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April 2021

# The Heartbeat

Do something today that your future self will thank you for!

Plant ▶ Recycle ▶ Pick It Up!

Volume XII Issue II



A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself.  
Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air  
and giving fresh strength to our people.

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt



The mission of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. is an organization of women whose goal is personal enrichment leading to volunteer service that benefits the community, state, nation and world.

Founded on May 25, 1898 and a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs Since 1904.

# 



GFWC-MFWC Headquarters  
2407 North State Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39216

### 2020-2022 Elected Officers

Sherri E. Reid  
President  
Cosmopolitan Club  
Southern District

Carolyn Tedford  
Vice President and Dean of Chairmen  
Poplarville Woman's Club  
Southern District

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Theresa H. Buntyn  
President-elect,  
Advisor to District Presidents  
and State Membership Chairman  
GFWC-MFWC Decatur Woman's Progressive  
Club  
Central District

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Deana T. Pittman  
Secretary  
GFWC-MFWC Batesville Woman's Club  
Northern District

Belinda Peacher  
Treasurer  
GFWC-MFWC Florentine Evening Club  
Central District

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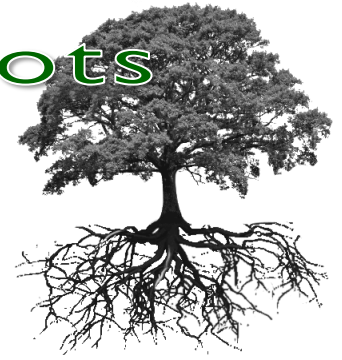
The GFWC-MFWC Newsletter "The Heartbeat" is published by the GFWC-MFWC. All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged. Mail articles and/or photographs to Lisa A. Harris, 822 SCR 115 S, Raleigh, MS 39153 or email to [lisaharris@outlook.com](mailto:lisaharris@outlook.com). Questions or comments, contact Lisa at (601) 940-1519.

# Exploring Our Roots

## "A History of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs"

Administration of Mrs. E.H. H. (Birdie) Ellis

1940 - 1942



- Twentieth-second President of the MFWC from Meridian, MS. The theme of her administration was "Revitalizing the Ideals of the American Way of Life".

### Highlights of this Administration

- Highlights from the forty third annual convention of the MFWC was held in the Buena Vista Hotel in Biloxi in November 1941 with Mrs. H. H. Ellis presiding.
- At this convention, the reports indicate that Mississippi Federation work continued to flourish. Ninety-five percent of all Mississippi clubs were honor clubs.
  - The following resolutions were adopted by the convention: the repeal of parts of the Neutrality Act so that National Defense would be strengthened as recommended by the President of the United States; a resolution approving an increase of \$11,000 for support of the State Library Commission for 1941-1943; and a resolution of support for the Citizen Library Movement for State aid for library service.
  - The Biloxi convention closed with the women fearing what lay ahead for the state and national. The fears were realized within one month when President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "A state of emergency exists," and war was declared.
- Highlights from the forty fourth annual convention of the MFWC which was held in Jackson, MS in November 1942 with Mrs. Ellis presiding.
  - This convention was a streamlined version of previous convention due to the war.
  - The following resolutions were adopted by the convention: support for legislation in Congress regarding intoxication and prostitution aimed toward protecting men in the military; a request that all clubs have one program a club year on cancer; and support for the repeal of Federal and special taxes on oleomargarine.
- Most of Mrs. Ellis administration was dictated by World War II.

Source: "A History of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs 1898-1998" by Tommye Hogue Rosenbaum, 1998, Commemorating The Centennial of the Mississippi Federation. Published by the GFWC Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., 2407 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216. Copyright 1998 by Tommye Hogue Rosenbaum for the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, ISBN: 0-935515-32-1.

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# MESSAGE FROM SHERRI E. REID

Dear Fellow Conservationist,

I want to let you know of several upcoming April events and national day holidays which you can take part in and are a part of my President's Special Project ... PLANT ► RECYCLE ► PICK IT UP!

During the entire month of April, you can celebrate Keep America Beautiful Month. Keep America Beautiful believes in the shared American responsibility to build and maintain clean, green, and beautiful spaces. Some of their projects include ending littering, improving recycling and beautifying communities. They envision a country in which every community is a clean, green, and beautiful place to live. Some of the impacts from their projects over the past decade include 750 million pounds of litter and recyclables collected, millions of trees, flowers, bulbs planted, 500,000 miles of streets, roads and highways cleaned, improved or beautified and tens of millions of volunteers and participants mobilized. For more information on Keep America Beautiful, [click here](#).

