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# 2016 Environmental Stewardship Award winners

By **Tiffany Smith**  
YourNews contributor

**PALMCITY**— During the busiest time of the year for non-profit events and fundraisers, an enthusiastic and diverse gathering of Martin County's environmental leaders, activists and volunteers celebrated on Feb. 3 during Keep Martin Beautiful's Environmental Stewardship Awards hosted at Piper's Landing Yacht and Country Club.

More than 30 nominees, including youth groups, individuals, businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations, were recognized for their outstanding efforts in community beautification and revitalization, litter and marine debris removal, product innovations and environmental education initiatives. Several special recognition awards were also presented.

The surprise was evident on the faces of Suzanne Stout and her J.D. Parker Green Team



STEVE MARTINE

Keep Martin Beautiful surprises Adriana Mancini with a special Staff Award. In front, from left, are Meghan Mickiewicz, Ava Robles, Adriana Mancini, Stacy Ranieri, Grayson Campo and Christopher Carnes. In back are Tiffany Smith, Jordan Tompkins, Melissa Zolla and Megan Morris.

upon hearing that they were receiving the Keep Martin Beautiful President's Award in recognition of their enthusiasm, ambition and commitment in creating their school's new Green Club.

Adriana Mancini was the recipient of Keep Martin Beautiful's new "Staff Choice" award for her vision and trailblazing efforts behind the Team Green Martin recycling program. This model program involves

students with autism and other disabilities and includes a positive peer-pals social skills element which is being implemented at elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Martin County.

"There was a lot of diversity this year in the nominees and the guests who attended the event," said Keep Martin Beautiful president Craig Ahal. "Our community is full of extraordinary people from those who are teaching our kids to the businesses that are creating new and innovative products and projects to reduce waste and improve the health of our river. It's always a lot of fun to get them all in a room together to celebrate."

Sponsors of the 2016 Environmental Stewardship Awards included: Amerisweeps; Captec Engineering; Cook Electric, Inc.; Crown Trophies; The Firefly Group; FPL; Lucido and Associ-

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ates; Martin County Solid Waste Division; NisAir; Piper's Landing Yacht and Country Club; Reich, Mancini and Zequeira P. A.; Sailor's Return; Treasure Coast Newspapers; Southeastern Printing; Steven Martine Photography; Wallace Nissan; and Whiticar Boat Works.

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

### 2016 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

**Business Award:** Caulkins Water Farm — Pilot Project

**Government Agency Award:** Martin County's Ecosystem Restoration and Management Division — Kitching Creek Central Flowway and Wetland Restoration

**Individual/Unsung Hero Award:** Anna Bergalis —

Florida Oceanographic Society Volunteer

**Non-profit and Civic Group Award:** Florida Oceanographic Society — Oyster Restoration Program "F.L.O.O.R"

**Youth and School Award:** Warfield Green Team — "I-Town Goes Green"

### CLEANUP SPECIAL RECOGNITION CATEGORIES

**Innovation Award:** Sublime Soil Inc. — facilitating low cost, sustainable systems for the recycling and reuse of waste produced by the food service industry.

**River Advocate Award:** Nicole Mader — for her efforts to go above and beyond her duties to spread awareness about our river.

**Raleigh "Riley" Jackson Award:** Darrell Shuler — for launching the first pump-out vessel the MSPOOP (Martin Ship Pump Out Operations Program) successfully operating it for 15 years.

**KMB President's Award:** Suzanne Stout and JD Parker Green Team — for their enthusiasm, ambition and commitment in

the creation of their new Green Club at J.D. Parker.

**KMB Staff Choice Award:** Adriana Mancini — for her vision and trailblazing efforts behind the Team Green Martin recycling program.

Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful>, follow KMB on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/KMBmartin> or visit <http://www.KeepMartinBeautiful.org>.