



Environmental Stewardship Award Winners Announced

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. 3 during Keep Martin Beautiful's Environmental Stewardship Awards held at Piper's Landing Yacht & 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 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.; the city of Stuart; Crown Trophies; The Firefly Group; FPL; Jennifer Stull-Wise; Lucido and Associates; Martin County Solid Waste Division; NisAir; Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club; RAM Realty; Reich, Mancini & Zequeira P.A.; Sailor's Return; Treasure Coast Newspapers; Southeastern Printing; Steven Martine Photography; Susan Maxwell of Remax; Wallace Nissan; and Whittier 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](https://www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful).

2016 Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

- **Business Award:** Caulkins Water Farm – Pilot Project
- **Government Agency Award:** Martin County's Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division – Kitching Creek Central Flowway and Wetland Restoration
- **Individual/Unsung Hero Award:** Anna Bergalis – Florida Oceanographic Society Volunteer
- **Nonprofit and Civic Group Award:** Florida Oceanographic Society – Oyster Restoration Program "FL.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 J.D. 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



Lisa Ahal; Keep Martin Beautiful President Craig Ahal; Denise Ehrich; The Firefly Group Chief Illuminator, Stacy Ranieri; and Keep Martin Beautiful Director, Stuart Trent.



Keep Martin Beautiful Director Stuart Trent; Jennifer Trent; Director of Development at the Children's Museum, Tammy Calabria; and South Florida Water Management District Governing Board member Kevin Powers.

vision and trailblazing efforts behind the Team Green Martin recycling program.

About Keep Martin Beautiful

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 www.facebook.com/KeepMartinBeautiful, follow KMB on Twitter at www.twitter.com/KMBmartin or visit www.KeepMartinBeautiful.org.

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Sydney Wise, Bianca Baker, Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch, Porter Stout and Adam Forster accept the River Advocate Award on behalf of Nicole Mader.



Kelly Decowski; Martin County Commissioner John Haddox; and ESA sponsor, Susan Maxwell of Remax.



Darrell Schuler accepts the Riley Jackson Award: Gabriela Ferraro, ESA mistress of ceremonies; Darrell Schuler, Martin County Utilities and Solid Waste Project manager; and John Polley, Martin County Utilities and Solid Waste director.



Keep Martin Beautiful surprises Adriana Mancini with a special Staff Award. Front row: Meghan Mickiewicz, Ava Robles, Adriana Mancini, Stacy Ranieri, Gruyson Campo, Christopher Carnes. Back row: Tiffany Smith, Jordan Tompkins, Melissa Zolla and Megan Morris.



Anne Wheeler; and Deborah Drum, manager of Martin County's Ecosystem Restoration and Management Division.



Director of Scientific Research at the Florida Oceanographic Society, Vincent Encomio and his son accept the Nonprofit/Civic Group Award on behalf of the Florida Oceanographic Society.