

# ROTARY ANCHOR



2008/2009 Rotary Theme

**New London Rotary Club**  
**District 7980 Club 6741**  
 P.O. Box 654 New London, CT 06320  
 www.newlondonrotary.org

**Meeting Thursday April 23, 2009**

**New London "AM" Club 7am Thursdays**



## New London Rotary Polio Plus Effort

President Elect Anna Lathrop and Kathleen Neal are heading up our club Polio Plus fundraising efforts. Although our club is being challenged to raise \$6,000 over 3 years they announced a **Gas Raffle** that is scheduled to raise \$12,000 in 1 year. It will launch at *Springfest 2009 at the Beach* and all club members will be asked to sell tickets.

### Programs

<b>April 23 Heavy Hitters USA - Keith Lee and Kent Ward</b>			
April 30 ECSO- Sarah Katsuko Hicks+GSE Team-Central America			
<b>Reporters:</b>	Apr 23	Ann Connolly	
	Apr 30	Alan Messier	
<b>Greeter:</b>	Apr 23	Meredith Diette	
	Apr 30	Anne Schmidt	
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Apr 23	Millie Devine	
	Apr 30	Rob White	
<b>Birthdays</b>	Apr 25	Mike Stryker	
	Apr 27	Liz Binger	
	Apr 29	Lisa kasprczak	
		Ed Cornell	
		Mark Patnode	
<b>Anniversaries</b>	Apr 29	Bob Silverstein & Cindy	

### Welcome to Rotary

#### Jill Mauritz

Jill is the Operations Manager of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford. Her classification is **Theater-Operations**. She was educated at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota. Jill lives in New London and enjoys live music which makes her at home in downtown New London. Jill is also an avid sports fan. We Welcome Jill to the New London Rotary Club.



### Environmental Continued

ects on tropical farms for carbon sequestration.

The basic premise of the model is to contract with local Costa Rican farmers for 25 years to plant, grow, and manage forests which extract carbon dioxide from the air and store it, thereby eliminating its harmful effects on the environment. Every acre of forest sequesters 25 tons of carbon dioxide per year on average during the life of the 25 year contract. This arrangement is profitable for the farmers because they receive income by selling the wood that is harvested during the repeated thinning of the forest every five years. As long as the harvested wood is not burned for fuel, the carbon dioxide remains sequestered. Typically, 1 pound of dry wood sequesters 2 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Currently, there are 61 participants in the RTT project, including Home Depot, Connecticut College, Yale School of Forestry, Mohegan Casinos, and our own New London Rotary Club which donated \$831 in 1998 to create 1 acre of forest after a presentation at that time by Dr. Barres. Many pictures were shown to the club of our forest and the good work it is producing.

### Bateswoods Enviromental Program March 19, 2009

By: Barry Runyan

Club members enjoyed an opportunity to hear about the School Enrichment Model Initiative (SEMI) group which is part of the New London Schools' Bateswoods Environmental Education Program (BEEP). In addition, the club received an update from Dr. Herster Barres on the Costa Rica reforestation/carbon sequestration project.

During the first part of the presentation, Ms. Jody Barthel, a New London school teacher for 27 years, introduced a group of 4th and 5th grade SEMI students from the Nathan Hale, Harbor, Jennings, and Winthrop elementary schools. SEMI is comprised of gifted and talented students who are learning by working on various environmental service projects, such as school recycling. The students entertained us by reading to us the Mission Statement for SEMI's Environmental Education Program. That mission is to enrich Grade 4 & 5 stu-



dents who exemplify exceptional academic, leadership and motivational skills in the arenas of science and Earth Stewardship and to empower students to become environmental activists, employing their knowledge of Earth's ecosystems, to make changes and differences in their lives and promote environmental well being. The students of SEMI are currently involved in a fund-raising project selling nuts to fund a new forest in Costa Rica to offset the carbon emissions of the New London Public Schools.

The SEMI fundraising project was a perfect lead-in for Dr. Barres to talk about the Costa Rica reforestation and carbon dioxide sequestration project which has been ongoing since the early 90's. Dr. Barres is the founder and President of Reforest The Tropics, Inc. (RTT), a non-profit applied research organization working to mitigate global warming through sustainable forestry and long-term, verifiable carbon sequestration. It manages a UNFCCC Program to develop and demonstrate the use of pasture reforestation proj-