For those of you who like to travel and visit America's natural wonders, you may want to take part in National Park Week. Join the National Park Service (NPS) in celebrating National Park week 2021 from April 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. Parks across the country will host a variety of special programs, events, and digital experiences. There are also special theme days during the week to highlight the different ways everyone can enjoy our national parks. Join the NPS on [social media](#), check out [each days' themes](#), find in-person and virtual [events](#), or stay caught up on [news](#). For those of you who wish to travel to a National Park, you may wish to do this on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> for Fee Free Day. Several parks have a time/day in which you can volunteer to pick up trash within the National Park System. Use this [link](#) for more information on National Park Week.

Earth Day is Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is your chance to Restore Our Earth according to [earthday.org](#). This year Earth Day will focus on natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems. In this way, the theme rejects the notion that mitigation or adaptation are the only ways to address climate change. It is up to each and every one of us to Restore Our Earth not just because we care about the natural world, but because we live on it. We all need a healthy Earth to support our jobs, livelihoods, health & survival, and happiness. A healthy planet is not an option — it is a necessity.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> you can celebrate National Arbor Day by planting trees which will in turn help purify our air, stabilize our soil, regulate the temperature around them and provide habitat and food for wildlife. Plant a tree to day to heal our earth. For more information on Arbor Day, [click here](#).

I want to leave you with this quote from John Muir who was known as the "Father of the National Parks", *"In every walk with nature one receives far more that he seeks."*

*Do something today that your future self will thank you for! – Plant > Recycle > Pick It Up!*

*Sherri*

# Earth Day

## April 22, 2021

Source: *Earth Day 2021, History.com Editors, <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day>, Published by A&E Television Network, Original Published 10/27/2009, Updated 7/7/2020.*

Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues, and Earth Day 2021 will occur on Thursday, April 22—the holiday's 51st anniversary. The holiday is now a global celebration that's sometimes extended into Earth Week, a full seven days of events focused on green living. The brainchild of Senator Gaylord Nelson and inspired by the protests of the 1960s, Earth Day began as a “national teach-in on the environment” and was held on April 22 to maximize the number of students that could be reached on university campuses. By raising public awareness of pollution, Nelson hoped to bring environmental causes into the national spotlight.

By the early 1960s, Americans were becoming aware of the effects of pollution on the environment. Rachel Carson's 1962 bestseller *Silent Spring* raised the specter of the dangerous effects of pesticides on the American countryside. Later in the decade, a 1969 fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River shed light on the problem of chemical waste disposal. Until that time, protecting the planet's natural resources was not part of the national political agenda, and the number of activists devoted to large-scale issues such as industrial pollution was minimal. Factories pumped pollutants into the air, lakes and rivers with few legal consequences. Big, gas-guzzling cars were considered a sign of prosperity. Only a small portion of the American population was familiar with—let alone practiced—recycling.

The first Earth Day was effective at raising awareness about environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “Public opinion polls indicate that a

permanent change in national priorities followed Earth Day 1970. When polled in May 1971, 25 percent of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be an important goal, a 2,500 percent increase over 1969.” Earth Day kicked off the “Environmental decade with a bang,” as Senator Nelson later put it. During the 1970s, a number of important pieces of environmental legislation were passed, among them the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. Another key development was the establishment in December 1970 of the Environmental Protection Agency, which was tasked with protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment—air, water and land.

Since 1970, Earth Day celebrations have grown. In 1990, Earth Day went global, with 200 million people in over 140 nations participating, according to the Earth Day Network (EDN), a nonprofit organization that coordinates Earth Day activities. In 2000, Earth Day focused on clean energy and involved hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries and 5,000 environmental groups, according to EDN. Activities ranged from a traveling, talking drum chain in Gabon, Africa, to a gathering of hundreds of thousands of people at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Today, the Earth Day Network collaborates with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, making it “the largest secular civic event in the world.”



# National Arbor Day

## April 30, 2021

### Background on National Arbor Day.

The origin of Arbor Day dates back to the early 1870s in Nebraska City, Nebraska. A journalist by the name of Julius Sterling Morton moved to the state with his wife, Caroline, in 1854 (a little more than 10 years after Nebraska gained its statehood in 1867). As newcomers to the young state, the couple purchased 160 acres in Nebraska City and planted a wide variety of trees and shrubs in what was primarily a flat stretch of desolate plain.

Morton also became the editor of the state's first newspaper, Nebraska City News, which became a perfect platform for Morton to spread his knowledge of trees and to stress their ecological importance within Nebraska. His message of tree life resonated with Nebraskans, many of whom recognized the lack of forestation in their community. Morton also became involved with the Nebraska Board of Agriculture.

On January 7, 1872, Morton proposed a day that would encourage all Nebraskans to plant trees in their community. The agriculture board agreed, and after some back-and-forth about the title - the event was originally going to be called "Sylvan Day" in reference to forest trees. However, Morton noted that the day should reflect the appreciation of all trees and Arbor Day was born.

