



# *November News*



Photo By: Anya Bourne with Bourne to Film

## EDITOR NOTE

Triangle Land Conservancy spoke at our last chapter meeting about TLC's history and mission, as well as current and future projects.

The Chipozo Travel Team is heading out on the next implementation trip November 30th! Make sure to join our Chapter Whatsapp to follow along with the trip updates and photos.

Join us for our next chapter meeting on November 16th to hear from our Guatemala Project Lead Bruce on his experience at the EWB USA conference!

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# *Join Us!*

**Our Next Monthly Chapter Meeting** will be ***in person*** (and via Zoom if you are remote)!



When: 11/16/2023

Where: 421 N Harrington St,  
Raleigh. Room 420 (parking  
garage next door or street  
parking on Glenwood St)

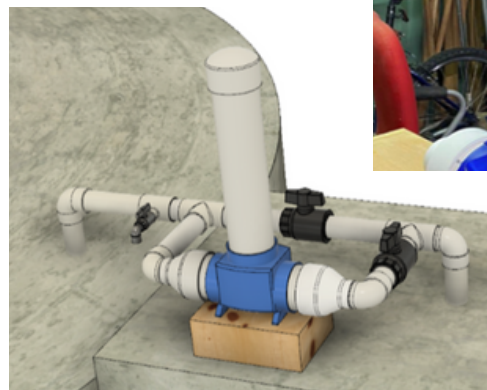
Time: 5:30pm

Zoom Link: [HERE](#)

# Chipozo, Guatemala

The preparations for doing Phase 3 of the Chipozo Solar-powered water pumping project in December are in the final steps, only three weeks to go before our departure for Guatemala! As you may recall, Phase 3 is the final phase of the project in which we will install and test the actual solar powered pumping system which will use the two large tanks and the ten community water access points built in Phase 1, and the water conveyance and distribution piping built in Phase 2. The plan is that the EWB RTP team will travel to Guatemala on November 30 th to do final preparations, and then that the Guatemala Solar team will arrive on December 4 th to commence the installation and testing of the system. Of course the community will be heavily involved in all of the work and also in learning how to operate the system. A key milestone was the receipt of the Rotary District grant of \$19,400.

The Garner Rotary Club spearheaded the effort for this grant, with contributions by ten Rotary Clubs in district 7710. This in turn has enabled us to fully fund the procurement of the solar powered pumping system that will be installed in December. The team has also procured the Norweco chlorinator that will be used to sanitize the water for the people in Chipozo. Here is a photo of the product and a diagram of how it will be configured on the upper tank.





Those of you who are on the EWB RTP WhatsApp group can expect to be getting exciting daily updates of the progress of our implementation activity in Guatemala!

In October the effort will include conduct of the leak test, doing an update to the community survey, and making final decisions on procurement of the chlorination system. Stay tuned for those updates, and let's hope that the current political unrest is resolved both for the sake of the people as well as for the project.



***Contact Bruce Binney for  
more information***



***Bruce Binney  
bruce.binney@gmail.com***



# ***PMEL - Optimizing our Community Relations***

## *Newsletter Article Part 3*

PMEL (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) is the framework for EWB project success and improvement. In parts 1 and 2 we introduced PMEL and discussed collecting PMEL data. Now it is time to talk about community relations. In my opinion, the most important factor in the success of EWB projects is our relationship with the Community. Do we see them as recipients of our largess? Disinterested bystanders? Hands-off clients? Not as smart as us? I hope not! In order for our project to deliver value long after we have gone, we must treat our Community as partners.

While the PMEL framework / paperwork does not explicitly focus much on community relations, pretty much every step of the project implicitly relies on a strong connection with our partners. When things don't go well, it is often here that we have slipped up. We need to be constantly checking ourselves: Did we tell the Community what they need, or ask them? Did we set the project goals and constraints, or were they developed by mutual consent? Do we have confirmation from the Community that this project will not conflict with their cultural norms? Is there something more we should be doing to ensure the benefits of this project will be distributed equitably? Are we looking for community suggestions for construction methods and materials? Did we hand the community a finished design and say "how do you like it?", or did we seek out their input throughout the design? Did we tell the community what labor is required and when, or did we allow them to choose when, how, and who? Did we tell them "This is how to organize a Water Committee" and what rules to establish, or did we enable them take the lead?

Is there any doubt that if you ask any member of the Community whose project this is, they will say “ours”?

In summary, no outside group can execute a project on its own, hand it over when it is complete, and expect it to improve the Community’s quality of life for 10 or 20 years. Behind the PMEL process there has to be truly treating our Community with respect, as full partners.

