Volume 2 | Issue 3
13 agosto, 2026

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Atenas







Plant A Tree



The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

--Chinese proverb

Meeting Highlights

Our "guest" speaker this week was our very own **Everett**, who shared with us his passion of reforestation. If you were absent for this meeting, you missed one of the best presentations our group has ever had.

Everett's decades-long journey has taken him from St. Paul, Minnesota to Costa Rica; from rescuing animals in the dead of winter to building housing for volunteers of Kids Saving the Rainforest in Quepos, where he lived and volunteered in animal rescue for several years. But he found his true calling with **Community Carbon Trees** (communitycarbontrees.org).

ACCT promotes conservation through "community-based nonprofit reforestation projects."[1] Two nurseries grow over 100 different tropical rainforest tree species from locally collected seeds. The resultant saplings are replanted on family-owned farms, "strategically designed as a natural forest matrix."[2] ACCT then maintains the trees for the next 4 years, ensuring its growth and prosperity. The care of the forests are then given over to the farming families, with further instruction for long-term sustainability.

Throughout the entire process, local men and women are paid fair wages, providing local jobs to the community. Farmers are paid to plant trees and benefit from the products of the resulting forests. The world benefits as 25 years of just one tree fixes one ton of carbon dioxide. Since the program's inception in 2010, 21,740 trees have been planted on Costa Rican farms. And since 2002, ACCT has aided in planting over 600,000 trees in Costa Rica.[3]

It is hard for one to miss the parallel between the cumulative effect of planting one tree at a time that results in a forest and a community that is sustained through a Rotarian's simple act of contributing to their neighbors. Truly inspirational. Thanks Everett. And be sure to check out the ACCT's website. There's so much more there.

More Meeting Highlights

The **Fund-Raising Committee** met this past week and came up with several ideas. They are proposing that Atenas Rotary pursue 2 big and 3 small events each year to raise money and spread awareness of our efforts. One event should be the Bingo; the other a cultural festival (more details to come on that). For the smaller events, they recommend joining several of the Atenas-wide celebrations (like the Christmas fair or annual Atenas birthday celebrations) with our own venue offering American food or

[1, 2, 3] https://www.communitycarbontrees.org/reforestation-projects



crafts. To aid with this, they are recommending the procurement of banners and a tent, all replete with the Rotary emblem and our principles in Spanish and English. Such a regular presence in the community could also help with recruitment of future Rotarians. Imagine a Tico looking forward to the Christmas fair just to get one of our roast beef and turkey sandwiches! Constancy builds trust.

In an update pertaining to the recent gift to our club from Dave's family, Joe spoke on a recent trip to the **Escuela Jesus.** As a special tribute to Dave, we hope to be able to refurbish 25 desks for the school. Material may cost less than $500 (maybe another 25 desks for another school?!). If **we all** chip in with the work, this could be an inexpensive, ongoing project for years to come. Imagine how "planting" desks can help a grow a forest of children with a love for education.



Several Rotarians recently attended **Atenas's 158th birthday celebration** at the invitation of the mayor's office. More evidence of our growth within the community.

The **web site** for the club (AtenasRotary.org) is coming along. It's a big, big project that will be rolled out over time ("a living document"). Long discussion of having members' first names and pictures (only) available to the public as a means to improve recruitment. Lynn requests everyone go to the website and log-in. She's forwarding a how-to document. Look for it.



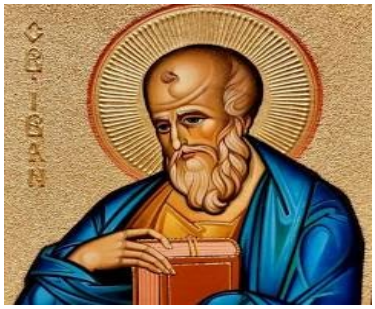
Sadly, the asada water project with **Altas de Naranja, San Isidro** has been put on hold without an end in sight. We are looking for another asada that could use the help from Rotary clubs in San Jose Norte and Alberta, Canada.

Member News & Happy Dollars

Today's guests:

- **John**, with his 3rd meeting, up for coronation. Or was it canonization?
- **Hans**, making his 1st appearance. We hope he comes back, just so we can learn his last name.
- **Karen**, who used to live here but absconded down south with the great migration.

All joined the usual cast of miscreants: Eric, Lynn, Chris, Rosie, Joe, Nancy, Leslie, Shannon and, of course, Everett.



Happy People

- **Nancy** and **Leslie** are glad that health issues are turning around.
- **John** just had a dollar burning a hole in his pocket. But he guesses his shoulders are working better than they were.
- **Rosie** (who must have a ginormous family) is happy that her son and daughter-in-law are celebrating anniversary number 3.
- **Lynn** is always happy about something.
- **Eric** is happy that it was (finally) Lynn's turn to pay the happy dollars jar (and for Everett's wonderful presentation).



Happy News

- After 17 days, **Dave** will be leaving the hospital in Georgia. There was a general discussion on how much weight he's lost. In the end, we're just happy he's heading in the right direction.
- Sounds like **Cynthia** is too. Keep her in your thoughts.


(still not the District Governor)

Officers & Committee Chairs

President
Eric Snyder
President Elect
Russell Herold
Treasurer
Rosie Olds
Secretary
Lynn Snyder
Sgt-at-Arms
Holly Herold
Foundation Chair
Chris Toal
Public Image
OPEN POSITIOIN
Membership
OPEN POSITION
Nonconforming Newsletter
Joe Rossi
PR/Website
Shannon Farley
Programs
Leslie Mueller
Sunshine Committee
Betty Van Putten
Fundraising
OPEN POSITION
Club Events
Mary Beth Clark
Service Projects
Joe Rossi
Outreach
OPEN POSITION

Upcoming Events

A whole bunch of people are going to be inducted into *Club Rotario de Atenas* on August 20th. Why? Because the **District Governor** is coming! Be there or be square. Oh, and get your education certificate. It's the least we can do, because evidently, we're not gonna follow the 4-page standard gubernatorial agenda.

Nolan's **Mas Millas Menos Polio** (see last newsletter) kicks off August 22/23. Eric and Lynn are going. There will be an overnighter. See Lynn for hotel details.

Next Meetings

- Governor on the 20th (that's next week, people)
- September 3rd **Lucy Jackson,** a nurse practitioner with hospice experience, will be speaking about aging gracefully. (Personally, I plan on going kicking and screaming)
- September 17th **Denise Gillen,** a former senior zookeeper at the San Diego zoo, will be speaking about animal conservation in Costa Rica. Maybe she'll bring an ocelot! I'd settle for a sloth.
- Both of these September meetings afford us a great opportunity to invite guests and recruit!

And finally…

I leave you with a bit of personal reflection. As part of the website development, I've had the chance to look at the websites of other clubs on Club Runner. I was amazed by the clubs which have been around for decades, at the resources they have at their disposal, and at what they have been able to, and continue to, accomplish with those resources.

We are a new club, a scattering of saplings banding together to provide a little shade and relief to those less fortunate than ourselves. Most of us will never see the forest that ***Club Rotario de Atenas*** will one day become. And it's easy to get discouraged that, because we weren't around twenty years ago, our reach—the shade we can provide—is meager. But that's okay. Because if we couldn't be saplings twenty years ago, at least we are today. And someday we *will* be a forest. Imagine all that will be accomplished by those who come after us. Because today, we are saplings.

