



Preserve - Protect - Provide

There were 97 GFWC Florida women's clubs that reported 1043 projects in the Overall Conservation Community Service Program. Of these, 72 clubs reported involvement in the Conservation Partnership Program working on 314 projects; volunteering 12,482 hours; donating \$8,435 in club funds; and \$23,920 in-kind donations. Among these clubs, 44 clubs worked on Humane Society projects and 60 were involved with Keep America Beautiful.

HUMANE SOCIETY: Most clubs gave monetary gifts to the Humane Society. Fifteen clubs provided schools with the "Kind News" magazine covering all three grade levels. Many clubs visited and worked at animal shelters; donated monetary gifts and loads of supplies from shelters' wish lists; and some even adopted shelter pets. **Philaco WC of Apalachicola** placed jars decorated in an animal motif in local businesses and collected \$855 for their shelter. **Panama City** found that recycling one-week of newspapers can be shredded to replace 20 pounds of cat litter. After their flea market fund raiser, **WC of Stuart** donated all leftovers to a local animal Shelter Thrift Shop.

Fort Walton Beach monitored sea turtle nests and **Cocoa Beach, Grand Haven and Naples** gave monetary gifts to sea turtle preservation. Save the manatee was a popular program. **WC of Beverly Hills** visited springs used for winter gathering by manatees and learned from a ranger ways to keep the manatee safe. They also received a list of volunteer opportunities for protecting the habitat for manatees. **Treasure Coast** adopted nine manatees and one member adopted a manatee for her daughters' classroom. To prevent habitat loss, **North Pinellas** built oyster domes and oyster bars while **Satellite Beach** made oyster shell mats to provide a substrate for oyster attachment. **Capital City** received a matching grant to purchase a baby bird incubator for a wildlife center. **WC of Palatka** provided support to Right Whale research, a highly endangered species that use Florida coast as a birthing habitat.

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL (KAB): The 60 clubs working with KAB continued to keep our state green, clean and beautiful. Thirty-two clubs adopted-a-spot including roads, streets, parks, waterways and beaches with scheduled cleanups twice, three, or four times a year. Our members dressed in club t-shirts and spent hours picking up trash. One club realized that using golf ball retrievers was a great way to efficiently collect litter. GFWC Florida members put the Great American Cleanup into action with more than 80% involved in numerous commitments. Projects included removal of trash, invasive plants, dead plants and planting new ones, clipping overgrown grass and plants, weeding, trimming bushes and vines. **WC of Ocala**, their Juniors and mothers joined to spruce-up a local park. **GFWC Brandon Service League** initiated a new project, "Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful Litter Index Survey." After receiving the necessary survey training, members scored the amount of litter on their county roadways. Another club had members travel by boat and kayak to local islands targeted for cleanup.

National Arbor Day was celebrated by 18 clubs and 16 clubs were involved in Earth Day. **Clearwater Community WC** spent Earth Day at a local school, teaching conservation classes, going on nature walks and weeding a butterfly garden all while interacting with the students. Arbor Day projects by **Tarpon Springs, Melbourne, Palm Beach Gardens and Milton** allowed these club cities to qualify as a "Tree City USA." To celebrate America the Beautiful month, **Treasure Coast** used a conservation quiz and the winner was named "Mother Earth" complete with a crown made from vines. **Viera** featured Keep Brevard Beautiful at a fund raiser in support their county-wide program. Many clubs were involved with America Recycles Day holding educational events, distributing literature and marking containers with recycle seals.

Thanks to each environmentally conscious club for reporting and showing how you put into practice our theme to "Preserve, Protect, and Provide." Our conservation tree is really sprouting new leaves.