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Presentation by Rattan Lal on April 7 **“Agriculture as a Source and Solution to Climate Change”**

Rattan Lal, a world-renowned soil scientist and Ohio State University professor, for decades has researched techniques that preserve the health of the earth’s soil while permitting greater food production. In a presentation to the Torch Club on April 7, Dr. Lal will explain how conservation agriculture (CA) also can help to mitigate global warming.

Dr. Lal originally was prepared to deliver his presentation on February 3, but that Torch Club meeting was cancelled due to a snow and ice storm. The wearing of masks is optional for the meeting on April 7.

Dr. Lal reports that many human-caused factors, including agriculture, forestry and food production, contribute to the emission of carbon into the atmosphere and the consequential rise of the average global temperature. “CA is an important way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” he maintains. “Used in conjunction with cover crops, complex rotations, and integrated nutrient management, CA is an important option to sequester carbon in soil.”

Despite its numerous ecological and agronomic benefits, CA is being applied to only 9 to 15 percent of global arable land, only 26.8 percent of arable land in the U.S., and only 39.3 percent of arable land in Ohio, according to Dr. Lal. “It can be potentially applied to from 38% to 81% of all arable land.”

To increase the application of CA, “farmers need to be adequately compensated for participating in

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Rattan Lal, Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science at Ohio State University.

Presentation by Rattan Lal on April 7

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carbon sequestration programs,” he suggests. “Other practices of carbon sequestration include creating forests on degraded soils, improving grazing systems, reducing food waste, and improving management of lands bordering streams.”

“Land-based carbon sinks are an important nature-based solution. They represent a win-win situation, and a bridge to the future until the use of non-fossil fuel sources becomes widespread.”

Biography of Rattan Lal

Rattan Lal is one of The Ohio State University’s most eminent faculty members. He is the Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and director of the Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

The World Food Prize Foundation, based in Des Moines, Iowa, conferred the 2020 World Food Prize on Dr. Lal. The foundation cited him “for developing and mainstreaming a soil-centric approach to increasing food production that restores and conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change. Over his career spanning more than five decades and four continents, Dr. Lal has promoted innovative soil-saving techniques benefiting the livelihoods of more than 500 million smallholder farmers, improving the food and nutritional security of more than two billion people and saving hundreds of millions of hectares of natural tropical ecosystems.”

The World Food Prize, presented annually since 1986, recognizes – without regard to race, religion, nationality, or political beliefs – the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. Over the years, the prize laureates have represented more than 17 nations. The prize includes an award of \$250,000, which Dr. Lal is contributing to future soil research and education.

Dr. Lal, 77, is a native of India and now a U.S. citizen. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Punjab Agricultural University in 1963, his master’s degree from Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1965, and his Ph.D. from Ohio State in 1968. He served as soil physicist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria from 1969 to 1987 when he returned to Ohio State as professor of soil science.

He has been an international leader in soil science for decades. He has served as president of the World Association of the Soil and Water Conservation (1987-1990), the International Soil Tillage Research Organization (1988-91), the Soil Science Society of America (2005-2007), and the International Union of Soil Sciences, Vienna, Austria (2017-18).

Dr. Lal has been recognized with many international awards, including the 2019 Japan Prize, which is awarded annually to scientists and engineers from around the world who have made significant contributions to the advancement of science and technology, thereby furthering the cause of peace and prosperity of mankind.

He also was a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures needed to counteract such change. He has served on multiple national and international entities dealing with climate change.

Former Torch member Robert Warmbrod died March 10

J. Robert Warmbrod, 92, long-time professor and administrator at The Ohio State University, died March 10. Bob joined the Torch Club in 2002 and served as the club's treasurer from 2014 to 2016. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Catharine. A memorial service was held March 16.

Bob was an outstanding agricultural educator. Born in Tennessee, he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Tennessee and the Doctor of Education degree from the University of Illinois. He was appointed as a professor in Ohio State's Department of Agricultural Education in 1968 and chaired the department from 1978 to 1986. He was acting associate dean in 1989 and acting vice president for agricultural administration from 1989 to 1991. Bob received the OSU Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1972 and 1995. He retired in 1995 as Distinguished University Professor Emeritus and received the university's Distinguished Service Award in 1997. He was president of the Ohio State University Retirees Association in 2007-2008.



Bob Warmbrod

Torch Club schedules June meeting to replace February meeting

To replace the February meeting cancelled due to a winter storm, the Torch Club Board of Directors has scheduled a Torch meeting on Thursday, June 2, at the Faculty Club. Susan Tilgner had originally been scheduled to deliver her Torch paper, "Talkin' Trash: From Waste to Resources," at the April meeting. Instead, she will present her paper on June 2.

Club inducts new member at March meeting

Gary Hinzman, a physician residing in Westerville, was inducted into the Columbus Torch Club at its meeting on March 3. He is currently self-employed in reviewing medical disability claims.

