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Contact: Wendy Puz, Keep Martin Beautiful
781-1222 or info@keepmartinbeautiful.org

2014 Environmental Stewardship Award winners announced



A quiet moment between 99-year old Louise Carnevale, winner of the Unsung Hero Award, and 4-year old nominee Celia Traylor.

Palm City, Fla. – This past year, the community witnessed a heightened awareness of the state of our waterways and increased advocacy and action. This was especially evident at the 2014 Environmental Stewardship Awards where projects, programs and events related to our waterways and the activists behind them were honored for their efforts. On Wednesday, Feb. 5, Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB) hosted its annual fundraiser and community recognition event, the Environmental Stewardship Awards, at Piper’s Landing Yacht & Country Club in Palm City. Nearly 200 people filled the room to celebrate individuals and organizations who, through a variety of projects, are working to enhance the quality of life in Martin County.

KMB received 59 nominations for school groups, individuals, businesses, government agencies and nonprofit groups who have gone above and beyond to promote environmental stewardship. Jana Eschbach of WPEC CBS12 served as mistress of ceremonies, presenting awards to a diverse group ranging from school-aged children and retirees to CEOs and government officials to educators and conservationists.

This year KMB honored those within the community who were actively involved in advocating for the health of the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon with a new River Advocate Award. The River Kidz were recognized for their advocacy efforts with this award.

The event also reinforced that environmental advocacy crosses all boundaries including age. The Youth and School category included the River Kidz and Project LIFT, as well as students from Bessey Creek Elementary, Citrus Grove Elementary and Jensen Beach High School, while 99-year-old Louise Carnevale was presented with the Unsung Hero Award for her decades of services as a passionate advocate for protecting Martin County's natural environment.

A highlight of the evening came when Congressman Patrick Murphy was announced as the winner of the Environmental Leadership Award. Although the congressman, who was in Washington, DC, was unable to attend the event, his presence was felt as a video message from him was played for the attendees.

"We are delighted with the outcome of this year's event," said KMB President Jim Dragseth. "Our community is full of passionate people ranging from students to elected officials who are committed to making Martin County a great place to live. This event is a way for us to show our appreciation for their work and support of the KMB mission."

Sponsors of the 2014 Environmental Stewardship Awards were: Abney & Abney Green Solutions; AmeriSweeps; AT&T; CSA Ocean Sciences, Inc.; Cook Electric, Inc.; FPL; Lucido and Associates; Martin County Solid Waste Division; Michael Flaugh, Landscape Architect; NisAir; Piper's Landing Yacht & Country Club; R3 Recycling; Sailor's Return; Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers; Seacoast National Bank; Southeastern Printing; The Firefly Group; Thomas Winter Photography; Treasure & Space Coast Radio; Wallace Nissan; and Whiticar Boat Works.

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

2014 Environmental Stewardship Award Winners

Business Award: Ecological Associates - Turtle Friendly Beach Renourishment Test Project

Government Agency Award: Martin County Utilities & Solid Waste Division - Number One in the State for Recycling.

Individual/Unsung Hero Award: Louise Carnevale - Decades of Service with the Environmental Studies Center

Non-profit & Civic Group Award: Florida Oceanographic Society & Martin County - Martin County Living Shorelines Project

Youth & School Award: Jensen Beach High School Marine II - Projects throughout Martin County, River Advocacy, Storm Drain Labeling, Oyster Bagging, and more

Innovation Award: R3 Recycling - For an 86% Diversion of Recyclable Materials

River Advocate Award: River Kidz - Advocacy

Raleigh "Riley" Jackson Award: Vincent Morici - Recycled Tires and Paint for Playground

Environmental Leadership Award: Congressman Patrick E. Murphy - St. Lucie River Advocacy with State & Federal Government

KMB President's Award: Adriana Mancini - Teen Volunteer: Bessey Creek Team Green Recycle Buddies

About Keep Martin Beautiful

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 & 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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