

The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N.

2019-2020 Accomplishments

The Woodlands GREEN (TWG) 31st year accomplishments:

Student Ambassador (SA) numbers climb. An unprecedented 59 students from The Woodlands, College Park, and Conroe High Schools joined this past year. The SA committee meets monthly to plan activities, coordinators Wendy Packer, Kathie Herrick, Teri MacArthur, and Debra Wymore.

High School Board Member added. For the first time, a student was appointed to the TWG board: Beth Verghese, TWHS junior and Eco-Club president. Beth has been instrumental in recruiting new SA members, networking with other school groups, and expanding social media connections.

College scholarships awarded. For the 15th year, TWG has funded four \$1000 college scholarships for high school seniors. The scholarship committee works annually January - May. This year's chair: John Geiger.

Library donations continue strong. For over two decades, TWG has donated to the two Woodlands libraries, expanding their collections of environmental books and media. See the full list at www.thewoodlandsgreen.org.

Strategic partnerships expand. The Woodlands Township Environmental Services (ES) Department and TWG partner on events with village challenges annually. New this year, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company has joined as a strategic partner with sponsorship funds of \$5K. Long-term partner HEB expanded its sponsorship level this year (\$4k), along with other long term sponsors Woodlands Water (\$3k), and The Woodlands Development Company/ Howard Hughes (\$1K). ES continues its Earth Day everyday promotion with village challenges throughout the year.

Business Partnerships grow. Thank you Jill Behrens, Real Estate, Natural Frequency, Woodmen Life, Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), The Woodlands Township, Shell/MP2 Energy, Alden Bridge Village Association, Grogan's Mill Village Association, Hummingbird Café, Electricity Club, Rainwater Solutions, and Snooze Eatery.

Woodmen Life Insurance makes donation. Bradley Lowe, Woodlands resident and Manager, donated \$500 on behalf of Woodmen Life Insurance, a 125-year-old company, to the community garden. This is the 3rd year TWG has had a garden plot at Bear Branch. Member volunteers learn about gardening and share vegetables with Interfaith Food Bank. Thanks to Dick Herrick for leading the gardeners!

Pet Waste stations expand. Board Member Maryann Braid has worked diligently for several years to expand the number of stations in the Woodlands parks and pathways. Her perseverance has paid off! The Township installed 10 more stations throughout the community.

Solar Initiatives thrive. Through Board Member Carolyn Newman and the Solar United Neighbors Co-Op, four TWG families added residential rooftop solar arrays. In addition, an estimated 12 solar arrays were added to Montgomery County residences in 2019. Carolyn continues her work on Renewable Electricity Options.

Going Green Lectures draws crowds. Through the leadership of Board President Paul Nelson, and with the support of HARC, Going GREEN's now permanent home, five lectures were held this last year:

- Feral Swine: Challenges & Control
- 2019 Galveston Bay Report Card
- The Changing Landscape of Energy Production and Use" - What's Next?
- Mycophile or Mycophobe: We all need mushrooms,
- USGS Annual Groundwater Table Data: How Are We Doing?

Coulson Tough Elementary School Race for Awareness funds Pollinator Garden. TWG Board Member and ES Manager, John Geiger coordinated with the school to dedicate funds from the Race toward the creation of pollinator gardens at the Sterling Ridge Park and Ride. The 5th Year for Race for Awareness was scheduled for April but was postponed due to COVID-19. Plans are in the works for later in 2020.

Granny's Attic replaces Buy Recycled Boutique at the 3R Bazaar. The annual event celebrating America Recycles Day is held the second Saturday in November by The Woodlands Township at the Woodlands Farmers Market. The top seller last November were the repurposed cork trivets assembled by SA's. Proceeds from the Attic go to the scholarship and library donations funds. Thanks to Neil Sammis for constructing the trivet frames!

Mission Sponsorship of State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) continues. For several years, TWG has partnered with the state recycling organization through a generous donation by the Aldrich family.

Adopt a Path keeps Shadowbend Park clean. For over two decades, TWG has adopted the pathways around Shadowbend park and along Lake Woodlands for quarterly clean ups. Thanks to Wendy Packer for coordinating. A Township marker is located at Lake Woodlands/Copperknoll recognizing TWG for their service.

Rain Barrel promotions grow. TWG partners with ES and Woodlands Water, providing rain barrels with special discounts for Woodlands residents. Kathie Herrick is the lead in coordinating the project, and ES stores and arranges for pick up by the residents. Vendor Rainwater Solutions provides a rebate for every barrel sold to the TWG scholarship and library donation funds.

Hard work continues behind the scenes. It takes countless volunteers to assist in TWG's missions. Special thanks to Steve and Judy Easton for being long terms editors of our newsletter the Dragon Circle, and Judy for maintaining the membership data base. David Hitchcock who maintains the TWG website. Steve Gorman as ENews editor. Cinda Hitchcock, Becky Patin, Kathie Herrick for the healthy house display used at events for educating about healthy house products. And Kathie for spearheading the Invasives Task Force primarily eradicating air potatoes vines on our pathways. Also, this year's scholarship judging panel: Maryann Braid, John Geiger, Becky Patin, and Debra Wymore.

*The Woodlands GREEN Mission: To provide environmental education by promoting conservation, recycling, reuse, waste reduction, and natural resource preservation.

TWG 2019/2020 Board: Paul Nelson- president, Robert Dushek-vice president, Steve Gorman- Treasurer, Kathie Herrick-Secretary. Directors- Maryann Braid, John Geiger, Carolyn Newman, Debra Wymore, and Beth Verghese.