

Penny Pines Program



Penny Pines

**is a Reforestation/Forest Education Program Sponsored by
the Garden Club Members of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
working with the USDA Forest Service and our State Foresters
through- out the US and territories**

**Our Forests are our greatest renewable asset. Through this
program we hope to educate the public on the need to keep
this resource growing and available for future generations of
wood and wood product users.**

The Garden Club of Stuart's donations to the Penny Pines Program go directly to the Osceola National Forest. Osceola National Forest was created by President Herbert Hoover's proclamation, on July 10, 1931. The forest is made up of approximately 200,000 acres of pine flatwoods and cypress hardwood swamps in northeastern Florida. The smallest of Florida's three National Forests, the Osceola National Forest sits between Lake City and Jacksonville and is bisected by Interstate 10. It is a crucial link in the biodiversity corridor of the Okefenokee Swamp, connected by the vast Pinhook Swamp to the north. Old-growth stands of longleaf pine provide safe haven for colonies of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. During April, 2012 a wildfire scorched 30,000 acres of the Osceola National Forest before it was brought under control.

History of the Penny Pines Program

In 1941, California's first Penny Pines plantation was sponsored by the San Francisco Sports-women's Association. Recognizing the great need to restore devastated forest areas, the association sent their donation to what is now the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in northern California.

Plantations are sites planted on burned over and brush covered areas to provide soil protection and stabilization, watershed protection as well as beauty and shade for recreation. Damaged areas are replanted with trees indigenous to the area, not just pine trees.

At the start of the program in 1941, seedlings could be produced for about one cent each. Approximately 680 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre. For \$68.00, seedlings for ten acres were able to be purchased.

Over the years more than a million dollars has been contributed to the Penny Pines Reforestation Program. Through these donations, more than 27 million of seedlings have been planted, renewing 88,000 acres of national forest land.

Contributions may be used to prepare plantation sites for new trees or planting seedlings grown in Forest Service nurseries. Seedlings are grown from local seeds and acorns, and replanted near the areas where the seeds were collected to improve their change of survival.

Since launching a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service in 2004, National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) and its various affiliates across the country have collected more than \$75,000 on the local and state level for the U.S. Forest Service's Penny Pines program. Today a \$68 donation covers the cost to plant approximately 350 seedlings, which translates to about one acre. The NGC has recently issued a plea to all its affiliated clubs and members as well as to communities and civic organizations nationwide to pitch in.