



Martin County Volunteers Join Worldwide Effort To Remove Litter From Local Waterways

Recently, more than 2,000 volunteers came out by boat, by kayak and by walking coastlines across Martin County to participate in the 2012 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) has coordinated the local cleanup for 17 years as part of the larger Ocean Conservancy initiative involving more than 500,000 people in 100 nations around the world.

What sets the ICC apart from any other beach cleanup effort is the information volunteers collect. Volunteers record specific types of marine debris found, allowing the Ocean Conservancy to compile, analyze and track this data year-by-year and make discoveries about the behaviors that cause the debris. Together, Martin County volunteers have helped to increase public awareness about inappropriate waste management practices along our coasts, effect change in world policies, and convince many to become better stewards of our environment.



"It's very motivating to see volunteers come out year after year to participate in this cleanup," KMB President Rhonda Irons said. "The impact they make lasts beyond the day of the cleanup, and we're proud to

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have such a large base of supporters willing to give of their time to improve the health of our waterways."

With the recent storm activity in the tropics this season, ICC volunteers were bound to pick up some unique finds that washed up on our local shorelines and in our waterways. In past years, unique items such as a king-size comforter, lawn furniture and car parts were found along Martin County coastlines. This year, volunteers came across a DNA test kit, syringes, sheet metal, a propane tank, shingles and multiple toothbrushes while cleaning up various beaches, rivers and parks throughout the county.

After hours of cleaning and fighting off the rain which started early in the morning, volunteers enjoyed a family-friendly event with face painting, food and drinks, and even a dunk tank at the Volunteer Celebration at Flagler Park in Downtown Stuart.

KMB would like to thank all of the generous sponsors that contributed to making this a successful event: AT&T, Florida Inland Navigation District, Martin County Solid Waste Division, Waste Management, King Ranch, Seacoast National Bank, Publix Super Markets, FPL, The Firefly Group, Wallace Nissan, Whittier Boat Works, Sailor's Return, city of Stuart, Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Peter's Hardware, Treasure Coast Harley Davidson, The Milcor Group, NisAir, Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Authority, Walmart, Waste Pro, AmeriSweeps, Continental Shelf Associates, Martin County Master Gardeners, CAPTEC, The Home Depot, Rocky's Ace Hardware and Thomas Winter Photography.

About Keep Martin Beautiful

Keep Martin Beautiful is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization founded in 1994. KMB's 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. KMB signature events and programs include the annual Environmental Stewardship Awards Ceremony, International Coastal Cleanup, Great American Cleanup, Adopt-A-Road program, Adopt-A-Street program and other educational and outreach activities. Connect with KMB on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful or follow KMB on Twitter at www.twitter.com/KMBmartin. For more information, visit www.keeptmartinbeautiful.org or call (772) 781-1222 or e-mail info@keeptmartinbeautiful.org.

