

TCPALM

MARTIN COUNTY YOURNEWS

Keep Martin Beautiful announces nominees for annual Environmental Stewardship Awards



Tom Winter Pictured, from left, are the 2015 ESA nominees and award winners: Michelle Maguire, Nicholas E. Cocoves, Celeste Norup, Mark Perry, Beverly Poppke and Janeen Mason.

By Tiffany Smith

PALM CITY — Each year, Keep Martin Beautiful, a volunteer-based non-profit organization, hosts an awards ceremony as a way to recognize notable efforts within Martin County that promote environmental stewardship. Keep Martin Beautiful is pleased to announce the nominees for the 2016 Environmental Stewardship awards. While the types of projects and activities vary widely, the common thread is that all of the nominees are doing something to improve the environmental quality of life in Martin County.

More than 30 nominations were submitted this year on behalf of individuals; businesses; nonprofits, civic and youth groups; and government agencies. The nominees and winners will be honored on Feb. 3 at Piper's Landing Yacht and Country Club in Palm City.

"Whether it's a new school recycling program or a government-coordinated environmental restoration project, there are so many efforts taking place in Martin County that exemplify the environmental stewardship ethic of our community," said Craig Ahal, owner of AmeriSweeps and president of Keep Martin Beautiful. "We are always impressed by the diversity of the submissions we receive and this year is no exception. Nominees represent all walks of life, young and old, and many are the unsung heroes in our community, doing their part with little fanfare to make a difference in our corner of the world."

The nominations were reviewed by a judging panel which included: KMB president and owner of Amerisweeps Craig Ahal; Indian Riverkeeper Marty Baum; City of Stuart Commissioner Eula Clarke; Tina McSoley, vice chair of the Martin County School Board; South Florida Water Management District Governing Board Member Kevin Powers; Martin County Commissioner Anne Scott; Tyler Treadway of TCPalm's Environmental Team; and Amy Vanilla, executive assistant for the Wallace Automotive Group.

A list of this year's nominations, as well as winners from previous years, is available online at <http://keepmartinbeautiful.org>.

Tickets to attend the Environmental Stewardship Awards are \$75 each and may be purchased online at <http://www.KeepMartinBeautiful.org>. For sponsorship and other information contact KMB at 772-781-1222 or events@keepmartinbeautiful.org.

Keep 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 and Adopt-A-Street programs, and other educational and outreach activities. Find KMB on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful>, follow KMB on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/KMBmartin>, or visit <http://KeepMartinBeautiful.org>.