

Conservation Collaboration
Spring Convention 2011
Bulletin (2)



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There were 94 GFWC Florida Women 's Clubs that reported 729 outstanding projects in the Conservation Collaboration Community Service Program. 6,047 members volunteered 81,229 hours in projects that emphasized the three R's - **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle**. \$61,885.37 was donated and In Kind Donations amounted to \$85,334.07 for projects in the following categories: Going Green, Energy Conservation, Water Conservation, Hazardous Waste Disposal, Development and Maintenance of Gardens and Landscape, Tree Planting, and Support of Nature Centers, Parks, Zoos and Aquariums. Clubs responded with unique and creative projects for community and charitable organization needs.

Many clubs described their commitment to **Going Green** by using email to send newsletters, reports, and minutes as well as members' growing use of on line banking. Several clubs reported using china, and glass instead of styrofoam cups and plates.

Sun City Center and 10 other clubs reported the collection and **reuse** of medical equipment such as canes, walkers, and shower chairs by their members.

Hazardous waste disposal included the collection of unused and out of date medicine that was disposed of correctly. **Lutz-Land O'Lakes** donated computers to be rebuilt and given to needy children. 27 clubs collected and returned inkjet cartridges to office supply businesses for refunds that were then used to purchase club supplies. Several clubs donated refunds to other organizations like the **Viera Club** that donated \$375 in refunds to the Florida Wildlife Hospital.

North Pinellas provided 2,950 plastic bags to the City of Dunedin for use in city parks to pick up dog waste - a project that saved the city an estimated \$10,000 a year. The **Treasure Coast Club** made bookmarks using donated materials and a computer generated slogan such as Don't Litter or Conserve Energy. The bookmarks were laminated and given to those who donated a book for the club's book fair. The city's recreation department asked the club to present a workshop for 96 campers who each got to make their own bookmarks.

Deltona set up a computer station so members could measure their carbon footprint. The **Melbourne Club** sponsored an **energy awareness** essay contest for three high schools and awarded certificates and monetary awards to each winner.
Good conservation practices begin with education.

Plantation Woman's Club provided major funding for city parks and helped plan an outdoor nature classroom. Members of the **Macclenny Club** collect litter on their neighborhood walks for their "squeaky clean" project. The **Naples Club** and the **Orange City Club** cleaned litter from properties adjacent to their clubhouses. The **Tarpon Springs' Gro Group** taught challenged adults how to propagate and grow plants for city beautification projects.

Thank you to each club for the valuable support and assistance provided to educational programs, community parks, and charitable organizations that assist citizens who need the concern and care of each one of us and also for the work that each club has performed to improve our natural habitats and environment.