

**NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS  
ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

**TOP TEN CLUB PROJECTS 2024**

1. The **GFWC Little Silver Woman's Club** volunteers with the Save Coastal Wildlife Foundation. The members receive e-mails advising the start of spawning season of horseshoe crabs. Members go out in the evening to count, tag and measure the Horseshoe Crabs. These creatures come up on the Eastern Shores to lay their 100,000 eggs per female. Most hatchlings don't make it to the water as their predators love to eat the eggs. The oldest Horseshoe Crab species, which was identified in 2008, was estimated to be 450 million years old (pre dating dinosaurs). Although they are a protected species, the dead carcasses are highly used in fertilizer. The blood of captured crabs is used by bio medical companies for many life saving medications. These companies are taking horseshoe crabs and extracting 30% of their blood over a three-day period for experimentation. It has been due to the tagging and measuring done by volunteers that it has been proven that the crabs that have had blood extraction, no longer spawn, don't continue to grow and have much less activity than the rest. Although making a synthetic blood is a goal, it doesn't seem like scientists have been able to do so. More protection for these crabs may be needed.
2. The **Peapack-Gladstone Women's Club** of took their Earth Day celebration to the Matheny House which provides care for children and adults with long term disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida and other special needs. The club coordinated the day with the Peapack Gladstone Library, and a Horticultural Therapist. The therapist used moss, stones, bark, sticks and forest sounds to take the residents through an imaginary forest. A librarian read "Thank You Earth". Members of the club set up a variety of plants and herbs with different textures and aromas to introduce to the residents. The residents were given potted seeds so they could grow their own plants on the window sills. It was such a wonderful experience for the residents and to the members that they are anticipating returning in 2025.
3. **The GFWC Washington Woman's Club** set out to collect one ton of plastic for a bench for a Community Garden which was named after a deceased past President. They not only secured enough for that bench but for a second one which was the large prize at their tricky tray and the third bench is to be placed in the Karen Nash Butterfly Garden. The club is now working on a fourth bench for their Tricky Tray in fall of 2025this fall. They were able to collect so much plastic by placing many collection boxes throughout the town, asking other organizations to help. The members always made sure all the collection sites were clean and well maintained. This projects allowed them to keep four tons of plastic out of landfills!
4. The **GFWC Women's Club of Caldwell** realized they could get to see beautiful gardens and learn about how to design and how to grow them if they observed other programs in their community. In April, they visited Reeves Reed Arboretum in Summit enjoying the daffodils, roses, and magnolia trees. In May Frehinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown had members admiring the tulips, wisteria and azaleas. In October, Untermeyer Gardens in Yonkers provided a landscape of fall colors. In December members visited Skylands and NJ Botanical Garden and enjoyed viewing natures decorations that adorned their trees.
5. The members of the **GFWC Denville-Rockaway Area Club** were shocked last summer when their favorite swimming spot got closed. They asked and were advised to take an Eco Cruise on the lake to learn why. 16 members went on the eco-cruise and learned about the lake by taking part in water clarity testing, and collecting and studying plankton from

the water samples they collected. Members learned much about how the safety and cleanliness of the lake is watched and kept safe for bathers.

6. A speaker from The Monarch Teacher's Network gave a presentation to the **Woman's Club of Merchantville** about butterflies explaining that females lay eggs only on milkweed. The members learned that there are three types of milkweeds native to South Jersey and it is important to keep these growing to secure the future of Monarchs. 12 milkweed plants were given away as door prizes and each person who attended received a blooming wildflower seed paper. The club has planned a butterfly release for September.
7. In conjunction with the Colts Neck Shade Tree Commission, the **Woman's Club of Colts Neck** planned an Arbor Day Celebration. Information on tree planting, how to make a rain garden and soil preservation was researched. 250 tree seedlings were provided by New Jersey State Forestry and were given away to club members and their families.
8. The construction of Offshore Wind Turbines has been something that the general public was upset by. **The Woman's Club of Brielle** want it off their shore as no one was sure what it would do to the marine life, and the cost of the wind turbine. Members also felt that it would destroy the serenity of the shore line. This club was instrumental in forming a coalition of municipalities to oppose the plans. They petitioned their local legislators to stand against the Governor's Offshore Wind agenda. They wrote a resolution against the turbines which was supported by many people in the community.
9. The **Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains** instituted the Yard of the Month. The rules of the program stated that lawns could be cut by a professional landscaper but the flowers, shrubs and plantings had to be cared for by the residents. The committee rode around town and when they determined who gets the award, they rang the doorbell and gave the owner a certificate and a sign to place in their yard. Pictures were taken and put on Facebook. It has generated a lot of interest in taking care of yards and the club has received many positive comments from residents.
10. The **Woman's Club of Lacey** formed alliances with Popcorn Park Zoo and the Animal Shelter of Lacey. On a monthly basis they collect dog/cat food, bedding, newspapers and animal toys. They pass a collection jar at every meeting to help support these activities. Both organizations are no kill facilities so at times they are stretched to their limits to save unwanted pets. The ASPCA took notice of their dedication. Last year the club was recognized with a certificate for their work.