

# Your News

Jensen Beach, Stuart, Palm City, Hobe Sound

## 4 Keep Martin Beautiful has record cleanup

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The kayaking club known as the 27/80 Paddlers pulled the front half of a bicycle off the shore line of the Stuart Causeway, at the same time that a family on Stuart Beach removed a piece of metal roofing from the bushes.

This type of marine debris was collected by volunteers from waterways all over Martin County on Sept. 25 during the 15th annual Keep Martin Beautiful International Coastal Cleanup.

For 15 years, KMB has coordinated the local ICC efforts in an attempt to keep Martin County waterways clean and safe for all residents and wildlife. This year also marked the 25th anniversary of the ICC globally, sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy. Every September, more than half-a-million people in 100 countries throughout the world come together to participate in this coastal cleanup, but this year was different for KMB.

"In addition to the unfortunate littering problem we face year round, we had an increased number of storms in the Atlantic this season, so we saw a surge in the amount of litter and debris that washed up on our beaches," said Rhonda Irons, president of KMB. "But with the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers, this year's cleanup helped to make a significant impact in and around our community."

KMB set a record for volunteers



The kayakers of the 27/80 Paddlers unload marine debris on shore after volunteering during the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup.

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participating during last year's cleanup and this year the organization attained more record-breaking results. Dedicating a combined 4,000 hours, nearly 2,100 volunteers helped make Martin County a more beautiful place to live, work and play by collecting more than 29,000 pounds of litter and debris.

"We're glad to have removed this

type of litter from our waterways and coastlines, but it's disturbing to think of what else might be out there polluting our natural environment," said Rob Ranieri, logistics coordinator for KMB. "This type of retroactive cleaning is a step in the right direction, but we still have to tackle more preventative ways to stop the littering in the

first place."

For more information about the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup or other programs, contact KMB at (772) 781-1222 or [info@keepmartinbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepmartinbeautiful.org).

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