

# Rotary



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

## **Wilton Rotary Drummer**

**Wilton, Connecticut**

[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

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**Editor: Bill Meehan**

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Wilton Rotary's series on fish tales continued with a pre-holiday gathering of fifteen Rotarians and Jeff Yates, Director of Volunteer Operations for Trout Unlimited.

### **Announcements:**

- **MEMBER OF THE DAY** – Pat was unanimously selected member of the hour, day and month by announcing "The next one's on me!" All present took Pat at his word. Thanks Pat.
- **January 11** – Bud announced there would be a **fundraiser at Wayback Burger for Tractside**. Wayback Burger is located on Main Street/Route 7, near DMV in Norwalk. Bud to follow with details.
- **January 20 – Wilton Library Indoor Golf Tournament** – 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Test your skills. Longest drive competition. Rotary hot-dogs. Tickets at the door. Something for everyone.
- Christene announced that mid-year grants have been awarded. Grants have been issued to the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Malta House, Community Steps and others.
- The Board announced its slate of nominees for 2018-2019. Christene has been nominated to return as President, Pam Brown for Vice-President and Susan for Vice-Vice President. Others will continue as the Ex-Ex-Ex-Ex-Ex-etc. Past Presidents. No changes are foreseen in the peanut gallery.
- Finally, while Paul B. mentioned something about acquiring the real Wheel of Fortune, Paul H. couldn't draw the right card from the shrinking deck in the club's raffle. Anyway, it's been so long since there was a winner most have forgotten what card will win. The prize now approaches \$500.

### **Program: Jeff Yates, Director of Volunteer Operations - Trout Unlimited**

You won't find oceanfront in Wilton but there is roughly eight miles of the Norwalk River coursing through town. Jeff returned to the club to provide an update on the Herculean work being done to restore the Norwalk River's health. Jeff reported a positive indicator of the river's health is the presence of a population of wild brown trout. Identification and elimination of pollution sources has led to water quality improvements. Volunteers working with the Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited have worked to restore river banks in the areas such as the Wilton Y and Schenk's Island. While the river is far from pristine, compared to other Connecticut river systems, there are many reasons for optimism about the Norwalk River's future. The soon to be removed Flock Dam (see <https://www.fws.gov/hurricane/sandy/projects/FlockProcessDam.html>) will allow a clear path for fish migration from the sound to the next upstream legacy dam located just north of Merwin Meadows. There remain areas where manufacturing pollutants must be addressed. But the biggest challenge to the river's health may be in taming storm water runoff. A step in this process will soon begin with a project to disconnect the Middlebrook School parking pavement runoff from Comstock Brook, a tributary of the river. See <http://www.mianustu.org/norwalkriverrestoration.html> for more information.

***NEXT MEETING: – Lunch Meeting, Friday, January 5 at Marly's***