



GFWC 2020-2022 Environment CSP

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Volume Four October 2022 Newsletter

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Quote of the Month:

“To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles” and “A walk in nature, walks the soul back home”. *Mary Davis*



Website to explore: www.sciencemoms.com
A website by moms who are scientists with lots of information about climate change.

We recently were able to meet for a virtual introduction and overview of the Environment Community Service Program. Highlights were shared, as well as how to access the GFWC Club Manual. We discussed the role and responsibility of the State Environment CSP chairmen. I hope there was a learning opportunity during this time together.

Please feel free to share this newsletter, forward it, or take items from it to your state clubs.

Our next virtual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 8:00 pm ET. A zoom link will be sent with the January newsletter. This will be for the State Chairmen only.

If you need to reach me, here is the contact information:

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I will be moving on October 1st and will send my updated address in the November newsletter. Thank you.

There are four target areas in this CSP:

1. Preserve Resources:

This area relates to but not exclusive of forestation, Earth Day activities, reduction of energy consumption, air and water pollution, wetland conservation, water projects, disposable of waste, and gardening. Club Project Example: Prepare a presentation about your watershed for your community. Discuss water quality threats, including the dangers of polluted runoff and ecosystem loss.

2. Protect Wildlife and Domesticated Animals:

This area relates to but not exclusive of birding projects, Audubon Society, native plants for animal food, Department of Natural Resources, preserving Wildlife Management Areas, endangered species protection, wildlife protection, and animal shelter and humane society support. Club Project Example: Be a bird watcher; contribute by gathering scientific data.

3. Live Sustainably:

This area relates to but not exclusive of recycling, zero waste projects, the Environmental Protection Agency, sustainable gardening, locally grown food, renewable energy, reduce consumption of purposes, reusable items, and upcycling of items. Club Project Example: Host a fun time with upcycled items for purchase.

4. Beautify Communities and Enjoy Nature:

This area relates to but not exclusive of adopt-a-highway, clean up days, nature walks, teaching others about nature, yard of the month, garden tours, master gardening, plant and tree identification, hiking and biking, National and State Parks, and clean water projects. Club Project Example: Be a part of your communities Clean and Beautiful, host a trash pick-up day in your community, or volunteer at a national or state park.

Kids' Corner

In honor or World Farm Animals Day on October 2, here are several websites to help children learn about farm animals:

<http://www.kidsfarm.com/farm.htm>

<http://www.usda.gov/nass/nasskids/>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/>

<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Farm/>

<http://www.hsus.org/programs/farm/>

[ABC Book of Early Americana](#) by Eric Sloane
[America at Work: Farming](#) – Ann Love

[The American Family Farm](#) by Joan Anderson
[Antler, Bear, Canoe: A Northwoods Alphabet](#) by Betsy Bowen

[Appalachian ABCs](#) by Francie Hall

[Around the Year](#) by Tasha Tudor

[Becky's Christmas](#) by Tasha Tudor

[The Bee Tree](#) by Patricia Polacco

[The Biggest Bear](#) by Lynd Ward

[Charlie Needs a Cloak](#) by Tomie dePaola

[Chicks & Chickens](#) by Gail Gibbons

[The Cow Who Fell in the Canal](#) by Phyllis Krasilovsky

What can you do with these books as a club project?

Read stories to young children. Plan a project around the book with the children. Readings can be a part of your local library children's program, an elementary school, a daycare center, preschool programs, Head Start programs, or scouts.

Perfect to host a Farm Day at school/daycare/library or take a field trip to a local farm. Involve Heifer International, as our Affiliate organization. Heifer International (www.heifer.org): provides gifts of livestock and environmentally-sound agricultural training.

Important Dates for October

- Oct 2 World Farm Animal Day
- Oct 3 World Habitat Day
- Oct 4 World Animal Day
- Oct 5 Energy Efficiency Day
- Oct 13 International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction
- Oct 14 International E-Waste Day
- Oct 17 International Sawfish Day
- Oct 20 International Sloth Day
- Oct 21 National Reptile Awareness Day
- Oct 22 International Wombat Day
- Oct 23 International Snow Leopard Day
- Oct 24 Freshwater Dolphin Day
- Oct 24 International Day of Climate Action
- Oct 26 Sustainability Day
- Oct 28 World Lemur Day
- Oct 31 Halloween

Find ways to help sloths at [slothconservation.org!](http://slothconservation.org/)



October: The Marigold

October has two birth flowers, both the marigold and the cosmos. Both annuals thrive in full sun.

Marigolds symbolize despair and grief over a loved one, which is surprising given its sunny and cheerful look. It is actually those orange and yellow hues that represent the sunrays or light paths that will guide the dearly departed and the rising Sun and its resurrection power.

It is native to South America with its first cultivation by the Aztecs. It continues to be a popular flower in Latin America, especially during the Day of the Dead, serving as altar flowers.

This flower will give you blooms late in spring and fall. The vase life of the marigold is about one week or more.

The cosmos is a symbol of order, peace, and serenity. Its name means harmony. It is native

to Mexico. It is also the second wedding anniversary flower.

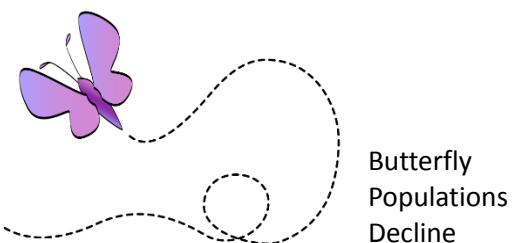




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Here are some helpful ways to help birds during the fall season. Offer these tips to your club women. Promote ways such as door prizes for bird seed, bird bath structures, and informational sessions about nature flowers.