It wasn't until 1970, however, that Arbor Day became recognized nationwide, thanks to Richard Nixon. This move was in line with other environmentally-friendly actions taken by Nixon in the 1970s, including the passing of the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Protection Act, along with the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Be part of GFWC-MFWC President's Special Project by planting trees on Arbor Day.

- Obtain free trees by joining the National Arbor Day Foundation.,
- Request trees from the National Wildlife Federation Trees for Wildlife program,
- Purchase trees from a local nursery or organizations such as a scout group and plant them.,
- Contact your local SWCD or NRCS and ask about their tree sales.





# Why Trees?

Source: One Tree Planted, [Why Plant Trees?](#) | [One Tree Planted](#) .

## WHY ARE TREES IMPORTANT TO THE ENVIRONMENT?

Trees help [clean the air we breathe](#), filter the water we drink, and provide habitat to over 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. Forests provide jobs to over 1.6 billion people, [absorb harmful carbon](#) from the atmosphere, and are key ingredients in 25% of all medicines. Have you ever taken an Aspirin? It comes from the bark of a tree!

Here are the six pillars that explain why trees are vital:

### AIR

Trees help to [clean the air](#) we breathe. Through their leaves and bark, they absorb harmful pollutants and release clean oxygen for us to breathe. In urban environments, trees absorb pollutant gases like nitrogen oxides, ozone, and carbon monoxide, and sweep up particles like dust and smoke. Increasing levels of carbon dioxide caused by [deforestation](#) and fossil fuel combustion trap heat in the atmosphere. Healthy, strong trees act as carbon sinks, [offset carbon](#) and reducing the effects of [climate change](#).



### WATER



Trees play a key role in capturing rainwater and reducing the risk of natural disasters like floods and landslides. Their intricate root systems act like filters, removing pollutants and slowing down the water's absorption into the soil. This process prevents harmful waterslide erosion and reduces the risk of over-saturation and flooding. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Association, a mature evergreen tree can intercept more than 15,000 litres of water every year.

### BIODIVERSITY

A single tree can be home to hundreds of species of insect, fungi, moss, mammals, and plants. Depending on the kind of food and shelter they need, different forest animals require different types of habitat. Without trees, forest creatures would have nowhere to call home.

- **Young, Open Forests:** These forests occur as a result of fires or logging. Shrubs, grasses, and young trees attract animals like black bears, the American goldfinch, and bluebirds in North America.

- **Middle-Aged Forests:** In middle-aged forests, taller trees begin to outgrow weaker trees and vegetation. An open canopy allows for the growth of ground vegetation preferred by animals like salamanders, elk, and tree frogs.



(Continued on page 9)



## GFWC Advancement Plan - Leadership

(Continued from page 8 - Why Trees?)

- **Older Forests:** With large trees, a complex canopy, and a highly developed understory of vegetation, old forests provide habitat for an array of animals, including bats, squirrels, and many birds.

### SOCIAL IMPACT

From arborists to loggers and researchers, the job opportunities provided by the forestry industry are endless. We don't just rely on trees for work, though. Sustainable tree farming provides timber to build homes and shelters, and wood to burn for cooking and heating. Food-producing trees provide fruit, nuts, berries, and leaves for consumption by both humans and animals, and pack a powerful nutritional punch.



### HEALTH

Did you know that hospital patients with rooms overlooking trees recover faster than those without the same view? It's impossible to ignore that feeling of elation you get while walking through a calm, quiet forest. Trees help reduce stress and anxiety, and allow us to reconnect with nature. In addition, shade provided by tree coverage helps protect our skin from the ever-increasing harshness of the sun.



### CLIMATE

Trees help cool the planet by sucking in and storing harmful greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide into their trunks, branches, and leaves — and releasing oxygen back into the atmosphere. In cities, trees can reduce ambient temperatures by up to 8° Celsius. With more than 50% of the world's population living in cities — a number expected to increase to 66% by the year 2050 — pollution and overheating are becoming a real threat. Fortunately, a mature tree can absorb an average of 48 lbs of carbon dioxide per year, making cities a healthier, safer place to live.



# TREE FACTS

Source: One Tree Planted, [Why Plant Trees?](#) | [One Tree Planted](#).

Trees play an important role in the water cycle, grounding the water in their roots and releasing it into the atmosphere.

Here are some interesting facts about trees and the impact of deforestation around the world.

TREES AND PLANTS  
ARE BEING BURNED,  
DEGRADED AND  
LOGGED AT  
ASTONISHING RATES.

