



# GFWC Environment



## Spring Newsletter

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PAGE 1 & 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DATES

AND SPRING HOLIDAY TIPS

PAGE 3 – SPRING PROJECTS

PAGE 4 & 5 – ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES

PAGE 6 – AWARD INFORMATION & TIPS

PAGE 7 - COVER SHEETS

### Environmental Awareness Dates

#### MARCH

March 3: World Wildlife Day

March 14: International Day of Action for Rivers

March 18: Global Recycling Day

March 20: World Sparrow Day

March 21: International Day of Forests; World Wood Day

**March 22: World Water Day 2022 Theme - "Groundwater- Making the invisible, visible."**

### Go Green on St. Pat's Day

-Plant something Green:

A tree, flowers or perhaps a shamrock plant.

-Enjoy a (green) beer, skip the bottle or can and have a draft beer to avoid the containers.

-Wear green clothing, beads and jewelry purchased at a recycle or secondhand store.

## APRIL

**April 16: Kick off to National Parks Week- April 16-24**

April 21: Fish Migration Day

**April 22: Earth Day 2022 Theme- "Invest in our Planet"**

**April 26: Arbor Day\* 2022 theme- "Trees are Terrific"**

## MAY

May 11: International Migratory Bird Day

May 17: Endangered Species Day

May 22: World Biodiversity Day

May 23: World Turtle Day

**May 17: Bike to Work Day\***

## JUNE

June 5: World Environment Day

**June 8: World Oceans Day**

June 9: Coral Triangle Day

June 15: Nature Photography Day

June 16: World Sea Turtle Day

June 15: Global Wind Day

June 17: World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought

June 21: World Giraffe Day

June 22: World Rainforest Day

## JULY

**July: Plastic Free July**

## Consider Making Your Own When Celebrating Spring or Easter

-Dye Eggs with natural products you have around the house- fruits, vegetables, coffee, etc.

- Don't buy plastic baskets, reuse wood or wicker baskets you may already have.

-Don't purchase that plastic grass to line your baskets- shred construction paper through a shredder and make your own.

Or

-Grow your own grass that is also edible.

## WHEAT GRASS

VERSUS

## PLASTIC EASTER "GRASS"

Learn more (including how to grow wheatgrass) at [CreativeGreenLiving.com](http://CreativeGreenLiving.com)



Costs less.

One basket worth of wheatgrass costs about \$0.30

No waste!

After Easter, you can eat, juice or compost the wheatgrass.

Educational.

Wheatgrass goes from seed to mature grass blades in only 7 short days. Kids will see interesting changes to the grass every day!



Even inexpensive grass costs about \$1 per basket.

Bad for the environment!

Plastic "grass" cannot be recycled and will go to a landfill if it doesn't end up in the ocean or as litter first.

Hurts animals.

Plastic shreds can cause obstructions when animals eat it or tangle around the feet of birds who build nests with it.

# Spring into Action

With Spring comes outdoor project possibilities.

Plan club events on or near the environmental awareness dates listed on the first two pages.

Schedule club events for

**Global Water Day, Combat Drought Day, Arbor Day, Earth Day and National Parks Week**

## Consider:

- Get a flower, plant, tree, and/or seed catalog to plan orders for vegetable or flower gardens, tree plantings at home or in the community, container gardens, butterfly gardens, etc.
- Learn to test for clean water and have members test home wells and all drinking water. Consider either testing or ask your city to test drinking water especially in the older building with older pipes in your community.
- Research ways to save water.
- Schedule road or community cleanups and recycle the trash if possible.
- Research the best time for your region to pull invasive weeds, such as garlic mustard, in most prominent locations. Use this information to keep weeds down in your individual yards and acreages and schedule club times to clean up local parks and wooded areas.
- River and beach cleanups.
- Visit a National Park or Monument virtually or in person.

