

# YourNews

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4  
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## CONGRATULATIONS

### From reef builders to sustainable gardeners, environmental stewardship award winners show diversity of community

BY JESSICA LAYNE  
YourNews contributor

**PALM CITY** — One common thread brought groups of teenagers and retirees, CEOs and government officials, educators and conservationists together for dinner on Feb. 8. Keep Martin Beautiful's (KMB) 2012 Environmental Stewardship Awards, held at Pipers Landing Yacht & Country Club, showcased 10 winners and recognized nearly 60 nominees while the packed room of more than 200 guests cheered them on.

For organizations and individuals who take environmental stewardship into their own hands, KMB hosts its annual awards competition as a way to honor volunteer's efforts which align with its mission to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, waste reduction, beautification and community improvement and environmental stewardship education. The annual competition and awards dinner also serves as the organization's signature fundraiser.

"We're really thrilled that this awards ceremony has grown into the 'must-go-to' environmental event in Martin County," said KMB President Rhonda Irons. "It's so encouraging to see the diversity of the guests who attend every year and the range of projects and programs being undertaken by the volunteers. These are the people and groups in Martin County that Keep Martin Beautiful enjoys partnering with."

Josh Cohen, host of Josh Cohen & the Hometeam on WZZR's Real Radio, served as master of ceremonies for this year's awards



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Winners of the 2012 Environmental Stewardship Awards were announced at Keep Martin Beautiful's annual fundraiser on Feb. 8 at Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club. Recognized for their volunteer efforts to help keep Martin County beautiful were the River Kidz, Frank Neff, Southeastern Printing, the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County, John Wakeman, Eagle Scout Zach Wilcox, Martin County's Artificial Reef Program, Felix A. Williams Elementary, Jane Mills and the Friendly Hearts Community Gardens.

**Winners of the 10 Environmental Stewardship Awards include:**

**Business/Professional Award:** Southeastern Printing Company for its "Green Ink" program, which reduces the amount of waste produced and uses eco-friendly cleaners in their printing process — reducing the entire carbon footprint of the process.

**Government Agency Award:** Martin County's Artificial Reef Program, which used a decommissioned tugboat to create an artificial reef as a memorial for 21-year-old Kyle Conrad, a Martin County resident who passed away in December 2010.

**NonProfit/Civic Groups Award:** The Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County for its "Keep our Parks & Beaches Clean - Tobacco-Free Zone" project intended to reduce the amount of tobacco-related litter found at Martin County parks and beaches.

**Youth/School Award:** Evie Flaugh, 10, and Naia Mader, 9, for helping to establish The River Kidz, a youth organization promoting the health and sustainability of the St. Lucie River.

**Unsung Hero Award:** Frank Neff, the founder of nonprofit Habitat Angel, for his efforts to lead 700 volunteers to rehab 40 homes, and paint 23 homes and two churches.

**Think Green Award presented by Waste Management:** Zach Wilcox for his Eagle Scout project, which included improving park landscaping, new seating and a butterfly garden at Kiwanis Youth Park in Downtown Stuart, now a memorial to Michelle Radcliffe-Dutro.

**AT&T Innovation Award:** Felix A. Williams Elementary School for Felix's Farm, a teaching garden which grows fruits and vegetables as a school-wide effort to learn about healthier eating habits and creating fresh produce to use in the school's cafeteria.

**2012 Raleigh "Riley" Jackson Award:** John Wakeman for his commitment to the improvement of our local ecosystems and devotion to the education of local youth about environmental stewardship for more than 25 years.

**2012 KMB Community Champion Award:** Jane Mills for her commitment and service to the management of the Rotary Club's RotaKids program.

**KMB President's Award:** The Friendly Hearts Community Gardens Park for revitalizing a neglected community playground in the Mars Hill area and transforming it into a community garden for everyone to enjoy and use to grow plants, food and flowers.

ceremony, using his comedic talents to entertain the crowd through the presentation of the awards.

Sponsors include: Martin County Solid Waste, AT&T, TD Bank, Waste Management, The Firefly Group, AgTEC, Seacoast National Bank, Quit Doc Research & Education Foundation - Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County, Harmony Martin County, FPL, R3 Recycling, Sailors Return, Wallace Automotive Group, NisAir, Culpeper & Terpening, WastePro, Thomas Winter Photography, Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club and The Stuart News.

To view a complete list of nominees or to view photos from the 2012 awards dinner, visit <http://www.keepmartinbeautiful.org>. For more information, email [info@keepmartinbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepmartinbeautiful.org) or call 772-287-5272.

Keep Martin Beautiful is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community organization, and affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, founded in 1994. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, promotion of recycling, improvement of solid waste management practices, and beautification and community revitalization activities. Signature events and programs include annual Environmental Stewardship Awards, Great American Cleanup, International Coastal Cleanup, Adopt-A-Road, Adopt-A-Street and other educational and outreach activities. Connect with KMB on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful](http://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/KMBmartin](http://www.twitter.com/KMBmartin) or visit [www.keepmartinbeautiful.org](http://www.keepmartinbeautiful.org).