To read the earlier parts of this series, please see our newsletters at <https://ewb-rtp.org/about-us/>.



Alan Zagoria  
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Any questions / comments  
about this series? Feel free to  
contact Alan Zagoria

# Chapter Activities - Upcoming Events

**Nov. 9 - Nov. 11.....**Treasurer Bruce Binney will share feedback from the EWB Annual Conference in Reno, NV.

**Thursday, Nov. 16 at 5:30pm.....**EWB Chapter Meeting

**Sunday, Nov. 19.....**World Toilet Day, a day about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and reach the 3.5 billion people still living without safely managed sanitation.

**Nov. 30 - Dec. 14.....**Our six member travel team will be in Chipozo working on finalizing Phase 3 of our water project. Be sure to check our WhatsApp channel for highlights and updates from the trip!

Our chapter can and should have an impact on K-12 education in our area. Please contact [alzagoria@gmail.com](mailto:alzagoria@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.



Photo By: Aniya Bourne with Bourne to Film



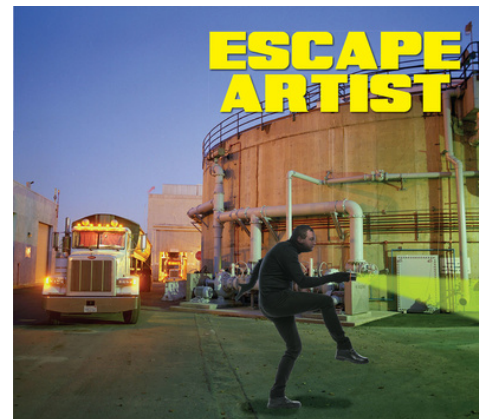


## ESCAPE ARTIST

President Emma Guertin co-authored a paper on methane emissions:

Escape Artist: A team in pursuit of fugitive methane found it was no match for field – and airborne – surveillance

read it here <https://ow.ly/Yx7l50PN2pt%7D>



## UNC WATER AND HEALTH CONFERENCE

Secretary Vessi Radieva attended the 2023 week long UNC Water and Health Conference. With over 2,000 attendees, this year's conference was the biggest Water and Health Conference yet!

“ The biggest takeaway and a theme echoed across all plenary lectures was that collaboration is needed now more than ever if we were to successfully tackle the water issues that await our warming planet. Governments, municipalities, and organizations must all work together to ensure everyone has equal access to both water and sanitation. ” –Vessi Radieva

## NCSU GUATEMALA FUNDRAISER

Member Alyssa Lyons organized NCSU-EWB Chapter's Guatemala fundraiser. The childrens' clothing drive was held at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral to benefit the community of Caserio Panhux that the Guatemala Water Systems team works with. Upon travel last year, the group noticed a need for clothing, specifically childrens', and decided to look for ways to offset this demand. The clothing drive exceeded expectations and collected over 200 articles of clothing to bring to Caserio Panhux. Due to this success, they hope to repeat the clothing drive in upcoming years.

# Volunteer Spotlights

Volunteer Spotlights are EWB RTP members that have been nominated by other members to give recognition for their hard work, dedication and commitment to EWB. Whether they successfully led a project to helped coordinate a social event, every activity plays a role in growing EWB RTP and serving our local and international communities. If you have someone you would like to nominate for next month, please submit a nomination [here](#).

"I am thrilled to nominate Mark Swallow for this month's Volunteer Spotlight. Mark's unwavering efforts in fundraising have been instrumental in advancing the Chipozo water project. As the de facto project manager, he skillfully handles the project's budget, schedule, and action item list, driving it toward the successful conclusion of its integration phase. Mark's commitment to volunteerism extends well beyond EWB. He devotes numerous hours each week to a Raleigh homeless shelter, embodying compassion and a genuine desire to make a positive impact in our local community. Furthermore, Mark actively engages in local grassroots politics, advocating for underrepresented and disenfranchised individuals in the Triangle area. In addition to his exceptional volunteer efforts, Mark's friendly and approachable nature makes him an absolute pleasure to collaborate with and travel alongside. Recognizing his contributions in this month's Volunteer Spotlight is well-deserved." – Mark J

