



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

May 5, 2026

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Elizabeth Teagarden



Henry Batten *President & CEO of Concrete Supply Co.*

by **Paul Bartholomy**

This week, the Rotary Club welcomed fellow Charlotte Rotarian and Concrete Supply Co. President & CEO **Henry Batten** for a fascinating and engaging presentation on the evolving world of concrete, sustainability, and innovation in construction. Introduced by past president **Edwin Peacock**, Henry shared insights from his decades of leadership experience and highlighted how an industry rooted in ancient history continues to shape the future of our communities today.

Henry explained that concrete is the single most widely used building material in the world and plays a critical role in nearly every aspect of the built environment - from roads and bridges to skyscrapers, water treatment facilities, and sports venues. Using examples ranging from the Roman Pantheon to Charlotte's modern skyline, he demonstrated how advancements in concrete technology have dramatically improved durability, strength, and performance over time. He also gave members a behind-the-scenes look at how modern concrete plants operate and how innovation continues to transform the industry.

A major focus of Henry's presentation centered on sustainability and environmental responsibility. He discussed the growing use of recycled materials such as fly ash and ground glass in concrete production, helping reduce waste while improving durability and lowering carbon emissions. Henry also shared how the industry is utilizing new technologies, including carbon injection and environmental product declarations, to reduce the environmental impact of construction projects. Members were especially interested in learning how reclaimed fly ash from former coal ash sites can safely be repurposed into concrete, benefiting both infrastructure and environmental cleanup efforts across North Carolina.

Henry closed by answering thoughtful questions from members on topics ranging from highway construction techniques to residential driveways and emerging concrete technologies. Throughout the presentation, his passion for innovation, operational excellence, and community impact was evident. Rotary members left with a new appreciation for the science, sustainability, and engineering behind one of the world's most essential building materials - and for the leadership helping drive the industry forward right here in Charlotte.

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1190492606?fl=pl&fe=sh>

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1190507955?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program introduction begins at approximately 25 minutes and 50 seconds.