EVERY  
1.2  
SECONDS

MORE THAN HALF OF THE  
WORLD'S TIMBER AND 72%  
OF PAPER IS CONSUMED  
BY 22% OF THE WORLD'S  
POPULATION (THE UNITED  
STATES, EUROPE, AND  
JAPAN). WORLDWIDE,  
INDUSTRIALIZED  
COUNTRIES CONSUME  
OVER TWELVE TIMES MORE  
WOOD PRODUCTS PER  
PERSON THAN NON-  
INDUSTRIALIZED  
COUNTRIES.

46%

of the world's forests are  
already destroyed.

man destroys an area of forest  
the size of a football field.

80,000  
ACRES

of forests disappear from the  
Earth every day!

46-58  
THOUSAND

Square miles of forest are lost  
every year. That's equivalent to  
48 football fields every minute.

12.4  
MILLION

acres of forests are  
permanently converted to  
growing commodity crops,  
such as palm oil, each year.

# 50% 28,000

of all terrestrial plant and animal species in the world live in tropical rainforests.

species are expected to become extinct by the next 25 years due to deforestation.

HEALTHY FORESTS HELP ABSORB GREENHOUSE GASSES AND CARBON EMISSIONS THAT ARE CAUSED BY HUMAN CIVILIZATION AND CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.

THE WORLD'S RAINFORESTS COULD COMPLETELY VANISH IN A HUNDRED YEARS AT THE CURRENT RATE OF DEFORESTATION.

# 48LBS

of CO<sub>2</sub> is sequestered by a mature tree every year.

WITHOUT TREES AND PLANTS, MORE CARBON AND GREENHOUSE GASSES ENTER THE ATMOSPHERE.

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, TREES ACTUALLY BECOME CARBON SOURCES WHEN THEY ARE CUT, BURNED, OR OTHERWISE REMOVED.

# 15% 121+

of all greenhouse gas emissions are the result of deforestation.

natural remedies in the rainforest can be used as medicines.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT ONE TREE PLANTED WEBSITE OR [click this link.](#)**

If forests are destroyed through logging or burning, their carbon is released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, a climate-changing greenhouse gas.



# National Volunteer Week

Source: AmeriCorp, [Volunteering in U.S. Hits Record High; Worth \\$167 Billion](#) | [AmeriCorps \(nationalservice.gov\)/](#).

Note from editor - 2018 is the latest published data for volunteering in the U.S.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – More Americans than ever are volunteering, according to a new federal study released today by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps and Senior Corps.

The 2018 Volunteering in America report found that 77.34 million adults (30.3 percent) volunteered through an organization last year. Altogether, Americans volunteered nearly 6.9 billion hours, worth an estimated \$167 billion in economic value, based on the Independent Sector's estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour for 2017. Millions more are supporting friends and family (43.1 percent) and doing favors for their neighbors (51.4 percent), suggesting that many are engaged in acts of "informal volunteering."

The research also found that Americans are generous with more than just their time. Volunteers donate to charity at twice the rate as non-volunteers. Nearly 80 percent of volunteers donated to charity, compared to 40 percent of non-volunteers. Overall, half of all citizens (52.2 percent) donated to charity last year. Across all categories in the study, volunteers engage in their

communities at higher rates than non-volunteers. They more frequently talk to neighbors, participate in civic organizations, fix things in the community, attend public meetings, discuss local issues with family and friends, do favors for neighbors, and vote in local elections.

The Volunteering in America research is produced by CNCS as part of its efforts to expand the reach and impact of America's volunteers. Collected for the past 15 years, the research is the most comprehensive data on American volunteering ever assembled, and it includes a volunteer data profile for all states and major metropolitan areas. The complete report can be accessed at [VolunteeringInAmerica.gov](#), and below are the top-line findings.

## Key Finding:

- Americans in Utah report the highest rate of volunteering (51 percent), holding the top spot among states, followed by Minnesota (45.1 percent). Oregon (43.2 percent) climbed from the 13th-ranked state to the third, and is joined by Iowa (41.5 percent) and Alaska (40.6 percent), also new to the top five.
- Among cities, Minneapolis-St. Paul (46.3 percent) once again ranks first, with Rochester, N.Y. (45.6 percent), Salt Lake City (45 percent),

*(Continued on page 13)*



(Continued from page 12 - National Volunteer Week)

- Milwaukee, Wisc. (44.6 percent), and Portland, Ore., (44.3 percent) trailing just behind.
- Parents volunteer at rates nearly 48 percent higher than non-parents and working mothers give more time than any other demographic, with a volunteer rate of 46.7 percent.
- Generation X has the highest rate (36.4 percent) of volunteering, while Baby Boomers are giving more hours of service (2.2 billion). Millennials are stepping up to do more in Utah and the District of Columbia.
- Veterans are among the most neighborly Americans. They do something positive for the neighborhood, spend time with and do favors for their neighbors, and donate to charity at higher rates than their civilian counterparts. Veterans in New Hampshire and Virginia are volunteering more than in other states.
- Americans most frequently gave their time to religious groups (32 percent), a quarter volunteered most often with sports or arts groups (25.7 percent); with another nearly 20 percent supporting support education or youth service groups.
- One in three volunteers raises funds for nonprofits (36 percent). Additional volunteer activities include: food donation and meal preparation (34.2 percent); transportation and labor support (23 percent); tutoring young people (23 percent); serving as a mentor (26.2 percent); and lending professional and management expertise (20.5 percent).

