



GFWC ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

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Chairman 2024-2026

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Welcome to the GFWC Environment Program. I am excited to serve as your chairman for the 2024-2026 Administration. My goal is to provide information for you to be able to pass on in your state and assist you in this area. Please feel free to share this newsletter with clubs in your state.

Community Connection Initiative

GFWC members are reminded that the environment is the sum of all living and non-living elements and their effects that influence human life. As caretakers of our most precious resources, our environment, there is much we can do as stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world's resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, beautify our communities and enjoy nature.

Understanding the Environment Community Service Program

Environment programs are highlighted and encouraged. Many areas are emphasized and identified; however, your projects and programs are most important in reaching out and preparing for community outreach and impact. You will make the difference. Keep close to nature's heart. Enjoy your surroundings. A nation that destroys its soils, destroys life. Enjoy the seasons of our outdoors and remember to look up and take in your surroundings.

Connect with GFWC Affiliate Organizations

Heifer International www.heifer.org/gift-catalog

UNICEF USA www.unicefusa.org/mission/survival/water



www.GFWC.org



Time to look into 2025 and eat healthy.

Yields 12 servings

A sweet crunchy cake mix mixture is spooned over slide apples and water. Baked in a 9x13 pan until the apples are tender and the topping is brown and bubbly!

Ingredients:

6 apples-peeled, cored and sliced

1 cup water

1 (18.25 ounce) package of white cake mix

1 cup packed brown sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 cup of butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F

Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish

Arrange apples in an even layer in the bottom of the baking dish. Pour water over the apples

In a medium bowl, mix together the cake mix, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Stir in melted butter or margarine until ingredients are thoroughly blended: mixture will be crumbly. Sprinkle the mixture over the apples.

Bake in preheated oven for 50-55 minutes

Take out and cover with your favorite ice cream. Happy Fall Ya'll!



National Parks have been a part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs for over 100 years. What can we do to increase the knowledge and protection of our parks?

- Leave no trace-dispose of your trash to protect the wildlife.
- Learn about the importance of conservation and recycling.
- Conserve endangered areas.
- Protect sensitive eco systems and restore wetlands.
- Advocate campaigns and rallies. Be aware of legislation.
- Purchase Forever Stamps and use on correspondence for awareness.
- Assist in monument protection.
- Help restore native habitats.
- Assist with signage, maps, trail guides and resources.
- Share information with schools. Teach a Junior Ranger class.
- Purchase KIDS National Geographic magazines for classrooms.
- Support local rehab wildlife centers. Adopt an endangered animal.
- Organize clean-up day and take a nature walk.
- Chart a path within your club and play National Park Bingo.

Search www.nps.gov

Together we can make a difference in the US National Parks. Keeping beautiful places safe for our animals and our youth.



UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS October/November/December

OCTOBER EVENTS

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

World Migratory Bird month

Bat Appreciation month

International Sloth Day October 19

National Reptile Awareness Day October 21

American Frog Day October 21

International Day of Climate Action October 24

National Kangaroo Awareness Day October 24

National Hug a Sheep Day October 26

NOVEMBER EVENTS



World Ecology Day November 1

National Play Outside Day November 3

America Recycles Day November 15

World Fisheries Day November 21

DECEMBER EVENTS

Wildlife Conservation Day December 4

World Soil Day December 5

National Llama Day December 9

International Animal Rights Day December 10

National Energy Conservation Day December 14



CLIMATE CHANGE

Imagine the Greenland ice melting at a rate equal to 2,500 elephants per second running into the ocean! That's a pretty shocking illustration. Are there concerns about ice in the Southern Hemisphere?

Thinking South, (waaay south of Florida!), Antarctica holds 90% of the world's ice and 70% of the world's fresh water is locked in that ice. Currently, the biggest concern about ice melting in Antarctica centers on the Thwaites Glacier. Observations and studies indicate that its floating ice shelf is beginning to break up. Since the ice shelf is floating, if that ice melts, it won't raise sea level...BUT, the land-based Thwaites Glacier, which is being held on land by the ice shelf, could/would slip into the ocean causing sea levels worldwide to rise abruptly. How much and how soon are questions scientists are urgently trying to answer.

