



Conservation Committee 2022-2023

Established in 1909 by the 18th Continental Congress, the Conservation Committee and members of DAR have known for over 100 years how important our natural resources are. With all of the pressing environmental issues of today, never has the mission of this committee been more relevant: to provide and encourage good stewardship practices for a more sustainable future for all those who will follow us.

As the population of the world increases, it has become more and more important to save the places we love, the birds we watch, and the flowers we enjoy. Let's all work together to continue the Conservation Committee's mission.

Chapter Challenge: "Put the Sparkle Back in Your Community" Participate in a Local Community Clean Up

Organize a group from your chapter (or even multiple chapters) and identify a place that needs some clean-up. This could be a national, state, city or local park, beach, or even a cemetery. Pick up trash, remove weeds or non-native plants, plant a tree, or do some trail maintenance.

Tips and suggestions:

- Pick a date and time
- Get approval if necessary
- Coordinate with other groups
- Have a plan so all can participate
- Start on time
- Have fun!

Suggested Supplies: gloves, rakes, trash bags, grabbers, buckets, & clippers

Follow-Up: Document your project and be sure to take pictures. Email your photos and a description of your project to this committee.

Member Challenge: "Plant a Pollinator Friendly Garden"

A pollinator garden is one that attracts bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, or other beneficial creatures that transfer pollen from flower to flower, or in some cases, within flowers. Planting a pollinator garden, even a small one on a deck or balcony can make a huge difference as pollinators have suffered greatly from loss of habitat, misuse and overuse of chemicals, and the spread of invasive plant and animal species. Many pollinators have disappeared, and others are endangered.

Home gardens can and do attract pollinators, and in many cases suburbs and cities have been shown to have more diverse pollinator communities than wild lands. Bees, butterflies, and moths thrive in cities and small towns all across the world. If there is small garden spot or a patch of flowers, it will be visited by these hungry bees and others.

Helpful Websites: <https://www.pollinator.org/>
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/beneficial/pollinator-friendly-plants.htm>

Follow-Up: Please take pictures of your pollinator garden and send them to this committee.

Arbor Day- April 28, 2023

Member Challenge: Plant a tree native to your area

Trees' food-making process, photosynthesis, involves absorbing carbon dioxide from the air and storing it in its wood. Trees and plants store theirs throughout their lives, helping slow the gas buildup in our atmosphere that has been slowly warming our planet. Smarter management of trees, plants, and soil in the US alone could store the equivalent carbon of taking 57 million cars off the road!

[Visit a DAR Forest](#)

There are 42 DAR forests in the US. West Virginia's forest is at Jackson's Mill where 400 trees were planted in 1940 as part of a DAR national project. To read more about the DAR forests in other states: <https://www.dar.org/national-society/dar-forests>

Conservation Medal

The NSDAR Conservation Award is to recognize adult and youth volunteers, including DAR members, with distinguished conservation records; businesses that exhibit sustained efforts to improve the environment or to educate the public on conservation issues; and compensated individuals who go above and beyond the requirements of their jobs. The criteria for issuance should include: outstanding efforts in wildlife and nature centers; resource management, park establishment; youth leadership, conservation-related media and education. Medals will be presented to each person in the group receiving the award.

The candidate nominated must be sponsored by a chapter or a state organization and should have at least two letters of recommendation written by non-DAR members. Other materials such as newspaper or magazine articles should be sent to substantiate the recommendation. This award may be given throughout the year. There is no deadline date. Please allow an eight-week turn-around time from the date you submit your nominee and the date of the presentation of the medal.

Note: Complete instructions may be found on the NSDAR website

Conservation Minutes

All DAR chapters are asked to have a Conservation Minute at each meeting—please include a Conservation Minute on your agenda. Chapters will be asked to report on the number of Conservation Minutes on the Chapter Master Report.

Note: Conservation Minutes are available on the Conservation Committee section of the DAR members website. You may also use your own.

Additional Resources

Important Dates

Flag these dates as opportunities to rejoice in DAR Service and Friendship

Great Backyard Bird Count 2023 -- Feb 17 - 20. When the world comes together to count birds. <https://www.birdcount.org/>

Earth Day -- celebrated on April 22. This date marks the founding of the modern-day environmental movement in 1970.

Arbor Day – **April 28**. (Date varies, celebrated the last Friday in April).

International Migratory Bird Day – second Saturday in May in the U.S. and Canada to raise awareness of migratory birds and their habitat.

World Oceans Day – June 8. World Oceans Day is a day to honor the world's oceans and celebrate the products the ocean provides

National Pollinator Week – the third week in June. A celebration of the ecosystem services provided by bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other pollinators.

National Moth Week – last full week of July. Celebrates the beauty, life cycles and habitats of these night-time pollinators.

National Honey Bee Day – third Saturday in August. Founded by beekeepers to build awareness of bees and beekeeping.

World Rivers Day – October 25. World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness.

Bat Week -- last week of October. International celebration of the role of bats in nature.

America Recycles Day – November 15. A program of Keep America Beautiful, this event encourages Americans to recycle.

Online Resources: Earth Day <https://www.earthday.org>

Ground Water Foundation <https://www.groundwater.org/action/home/raingardens.html> National Audubon Society <https://www.audubon.org/>

National Geographic <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>

National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org

Ocean Conservancy <https://oceanconservancy.org/>

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (bird guides and citizen science programs) www.birds.cornell.edu

USDA Bee Watch (live bee cam and information on creating pollinator gardens) <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2014/05/15/see-honeybees-work-usda-launches-beewatch>

The Nature Conservancy www.tnc.org

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center www.wildflower.org

Arbor Day Foundation www.arboday.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov

National Park Service www.nps.gov

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service www.fws.gov

DAR State Forests www.dar.org/national-society/dar-forests

Plastic Ocean Project <http://www.plasticoceanproject.org/>

Please contact me if you would like more conservation ideas or information for your chapter.

Meg Ashby, WV Conservation Committee

megashby52@gmail.com

304-619-4706