



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 of 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.



www.GFWC.org



Connect with GFWC Affiliate Organizations

The connections that we have had with our affiliates are important in all areas of Community Service Programs. Be sure to check out projects, programs and events that you can use in the area of Environment. These organizations as well as many others have wish lists, programs and newsletters that your clubs can use at club meetings or region events.

GFWC currently works with 9 Affiliates, and these can be found on the website.

Operation Smile www.operationsmile.org



Canine Companions www.canine.org



Heifer International www.heifer.org



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital www.stjude.org





I love history and find a few fun tips that make you think about what our fore sisters faced daily. Here is what I found on Household Management Tips.

Jennie June's Cookbook

American Cookery Book

New York: The American News Company

Copyright 1878

Women are sometimes accused of managing too much, and sometimes of not managing at all; but the most perfect system of management is undoubtedly, that which outwardly betrays itself least and in the results of which there is not supposed to have any management of all. Regularity is the pivot upon which all household management turns: where there is lack of system, there is lack of comfort, that no amount of individual effort can supply. Forethought is also necessary, so that the work may be all arranged beforehand done in its proper order, and at the right time. Never except in cases of extreme emergency, allow Monday's washing to be put off until Tuesday. Tuesday's ironing until Wednesday, or Wednesday's finishing up and setting to rights until Thursday. Leave Thursday for extra work or when that is not required, for resting day or half holiday, and as preparation for the upstairs sweeping and dusting of Friday, and downstairs baking and scrubbing of Saturday. Mix bread at night so that it will be ready to bake with that "first fire" which always makes the oven hot in the morning.

My view, I guess Sunday is the day of rest.....they certainly were busy ladies and still had time to volunteer. We can't get more time, but we certainly can make more time.





***National Parks have been a part of the
General Federation of Women's Clubs for over 100 years.***

This is some great information to share. How exciting to see and hear the resolution be presented and passed in Atlanta Georgia at the GFWC International Convention.

The Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs is hosting a new Environment Project, called "Flat Smokey Bear". At our State Convention, we passed out Flat Smokey Bears and all were asked to use him in a Club Project. They were also asked to take Smokey Bear on their travels, take photos and post on a new Facebook site, called "Flat Smokey Bear". You can also participate by obtaining your own Smokey Bear or cutting out the one posted and taking him on adventures or post any projects you use him for on the Facebook site.

In June, Smokey Bear attended the GFWC Convention in Atlanta and 300 or so of his cousins were passed out after the new "Wildfires" Resolution was passed. The resolution was submitted by Oregon and the Resolutions committee presented it. Thank you to all that voted it in. It is listed below.

GFWC ENVIRONMENT – NEW RESOLUTIONS

"Wildfire Prevention and Safety"

WHEREAS, Wildfires pose significant threats to life, public health, property, natural resources, and ecological systems; and

WHEREAS, Proactive measures can reduce both the incidence of wildfires and the effects of such fires; and

WHEREAS, Educational programs addressing methods for preventing wildfires and safety measures to be employed in the event of a wildfire can mitigate the threats posed by wildfires; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support: • The adoption of state and local ordinances that require the use of fire-resistant building materials, vegetation management, and the creation of fire-defensible buffer zones;

- Collaborative efforts between government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community groups to develop holistic approaches to wildfire management and promote sustainable land use practices;
- Educational programs addressing how to make homes and properties more fire resistant and informing residents of how to formulate an evacuation plan;
- Educational programs and public awareness campaigns regarding the dangers associated with smoke inhalation resulting from wildfires;
- Increased funding and resources to support efforts for wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response.

Submitted by GFWC Oregon and edited by GFWC Resolutions Committee

Click the link to get the Smokey Bear to color and share.

[NHAL cool capfires FNLeeps](#) add m campfires



And, sign up on Facebook to follow Flat Smokey and his travels.

Flat Smokey Bear

Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs

www.Oregongfwc.org



THANKS FOR A GREAT SUMMER!



UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS August/September/October

AUGUST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DAY AUGUST 25

National U. S. Coast Guard Birthday August 6

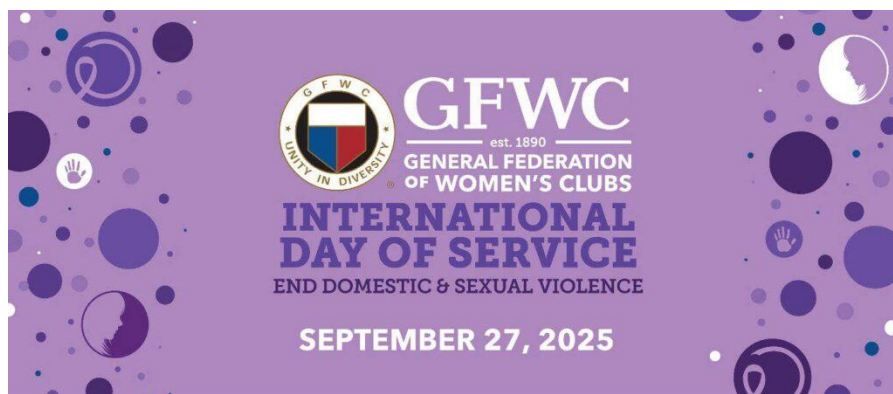
Elvis Week August 8-16

National Honey Bee Day August 16. [Honeybee](#)