Want to know more about climate change and where to find answers to your questions? Check out NOAA's Climate website: <https://www.climate.gov/>

Article adapted from Louse Huffman, GFWC Florida Rotonda West Club Member

She has worked in Antarctica the last 10 years as a scientist.



DEVASTATION FROM HURRICANES

THE PAST MONTH.....

I am heartbroken to see and hear of many of our communities that have recently had several Hurricanes and Tornados. The amount of devastation in our little towns has surely been seen by us all. The television, social media, newspapers and our club newsletters have shown us the total loss for so many. As I drove home from the Southern Region Conference several weeks ago, the trees laying on the highway and in yards were a reminder of how fragile our environment is. The homes that were lost to falling trees and branches has shown us the strength of wind and water.



Now more than ever, we need to replant and replace our trees. Trees don't have insurance policies.....we are their future. Trees generate oxygen. Trees generate over 20% of our world's oxygen supply. Trees prevent soil erosion. Trees create a ground cover and absorb rainwater and runoff. Trees reduce air pollution. Trees are natural filters for air pollution. Trees are a source for wildlife. With no trees, there is no food, no protection, no production of fruits and flowers.

We need to help replant trees in our communities. Especially now. If every GFWC club planted one tree, that would be over 60,000 trees! Can you help? Ask your local nursery to help you. Collect money to send to a sister club in need. How cool to adopt a tree and get photos and updates on the progress of its growth. Be a tree hugger, in the sense that we need more trees to hug.



BEE KIND AND BEE HAPPY

While in Chicago at the combined GFWC Community Service Programs workshop, I showed the attendees how to make a Mason Bee House. Since then, I have had several requests for it. It is so easy and can be a project at one of your club meetings!

First, go to a Thrift Center or Reuse Store: remember, reduce, reuse, recycle!

Purchase a coffee mug with a flat bottom.

Gather paper straws. These should be the smoothie straws and drinking straws.

You will also need a toilet paper cardboard roll or paper towel cardboard roll.

You will need a string to tie to the handle to hang the mug about 4 feet from the ground.

Cut the straws and cardboard rolls to fit in the mug. They should not be above the lip of the mug. Different heights are best. Position the straws and cardboard until they are tightly in the mug. When you turn it upside down, they should stay in. The bees will back in and lay eggs. Mason bees make nests with mud and the cardboard.

They are master pollinators! Enjoy watching them find the new “home” and enjoy! Mason bees are peaceful critters and will not sting unless you squeeze them! Let them BEE.....





As the GFWC Environment Chairman it is my honor to share ideas, thoughts and projects with you. Going forward, I hope you will share this newsletter with members of your club and your states. Nothing we do as club members is a secret! Share your thoughts and ideas with me as well!

As we have completed our Region Meetings, I hope that you enjoyed the PAPER CHAIN connections that were shared in all of the five areas of the Community Service Program areas that YOU the members came up with. The presentation was all 5 of the CSP chairmen working together to provide the same information in all eight regions.

The chairmen will be sharing the ideas with you once they are compiled. I can say, it was so great to see everyone work together as we continue to connect with our ideas. We are the “connectors” and look forward to connecting our ideas across all the GFWC clubs. Thank you!

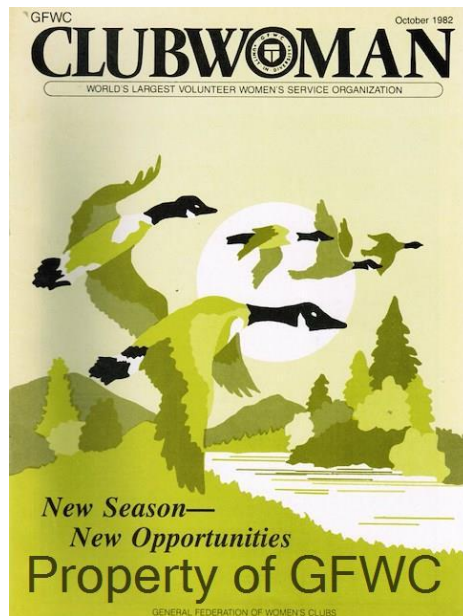




GFWC

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GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS



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