### Mississippi Data

- 546,788 volunteers** contribute **40.7 million hours** of service
- 23.8%** of residents volunteer, ranking them **50th** among states

- Volunteer service worth an estimated **\$983.9 million**
- 95.9%** of residents regularly talk or spend time with friends and family
- 48.3%** of residents do favors for neighbors
- 18.4%** of residents do something positive for the neighborhood
- 19.6%** of residents participate in local groups or organizations
- 46.4%** of residents donate \$25 or more to charity



**ESO Reading with the President Challenge**

**April 2021 Selection of the Month**

**REFORESTING FAITH**  
by Matthew Sleeth, MD

Category:  
**Religion and Inspirational**

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# National Park Week

## April 17 - 25, 2021

National Park Week is a time to explore amazing places, discover stories of history and culture, [help out](#), and [find your park](#).

Join us celebrating National Park Week 2021 from **April 17 to 25!** Parks across the country will host a variety of special programs, events, and digital experiences. There are also special theme days during the week to highlight the different ways everyone can enjoy national parks.

National Park Week encourages the public to explore the vast network of our national parks, sacred sites, historical landmarks, as well as our shared heritage contained within them. To kick off National Park Week, every national park will have a free admission day on Saturday, April 17. The public is asked to [recreate responsibly](#) when visiting parks, including following rules requiring masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained, or to explore parks virtually through a variety of engaging online activities. Visit [nps.gov/npweek](https://nps.gov/npweek) or [nationalparkweek.org](https://nationalparkweek.org) for more virtual programming.

### APRIL 17: PARK RX DAY

Being outdoors supports wellness in a number of ways, making you stronger, happier, healthier, and more productive. Enjoy some fresh air and reflect on the ways you can take care of the parks as much as they take care of you. Discover NPF programs that are helping parks be more [resilient and sustainable](#), as well as those that contribute to [landscape and wildlife conservation](#).

### APRIL 18: VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS (VIP) DAY

From clearing trails to planting trees to assisting archaeologists, volunteers are critical in providing support for NPS. Learn more about [how you can volunteer in parks](#) and [give thanks](#) to those who

help our parks run year-round. NPF helps connect volunteers to organizations and parks that need help the most. Explore NPF [communities and workforce](#) programs that help grow the capacity of NPS and our partners.

### APRIL 19: MILITARY MONDAY

For active-duty military and veterans, as well as their families, national parks can provide a place of solitude, beauty, reflection, and recreation. Discover the stories of veterans and military members that are preserved in parks across the country. NPF helps preserve our military history in national parks and connects veterans and military members to our parks through our work in [outdoor exploration](#) as well as [communities and workforce](#).

### APRIL 20: TRANSFORMATION TUESDAY

NPS has been protecting and preserving lands and historic structures for over 100 years! Explore the ways our parks have changed over the years, and the work NPS, NPF, and partners continue to do to transform the way we see our history and connections to the world. Discover NPF's work in [landscape and wildlife conservation](#), our commitment to preserving [history and culture](#), and investments we're making in [parks of the future](#) to ensure parks are enjoyed by future generations.

### APRIL 21: WAYBACK WEDNESDAY

With hundreds of historical and cultural sites protected by NPS, there are always new stories to discover. Find a park connected to some of the most inspiring stories in our nation's multifaceted history. NPF's continued work in [history and culture](#) supports the preservation of historic sites, collections, and artifacts in parks that share these stories, and our support of [parks of the future](#) ensures such treasures will be accessible for centuries to come.



#### APRIL 22: EARTH DAY

Celebrate [Earth Day](#) by reflecting upon the natural wonders of our parks and supporting the work we're doing to ensure the health and vibrancy of our parks. With innovative strategies that make our parks [environmentally friendly and sustainable](#) to our work in [landscape and wildlife conservation](#), NPF and partners are dedicated to protecting the natural resources our parks contain.

#### APRIL 23: FRIENDSHIP FRIDAY

Protecting parks is a big job, and NPS relies on partners, groups, and communities to [help accomplish their goals](#). Learn more about those who partner with NPS and NPF and the work that is being done together for our parks, from our [park partner community](#) to our [corporate partners](#). Explore NPF's work in [communities and workforce](#) that helps to expand the capacity of parks nationwide, leading to stronger, healthier parks.

