

Meet Your Conservation Committee Chair



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Helen Claire Murphy, John Coffee Chapter, Elba, AL

joined DAR in 2010. She has held the chapter positions of Vice-Regent and Regent. She and her husband practice good land management practices on their privately owned 1700+ acres of timber land and wetlands. A few of her jobs include tree planting, initiating prescribed burns, developing timber cutting contracts and conducting workshops for women landowners. She and her husband also pick up trash along 4 miles of public roadways inside and along their properties.

Conservation Committee History and Purpose

- The Conservation Committee was established in 1909 by the 18th Continental Congress.
- The focus is on protecting and conserving our natural resources.
- Today, climate change, misuse of natural resources, contamination of our land and water, destruction of our forests and wetlands, introduction of non-native species of plants and animals, and a warming climate threaten our infrastructure and health as well as the majestic beauty of our great country. The mission of this committee is to educate members about these issues and to promote and encourage good stewardship practices for a more sustainable future.

Conservation Committee

20/21 Initiatives

- **MEMBER CHALLENGE:** “No Straw September” In just the U.S. alone, it is estimated that 500 million plastic straws are used every day. Consider using a plastic straw alternative (paper, steel, glass, bamboo or no straw). All members are encouraged to participate in consistent plastic recycling.
- **CHAPTER CHALLENGE:** “Sea to Shining Sea” Alabama coastlines, rivers, bays, marshes, lakes and streams are subject to careless litterbugs. The challenge is to have 250 chapters to organize a water way cleanup during the VanBuren Administration.
- **APRIL INITIATIVE:** The Conservation committee is accepting ideas for an April challenge. Share your idea with me by February. (hclairemurphy@gmail.com)

Conservation Committee

20/20 Initiatives

- CONSERVATION MINUTES: Chapters should have a Conservation Minute at every meeting. Minutes are available on the NSDAR Conservation Committee site.
- EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY: Plan to observe Earth Day on April 22 and/or Arbor Day on the last Friday of April. Why not use the power of Earth Day to elevate the issue of plastic pollution in your community?
- DAR CONSERVATION AWARD: Each chapter and state society may present one award per year to a person in recognition of outstanding service. The award consists of a medal and a certificate. Instructions and forms can be found on this committee's site.
- SERVICE TO AMERICA: The database has a "conservation" category.

