



GREEN RIVER KIWANIS

Green River Kiwanis meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Milestones
Child Development Center, 621 S. Cullen Ave., Evansville, IN
Greenriverkiwanis.org

June 16, 2010

Today's guests were Larry Steenberg, Rick Grant, and Gail Riecken (she turned in an application and check!).

This morning's speaker was Larry Caplan, extension educator in horticulture with the Vanderburgh County office of Purdue Extension.



He writes a weekly column for the *Evansville Courier and Press*, commenting that, with the 1.5

week lag time between writing the column and seeing it published, it is a challenge to predict what topic will be "hot" at

that moment. A New Jersey native, he's been here for some 25 years, and talked about some humorous experiences in getting to know his new home here in southern Indiana. He was/is appalled at the amount of tree topping that he sees here—this is NOT the way to trim your trees. Early in his tenure here, he had a phone call from a man who asked why he was having trouble with his mangoes. Larry informed him that mangoes were tropical and would not grow here, only to find out that some people in this area call bell peppers mangoes! In another instance he ran afoul of the pronunciation of that nut from which delicious pies are made—he says "pee-can", whereas we say "pah-cahn." He was also concerned about being Jewish in an area

largely populated by WASPs, but soon had that fear laid to rest at a dinner meeting where he was served a pork chop. Not wanting to make waves, he said nothing about not being able to eat this, but it was noticed and questioned. When he explained, there was relief from the questioner—they were afraid he was a vegetarian! Although he considered Indiana to be a more northern state when he moved here, he was quite pleased to find "southern" friendliness—so much of it that when he was once recognized from his newspaper column, he was sure he was supposed to know the man who recognized him. He spoke about some weird phone calls he'd received, including one from a woman who thought that they should use the snow machines in Colorado to put out a wildfire raging there...in July. Another phone call began with questions about mushrooms, and he talked about growing them and the danger in misidentifying those growing wild. Then the caller wanted to know about psilocibinic or magic mushrooms. These are illegal hallucinogens! Two days later he read that this caller had been arrested with a HUGE stash. Since Larry had sent the man lots of his literature on mushrooms, he was not totally surprised when he was later

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called to testify in court. His wife is a animal biologist and they've had numerous disagreements about dealing with deer and moles and other wildlife. These disagreements spread to her questioning his horticultural expertise, such as his three year regimen for properly pruning a huge burning bush—his wife found his efforts very ugly until the third year when she was delighted that he finally learned from his mistakes and got it right! Admitting that he is not always as tactful as he should be, he finds it frustrating to deal with callers who say they want his advice, yet really only want him to “approve” their way. While on the board of the Wesselman Nature Preserve, he encountered a woman who wanted to start an organic community garden in a remote prairie section of the preserve. She was not at all interested in hearing that this plan would not work due to the clay soil, low-lying flood prone area, deer, and the remoteness of the location.



Thanks to all those who pitched in, the golf outing was a success, despite a rain-delayed start. **Kathy Schroeder's** son-in-law headed the winning team. More details about how much was raised for Riley's juvenile diabetes research will come soon.

The new club building is going well so far, with some 23 applications already received. The club, once established, will meet at the Methodist Temple.

The next GRK-out-to-eat-and-greet will be

June 24 at 6:00 at Firefly Southern Grill, 6636 Logan Drive, Evansville, IN 47715.

Jack Arney reminded us of the Feed My Starving Children project sponsored by Crossroads, July 7-10. Its purpose is to provide 1/2 million meals for Haitian children. The GRK board approved GRK participation on Saturday, July 10. We'll have 2 units of 20 people each work for 2 hours that day – and yes, points will be awarded (5 points for 2-hr shift). Anyone who cannot work that day or prefers another time can sign up individually for other days – sign up online at



www.ccregistration.com. **Jack** has been signing up the 40 people who volunteer for the Saturday shifts. **EVERYONE MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE.** The 9:00 shift on Saturday is full, but volunteers are still needed for the 2:00 shift that day. **Jack** is leaving for his Kenya mission trip very soon, so call the church if you cannot reach him.

A warm GRK welcome goes to our newest member, **Andy Reising!**



Thoughts of the week, courtesy of **Elaine Sanders:**

In the 60's we took acid to see the world wacky—now we take Prozac to cope with the world!

“The best way to show that a stick is

crooked is not to argue about it or spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick along side it.”

D.L. Moody
1837-1899
American evangelist
Founder of the Moody Bible Institute