- Offer food in several location
- Provide water
- Provide shelter
- Let native plants grow
- Plant more bushes
- Protect birds from cats
- Protect birds from house windows
- Upgrade bird feeders before winter



Recent studies indicate the butterfly population in the Western US have declined 1.6% every year for the past 40 years with other areas showing similar trends. The Eastern Monarch has declined 80% and the Western Monarch 99%. In the 1980s,

California saw millions migrate; whereas in 2021, there were less than 10,000.

Researchers believe this is due to the warming climate.

Poison Map of America

A recent study indicated an alarming level of toxic pollution in US cities. There were higher levels of cancer-causing agents, more often in poor neighborhoods of people of color.

The findings were from ProPublica and the researchers layered different factories onto one map. The individual factory may fall below the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable threshold but combined, they created a zone of higher cancer rates throughout the country, especially in the South. Environmental regulations appear to be weaker in the south. Visit www.projects.ProPublications.org/ToxMap to see the areas impacted by pollution and the industries responsible.

How can your club assist in making sure there is equity for all and ensure pollution is measured appropriately in all ways? Talk to your local officials. Research companies in your area. Talk to your state EPA agency.

Poisonous Plant Guide

What to learn more about which plants are poisonous? Or ways to be prepared when hiking?

Find information and this graphic at [Poisonous Plants Common in USA \[Full List With Pictures\] – Greenbelly Meals](http://Poisonous Plants Common in USA [Full List With Pictures] – Greenbelly Meals)



State of the Month: ARKANSAS

This state is known for its lakes, rivers, and hot springs. It has extreme weather and frequent storms. Arkansas entered the union in June 1836. The name Arkansas came from the Quapaw Indians by way of early French explorers and ultimately means “people who live downstream”.

Did you know it has the only diamond mine in the United States?

Also, it is illegal for the Arkansas River to rise above Main Street Bridge in the capital of Little Rock. Hum, I wonder how they would enforce this law?

The highest point in Arkansas is Mount Magazine at 2753. It boasts of one national park: Hot Springs National Park.

It has a state dance (square dance), a state beverage (milk), and the diamond as its state gem.

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Flower: Apple Blossom

State Insect: Honey Bee

The Ozark Mountain Range is located in Arkansas. They are a series of plateaus in the north western part of the state that run south to north into Missouri. There are six epic mountain peaks to view in the range.



National Park: Badlands

The Badlands National Park is one of the 63 National Parks in the nation. It is located in the southwestern portion of South Dakota.



The park protects close to 243,000 acres and has one of the largest undisturbed grass prairies. It is largely made up of eroded buttes and pinnacles.

The Badlands are operated not only by the National Park Service but also the Oglala Lakota tribe. Parts of the movie “Dances with Wolves” was filmed in the park.

The land was originally a part of the Sioux tribe. For 11,000 years, Native Americans used this land as hunting lands. Native Americans called this land “mako sica”, which translates to “bad lands”. French traders also referred to it as a bad land to travel through, due to its desolate, extreme temperatures, and lack of water sources.

Here are 10 ways to support national parks:

1. Donate time.

- 2. Donate funds.
- 3. Make a purchase at the National Park Foundation website.
- 4. Go on a trip to a national park.
- 5. Create park inspired art.
- 6. Eat Trail Series bars from Salazon Chocolate Company.
- 7. Start a fundraiser.
- 8. Pursue a career or teach others about careers in forestry.
- 9. Support Pro-Parks legislation.
- 10. Spread the word! Tell others about national parks and post/share photos.
- 6. Impacts urban climate
- 7. Increases access to quality and lower cost nutritious foods
- 8. Decreased food insecurity
- 9. Helps members with health by providing physical activity
- 10. Improves diet and health education
- 11. Reduces risk of obesity and related diseases
- 12. Improves mental health and promotes relaxation
- 13. Promotes positivity in the community with decreased crime rates, improved property rates, boost to economy, and skill building for residents

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Bring sparkle and shine to your local community with a community garden!

The benefits for a community garden are limitless. It is beneficial to the environment and also to the health and well-being of its citizens. Community ties are often strengthened with a garden to tend to together.

Food producing community gardens can reduce the food scarcity in low income areas and allow access to more nutritious foods.

For our environment, there is the reduction of food transportation costs and water runoff. It can help with sustainable agriculture and provides habitats for creatures. This helps with the ecology of the area.

When talking to possible collaborating organizations as you plan your community garden, discuss these many positives:

- 1. Improvement of air and soil quality
- 2. Increase diversity of plants and animals
- 3. Reduces the mileage food has to travel
- 4. Improves water filtration
- 5. Reduces waste through composting

How to get started with a community garden?

- 1. Educate club members on what it is
- 2. Brainstorm ways your club can begin or sustain a community garden
- 3. Determine the scope of the project
- 4. List all possible partner organizations
- 5. Discuss financial aspects
- 6. Research grants
- 7. Talk to government officials
- 8. Host a planning day

Possible partnering agencies include but are not limited to:

- 1. Local government agencies
- 2. Mayor's office
- 3. EPA
- 4. Scout organizations
- 5. Churches
- 6. Food Banks
- 7. Schools and Board of Education
- 8. Colleges and Universities
- 9. Low income Housing Authority
- 10. Garden Supply Companies
- 11. Landscapers
- 12. Master Garden groups
- 13. Judicial System
- 14. Domestic Violence Shelter
- 15. Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Home

16. FFA
17. 4-H
18. Civic and Community Organizations
19. Fraternity and Sororities
20. Botanical Garden

Books about starting a community garden:

Start a Community Food Garden by Lamanda Joy
The Community Gardening Handbook by Hobby Farms
The No-Till Organic Vegetable Farm by Daniel Mays
Community Garden as Social Action by Claire Nettle

