

## Upcoming Speakers

July 2015

07/22 - Dr. Sam McNeill, UK Research and Education Center, Bio Systems and Agricultural Engineering  
07/29 - Paducah's Exciting New Health Park

## Club Leaders



**John A. Williams Jr.**  
President



**Glen Anderson**  
President-Elect



**Phyllis B. Russell**  
Secretary



**Thomas Scott Taylor**  
Treasurer

**Todd Anderson**  
Membership Chair

**Don Barger**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Roger Truitt**  
Rotary Foundation Chair



**Jamie B. Futrell**  
iPast President

**Denise A. Chapman**  
Club Executive Secretary

## Birthdays

**Gloria Meriwether**

July 19

**Julie Hart**

July 19

**William Robert Johnston**

July 20

**Jeff Pederson**

July 21

**Brandon Barnhill**

July 22

**Melanie W. McNeill**

July 23

**Dan Key**

July 25

**Don Barger**

July 29

**Scott Powell**

July 30

**Victor Sredl**

July 31

**Christopher Sims**

August 01

**Robyn Shapiro**

August 01

**Cathy Crececius**

August 04

**Patrick Withrow**

August 04

**Brian J. Laczko**

August 07



# GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah

Website: [www.PaducahRotary.org](http://www.PaducahRotary.org)

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*4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.*

## New Plan for an Old Promise

July 15th, 2015



The Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area is a cultural and scenic jewel, which attracts an average of two million visitors a year, but Lyon County Judge Executive Wade White said tourism could dwindle if the U.S. Forest Service is allowed to continue expanding an experimental program to return the wooded area to "Pre-European settlement conditions." The Forest Service, which took over management of the national recreation area from the Tennessee Valley Authority, instituted an 8,600 acre demonstration area to create an Oak Grassland, which involved timber cutting and burning.

Judge White said the Forest Service has failed to keep data on the success or failure of the project, but to the eyes of local residents it is a failure.

"When you cut the majority of timber and burn in western Kentucky what you get are briars and brush," he said. Photos of the area, which has been under management since 2004 show just that. There is no historical evidence the area was a grassland prior to European settlement. White said there are historical documents describing the area as thick forest.

White, and others, are concerned the Forest Service wishes to expand this Oak Grassland up and down the length of the LBL. Yesterday, the Forest Service backed down from its intent to bring the management practice to more than 4,400 acres at Pisgah Bay. "This is a huge victory for us. It is a sign of things to come. We have changed the debate," he said just as opponents are also hoping to stop them from expanding the practices to the Eddyville Ferry area.

White hopes a coalition of supporters can encourage the Forest Service to write a new management plan, which will include less logging and burning, and more improvements to the LBL's recreational aspects. "We are in favor of them continuing the 8600 Demonstration Area until they gather data that proves it works," he said. An ideal new plan, he said, would also include wildlife and game habitat, more environmental education programs, restore and create new trails, restore and maintain campgrounds, boat ramps, roads to cemeteries and preserve historic sites. None of which are being done successfully now.

Perhaps even more troubling about the lack of record keeping on the 8600 project is there is no accounting for the funds the Forest Service reaps from the timber and the prescribed burns. White said the Forest Service is receiving only 30% of the market value of the timber, and is paid for each acre that is burned. The TVA promised the former residents of the LBL the area would never be commercialized and only preserved for recreational use.

The public is invited to become involved by taking a driving tour of the 8,600 or visiting [www.the8600.com](http://www.the8600.com) to learn more by viewing photos and videos. The site contains the contact information for Tina Tilley, Area Supervisor of the LBL.

Although encouraged by the Pisgah Bay victory, White hopes the public will encourage the Forest Service to continue the type of collaboration that resulted in yesterday's announcement. Public meetings will be held over the next couple of months.



## Announcements

July 15th, 2015

President John announced CD's of the Rotary District Speech Contest are now available for \$10 each.

Be watching your email inbox for information on the Club's new local project that will begin soon.

## Guests

July 15th, 2015

Heather Thomas, Erin Sieberkrob, Katherine Brock, Alicia Hargrove and Alison Barker - guests of Mike Muscarella

Tracie Deaton - guest of Chuck Heyduck

Lew Wallace - guest of Ken Wheeler

Janece Everett - guest of Sandra Wilson

Mark Mitchell - guest of David Morse

Della Oliver – guest of Speaker, Wade White