

WE'RE GETTING OUR NATIVE PLANTS
READY FOR POLLINATOR SEASON

Thirteen of our fifteen Habitat Helpers pitched in on Saturday to get our pollinator/rainwater garden ready for this year's crop of butterflies, moths, bees, and other critters. Waiting for them, forty-six varieties of native plants—their food sources and shelter—are popping up or getting ready to emerge.

Whether you want to integrate a few natives into your traditional landscape or create a pollinator or rainwater garden of your own, check out our club website: <https://rotarylexky.org/pollinator-garden/> Scroll down to see the planting diagram, then choose a plant by name and number. You'll find its botanical name, a photo of the plant in bloom, and its bloom time.

And if you'd like to visit the plants in bloom, let us know. We'd be happy to give you a tour!

— Judy Worth



Habitat Helpers back row, left to right: Bill Wilson, Harry Richart, Duncan Hines, Jeff Thompson, Gary Wilmhoff, Jack McAllister; front row: Wanda Bertram, Judy Worth, Virginia Smith Carter, Kimberly Hammond, Graham Marks, Cole Meier, and (behind the iPhone) Gerry van der Meer.

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- UPCOMING PROGRAMS**
- May 7** Leon Hirsh, Rotary's Fight for Polio Eradication
 - May 14** Tommy Bell Award
 - May 21** Doing Rotary Differently
 - May 28** Scholarship Day

- UPCOMING EVENTS**
- May 21** Lexington Legends Game in the Suites
 - May 22** Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30 am
 - May 30** Dancing with the Lexington Stars, Carrick House, 6 pm
 - Jun 11** Rotary Picnic at Gatton Park

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RLCC



The Rotary Large Club Conference, which is being hosted by the Rotary Club of Lexington on September 27-30 needs volunteers - lots of them. Interested in being a greeter at Bluegrass Airport, staffing the registration desk, or assisting with special events? If so, we have job for you. More than 100 Rotarians and guests from clubs across the United States and Canada will be attending and we want to provide the Bluegrass hospitality we are know for. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, contact Dean Hammond who is chair of this committee, or any of the other committee chairs, listed below. Let's help our club shine when it is time for "Call to the Post."

Sponsorships: Bret Anderson, Kim Johnson
Marketing/Website: Peggy
Registration: Susie Basham
Gift Bags: Sharon Reed
Special Events/Hospitality: Lyle Hanna, Jim Martin
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Hospitality Suite- TBD
Hospitality - Airport, Check-in- John Keibler, others, TBD

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

April 30, 2026
— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Dean Hammond
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Cheyenne McBride
Introduction of Guests: Mike Baker
Introduction of Speakers: Lyle Hanna

Speakers: Gabby Gaudet, Director of Communications, Keeneland Association with Tom Leach , Voice of the Wildcats and Expert Handicapper
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKERS

GABBY GAUDET

As April slowly meanders into Spring, we find ourselves in what is arguably the high season in Kentucky. The charm and gentility of the Keeneland Spring meet morphs into the pomp and circumstance of the Kentucky Derby and the Kentucky Oaks. Both are instrumental to Kentucky's claim of being the "horse capital of the world."

Today Rotarians are privileged to hear about both, from two individuals who, as they say, should know: Gabby Gaudet, Keeneland's Director of Communications, and respected broadcaster Tom Leach.

A respected voice in Thoroughbred racing with more than a decade of national media experience, Gaudet, who joined Keeneland in 2025, oversees Keeneland's strategic communications

TOM LEACH

she worked as a writer for The Saratoga Special, further honing her skills in racing journalism and storytelling. She also serves on the board of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and the advisory board of the Safety Net Foundation, which provides financial assistance to individuals in need within the racing industry.

Gaudet resides in Louisville, Kentucky, with her husband, trainer Norm Casse, and their two sons. She hails from a prominent racing family – her parents, Linda and the late Eddie Gaudet, were respected trainers in the Mid-Atlantic region, and her sister, Lacey Gaudet, continues the family tradition as a trainer.

Tom Leach began his work on the UK Radio Network in 1989 as host of the postgame scoreboard and call-in shows. Eight years later, he was named the play-by-play voice for Kentucky football and he added the basketball responsibilities in 2001. Tom has been at the mic for many memorable moments for UK sports, including the 2012 national championship for the Kentucky basketball team and the call of the 2019

efforts. In this role, she serves as a key spokesperson and guides the organization's messaging and earned media strategy across multiple platforms.

Gaudet joined Keeneland from FanDuel TV, where she was a lead racing analyst and reporter covering premier events such as the Triple Crown and the Breeders' Cup World Championships. Her international assignments have included racing coverage from Hong Kong, Canada and Royal Ascot in England.