# Environmental Successes

## 1. Ocean Cleanup

According to USA Today October 29, 2021- "Jenny" pulled 63,000 pounds of trash from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

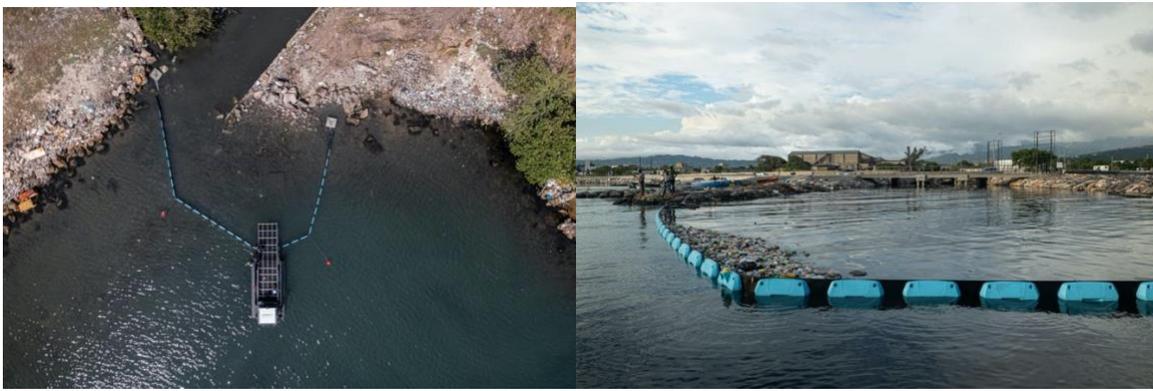
"A fridge, toilet seats, and more than 63,000 pounds of trash. A half-mile long trash-trapping system named "Jenny" was sent out in late July to collect waste, pulling out many items that came from humans like toothbrushes, VHS tapes, golf balls, shoes and fishing gear.

Jenny made nine trash extractions over the 12-week cleanup phase, with one extraction netting nearly 20,000 pounds of debris by itself. "



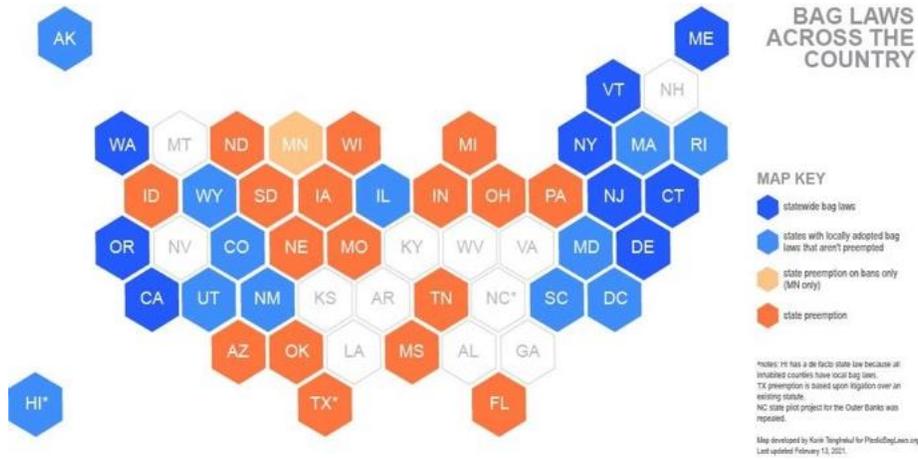
<https://theoceancleanup.com> › milestones

The Ocean Cleanup has developed the **first scalable solution to efficiently intercept plastic in rivers before it reaches the oceans**. By tackling 1000 rivers around the world, we aim to halt 80% of riverine plastic from entering the oceans in five years from rollout.



## 2. Single Use Plastic Bag Bans or Phase outs

More states and countries are doing what they can to ban or discourage use of plastic bags. Some ban altogether, some charge for a bag.



