

## Keep Martin Beautiful sets record-breaking results during 2010 Great American Cleanup

Jessica Layne, a member of the Treasure Coast community. This story is neither endorsed by nor affiliated with this site.

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Volunteers spend their time at Rio Jensen Skate Park as part of a community revitalization project. In Photo: Pat Mark, Joe Angelico, Louise Bernardi, Sharon Sturges, David Girlinghouse, Esther Neuner, Barbara Taylor, Sherry Fisher, Wyatt Wustrau, Nancy Weiss, Charlotte Hoffman, Ed Preast, Margo Wustrau. Julie Preast, Jeremy Jusy, Melanie Wustrau and Eric Haenni.

**PALM CITY** — For the last three months, more than 1,500 volunteers from every corner of Martin County joined together as a part of the 2010 Great American Cleanup (GAC). Conducted nationally by Keep America Beautiful and its affiliates from March through May, and coordinated locally by Keep Martin Beautiful (KMB), the Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest, annual community improvement program.

This year, KMB set records in not only number of participating volunteers and volunteer hours, but in pounds of litter and trash collected. A total of 1,323 volunteers spent 4,883 hours in local parks, neighborhoods, beaches, and roadways collecting litter and marine debris, planting flowers and trees and removing exotic vegetation.

In 2009, GAC volunteers cleaned up just over 11,700 pounds of litter from the parks, beaches and roads of Martin County. This year, that number increased by more than 690 percent, setting a record-breaking number of 93,332 pounds of litter and household hazardous waste collected throughout the duration of the cleanup, with an additional 28,800 pounds of vegetative waste collected as well.

The KMB Adopt-A-Road program benefited during the Great American Cleanup in the same record breaking way. Nearly 200 volunteers cleaned litter from 75 roads in Martin County. Spending 330 hours along approximately 100 miles of road, nearly 1 ton of trash was removed from the roadways in our communities.

In addition to the typical litter removal efforts, a series of community revitalization projects were also organized throughout the community as a part of KMB's Extreme Martin Makeover.

The kick-off of the Extreme Martin Makeover began in East Stuart as KMB volunteers, along with Habitat Angel, Hooks Construction, East Stuart Main Street and the City of Stuart, came together to makeover homes in the neighborhood. Hooks Construction donated time and manpower to prepare the homes that were in need of structural repairs prior to the cleanup and volunteers came out to pick up litter, plant trees around the homes and paint exterior walls.

Volunteers also participated in large numbers to support the communities of Booker Park and Westbrook in Indiantown at a recent GAC event coordinated by KMB. The Booker Park neighborhood cleanup was one of the largest GAC events in Martin County this year. Residents and volunteers removed almost 15 tons, or 30,000 pounds, of litter and debris from roadways, vacant lots and canals. In addition, the Martin County HazMobile collected nearly 50 gallons of paint, 62 pounds of batteries and 15 pounds of miscellaneous hazardous chemicals.

In addition to these two community projects, other revitalization projects included exotic vegetation removal, landscaping, and litter removal at the Rio/Jensen Beach Skate Park; landscaping and litter removal in Banner Lake in Hobe Sound; litter and hazardous waste removal in the Golden Gate area in Stuart; and litter removals on Jensen Beach, in Halpatiokee Park and in downtown Port Salerno.

Keep Martin Beautiful would like to thank all of the sponsors of the Great American Cleanup and the Extreme Martin Makeover, including: Ampersand Graphics, Becker Tree Farm, Botanics Wholesale, Captec Engineering, CDM, Code Red Roofers, Craig's Designs, Culpepper & Terpening, the Ferraro Law Group, The Firefly Group, Florida Power & Light, Forest Hills Funeral Home, Hooks Construction, Kross & Decker, Lively Orthodontics, Mecca Enterprises, Mosley & Son Construction, Picture Perfect Landscape, Pipers Landing Yacht & Country Club, Publix Super Market Charities, Red Tail Hawk, Sherwin-Williams, Steven Martine Photography, SWS, the Treasure Coast Chapter of Florida Environmental Professionals, Treasure Coast Urgent Care, United Rentals, Wallace Nissan and Waste Management.

Another thank you goes to the community partners of Keep Martin Beautiful who helped make the 2010 Great American Cleanup a success. Those partners include: Boy Scout Troup #825, Boy Scout Troup #832, the City of Stuart CRA, East Stuart Main Street, Habitat Angel, Habitat for Humanity, South Florida Water Management District, and The Firefly Group.

For more information about the Great American Cleanup or Keep Martin Beautiful, e-mail [info@keepmartinbeautiful.org](mailto:info@keepmartinbeautiful.org), visit <http://www.keepmartinbeautiful.org> or follow us on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/KMBmartin>.

Keep Martin Beautiful, founded in 1994, is a non-profit, community organization and affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Martin County through litter prevention, promoting recycling, improving solid waste management practices, beautification and community revitalization activities and environmental stewardship education. In addition to the Great American Cleanup, KMB's other signature events include their annual Environmental Stewardship Awards Ceremony, coordination of the annual International Coastal Cleanup and Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Shore programs.

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