

Keep Martin Beautiful Announces 2015 Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

During the busiest time of the year for nonprofit events and fundraisers, an enthusiastic and diverse gathering of Martin County's environmental leaders, activists and volunteers celebrated on Feb. 4 during Keep Martin Beautiful's (KMB) Environmental Stewardship Awards held at Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club. More than 40 nominees were recognized for their efforts in community beautification and revitalization, litter and marine debris removal, energy

efficiency innovations and environmental education initiatives. Of those nominees, 10 were recipients

2015 Environmental Stewardship Award Winners on page 8

– Creation of Top Rated Recycling Program for Martin County

- **Education in Action Award:** Janeen Mason – Solidarity Fish Project

- **KMB President's Award:** Beverly Poppke – Possum Long Nature Trail Maintenance and Upkeep.

About Keep Martin Beautiful

Martin Beautiful (KMB) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community organization founded in 1994 as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, the 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, the International Coastal Cleanup, the Great American Cleanup, the Adopt-A-Road & Adopt-A-Street programs, and other educational and outreach activities. Find KMB on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful, follow KMB on Twitter at www.twitter.com/KMBmartin or visit www.KeepMartinBeautiful.org.

2015 Environmental Stewardship Award Winners from page 1

of awards in a variety of categories including: youth groups, individuals, businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Several special recognition awards were also presented. A surprised 12-year-old Veronica Dalton, received the River Advocate Award in recognition of an individual who has shown leadership in advocating for the protection and improvement of the St. Lucie River and Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon.

Janeen Mason was the recipient of Keep Martin Beautiful's new "Education in Action" award for bringing greater awareness about the plight of the Indian River Lagoon through the creation of the solidarity fish project. The traveling art display – comprised of thousands of small, colorfully painted wooden fish – mobilized thousands of people and generated nationwide coverage. The fish adorned the windows of Piper's Landings lounge area where the event's cocktail hour and silent auction took place.

"We are so proud of all the award winners," said KMB President Jim Dragseth. "Our community is full of incredible people from all walks of life who care enough to take environmental stewardship into their own hands and make Martin County an even better place to live."

Sponsors of the 2015 Environmental Stewardship Awards included: Abney & Abney Green Solutions; AT&T; CSA Ocean Sciences Inc.; Cook Electric Inc.; The Firefly Group; FPL; Reich & Mancini, P.A.; Lucido and Associates; Martin County Solid Waste Division; NisAir; Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club; R3 Recycling; Sailor's Return; Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Southeastern Printing; Thomas Winter Photography; the Stuart-Jensen Elks Lodge; Wallace Nissan; and Whitticar Boat Works.

To view a complete list of Environmental Stewardship Award nominees, as well as images from the event, visit KeepMartinBeautiful.org or facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful.

2015 Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

- **Business Award:** Jenkins Landscape Company – outstanding participation in KMB's Adopt-a-Road program
 - **Government Agency Award:** City of Stuart Public Works Department – Poppleton Creek Tidal Wetlands Creation and Restoration Project
 - **Individual/Unsung Hero Award:** Celeste Norup – Bessey Creek Elementary Green Team and Recycling Club
 - **Nonprofit & Civic Group Award:** Inwater Research Group – Free Education Initiative
 - **Youth & School Award:** Sea Star Unit of the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida – Great American Cleanup stewardship.
- Special Recognition Categories**
- **Innovation Award:** N2 Architecture + Design – first company in Stuart to upgrade their building to LEED certification standards
 - **River Advocate Award:** Veronica Dalton, age 12
 - **Raleigh "Riley" Jackson Award:** Wendy Parker



Florida Oceanographic Society Executive Director Mark Perry, KMB President Jim Dragseth, and Pam Hopkins of the Florida Oceanographic Society



KMB Board member Pat Yancey, Raleigh "Riley" Jackson Award recipient Wendy Parker, and Martin County Commissioner John Haddox



River Advocate Award winner Veronica Dalton, 12, with her mother, Tamara Dalton, father, John Dalton and sister Daphne



KMB Vice President Josh Ferraro, ESA Mistress of Ceremonies Gabriella Ferraro, The Firefly Group Chief Illuminator Stacy Ranieri and KMB Board member Jennifer Stull-Wise



The Seastar Unit of the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida, with their award for winning the Youth Advocacy Category – Top: Meredith Slaymaker and Jeri VanCuren Bottom: Taylor Riegelman, Chloe Keating, Madison Riegelman and Sophia Fachetti