## 3. Global Discussions

According to <https://theconversation.com/the-paris-agreement-is-working-as-intended-but-weve-still-got-a-long-way-to-go-173478>

The Paris Agreement is working as intended, but we've still got a long way to go

Published: January 6, 2022, 9:39am EST

Yet one thing that's different in 2022 than years past is that we now have a completed, functioning global climate treaty. At the November 2021 COP26 meeting in Glasgow, the international community finalized the remaining details of the Paris Agreement.

## 4. President Biden's Infrastructure bill

Biden's infrastructure bill includes \$50 billion to fight climate change disasters. He is promoting electric car manufacturing along with charging stations.

It is our job as citizens to learn more about our Environmental Crisis and find ways to live more sustainably. We also must help our legislators keep politics out of the discussions and decisions to save our planet.

**"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."  
Quote by Robert Swan, OBE and Author**

# State Award Entries

**Deadline- March 15, 2022**

Where to send: Karen Martinek

2267 Sugar Bottom Rd NE

Solon, IA 52333

**Or**

[Karengfwc@gmail.com](mailto:Karengfwc@gmail.com)

## What to send in:

1. Award Entry Cover Sheet, up to 2 pages of your state's top ten Projects, and 1 additional page that includes the state's projects and the state chairman's activities.
2. Club Creativity Award Entry Cover Sheet and a 1-page narrative of the 1 chosen club project.

## Tips for Reporting:

- Please type, if possible, it is easier to read.
- Make sure your envelope has the proper postage.
- Remember the reader doesn't understand the project, so describe the project clearly - who, what, where, when, how many involved, how much time spent, who benefitted, why you chose the project, any partners with the project, how much money donated.
- Complete cover sheets completely
- Choosing the top ten projects for your state - Remember you can choose all 10 from 1 club if they are the best - Did the projects meet the needs of the community? - Did they provide a benefit to a large number? - Did the project greatly benefit or educate club members?

**The Cover sheets for the Creativity and State Awards are attached.**



**GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**

## **STATE AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET**

**2021 REPORTING YEAR**

<b>Prepared by:</b> Name:		State Federation:
State Position:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Email:	Phone:	
_____ <b>Name of GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan, or ESO</b>		

### **STATE AWARD ENTRY:**

Entries may be no more than three (3) pages single spaced (excluding cover sheet) and include:

- Up to two (2) pages describing no more than ten (10) specific projects completed by clubs that have made the most impact in a community or club. Include information that describes the "who, what, when, where, how, and why" of the project as well as pertinent statistics for that project.
- One (1) additional page, single spaced, describing the activities at the State Federation level initiated and organized by the State Federation/State Chairman.

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**Submit** the award entry to the appropriate GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, or Advancement Plan Chairman as noted on the first page of the appropriate section of the *Club Manual* no later than **March 15, 2022** with:

- Cover sheet
- Up to two (2) pages describing no more than ten (10) club projects
- One (1) page describing State Federation activities

**Note:** *State Federations are responsible for keeping a copy for their records.*



**GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**

**CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD ENTRY COVER  
SHEET**

**2021 REPORTING YEAR**

<b>Prepared by:</b>			
Name:		State Federation:	
State Position:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email:		Phone:	
<p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Name of GFWC Special Project, Community Service Program, or Advancement Plan</b></p>			

Club President Contact Information			
Club Name:		Club President's Name:	
Club President's Email:		Club President's Phone:	
Club City:	Club State:	Zip:	

**\$50 CLUB CREATIVITY AWARD ENTRY:**

Send a one (1) page narrative of the most creative project by one club from your State for consideration of the \$50 creativity award (this is judged separately and may also be part of the ten (10) projects listed on the State Federation entry form):

- Judging based on creativity of the project
- State Chairman is responsible for completing Club Entry Cover Sheet and attaching it to the narrative

**Submit** the award entry to the appropriate GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, or Advancement Plan Chairman as noted on the first page of the appropriate section of the *Club Manual* no later than **March 15, 2022** with:

- Cover Sheet
- One (1) page narrative on most creative project

**Note:** State Federations are responsible for keeping a copy for their records.