#### APRIL 24: JUNIOR RANGER DAY

NPS's Junior Ranger programs help young park visitors connect with our shared history, heritage, and national parks. Find a Junior Ranger program in a park near you or earn a [digital Junior Ranger badge](#) from home! NPF and our partners have supported the creation of Junior Ranger programs such as the [Junior Ranger Angler](#) and [Junior Ranger Railroad Explorer](#) and encourage all young visitors to establish meaningful connections in our parks through our work in [youth education and engagement](#) and [outdoor exploration](#).

#### APRIL 25: B.A.R.K. RANGER DAY

National parks are fun to share with those we love – including man's best friend. Learn the B.A.R.K. Ranger principles for when you bring Fido on a trip to a [pet-friendly park](#) and discover [the many roles dogs play](#) in parks. NPF is committed to support programs that help all people feel welcome in our parks, and our work in [outdoor](#)

[exploration](#) encourages multicultural and multigenerational families to spend time outdoors – and maybe bring the family pet along too!



Save The Date

April 24, 2021



*Mark your calendar! Set a reminder!*

**DON'T MISS THE  
123RD ANNUAL  
STATE CONVENTION**



Convention to be held by  
Zoom Video Conferencing  
starting at 9:00 a.m.

## GFWC-MFWC Leadership - State Convention

### OFFICIAL CALL

***GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.***

**123rd State Convention**

**Zoom Video Conferencing**

**April 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Sherri E. Reid, GFWC-MFWC President 2020-2022**

***"Do something today that your future self will thank you for! Plant ►Recycle ►Pick It Up!"***

The One Hundred Twenty-Third Annual Convention of the GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., will be held by Zoom Video Conferencing on April 24, 2021 starting at 9:00 a.m.

### REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

**The Convention is open to all members of GFWC-MFWC.**

**All members attending must be registered.**

Advance registration is necessary for credentials count. Registration fee and Credentials Card can be found on the following page.

### DEADLINE:

**The deadline for registration is postmarked April 18, 2021.**

### REPRESENTATION

**The Voting Body** shall consist of the General Officers; Appointed Officers; Past State Presidents; State Chairmen of Standing Committees, Special Committees and Community Service Programs; District Officers and Chairmen, corresponding with those of the State; and, regularly accredited Club delegates. Voting delegates shall wear a special designation on their name badges. Each Federation Club of fifteen (15) members or less shall be entitled to representation by the President or her appointee and one elected delegate. For each additional membership of fifteen (15) or major fraction thereof, a club shall be allowed another delegate.

### RESOLUTIONS

**Emergency resolutions** may be presented to the Resolutions Committee. All other resolutions must be submitted in advance, pursuant to Article IX, Section 9 of the GFWC-MFWC Bylaws. *An emergency resolution is one arising from a sudden condition calling for immediate action, which because of its nature could not have been submitted at the designated time.*

### CONVENTION AGENDA

#### **Sunday, April 18, 2021**

TBA

Finance and Executive Committee Meetings

#### **Friday, April 23, 2021**

6:00 p.m.

Fun night

6:30ish

GFWC-MFWC Executive Board Meeting

#### **Saturday, April 24, 2021**

8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Sign in to Zoom Video Conferencing software

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Welcome to the 123<sup>rd</sup> GFWC-MFWC State Convention

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Raffle and Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Resume Convention

12:30 p.m.

Adjourned the 123<sup>rd</sup> GFWC-MFWC State Convention



**GFWC-MFWC Leadership - State Convention****REGISTRATION FORM****Mail to:**

Terrie Whitehurst

P. O. Box 966

Iuka, MS 38852

mfwcleadingladies18@gmail.com

**Club member:** \_\_\_\_\_**District** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_**Club:** \_\_\_\_\_**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Event****Registration****Member****\$15.00****Booster****\$15.00****CREDENTIALS CARD****GFWC-MFWC 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention****Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Club:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_**I am a Non-Voting Delegate.****I am a Voting Delegate, because I am: (Please mark *only* the highest position you hold.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ An elected or appointed State Officer of GFWC-MFWC.

\_\_\_\_\_ A Past State President of GFWC-MFWC.

\_\_\_\_\_ A State Chairman of a Standing Committee, Special Committee, or CSP.

\_\_\_\_\_ A District Officer or Chairman corresponding with those of the State.

\_\_\_\_\_ A regularly accredited club delegate.

(Each club of 15 members or less shall be entitled to representation by the President or her appointee and 1 elected delegate. For each additional membership of 15 or major fraction thereof, a club shall be allowed another delegate.)

