

Luminaries

August 15, 2016
Indian River Co., St. Lucie Co., Martin Co.
Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday

SAVE THE DATE



Mary Rose Morris plays a game at the 2015 International Coastal Cleanup Volunteer Appreciation Celebration.



Joshua Lewis, Rick Barr, Joanne Zehner, Andrew Podoloff, Rosanna and Daniel Lewis of Organic Laboratories join in the 2015 International Coastal Cleanup at Bryn Mawr Beach.



MARTIN COUNTY

Dave Hanna of the Treasure Coast Parrot Heads gets supplies ready for his group for the 2015 International Coastal Cleanup.

Keep Martin Beautiful volunteers to join worldwide coastal cleanup, Sept. 17

By TIFFANY SMITH

The 2016 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is right around the corner on Sept. 17, 8 to 11 a.m.

Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) is encouraging residents to join the community by taking action to help improve the quality of our beaches and waterways.

With the current state of our waterways, it is important we do all we can to keep our coastal areas litter and debris free.

Approximately 800,000 volunteers from more than 100 nations come together on a single day to participate in the waterway cleanup.

For the past 30 years, the cleanup has been spearheaded globally by the Ocean Conservancy, and for the past 20 years has been coordinated locally by Keep Martin Beautiful.

"Our volunteers who participate in this cleanup each year are community heroes. They are the guardians of our beaches, our parks and our waterways," said Craig Ahal, KMB president.

"The event gathers people from all walks of life, from schoolteachers and business owners to toddlers and senior citizens. Everyone unites on this day with a common goal in mind - to beautify our coastal areas and protect marine life from the dangers debris poses."

The cleanup efforts are a vital part of motivating people to do something



Richard Licato and his son work together to remove litter from Jensen Beach at last year's International Coastal Cleanup.

tangible in their community - to remove trash from beaches and waterways.

More importantly, the cleanup educates people to become aware of the problems associated with litter and challenges citizens to change the behaviors that cause the pollution in the first place.

Last year, over 18 million pounds of litter and marine debris was collected from more than 25,000 miles of shoreline around the world.

This year, the Ocean Conservancy has created a mobile app called Clean Swell to help with the International Coastal Cleanup efforts.

"With the launch of our Clean Swell mobile app, I'm excited for these dedicated volunteers to be able to easily collect more robust data as we work to better



Maliki Jeans and Gannon Coombs, from Live with Grace Kids 4 Kids, pick up and record trash they collected during last year's International Coastal Cleanup at Jensen Beach.

understand marine debris and work to keep it off beaches and out of the ocean," said Allison Schutes, Senior Manager of the Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas program.

"With Clean Swell, individuals can join a global community working to add vital data to the world's largest marine debris database by logging the trash they find while at the beach quickly and easily on their mobiles. The database is used by scientists, conservation groups, governments and industry leaders to take actions and ensure trash never reaches the beach."

Groups and individuals are welcome to join the cleanup effort at Stuart Beach, but Keep Martin Beautiful encourages



KMB President Craig Ahal and Secretary Mary Kindel at the 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Celebration at Stuart Beach.

volunteers to sign up in advance to clean the beach or waterway of their choice to ensure clean waterways all over Martin County.

Participants will be provided with water and cleanup supplies, as well as a complimentary T-shirt (while supplies last)

All participants are invited to attend a volunteer appreciation party at Stuart Beach from 10 to 11 a.m. to thank volunteers, sponsors and community supporters. The event will feature food, drinks and family friendly activities.

To register, contact KMB at 772-781-1222 or info@keepmartinbeautiful.org.