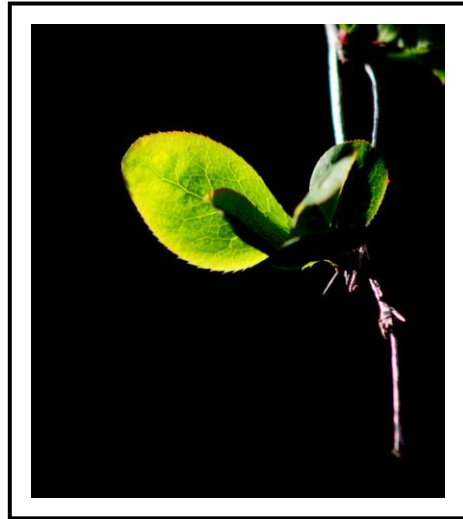
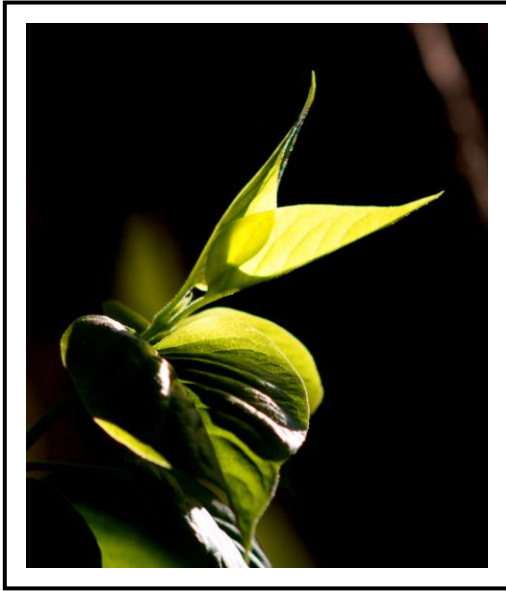
The Trilling Trio sang the birthday ode to **Erich Herbert** and **Ned Jennings**. Ned said that he received a call from Mary Clift, widow of former Breakfast Rotarian and President, **Ed Clift**, thanking the club for "the most generous donation we have ever received!" The Club donated \$1,000 to the Bangor Children's Fund.

From the Bits and Pieces Department: Paul had a new windshield installed last Thursday and it was destroyed while Paul drove in the interstate on Friday. Shawn

Lewin, on the other hand, had a new windshield installed and stayed dry through all the recent rains.

The Joker's Wild cache pot has grown to \$468, to be won by a diner at the annual dinner on June 30.

Les Myers- May 18, 2017



Spring!