



# GLEE's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Living Awards

## Individuals Category

*For Cumulative Efforts leading up to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009*

Name of Applicant: Fran and Mali Wagner Bay Point/Saddlebunch  
City/Island

### *Application Summary*

Fran and Mali have done all they can think of to reduce, reuse, recycle and rot, but the accomplishment they are most proud of is convincing the State Department of Health not only to approve the conversion of septic tanks to cisterns but to make that conversion less cumbersome and less costly. In 2005, they received the first variance in the State of Florida which gave them permission to convert their septic tank to a cistern. In a few days, the rules will be changed so that a variance is not even needed to take this important step for the conservation of water. Since the Keys are now in the process of installing sewers, Fran has made many presentations from Key Largo to Key West, trying to educate homeowners about this important ecological opportunity.

### *Detailed Accomplishments*

Be as detailed as possible when summarizing your green achievements. Dates enacted, money saved, waste diverted, emissions saved and other such facts factor heavily in final awards.

<u><b>Renewable Energy</b></u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of appropriate solar, wind and bio generated sources of renewable energy.
<p>Fran and Mali have a solar panel on their roof, which heats water for their hot water use. Their tank is dual heated, using electricity only when there are several consecutive sun-less days.</p>	
<u><b>Clean Transportation</b></u>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of smart, clean and economically efficient uses of biodiesel, fuel cells, and hybrid vehicles. Or no vehicles at all!
<p>Mali and Fran's car which converts from six to three cylinders at cruising speed. They increase their mileage by using the AC only after reaching 45 mph, making sure they have the correct tire pressure, accelerating slowly and anticipating traffic condition so as to brake as little as possible. Mali runs all her errands on Mondays, when she is already in town as a volunteer at the Key West Garden Club and the Monroe County Extension Service Office.</p>	

<b><u>Clean Boating</u></b>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of eco-friendly actions whilst on the water, including cleaning products, propulsion, water conservation, fisheries conservation, catch and release techniques, and use of <a href="#">Florida Clean Marinas, Boatyards, and Retailers</a> .
<p>They have a boat with a Honda 4-stroke motor, one of the most efficient and least polluting available.</p>	
<b><u>Energy Conservation</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of energy-efficient appliances, energy audits, and retrofits for financial savings and pollution reduction.
<p>They purchased an energystar refrigerator in 2006. Mali hangs her laundry on a wooden rack instead of using the dryer and uses cold wash/cold rinse for the wash cycle. Dishwasher loads are on the no dry button. They use the microwave as much as possible instead of the range and oven. New light bulbs are CFL. They use their ceiling fans as long as possible before resorting to AC, then go to a window unit in the bedroom at night as long as possible before using the central AC during the day. The central AC is set to 81 degrees.</p>	
<b><u>Green Building</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of green techniques and technologies during retrofits on existing buildings and efficient designs for new buildings.
<p>Their house is designed and situated to take advantage of the prevailing breezes on their island and they installed extra insulation under the light-colored metal roof.</p>	
<b><u>Green Financing</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of tax credits, rebates, and other incentive programs that help finance, sustainability projects. Also includes Socially Responsible Investing.
<p>They have sent many appeals to state and local legislators and utilities requesting their help in subsidizing any additional costs incurred in converting septic tanks to cisterns. To date, the FKAA has agreed to give a rebate to homeowners who make this conversion after hooking up to a central sewer system.</p>	
<b><u>Healthy Living</u></b>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of green procurement, green consumerism and healthy choices through buying organic foods and other non-toxic, healthy and sustainable products.
<p>N/A</p>	