***If voting delegate, please have Club President to sign, and mail this along with your meal reservations.***

\_\_\_\_\_, Club President

*Please mail this completed form, along with a check payable to:***GFWC-MFWC 2021 State Convention,****to Terrie Whitehurst at the address above.*****Be sure to indicate on memo that check is for 2021 State Convention.****Registration form and Credentials Card is also available for download from [www.gfwc-mfwc.org](http://www.gfwc-mfwc.org).***ALL REGISTRATION FORMS AND FEES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY April 18, 2021.**

If you wish to pay by credit card or Venmo, please contact Sherri Reid after 6:30 p.m. at (601) 270-4464.



## Important Dates (Overview)

<b>April 2021</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>	GFWC Volunteers In Action Week
24 <sup>th</sup>	GFWC Federation Day
23rd	State Convention Fun Night (Zoom Video Conferencing)
24th @ 9:00 a.m.	GFWC-MFWC Annual <b>State Convention</b> (Zoom Video Conferencing)
For a complete listing of Important Dates, <a href="#">click here</a> .	

### Postmark Deadline:

Please note: if the postmark deadline falls on a Sunday or a Holiday, the application/form must be postmarked prior to postmark date.





# General Federation of Women's Club



1734 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-2990

Phone:  
202-347-3168  
For membership information:  
800-443-GFWC

[www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)



## GFWC News

### GFWC Notable Events

- 1st - 30<sup>th</sup> -
  - Child Abuse Prevention Month
  - National Volunteer Month
  - School Library Month
  - State Convention
- April 17<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> - National Park Week
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Earth Day
- April 24<sup>th</sup> - Federation Day ([Link](#))
- April 30<sup>th</sup> - Arbor Day

Entire GFWC Calendar ([Link](#))

### Johns Hopkins Webinar April 13

Johns Hopkins Medicine is offering a webinar at 7:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, April 13, about the causes of high blood pressure in various populations, new guidelines from the American Heart Association, and how to get your blood pressure under control. Join host and National Chair Kelly Geer Ripken and cardiovascular nurse and epidemiologist Yvonne Commodore-Mensah, Ph.D., M.H.S., as she covers various topics related to hypertension. Visit the [Johns Hopkins website](#) to register for this event.

### GFWC Marketplace: Folder

As you prepare to attend upcoming meetings or conventions, the best way to keep all of your paperwork and ideas organized is with a GFWC folder in classic red or navy. This beautifully crafted, foil-stamped, letter-size, two-pocket folder features a portrait orientation with the GFWC emblem on the front. The rounded corners, standard business card slot in the right pocket, and two inside pockets makes this the perfect folder for any busy clubwoman. [Order yours today.](#)



### Celebrate GFWC at the Annual Convention



Thanks to the diligent work of the GFWC Regions and the Convention Committee, arrangements for the [2021 GFWC Annual Convention](#) are finalized and registration is open! Join your fellow clubwomen in Atlanta, GA, August 27-30, to celebrate all that our Federation has achieved in the first year of this Administration and to prepare for the future. Make your voice heard as we consider the proposed Bylaw and revisions to the Resolutions and learn more about GFWC programs and our work with Affiliate Organizations at the workshops. Register now through the [GFWC Member Portal](#) by June 15 to secure the Early Bird rate.

GFWC fully recognizes the public debate regarding election participation and security, occurring not only in Georgia but throughout our nation, with the introduction of new voting proposals in 47 states prior to March 24. As a nonpartisan organization, GFWC will continue to advocate for equality and access for all citizens to participate in the electoral process. We acknowledge the concerns that members have shared with us, but we want to stress the importance of gathering together to overcome the multitude of challenges from the past year and to further the interests of the Federation.

**GFWC NEWS****Recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month with a Pinwheel Garden**

April is [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), and GFWC is proud to support GFWC Affiliate Organization Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) in its [Pinwheels for Prevention](#) campaign. Every year, the GFWC Pierce Arrows and the GFWC District of Columbia Woman's Club ensure that the front lawn at Headquarters is decorated with a pinwheel garden, with assistance this year from President St.Clair to comply with Washington, DC's COVID-19 safety guidelines. Many clubs have followed the lead of Piece Arrows to help raise awareness of child abuse prevention and promote healthy childhoods.

PCAA introduced the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign in 2008 as the official symbol of great childhoods. The pinwheels represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness, and PCAA's vision for a world where all children grow up happy, healthy, and prepared to succeed in supportive families and communities.

Due to COVID-19, PCAA strongly recommends that individuals and organizations do not host and/or attend large Pinwheels for Prevention events during National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In lieu of an in-person event, this year's Pinwheels for Prevention campaign will focus on a [dynamic remote pinwheel garden](#). The organization is encouraging people to participate in this remote pinwheel garden as an alternative to a large in-person gathering of their own.