# Volunteer Spotlight



Mark was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA. His family spent their summers at Nags Head, NC, which led him to go to the University of Rhode Island with the expectation to study Oceanography. As part of his study, he also took several computer courses, believing they would be very useful in the Sciences. During his Junior Year, though, he worked at a fish packing plant in Galilee, RI for a semester to fund his education and encountered several people there with Marine Degrees. After agonizing over the possibility of packing fish for his career, he decided to double major, including Computer Science as his second major. After failing to find a place to apply both his love for Science and his love for Computers, he settled on a Computer job with IBM in 1982. After retiring from IBM in 2019, Dan Fuccella convinced Mark that the project he was working on could use a retired Project Manager, and, in November 2019, Dan introduced Mark to Engineers Without Borders – RTP. The Chipozo Project was moving forward, and he got swept up in the project! Volunteering one's time and utilizing the skills developed is a primary driver for Mark. His retirement includes, besides EWB-RPT, working with the homeless at Oak City Cares twice a week; helping with White Flag events in Raleigh during the Winter making sure the homeless have a safe, warm place to go; volunteering with the American Red Cross for sheltering needs; being active with his Catholic Church; working as a & training poll workers for the elections; and being a social activist at the NC Legislature. His favorite foods are pretty much anything, his favorite movie is Lion in Winter (with one of his favorite lines: "There'll be pork in the treetops tonight!"), and his favorite beer is a good Honey Wheat.





# National News

The Annual EWB Conference is coming up on November 9-11 in Reno! Check out the keynote speakers here. With a plethora of engaging events and chances to network with volunteers, employees, and partners globally, this year's conference is sure to be a hit. Click to register here.



ENGINEERS WITHOUT  
BORDERS USA



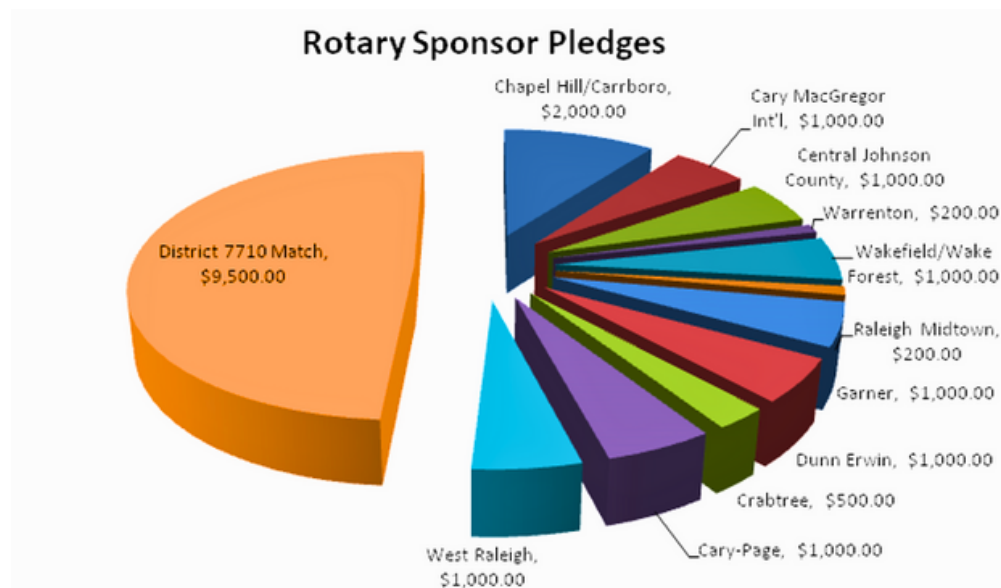
Giving Tuesday is a worldwide event that usually occurs on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. It's a day to celebrate generosity and charity, inspiring individuals to improve their local communities and the world. It offers a significant means of igniting the giving spirit and serves as a reminder that small deeds of compassion can have a profound impact on the lives of others. Giving Tuesday is a day to give back, but it's also a time to be encouraged by the many acts of kindness and generosity that come to light on this unique day.

# Fundraising

## Rotary Sponsorship for 2023

EWB-RTP has been blessed with excellent support from the Rotary organization in the RTP area. Since 2021, we have been fortunate to obtain financial support from Cary-Kildaire and Knightdale Rotary Clubs of \$2,500. That increased in 2022 to a pledge of \$4,500 from Garner-Morningside, Cary Kildaire, and Knightdale Rotaries, which was matched with a district grant of another \$4,500. That was in addition to Cary-Kildaire's donation from their Global Run for Water fund of \$7,500.

With this amazing support, this year, we reached out to all of the Rotary Clubs in District 7710 to see if they would be open to having us speak with them. About half agreed, and several of us from the EWB-RTP Chapter attended sessions early, midday, and late in the evenings. This led to donations from about half of those clubs that allowed a maxing out of the matching grant from the Rotary District 7710:



District 7710 raised a total of \$19,400 in 2023. We also had an anonymous Rotarian who donated \$3,000, along with the Southport Rotary donating \$250.