A 2013 graduate of Towson University with a degree in Mass Communication, Gaudet began her career with the Maryland Jockey Club before holding roles at Arlington Park, Gulfstream Park, NYRA and TVG (now FanDuel TV). In addition to her on-air roles,

SPEAKERS, 2

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Editorial Standards: *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed.

FROM PAGE 1

SPEAKERS

Citrus Bowl win over Penn State, which marked the first 10-win season for UK football in more than 40 years. Tom has worked four Final Fours with the Wildcats and thirteen bowl games.

Another Bluegrass tradition is part of Tom's broadcasting resume--thoroughbred racing. Tom is a two-time winner of the prestigious Eclipse Award for excellence in coverage of the sport and he covers racing throughout the year through his association with Keeneland. He has also worked as a reporter on the Westwood One/NBC Sports national radio broadcasts of the Triple Crown races.

Tom is a 6-time winner of the Sports-

caster of the Year award for Kentucky from the National Sports Media Association. Others honors including being named a Distinguished Alumnus by the journalism school at the University of Kentucky and winning the Tom Hammond Media Award from the Bluegrass Sports Commission, for career achievement. He is also a member of the 10th Region Hall of Fame as a contributor, for his high school play-by-play work with the Bourbon County Colonels and Paris Greyhounds.

Tom is married to Robyn Rabbeth, a former anchor for WLEX-TV. They have two children--Connor and Caroline.

Rotary in Review

DR. JAY MORGAN INVITES US TO COME SOAR WITH MOREHEAD STATE

Last week's speaker at the Rotary Club of Lexington's lunch meeting was Dr. Jay Morgan, President of Morehead State University (MSU). His presentation highlighted the developments and achievements of MSU, notably in its academic programs and facilities, with an emphasis on the university's strength in scientific and technological fields such

as its space science program.

Dr. Morgan opened with some light-hearted anecdotes from his own experience with Rotary, referring to himself as an "inactive" Rotarian. He noted that he quickly learned that there was a fifth element to the 4-Way Test: "Thou shall endeth on time." He promised to comply with that tenet and was true to his

word. He also likened the seating protocol as being akin to church and that you sat in the preferred seat of a more senior Rotarian at your own risk. Not afraid to laugh at himself, he also told of his experience learning to speak in public, which involved him knocking the podium into the first row of elderly female attendees from the Greenfield Baptist Church Ladies Club!

He referred to MSU as a "wonderful partner with the Commonwealth of Kentucky." Of its approximately 8,900 students, somewhere in the neighborhood of 85% are from Kentucky, with the remainder being largely from neighboring states like West Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio, and Indiana. Many are from Lexington and the fifty minute drive (State trooper dependent!) from Hamburg Place to campus was noted.

During Dr. Morgan's nine years at MSU, much focus has been on increasing its standing in national rankings. This has resulted in a current ranking as the 12th best public regional university in the South, according to the *U.S. News & World Report*. His goal: to reach the top ten!

To highlight MSU's success, attention was brought to a couple of its programs, with the first being its Veterinary Program. That program is ranked

number one in Kentucky and thirteenth nationally, with a nearly 100% job placement rate. A new veterinary clinic opened recently. The second program highlighted was the Craft Academy, an innovative program for 11th and 12th graders that offers college-level courses focused on STEM, aiming to prepare future inventors and scientists.

And then there is the Space Science Program, referred to as the "hidden gem." This program operates without state funding, receiving R&D funding from major organizations such as NASA. It offers bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees exclusively in space science and engineering. It also offers unique capabilities in tracking lunar missions and spacecraft, with a facility that is one of only nine worldwide that can perform certain NASA deep space tracking activities. In the Q & A that followed his presentation, Dr. Morgan that the activities under this program are often subject to national security concerns that limit who can access certain information. Still, around 70% of space science students participate in hands-on learning. This figure rises to nearly 100% for students in masters and doctoral programs.

In closing, it was noted that the MSU campus is undergoing signifi-

cant development with new buildings focused on STEM education and updated residence halls. Investments in infrastructure are made with a goal of blending modern facilities with historical aesthetics.

— Jim Richardson

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIANS

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Look for their bios in an upcoming issue of *The 5th Page*.

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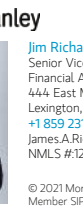

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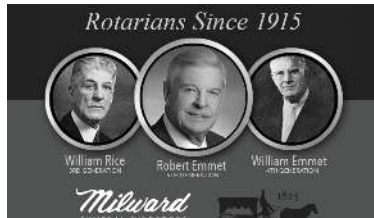
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