



Lake and Hills Garden Club Celebrates Keowee Key National Wildlife Community Certification

Alice Fleming Guzick
National Wildlife Federation
Project Team Leader

On October 3, a bright, sunny day with butterflies and birds flitting around us, Keowee Key celebrated a milestone. Thirty-five people, including outside guests, joined to recognize Keowee Key as the first National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat in Midlands and Upstate South Carolina, the fifth community within the state, and the 112th community in the nation.

This National Wildlife Federation certification demonstrates that the residents of Keowee Key care about local wildlife, native plants, and their symbiotic relationships. When we welcome wildlife into our spaces, we look out our windows, walk around our homes, and we see that our yards are alive with activity! We share notes about how many creatures or blooms we have seen, we enhance our overall environment, and we build community.

At our Certification Celebration, Sara Green, Director of Education at South Carolina Wildlife Federation, congratulated Keowee Key for having more than 20 residents who had certified their yards 15 or more years ago and continue to “garden with wildlife in mind.” Ms. Green also congratulated Keowee Key for attaining certification in only eight months, which demonstrates the community’s widespread and enthusiastic interest in nature.



Sara Green, SC Wildlife Federation Director of Education, presents Keowee Key’s National Wildlife Federation certificate to Alice Guzick, NWF Project Team Leader. Committee members (L to R) Lynn Pode, Dianne McGee and Lisa Thomas applaud proudly.

Guests Marguerite Warren and Dee LeMay, from the West Piedmont District of South Carolina Garden Clubs, admired the newly planted commemorative Butterfly Garden at South Marina in Marina Villas. Spotted on that day were a buckeye butterfly, a yellow cloudless sulfur butterfly, and one monarch. Even from a distance, these knowledgeable guests identified the plants which they know will bring more butterflies and pollinators to that sunny hillside on warm days. Erika Hollis, from Upstate Forever, was impressed with the cleanliness and natural beauty of Lake Keowee, which she saw for the first time from Keowee Key. If you haven’t seen one of the new butterfly gardens at South Marina or the Leisure Trail, be sure to visit!



Marguerite Warren, Director of the West Piedmont District Garden Club of South Carolina (L) and Dee LeMay (R), Co-Director of the West Piedmont District GCSC, congratulate Alice Guzick on Keowee Key’s designation as the first National Wildlife Federation Community Wildlife Habitat in Midlands and Upstate South Carolina, the fifth community within the state, and the 112th community in the nation.

How did Keowee Key attain certification?

Sponsored by the Lake and Hills Garden Club, the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat project showed commitment from a core team, led by Alice Guzick. The project received unanimous approval in early 2018 from the KKPOA Board. Following a Power-Point presentation to the Lake and Hills Garden Club, the



Cardinal Flower



Georgia Savory



Goldenrod



Hosta