

Meet Our Speaker: JOHN STEWART

John Stewart has been deeply interested in the life of Thomas Jefferson since he was a student at the University of Virginia. John has lectured on Jefferson's life and influence in American History to schools, civic groups and business audiences around Florida for over 20 years. Now John portrays Jefferson in costume, language, and speaking style.

A large part of his presentation takes the form of questions and answers. You will be entertained by his convincing portrayal of Jefferson, as well as benefit from his extensive knowledge of Jefferson's life.

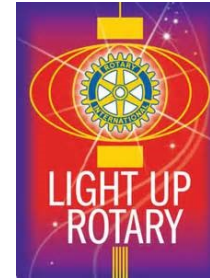
John's commitment to the preservation of the lessons and examples of early American history personalities are complimented by his work as Chairman of the annual Knight Essay Contest conducted by the Florida Society of the Sons of the American Revolution national association.

Join him for a rare opportunity to go back in time with one of the founding fathers of our nation.

President Jefferson's topic is "How a Young Boy from Rural Virginia Came to Write the Declaration of Independence".



Congratulations to **Ron Luciano** for receiving his Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow Pin



ROTARY 2014-2015

Club Number 4289

October 22, 2014

SEMINOLE SMOKE SIGNALS



PRAYER FOR TODAY: O Lord, help us use every opportunity to teach children what we have learned from you. Amen

PROGRAM THIS WEEK: John Stewart, Thomas Jefferson

PROGRAM LAST WEEK: Neil Brickfield, "Our Countries Founding Fathers, not what you've learned"

PROGRAM NEXT WEEK: Andrea Gregor "Human Resources"

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 8: Black Tie Auction "Thanksgiving"

Dec. 12: Holiday Party, American Legion, Madeira Beach

Rotary Club of Seminole Officers 2013-2014:

President	Gerry Miller	Sergeant at Arms	Jim Woodworth
President Elect	Tim Ingold	Bulletin Editor	Jeff Graves/Ruth Berry
Secretary	Al Stephenson	Past President	Hank Houser
Treasurer	Mike McQuilkin		

District 6950 Website - www.rotary6950.org
Seminole Rotary Website - www.seminolerotary.org
Rotary Club of Seminole P.O. Box 3313 • Seminole, FL 33775-3313

Free vegetable gardens sprouting up around France



Imagine a community where the residents are all free to plant, grow, harvest, and eat healthy food whenever they want without having to pay for it.

Sound too good to be true?

That's exactly what residents of more than 20 cities and towns in France are doing through a project called Potalib. Launched by the Rotaract Club of Versailles, Potalib was inspired by the Incredible Edible project, an international food-sharing movement founded by Nick Green in England. The Rotaract members obtained Green's permission to apply the concept in France, changing the name to "Potalib," a contraction of "potager libre" (free vegetable garden).

The club registered the Potalib name, created a brand, and now sells the project as a kit to French institutions, local communities, and corporations. The materials include seeds for as many as 18 kinds of vegetables, information on how to cultivate them, and 12 wooden bins, each about a cubic meter in size and filled with around 270 kilograms of soil. In cities where the gardens are planted, the club sponsors a festive opening-day ceremony, featuring a free meal cooked by club members and a professional chef.

"The goal is quite simple: To give everyone, from the wealthiest to the poorest, the opportunity to eat quality vegetables," says Club President Thibaut Mathieu.

"Everyone" includes parents who want to teach their children "that fries do not grow in the ground," joke the project's supporters. According to a recent survey, one in four children in France doesn't know that fries come from potatoes.

Potalib also offers the homeless a reliable source of free healthy food.

Mathieu says that people readily take responsibility for maintaining the vegetable gardens and no instances of theft, hoarding, or vandalism have been reported. Instead, Potalib is bringing communities closer together.

"I was almost afraid to take some vegetables at first," says Nathalie from Plaisir, a suburb of Paris. "But now I do it with great pleasure. I made new friends there. We plant seeds and we have a good time!"

Each Potalib package costs more than \$15,000. Mathieu says that would be a high price for one person to pay, but not for a town, government department, or a company. The money is paid directly to the club, which then pays the suppliers, "who have become genuine and trusted partners," he says.

Potalib is also good for local business. If the community isn't able to fund the entire project, the club contacts companies in the area. Mathieu says a local company can finance one or several bins in its city, and in doing so, improve its image by showing the public that it cares. Outside of France, Rotaract clubs in Belgium, Canada, and Germany have inquired about duplicating the project.

"We receive, on average, four new applications from cities per week," says Mathieu, adding that the Versailles club is planning to create a separate Potalib website soon. The Versailles Rotaractors started Potalib in 2012, around the time they were forming their club, which was chartered in 2013. The project has not only benefited an increasing number of communities, it's also helped to expand the club's membership, which has mushroomed from 16 members to 60.

Mathieu credits the project's success to the Rotaract club's sponsor, the Rotary Club of Versailles. "They have always given us good counseling. Without 'our' Rotarians, we would not be here today," says Mathieu.



October Students of the Month from Orange Grove Elementary School