<a href="#"><u>Land Conservation</u></a>	Demonstrated adherence and/or promotion of conservation of natural habitats by using Keys-Friendly landscaping practices and use of <a href="#"><u>GreenThumb Certified Nurseries</u></a> .
<p>They are creating butterfly and bird habitats in their yard by planting native shrubs, trees and groundcovers. Mali has contacted Home Depot's regional headquarters in Atlanta to try to persuade Home Depot to carry melaleuca mulch. A member of the propagation committee of the Key West Garden Club, Mali has promoted the propagation of native plants for distribution into the community. She has also attended seminars and the Master Gardener program to learn about and help distribute information regarding proper fertilization.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #1: Reduce</u></a>	Demonstrated reduction of waste through bulk buying, refillable products, double-sided printing, avoiding over-packaged products, closing the loop by purchasing products made of recycled, post consumer content; implementation of policies which encourage and/or mandate waste reduction.
<p>They bring reusable bags to the grocery store and avoid using extra plastic bags to purchase produce. Fran and Mali's first rule: Ask the question, "Do we REALLY need this?" Fran is an expert "fixer" and makes the small appliances as well as the car age gracefully. They use cloth napkins, reusable water bottles, soap slivers, and clean with cut-up shirts instead of paper towels and swiffers. Mali uses a small chipper and composts weeds and clippings to reduce yard waste. They have registered with several organizations to reduce the number of catalogs and junk mail in their mailbox.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #2: Reuse</u></a>	Demonstrated reuse of products, buy second hand, donate unneeded items, and avoid disposables, and share magazines /other publications before recycling them.
<p>Fran and Mali reuse plastic spray bottles for homemade horticultural oils and soaps. She has a cloth lunch bag and a reusable water bottle. She uses the cellophane bags inside cereal boxes for sandwich bags. They both purchase clothing from the Salvation Army and donate usable items. Items that the Salvation Army does not accept are posted on Key West's "Freecycle" page on the internet. Paperback books come from the public library and are donated back. They use the backs of letters to make copies. And, by the way, Mali is a quilter and only makes (what else?) scrap quilts!</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #3: Rot (Compost)</u></a>	Demonstrated waste diversion through composting of food scraps and yard trimmings
<p>As mentioned above, Mali uses her wood chipper to create compost, and adds all weeds, clippings and kitchen food scraps to the compost pile. Fran created the compost bins from leftover posts from their porch railings.</p>	
<a href="#"><u>R4 #4: Recycle</u></a>	Demonstrated recycling of items accepted by local waste hauler and/or other items which may be recycled elsewhere (e.g., electronics, CFL light bulbs, cell phones, printer cartridges); implementation of policies which encourage and/or mandate recycling practices
<p>Paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and aluminum and tin are recycled every week. They save used electronic items to recycle at GLEE functions.</p>	

<b><u>Water Conservation</u></b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of water use reduction through efficient irrigation, xeriscaping, cisterns, rain barrels, water audits and/or use of reclaimed water.
<p>Fran installed a drip irrigation system. Most of the plantings in their yard are drought-tolerant. They have two cisterns, one that was installed when their home was built and one which was converted from their septic tank when they hooked up to their new sewer line. Even though they seem to have plenty of water from the cisterns, they still save water from showering and hand dishwashing to use in Mali's windowboxes and to water the compost piles in dry weather.</p>	
<b>Water Quality</b>	Demonstrated use and/or promotion of wastewater treatment, storm water retention, phosphorus free products, slow release fertilizers, animal waste reduction, etc.
<p>Fran makes frequent pickups of Theo's dog waste, and they use only slow-release fertilizers. Storm water runoff in their yard is greatly diminished by the use of their two cisterns.</p>	
<b>Youth Leadership</b>	Involve local students in projects and research for healthy long-term choices in any of the above for the future of all.
<p>N/A</p>	
<b>GLEE Participation</b>	Actively involved with GLEE via ideas, time and/or membership to help further GLEE's <a href="#">Mission and Goals</a> .
<p>GLEE member. Fran speaks about septic tank conversion at the Expo; Mali volunteers.</p>	
<b>Other Factors</b>	Have you done something else not included in the scope of this application? Let us know!
<p>4 years ago, Fran &amp; Mali started a campaign to convince the Florida Department of Health to allow septic tanks to be converted to cisterns. Their journey took them from Bay Point to a hearing in Daytona, where they convinced the powers-that-be that conversion was a safe way to save precious Florida water. Their septic conversion was the 1st in the State. Fran has lectured many times on the methods/costs of conversions. But, convinced that conversion should be easier, they then sent several letters, pressing the DOH to make the conversion process less complicated and less costly. On April 14, 2008, they heard that the DOH agreed.</p>	

**Green Pledge**

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

