**GFWC MO Top Ten Projects**

**Environment**

**1. GFWC Woman’s Club of Lexington** members continue to collect single-use plastic bags to participate in the TREX recycling program. For every 500 pounds of bags, the club is able to have one bench made from recycled materials. To date, they have secured three benches that have been placed in the community.

**2. GFWC Mina Suak of Ironton** members collected enough single-use plastic bags in 6 months, with the help of the local post office and grocery store, to receive a TREX bench, which was dedicated to a charter member.

**3. GFWC Woman’s Club of Lexington** spearheads an ongoing project to fill 42 large flower pots in the downtown area. This includes coordinating with other civic organizations to provide funding. They organize a rotating schedule of volunteers to deadhead and check on plants plus other volunteers to plant in spring and remove in fall. Some plants are overwintered at the local high school through their agricultural program.

**4. GFWC Tuesday Club of Columbia (4th District)** participated in the October Plastic Challenge and collected 30 plastic jugs. This is the beginning of what is hoped to be an ongoing project. The plastic jugs were given to Mobility Worldwide in Columbia. The jugs are used as lightweight packing material around the mobility carts that are then shipped all over the world. When the carts and jugs are unloaded at the destination site, the jugs are an added bonus to hold water and other liquids again. In December, Mobility Worldwide requested the group to pause plastic jug donations due to lack of parts available for the mobility carts, which caused delays in shipping. During the pause, members have been encouraged to continue recycling plastic jugs through the city recycling program. Eight of the 41 club members participated for a total of 8 volunteer hours.

**5. GFWC Achieving by Reading (2nd District)** members focused on eco-friendly awareness, starting with reminders to be environmentally mindful of products needed for parties: what is already on hand; what can be borrowed and purchasing used items when possible. The club was encouraged to “say goodby to single-use plastic” and avoid disposable foam and plastic tableware. Bamboo or palm leaf tableware was suggested along with posting signs to help guests decide what belongs in recycling, trash and compost bins. The October 8th Second District Convention and the November 30th club meeting used 100% compostable, biodegradable, disposable bamboo plates and cups. During the environment report at one club meeting, members were encouraged to consider using bamboo and information on where to find the items was distributed.

**6. GFWC Chautauqua Club (4th District)** helps the environment and benefits the Friends of the Louisiana, Mo. Library through recycling Christmas cards. A member collects ‘sent’ greeting cards and gives them new life through recycling them. The newly designed greeting cards are sold at the local library with proceeds given to the library’s friends group. The GFWC member spent 45 hours on this project.

**7. GFWC Achieving by Reading Club (2nd District)** participated in the Lee’s Summit Recycle-Fest on October 16th. A list of items accepted for recycling, of which many were unusual, was sent to club members. Some of the unusual items included: license plates, athletic shoes, crayons, golf balls, tennis balls. The club members gathered items for recycling and two members took them to the Recycle-Fest.

**8. GFWC Monday Club of Farmington (9th District)** collected old jewelry for Monarch Jewelry. Three bags of jewelry were donated at the GFWC Missouri District 9 Spring Meeting and another bag was donated at the GFWC Missouri District 9 Fall Meeting.

**9. GFWC Tuesday Club of Columbia (4th District)** presents Earth Minute at each meeting. The topics presented in 2021 included; unusual uses for everything, uses for common household items, how what we eat affects climate change, plant ideas, foraging for food and planting. Member participation averages 27 of the club’s 41 members. There were 45 hours of volunteer time spent on research and presentation.

**Creativity**

See #4 above