Show your support for children by making your own remote pinwheel display or in-person pinwheel garden while observing proper safety guidelines this month. Share your pictures and stories of creating a pinwheel garden with us at [PR@GFWC.org](mailto:PR@GFWC.org).

## GFWC NEWS

### D.E.A.R. – Drop Everything and Read, April 12

By Tina Daniel, GFWC Education and Libraries Chairman

On Monday, April 12, celebrate the annual “Drop Everything and Read” day and beloved author Beverly Cleary’s birthday. [Reading Rockets](#) is a founder of the program and encourages families to read for thirty minutes together. The concept of “D.E.A.R.” is referenced in Cleary’s book *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, which has become an inspiration for the campaign.



#### How can clubs participate?

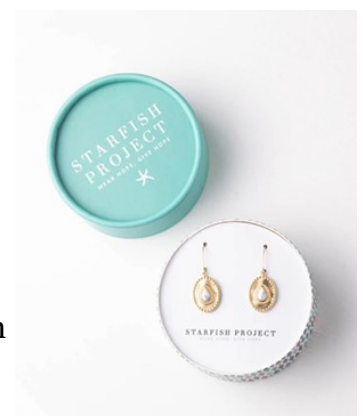
- Host your monthly meeting on April 12 and ask everyone to stop, pick up a book, and read. If you are in person, provide a book to each member to read during this “D.E.A.R.” time, and then have members take the book home with them to finish.
- Sponsor a “D.E.A.R.” time at your local school. Provide writing activity suggestions to the teachers. Some ideas include writing an opinion piece on what makes a happy family or assuming the voice of a favorite character in the book you have chosen. Provide a journal for each student to use or create a picture book retelling of the story.
- Host a “D.E.A.R.” event. Create flyers, invitations, stickers, bookmarks, and certificates. Have members wear a “D.E.A.R.” t-shirt to promote the event. It can be held at a school or in a local park or community area.
- Give families reading tips and booklists by posting them on your club’s website or providing them to your local library or school parent resource center.
- Sponsor a reading basket and hold a raffle for families to win the basket.
- Place books in your local laundromats to encourage reading.
- Record readings of books and provide them to families.
- Promote remote reading from grandparents to grandchildren.

I look forward to reading about your D.E.A.R success stories on [GFWC’s Blog](#). Contact [PR@GFWC.org](mailto:PR@GFWC.org) about submitting your project summaries and photos.

### Help Support the Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund

To celebrate their 15 year anniversary on Easter, Starfish Project has launched a new “[Transformed Collection](#)” featuring beautiful jewelry named after a quote from a woman at Starfish Project talking about the transformational impact it has had on her life. Through a fundraising agreement for the 2020–2022 Administration, purchasing any Starfish Project products [at this dedicated link](#) will supply 25% of the proceeds to the [GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund](#)!

Starfish supports women escaping human trafficking and exploitation. The organization is currently working with more than 150 survivors to provide a fresh start in life by arranging safe housing, healthcare, education, and training, and employing them to make jewelry and garments to support its mission. [Order](#) your next piece of jewelry today and help a survivor of human trafficking succeed!





# Support GFWC

## Support GFWC When You Shop at Amazon.com

Help strengthen GFWC's volunteer programs the next time you shop at Amazon.com by making your purchases through GFWC's Amazon.com affiliate link. The link enables members to direct **up to 0.5% percent** of your total purchases to the Federation. For more information, [click here](#).

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

## Let Your Flag Fly

The time has never been better to let our Emblem-spangled banner wave. GFWC Flags come in 3'x5' and 4'x6' sizes. You can also order a GFWC Podium Banner or Road Sign. Prices start at \$35.00. The GFWC flag is a perfect, highly visible, and easily portable way to brand any event, publicity table, or speaking engagement. Go to [GFWC Marketplace](#) to place your order today.



## GFWC Marketplace: 2020-2022 Administration Pin

Have you ordered your 2020–2022 Administration Pin yet? It's an initial step you can take in joining this Administration to light a path toward the future! This brightly-colored pin features a rising sun, a symbol of new beginnings. The back is magnetic for your convenience. Celebrate the start of the 2020–2022 Administration and order your pin (\$5.00) in [GFWC Marketplace](#).



## Renew Your Magazine Subscription Online

A new feature has been added to the [GFWC Member Portal](#) that allows you to renew your one-year GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine* subscription online! Once logged into the portal, go to the Marketplace tab and then select "Education Add-Ons." A one-year *Clubwoman* subscription should then be the only option on the next page.

## GFWC Infinity Scarf

With the February chill in the air, there is no better time to pick up a GFWC infinity scarf! This soft and silky Viscose Scarf is made of lightweight and slightly sheer fabric, measures 21X70, and is seamed together to create a loop. Whether you are dressing up or down, this will be the perfect GFWC edition to any outfit! [Order yours today](#).