In all, we raised \$35,000 in 2023. Part of this was from individuals and corporate matching funds. But most of our 2023 funds have come from the good people in these Rotary clubs! Thank you to them!

# Meet the Team

## Executive Board



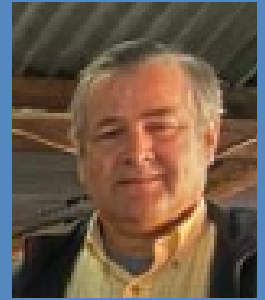
EMMA GUERTIN  
CHAPTER  
PRESIDENT



STEPHEN KRIDEL  
CHAPTER  
VICE PRESIDENT



VESSI RADIEVA  
CHAPTER  
SECRETARY



BRUCE BINNEY  
CHAPTER  
TREASURER

## Committee Chairs



MARK SWALLOW  
FUNDRAISING



ALAN ZAGORIA  
MEMBERSHIP



LANA BESS  
COMMUNICATIONS



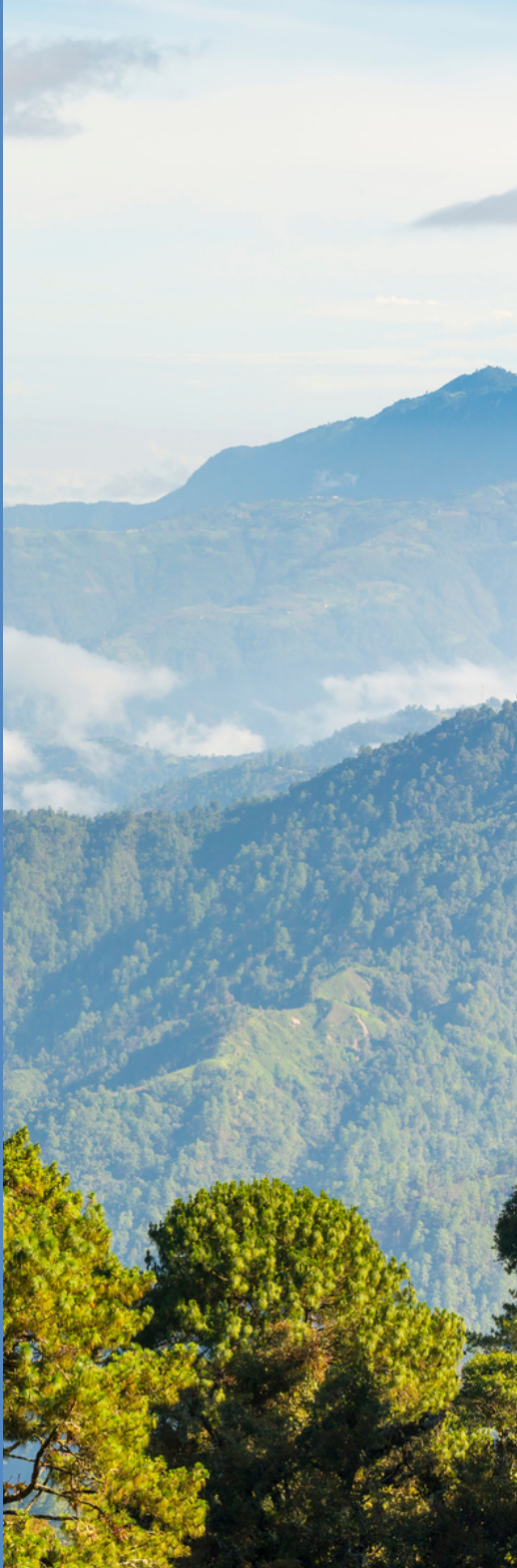
KENT LIORET  
SPANISH



JOHN LLOYD  
WEBSITE



# THANK YOU!



## Contact Resources



[ewb.usa.rtp@gmail.com](mailto:ewb.usa.rtp@gmail.com)



<https://ewb-rtp.org/chapter-calendar/>



<https://ewb-rtp.org>



<https://www.meetup.com/EWB-USA-RTP-Chapter>

For past newsletters, check out the archive on our website [here](#)

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A quote from the latest letter from our Fearless Leader, Boris Martin:

"Throughout 2023, we've witnessed the incredible impact of Engineers Without Borders USA. We've transformed communities and changed lives for the better. Together, we've demonstrated the immense power of engineering expertise and compassionate hearts working in harmony. Our collaborative efforts have built bridges, provided clean water, improved healthcare, and enhanced education across the globe. This is a testament to the incredible force we can be when we unite for a common cause."