

Stuart Exposure

Sewall's Point, (north & south) Mariner Sands, Pinecrest Lakes, Stuart Yacht & CC, Willoughby, Sailfish Point, Mariner Village, Lost Lake, Snug Harbor, Indian River Plantation, plus... homes on the Stuart Waterways

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Keep Martin Beautiful's International Coastal Cleanup — Makes Trash Free Seas A 'Shore' Thing

Keep Martin Beautiful's (KMB) 18th annual International Coastal Cleanup was a great display of the impact that dedicated volunteers are making in our community. The numbers are still being totaled, but it is estimated that more than 2,000 volunteers came out on Sept. 21 to remove litter and marine debris from rivers, beaches and other waterways in Martin County.

At a time when every little bit counts toward improving the condition of our river, volunteers from civic groups, businesses, families, county personnel, community activists, youth groups, and others all joined together to create trash free seas, cleaning waterways all over the county.

Congressman Patrick Murphy also joined KMB for the annual cleanup, promoting the event on his official Facebook page and noting that the cleanup "brings attention to the need for us all to be stewards of our environment."

Keep Martin Beautiful coordinates the local effort as part of a larger initiative involving over 400,000 people in 90 nations around the world. What makes the International Coastal Cleanup unique is its data collection component. Volunteers record specific types of marine debris they find, allowing the Ocean Conservancy to compile, analyze

and track this data year-by-year. The final information is used to educate the public and, in turn, change behaviors that cause the littering problem. Like the Ocean Conservancy, Keep Martin Beautiful believes that understanding the problem is the key to finding long-lasting solutions.

Following hours of working together to make a difference in their community, volunteers gathered at the annual volunteer appreciation event at Flagler Park to enjoy a family-friendly celebration, including lunch, face painting, snow cones, basketball games, a bungee run, dunk tank and entertainment from 93.7 The Breeze.



Even the littlest hands make a big difference at Bathtub Beach



Mat Churchey, Congressman Patrick Murphy, Jessica Layne

Sponsors that made the 2013 cleanup event possible include: Florida Inland Navigation District, Martin County Solid Waste Division, 93.7 The Breeze, TD Bank, Publix,

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Cub Scout Pack 851 at Sandsprit Park



Members of Cub Scout Troop 822 volunteer with their family at Bathtub Beach



Treasure Coast Parrotheads at Jensen Beach



Waste Management working the grill at the celebration party

Southern Eagle Distributing, The Firefly Group, King Ranch, Waste Management, CAPTEC Engineering, Gran Park Storage, Kohls, Port Salerno Commercial Dock Fishing, Archer Western, Culpepper and Terpening, FPL, Sailor's Return, Seacoast National Bank, Wallace Automotive, Forest Hills Funeral Home, Carson's Tavern, Ecological Associates, AmeriSweeps, Cook Electric, Inc., NisAir, Waste Pro, Whiticar Boat Works, Martin Downs Animal Hospital, Impressive Click, Scripps Treasure

Coast Newspapers, Home Depot, Lowe's, Rocky's ACE Hardware, Peter's Hardware and the city of Stuart.

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, call (772) 781-1222 or e-mail: info@keeptmartinbeautiful.org.