Gary earned his bachelor's degree in 1962 from Oberlin College and his M.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1966. He later earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in 1994. He served in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps from 1967 to 1997. He has been involved in primary care, flight medicine, hyperbaric medicine, diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine, and public health.



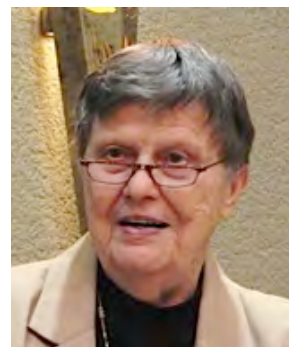
Dorothy Driskell sponsored Gary Hinzman as a new member.

Torch Club's website links to slides from Michael Wilkos

At the Torch Club meeting on March 3, Michael Wilkos presented a Torch paper titled "Considering Racism and How It Shaped Central Ohio Neighborhoods." The paper included demographic data and analysis that traced the development of Columbus from the middle of the 20th century through the present. The slides that Michael used to illustrate his presentation are available on the Columbus Torch Club's website at www.columbustorch.org.

President's message: **Spring promises a good Torch meeting in April**

It certainly lifts one's spirits to see the hints of spring! My mother used to say, "April makes promises she cannot keep," but one promise kept will be our meeting at the Faculty Club on April 7. We are looking forward, finally, to masks being optional, the return of our members for a good social hour, and a most excellent lecture by Rattan Lal. Please join us!



Nancy Wardwell

Volunteers needed for Torch's centennial history project

A new history of Torch is planned as part of the celebration in 2024 of the centennial of the founding of the International Association of Torch Clubs (IATC).

Thomas L. Carroll of the Lincoln, Neb., Torch Club wrote *The Story of Torch*, a history of the first 50 years of the IATC from 1924 to 1975. The new history project will produce an edited digital version of Carroll's manuscript for the Torch website and will add an account of the second 50 years. The new material is projected to include a chronological history by decade, thematic chapters devoted to one topic, lists of historical data, and oral interviews. The project also will encourage local clubs to write their own histories.

The archives of both IATC and the Columbus Torch Club are located in The Ohio State University Archives in Columbus.

IATC is seeking volunteers to work on this history project. Tasks include research, writing, administrative support, and interviewing for the oral history. Rai Goerler is recruiting volunteers from the Columbus Torch Club to assist in this project. If you are interested, contact Rai at goerler.1@osu.edu or (614) 459-4213.

Contact the Fellowship Committee if you need a ride to Torch meetings

If any Torch Club member needs a ride to a monthly Torch meeting, or if you are willing to provide transportation for a member, please contact the club's Fellowship Committee. You may reach the Fellowship Committee through its chair, Diane Selby, at (614) 571-4226 and Dianeselby@gmail.com. To help arrange transportation, you also may contact any member of the Fellowship Committee: Joe Blundo, Jeff Caswell, Tom Davison, Joan Leitzel, John Litchfield and Constance Oulanoff.

Ohio State makes mask-wearing optional in the Faculty Club

Effective March 11, The Ohio State University made mask-wearing optional in most indoor spaces on its campuses, including the Faculty Club. This updated masking policy reflects improving COVID-19 case counts after the Omicron surge, the high vaccination rate of the university community and the lifting of mask requirements in many local jurisdictions. The university continues to require masks in clinical health care settings, child care centers, public transportation and COVID testing locations.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on April 7. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 499-3090.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest is \$30. A potential member may attend one dinner meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2021-22

October 7, 2021: **“It’s Not Your Grandmother’s Nursing”** by Elizabeth Lenz

November 4, 2021: **“The Harlan Brothers in Black and White: Justice John Marshall Harlan, U.S. Supreme Court and Rep. Robert James Harlan, Ohio House of Representatives”** by Violet Meek

December 2, 2021: **The Ohio State University Men’s Glee Club**, Robert Ward, Director

January 6, 2022: **“How Do Women and Men Differ in Their Work and Careers?”** by Francille Firebaugh

February 3, 2022: Weather-related cancelation

March 3, 2022: **“Considering Racism and How It Shaped Central Ohio Neighborhoods”** by

Michael Wilkos

April 7, 2022: **“Agriculture as a Source and Solution to Climate Change”** by Rattan Lal

May 5, 2022: **“Celebrating Sparky – Charles Schultz and Peanuts”** by Lucy Caswell

June 2, 2022: **“Talkin’ Trash: From Waste to Resources”** by Susan Tilgner

Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation
6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters
6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker
7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2021-22

President – Nancy S. Wardwell

President-elect – Susan Tilgner

Immediate Past President – Susan W. Smith

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – David Lenz

Fellowship Chair – Diane Selby

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Susan W. Smith

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Website Editor – Rai Goerler

Director-at-Large – Christina Atzberger (2022)

Director-at-Large – Rai Goerler (2022)

Director-at-Large – Paul Niswander (2023)

Director-at-Large – Dorothy Driskell (2023)

IATC Region 5 Director – Elizabeth Short