



## Preserve - Provide - Protect

Proficiency and commitment described Jane Cunningham Crowley as well as Florida's May Mann Jennings. Both of these women displayed a dedication to community improvement through volunteer service and each of these women advocated for causes that benefit all of us today. We continue to work locally to create changes that will benefit our communities. Conservation - reuse, renew, safeguard, protect, and save are all part of a plan to prevent waste, protect our environment and provide the gifts of our resources to future generations - our children and grandchildren. This gift we can provide without using wrapping paper and ribbon.

Our GFWC organization has been a caretaker for our communities since the earliest members concerned themselves about education and qualities of life. The GFWC Conservation program during the 2010-2012 administration is challenging each of us to continue with the same spirit of determination to improve the use of our natural resources through a collaborative effort with others in our communities. The need to further educate ourselves regarding the preservation of all natural resources is important to our mission to inform others and to create positive change that will enhance our lives as well as that of future generations.

During the 14th century, the meaning of conservation was the preservation of one's health and soundness. Our responsibility for good conservation practices today will provide a healthy environment for future generations. As we work to recycle and to maintain clean air and water, and habitats for wildlife, we are still working to preserve good health. The custodianship, guardianship, and protection of our resources is a challenge which we need to accept.

**Collaboration** requires leadership to bring about problem-solving in each club's community. Identifying a concern and another organization with similar interests will enhance your opportunity for more resources to accomplish a purposeful project.

- **What can your clubs do to promote protection, safeguarding, and preservation of the environment?**
- **What can your club do to prevent waste or loss?**
- **How can your club work to prevent the depletion of our natural resources?**
- **How can you save your economic resources through conservation practices?**

On July 12, my husband and I returned from a 9,500 mile journey that provided us the opportunity to see large windmill farms, a city-sponsored compost program, recycled housing, a variety of green buildings, and urban forest programs. The city of Duvall, WA has provided each resident with a kitchen pail in which to collect food residuals and other materials for composting which is then collected and used by the city to provide nutrients for plants in its landscaping program. Each of these projects were exciting and

very important to conservation. We were depressed by the air quality as we drove into California. It seemed worse than it was when we lived there.

A book entitled 101 Ways You Can Help Save the Planet Before You're 12 is a great resource if you plan a project with children. However, I believe that many ideas contained in the book can be utilized with all ages. Empty Your Mailbox, Create a Backyard Habitat, Make It Last, Clean Green, and Purge the Petrol are a few suggestions found in this well organized and planned book. There are many resources listed in the GFWC Manual for all Community Programs and I have found some very interesting ones by using Google to look for sites for Conservation, Go Green, Composting and Recycling. One site that I found particularly useful information was: [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com). On that site I found a list of "100 ways to Conserve". Another site with many suggestions pertinent to conservation was the [www.epa.gov/epawaste](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste). Categories listed on that site included Common Wastes, Composting, Consumer Tips, Household Hazardous Waste, and Reduce and Reuse as well as several others. National Geographic and Scholastic Magazine also have web sites that might be useful. [www.Standby.LBL.gov](http://www.Standby.LBL.gov) was another good and informative site.

The best place to start making a difference is at home. Learn how you can reduce, reuse and recycle to decrease household waste including food, paper, electronics, household cleaners, and lawn and garden waste. It is important to share your ideas and projects with children. The educational process is the best method to make change. Saving our resources is also a good economic strategy and who doesn't like to save money!

Bein' Green, a song from Sesame Street sums it up well. "It's not easy bein' green, ....it seems you blend in with so many other ordinary things, and people tend to pass you over..'cause you're not standing out.....green can be important like a mountain or tall like a tree.....bein' green is fine...it's beautiful....." There may be other programs that stand out, but conservation is extremely important for us and generations that follow us and I think that what you can do will be fine and beautiful and that is what we federated women want to be!

I look forward to hearing about your club's plan to collaborate with your community and what plans you have for November 15, America Recycles Day, or even your plans for November 14 that is Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day.

We want to invite you to our Conservation Workshop on Saturday, September 18 at 1:30 PM to hear our guest speaker, and food for thought, a time for questions, and some prizes.

**Please bring with you at least one remembrance to share of how your mother or grandmother recycled before it became a "buzz" word. Would you write it on a stickie or 3 x 5 card? We will use your remembrances at the workshop.**

If you have any questions, please call me.