

Making a DIFFERENCE

A Crofton Man's Mission To Help The World

by Judi Amey
Photos by Subijoy Dutta

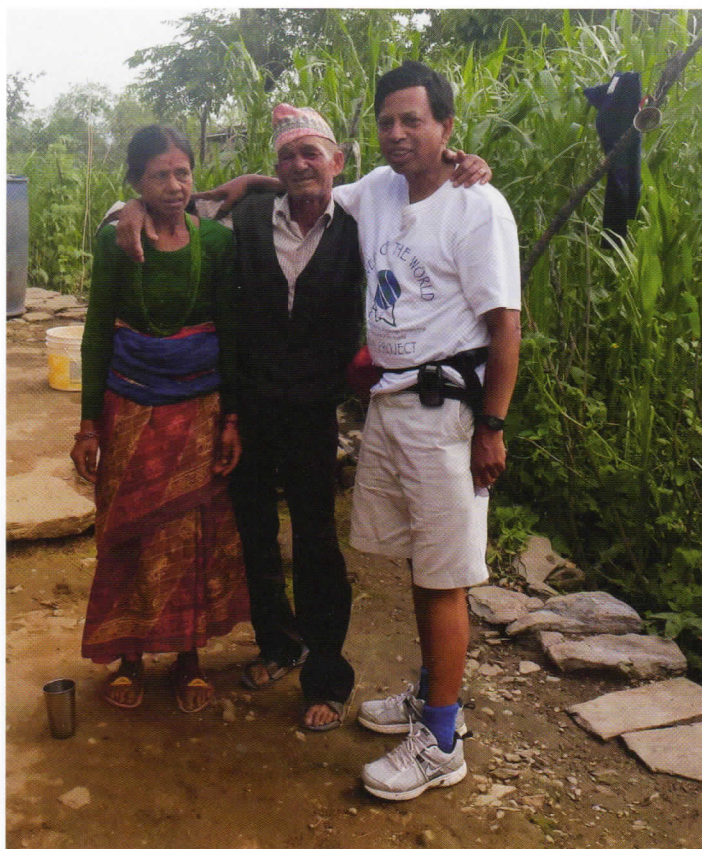
Subijoy Dutta, a petroleum engineer by trade, is originally from Shillong, India, which is two hours by air from Calcutta. Dutta graduated from the University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman where, in part, he completed two masters degrees; one in mechanical engineer and one in petroleum and geological engineering. He is a respected author and founder of Rivers of the World (ROW) Foundation (www.rowfoundation.org).

After graduation he worked as a consultant on several reclamation projects involving wetland systems. One of his project designs, a mixed sewage and storm water treatment lagoon, was presented as a solution for the town of Mayesville, Oklahoma, to assist it in reaching Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. His relatively simple constructed wetland, if added to the existing lagoon, would have created water 60-80 percent cleaner than when it entered the system – for a cost of about \$25,000.

Dutta's avocation to develop and implement water purification systems began in 1992 when 1700 people died in New Delhi, India, due to coliform bacteria in the Yamuna River, which flows through the city. Four hundred thousand people were hospitalized. Recalling his experience in Oklahoma, Dutta decided to present a simple remediation system to the government in New Dehli, with a proposal to develop constructed wetlands in primary sewer drains along the Yamuna. With his friend Dennis Haag, a "wetlands guru," he travelled to New Delhi, and located potential sites for designed wetlands. After several years without progress in New Delhi, Dutta formed the Yamuna Foundation for Blue Water and took his plans to Agra, north of New Delhi, where he met with some success.

Rivers of the World Foundation

Because of frustrations with the political system and implementing significant clean water projects in India, in 2007 Dutta established ROW to control environmental pollution and preserve the natural environment, beginning with the Yamuna River. Dutta and his Foundation hope that purifying the millions of gallons of sewage that currently runs through drains directly into India's riv-



Tarkha Bahadur Thapa and his wife with Subijoy Dutta



Subijoy Dutta at Work



A Hotel in Nepal Struck by Earthquake



ers and streams will help the waterways to recover. Today ROW is acclaimed worldwide. It is actively assisting in river clean-ups in China and the Philippines. Dutta was recently the keynote speaker at the International River Summit in Manila.

Dutta and some friends visited Nepal in 1997, at the invitation of a fellow OU graduate. There on the way to trek in the Nine Peaks region, Dutta and a companion were guided by then 10-year-old Rajendra, the son of a village shop keeper in Baglang. Last April, after hearing of the devastating earthquake in Nepal, with the epicenter close to Sarangkot, Dutta was determined to extend a planned trip in June to see if Rajendra and his father had survived.