Women's Equality Day August 26

SEPTEMBER

GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE SEPTEMBER 27





OCTOBER

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

National Pumpkin Seed Day October 2

World SMILE Day October 4

World Mental Health Day October 10

National Farmers Day October 12

World Food Day October 16

October 24-31 National BAT appreciation day

BEEES, BATS and BUTTERFLIES

Our current environment is becoming more aware of the 3 B'S!

Bees: Carpenter Bees, Mason Bees, Honeybees, Sweet Bees



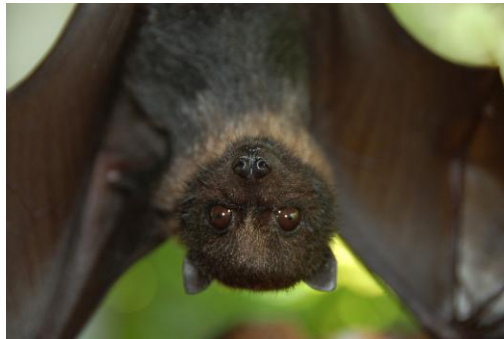
- Health Products
 - Pollination
- Historical Importance
- Society and Environment

They say that without bees, there will be no more nuts, coffee, cocoa, tomatoes, apples, or almonds, to name a few crops. This could lead to nutritional deficiencies in the human diet, as these products are essential sources of vital nutrients.

Bees have cultural and environmental importance as pollinators and producers of honey and medicinal products. The movement of pollen between plants is necessary for plants to fertilize and reproduce.

Both farmed and wild bees control the growth and quality of vegetation — when they thrive, so do crops. Bees are vital when it comes to food security. However, the welfare and number of bees worldwide are in decline, and it is essential to protect them to maintain human well-being. Have club members make Mason Bee houses from a coffee cup, plant flowers to help with pollination, and make Bee pools for cooling off and quenching their thirst.

BATS: Fruit Bats, Hoary Bats, Little Brown Bat, Pallid Bat



Bats play an essential role in pest control, pollinating plants and dispersing seeds. Recent studies estimate that bats eat enough pests to save more than \$1 billion per year in crop damage and pesticide costs in the United States corn industry alone. Across all agricultural production, consumption of insect pests by bats results in a savings of more than \$3 billion per year. While many bats eat insects, others feed on nectar and provide critical pollination for a variety of plants like peaches, cloves, bananas and agaves. In fact, bats are the sole pollinator for the agave plant, a key ingredient in tequila! A third bat food source is fruit, leading to yet another important role in the ecosystem - seed dispersal. Fruit-eating bats can account for as much as 95% of the seed dispersal responsible for early growth in recently cleared rainforests.

You can make Bat Houses or ask a local gardener group to help you! One bat can consume 3,000 insects a night! That will be beneficial as you sit on the porch or take a walk. Many colleges or researchers will help you with a house and insect control. Invite a researcher to your club meeting to hear about Bat Benefits!

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies make the world a little more colorful. Their vivid wing coloration and fluttering flight path lend a special touch of beauty to nature. However, butterflies do more than just paint a pretty picture. They help flowers pollinate, eat plenty of weedy plants and provide a food source for other animals. In addition, their presence or absence can tell us a lot about the local environment.



- Butterflies are part of the food chain.
- They act as natural pest control.
- They are environmental indicators.
 - They are pollinators.
 - They are important.

Avoid Pesticides and leave some weeds! Volunteer to restore butterfly habitats. Plant local flowers and attractors. Learn about plants, don't take the word of the garden centers. Those plants might not be for your area. Butterflies taste with their feet. So put out a shallow feeding tray of bananas, plums, apples and pears. Butterflies do hibernate and need a safe house or a wood pile to rest and save up energy. Hang a plastic bottle from a tree with a piece of fruit inside.



Dumpkins, Dumpkin Bread, Pumpkin Latte, Pumpkin Muffins, Pumpkin Seeds



I 'd like to share a recipe of a former co-worker who was a FABULOUS cook! I don't cook, but I told her I would try anything that had less than 10 ingredients. Well, this has 11....and it's pretty great!

