



Preserve - Protect - Provide

What exciting news we received during the GFWC Convention in June. The Conservation Community Service Program was awarded first place in both Partnership and Collaboration. Alise and I are so happy that International recognized the hard work of GFWC Florida clubs. It is nice to be acknowledged for one's hard work and to know that we made a difference in our communities, habitats and environment. Your reports were filled with many outstanding, creative projects and they were clearly recognized at the national level.

Ahead is another year and the challenges are no less important. Clubs need to increase their commitments to a wide array of conservation issues. The structure of the CSP remains the same with a focus on Partnership and Collaboration, both needing your time and energy. While the GFWC Florida Partnerships remain *Keep America Beautiful* and the *Humane Society*, the issues are ever-changing and each club is called on to identify and act on those issues closest to their local needs.

Working with Keep America Beautiful, we will continue to keep our pristine state clean and green. Contact your KAB affiliate to find and plan club projects that will move the conservation needle. Below are several KAB projects that need your attention. Go to the KAB website for the details (KAB.org).

KAB is introducing a fun exciting student recycling competition - "Recycle Bowl." This is a friendly competition for K-12 school recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities. Beginning in October 2011, schools will track recyclables for four weeks and report their efforts at the end of the competition. Schools will be awarded based on the largest amount of recyclables per capita per state. This would be an excellent project for clubs to partner with schools. Keep up with the latest details via the "Recycle-Bowl" Facebook page.

Your love for animals and their habitats is most evident from your continued support for the Humane Society of the United States (HumaneSociety.org). You are encouraged to renew your subscriptions to "*Kind News*" or start a new subscription. "*Kind News*" is a great magazine full of ideas for all ages, and loved by teachers and students. Your compassion for animals can be

shown by adopting a shelter pet, supporting local shelters and care centers, addressing issues related to animal cruelty and abuse, engaging youth in educational programs, and protecting the habitat for endangered species. Wild animals are being displaced every day by the destruction and fragmentation of their natural habitats. Working with the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, you can provide safe and natural habitats for Florida's many wildlife species.

Our shore line, estuaries and rivers are in constant use and change. We need to be aware of what these changes mean for whales, dolphins, manatees, fish, oysters, shrimp, just to name a few. While we recognize the shared use of these resources, we can educate and encourage the adoption of practices that assure the longevity of these natural resources for our enjoyment while preserving natural habitats.

Adopt-a-Spot, a Street, Road, Park, etc.
Great American Cleanup
Inter-coastal Cleanup
Neighborhood Cleanup
Community Gardens
Litter Index Summary
Monofilament Recovery and Recycling
Graffiti Abatement
Community/School Presentations
Liberty Gardens