With the help of ROW and the Embassy of Nepal, and as part of his planned trip, Dutta was able to take some small water purification equipment to help in the Kathmandu area of Nepal. Kathmandu

is about four hours Pokhara in western Nepal close to Sarangkot.

Work finished, Dutta was finally able to travel to Sarangkot. Driving as far as they could before damaged roads closed that option, Dutta and his driver hiked on. Asking people they met along the way, they finally found the road to road to the village where they found Rajenda's father, Tarkha Bahadur Thapa, and his family [See picture]. Rajenda had left Nepal and now lives in the United Arab Emirates.

One of ROW's premier projects is taking place in Ghansali village in Uttarakhand State, India. The mission began with the establishment of the Himalayan English School. By providing this local school, children of the village do not need to travel away from home for an education. In conjunction with the School, and with the permission and assistance of the Chief Minister, Harish Rawat, it has been

arranged for land to be given to build an Environmental Institute.

In June, Dutta and a colleague spent some time at the English School speaking with the teachers and students about what they can do to improve local water. Dutta taught them some water testing techniques and left some equipment behind for the teachers and students to continue learning. Constructed wetlands technology is what Dutta and his colleagues want to teach the children through the English School and the Environmental Institute. Students will learn that wetlands naturally clean water and, that by a process of spiraling channels and water plants, designed wetlands can be simple and relatively inexpensive ways to cleaner rivers. By continuing to educate the children in this village, Dutta said, he hopes ROW "will encourage expanded water monitoring and training and the effort will become sustainable."

A Call to Action

Help Crofton Make And Impact On The World



Headwaters of the Ganges

Rotary



Subijoy Dutta,
a resident
of Crofton,

Maryland (Harwell Ave), meet with the Rotary Club of Crofton and proposed a safe drinking water and water education program to be established

in Ghansali, India, in conjunction with the Himalayan English School in the Uttarakhand province of India. The proposal will result in safer drinking water now and in the future, from one of the world's most important sources of water: the Ganges River.

Ghansali is located at the headwaters of the Ganges River, one of the world's most important, yet polluted rivers. While many drinking water programs focus on well water, for much of the world's population, streams and rivers are the primary source of drinking water. The town of Kamaila is in northern India, just south of Nepal. This is where the Ganges River begins its journey south through some of the most densely populated areas in the world.

Rivers of the World Foundation (ROW) was founded by Subijoy Dutta and is staffed by volunteer experts from around the world.

Their approach to clean water is to teach ordinary folks how to test water quality, identify sources of pollution and contamination, and work to eliminate those sources of pollution. They provide the training and expertise and have had success across the globe, from sites in the USA, Philippines, China and India.

One of Rotary International's primary missions is to establish safe drinking water around the world. Both Rotary and ROW are non-profit charitable organizations.

The Rotary Club of Crofton has agreed to work with ROW to gather funding to support this effort. We need to collect \$25,000 to establish a permanent safe drinking water education and training center in Ghansali, India. Since the proposal was provided to the Crofton Rotary, ROW has already secured a building for the center and has delivered the first testing kits, but a lot more needs to be done.

We ask that you help us reach our goal, by giving what you can and also by sharing our story. Please visit <https://www.youcaring.com/rotary-international-and-rivers-of-the-world-foundation-457191> to learn more and to make a donation, and share this link with your friends, family and colleagues. This is a chance to have a positive impact on hundreds of local folks in Ghansali and the millions of people that survive along the Ganges River. Thank you!

CONTRIBUTORS



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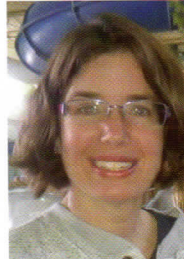
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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Crofton Civic Association

Crofton Town Hall 410-721-2301

Utilities

BG&E 800-685-0123

Power Outage 877-778-2222

AA Co. Bulk Trash Pickup/Recycling 410-222-6100

Crofton Numbers

Emergency 911

AA Co. Snow Removal 410-222-7940

Crofton Library 410-222-7915

Other

AA County Animal Control 410-222-8900

Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce 410-721-9131

Crofton Athletic Association www.croftonsports.com

AA Co. Recreation & Parks 410-222-7300

Schools

Crofton Woods Elementary 410-222-5805

Crofton Middle School 410-793-0280

South River High School 410-956-5600

Center of Applied Tech. South 410-956-5900

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