PUMPKIN GOOEY BUTTER CAKE

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

CAKE:

1 Package of yellow cake mix

1 egg

8 tablespoons of butter, melted

FILLING:

1 8 oz cream cheese, softened

1 15oz of can pumpkin

3 eggs

1 teaspoon of vanilla

8 tablespoons of butter, melted

1 16oz box powdered sugar

1 teaspoon of cinnamon

1 teaspoon of nutmeg

(continued)



Cake: Combine cake mix, egg and butter. Mix well. Put mixture into bottom of lightly greased 9X13 pan or dish.

Filling: Beat cream cheese, and pumpkin until smooth. Add eggs, vanilla and butter, Beat together. Add powdered sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Mix well. Spread on top of cake batter.

Bake 40-50 minutes, center should be a little gooey and top lightly browned.

Dig in with some ice cream or fruit.

REPORTING YEAR 2024 and TOTALS

In the area of Environment, 45 states reported.

Projects: 6,977

Volunteer Hours: 273, 605

Dollars Donated: \$634,139

Dollars in Kind: \$755,541

Our members worked hard in many areas of recycling, National Parks, State Parks and Community Parks awareness, water conservation, planting trees, sowing seeds of kindness, rescuing stranded turtles, counting horseshoe crabs, building butterfly gardens, held rummage sales, had Earth parties, counted birds, became bee keepers, did quizzes on insects and wildlife, celebrated Smokey Bear birthday, sewed and donated reusable grocery bags, decorated bicycles for the median gardens, built birdhouses and learned about the “Queen BEE” and crowned her!

Bring a cup to the meeting. Coffee cup, water cup or water bottle.

At GFWC International Convention in Atlanta, attendees were given a reusable, refillable water bottle. The QR code on the side was to be scanned every time you refilled.

Fill It Forward has stickers, bottles, bags, and sustainable items.

You can find them at www.fillitforward.com

More project ideas will be shared in the Top 10 report of the chairmen on our GFWC website. Remember, we are already 7 months into the 2025 reporting year. Please look back at the



information provided in this area, get out your highlighter and make suggestions to your members to do a project or program in each area.

Engage in Nature. Bees, Bats and Butterflies. Recycling, Water Conservation. Protect Wildlife and Domesticated Animals. Live Sustainably. Beautify Communities and Enjoy Nature.

If Not YOU, then WHO?

In the END. More HISTORY. Share it. Learn it.



As I stated before, I love history and have found that many publications on the Environment are interesting. From the book, *Unity In Diversity* by Mildred Wells, she talks about Mrs. Mark King Sherman, 1924-1928.

1909-1923

Mrs. Sherman was stricken with an illness that almost took her life. The federation was traveling to the Canal Zone to visit clubs, and she became critically ill. She resigned from Vice Presidency in 1910, over the period of her service before her illness, Mrs. Sherman was highly recognized for her knowledge of the federation. In 1914, she became the chairman of the Department of Conservation. Her first efforts had a large part in the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915. When her service as Conservation chairman ended, she had supported the creation of six National Parks She became the National Park Lady. In 1918, Mrs. Sherman was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior as a special assistant to the United States School Garden Army of the Bureau of Education. She was in charge of Women's Organizations to arouse interest in the establishment of children's gardens. She is credited with the establishment of National Garden Week which is June 1-June 7.

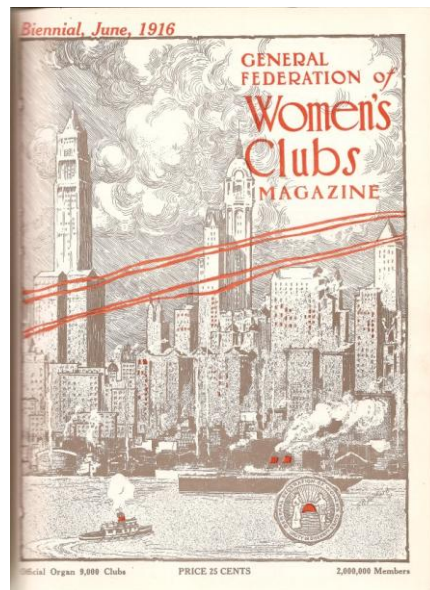
1924-1928



During her term as President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Sunday was the only day open in the President's tour. Idaho was hosting, and many of the members "missed church" because they weren't sure when they would host the International President again. Mrs. Sherman pointed out that this was the way for them to ally themselves with women everywhere who are truly trying to serve America and make this country the emblem of perfection to all the world. As a result of this meeting, Idaho came into membership.



GFWC
est. 1890
**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**



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2024-2026 Chairman

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36-year member of GFWC Florida Federation of Women's Clubs