



Benefits of Good Bugs

Serving At Today's Meeting

AV	Laurie Baker
President's Fundraiser	Ben Sprague
Pledge	Ken Wood
Invocation	Colin Duffy
Welcome Guests	PP Jake Mangas
Greeters	Shauna Bambino, Carlene Fish, Judy Maxwell, Jason Montague, Jeanne Jelke, Dave Rickert
Photographer	Judy Maxwell
Sergeant-At-Arms	Colin Duffy

On the Mic Today



Pres. Rick
running the show



Colin Duffy
with the invocation



Judy Maxwell
introducing team 4



PP Jake Mangas
welcoming our guests

Calendar

June 26	Demotion at Mercy Oaks, 6 PM
July 3	Dark
July 10	Installation
July 17	Cal Fire Grant Program

Haunted House Fundraiser Recognitions

Mark Wood celebrated some of the key, heavy-lifting volunteers that made the Haunted House possible. Here are the photos he shared.



Recognitions

Eva Jimenez was recognized for a new car, a sweet looking Mercedes. When questioned by her husband if she really wanted to give up her Tesla, she asked him “new husband or new car?” He suggested she go with the new car.

She offered up “whatever is left on my commitments”.



Joe Ayer was recognized for his adopted son graduating from 8th grade. Reportedly, this was the biggest smile that son **Brandon** has ever shown. Congrats to him and the family!

“Take whatever is left on my commitments”.

Jack Kimple was recognized for a family trip to Hawaii with the grandchildren. Notable sights included a zoo with tropical animals and a museum dedicated to WWI and WW2 Hawaiian heroes.

\$100 to the club and \$100 to his Paul Harris.



Rotarian of the Month

A very well deserved Rotarian of the Month recognition was presented to super-volunteer **Phil McCarthy** by our **President Rick**. Rick stated “...I wanted to recognize this person back at the end of May ... he’s here all the time and he’s at everything, the guys involved. And not only that, he’s done everything behind the scenes when he’s asked to help”.



Today's Program: Benefits of Good Bugs



Joshua Johnson introduced CEO **Keith Oakley** and R&D expert **Jared Dunham** from Beneficial Insectary. Their presentation explored how their unique industry is making a global impact, with operations stretching across North America, Europe, Australia, Turkey, Argentina, China, France, Germany, and Mexico.

They walked through how the industry started way back in the 1930s, with the discovery of predatory mites, and how it's evolved over the years thanks to ongoing scientific research. The spotlight was on their company that began in

1986, founded by Synthia Penn in Redding, California. It's now part of the larger BioBest group (since 2021) and BioFirst, and it specializes in raising "good bugs" that help control pests. **Keith** explained that the trick is raising both the pests and their natural predators in balance—because the good bugs need to eat something too. This natural approach avoids the harmful side effects of chemical pesticides, like pollution and health risks.

One turning point for the industry came in 2005 in Spain when chemical residues on peppers triggered a massive shutdown of greenhouse production. That crisis pushed growers to find natural alternatives, like using predatory mites and tiny parasitic wasps. These biological options not only protect crops but also don't carry the same long-term risks—like pests developing resistance—that chemicals do.

The talk also dived into how tricky it is to raise these tiny creatures. Moving them around the world takes serious logistics, and breeding them often requires very specific weather conditions, which is why production happens in places like Mexico, Morocco, and Kenya instead of Redding. Jared shared how experts use powerful Leica microscopes to identify different mite species—some as small as a human hair—by looking at details like their jaws or even their reproductive parts at 600x magnification.

They proudly talked about the company's deep roots in Redding, where it started and still employs over 175 working across the U.S. The company has grown a lot—from \$40 million in revenue to \$500 million—and now has facilities in places like Anderson and Oxnard, CA, and near Buffalo, NY. It currently raises more than seven species of mites, five types of insects, and even a species of bumblebee.

Beyond the science and production, the company works closely with farmers to come up with practical, tailored solutions. If natural methods won't cut it, they'll even recommend chemical sprays to protect crops. Their product lineup covers everything from biocontrol (bugs that fight pests) and pollination (thanks to bumblebees) to microbes and pest monitoring tools. They're also exploring interesting new things like native West Coast bumblebees that work well in tricky weather, and using drones to spread beneficial insects over large areas.

The whole presentation showed just how much this field blends old-school know-how with cutting-edge tech—and how it's helping push farming in a more sustainable, eco-friendly direction.





CATERING
BY. CR GIBBS
BEER-WINE
DJ
PHOTO BOOTH

PRESIDENT RICK FAUSS'
DEMOTION

THURSDAY JUNE 26, 2025
6PM
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Rotary



The Four-Way Test

of what we think, say or do

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



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