



The Clean Scene

Serving Lee County Since 1989!

January 2018 Newsletter HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Community News and Upcoming Events



Message From the Chairman

Friends of *Keep Lee County Beautiful*:

2017 was a banner year for our organization in all our areas of practice including Beautification, Litter Clean-up and Education & Awareness as we engaged citizens of Lee County to protect and improve our environment.

Some of the highlights of Keep Lee County Beautiful's significant accomplishments during 2017, include:

- More than 4,000 Lee County residents volunteered 8,503 hours during 114 KLCB events
- 19.3 tons of litter were reclaimed during 84 events -- double what was reclaimed during 2016!
- 13,500 red mangrove propagules were hand-planted as part of beautification efforts
- 78 miles of rivers, lakes and coastal shore were cleaned along with 61 acres of parks and public land
- Continuing to build alliances with non-profits and local government as part of our growth plan

Despite the challenges many of us faced due to Hurricane Irma, it was a very successful year. Our Board re-organized to be better positioned to proactively support KLCB's activity. Additionally, a Board of Advisors whose members have strong subject matter expertise was established. Our new structure supports our collective commitment to educate toward litter prevention, to beautify through community projects and protect through our clean-up events.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Trish Fancher, our Executive Director, I want to thank our volunteers, businesses, local governments and elected officials for their collaborative support of Keep Lee County Beautiful. Each constituency provides unique contributions. When it all comes together, as we saw in 2017, it brings us closer to realizing our vision to 'make Lee County a pristine place to live, work and play.'

My best,

Ron Kitlas

20th Anniversary Great American Cleanup



**Great American Cleanup
Site Captains Needed
April 21, 2018
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

Keep Lee County Beautiful is looking for motivated individuals or groups that would like to help us in our next Great American Cleanup event. This will be KLCB's 20th anniversary for holding this event and we are planning on having a minimum of twenty locations. We will be working to improve our local communities and the environment we live in.

We expect a great turnout of volunteers at our cleanup locations. Currently we are looking for Site Captains to help us lead these locations. If you would like to help make this event as successful as we know it can be, please email mike@klcb.org or call 239-334-3488

Ongoing Programs and Projects



Recycle Smart in Lee County

There are only 5 materials that belong in your recycle cart.

Paper - Basically any kind of paper. (No shredded, waxed, metallic or soiled paper). Donate hard covered books.

Metal Cans - Aluminum or steel cans and aluminum foil and disposable pans are good.

Cardboard - Any kind of box that does not have a waxed coating.

Plastic Containers - Look for the numbers 1-7 within the recycle triangle on the bottom of the container. (No Styrofoam or Plastic Bags)

Glass - Green, brown and clear bottles and jars.

Most hazardous waste material may be brought to Lee County's Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex at

6441 Topaz Court in Fort Myers
PH# 239-533-8000

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information on the disposal of household chemicals, batteries, lightbulbs, medications, paint and other items.

Adopt A Shore

This program covers all of the waterways and shorelines in Lee County. The objective is to not only clean our shorelines but to also change the public's attitudes and behavior towards littering. This is attained when people see groups cleaning the shorelines and they recognize the effort it takes to maintain them. It has also been shown that a clean location is less likely to be polluted than one that is already covered with litter. Keeping our shorelines litter free will go a



long way towards changing bad habits and also improving our environment.

[CLICK HERE](#) - for additional information

Any civic or service group, organization, business or corporation willing to assume the responsibility for a specified area of shoreline is eligible.

Event Updates

Riverside Community Center November 20, 2017

Volunteers cleaned the entire Riverside Community Center grounds. They also climbed down into the mangroves all along the waterfront and removed both trash and storm debris. By the time this project was completed they had gathered over 400 pounds of unwanted material from the park. With much of this debris being in the shoreline mangroves it would be only a matter of time before this waste would have ended up polluting our waterways and damaging the environment.



Koreshan Preserve Restoration Project November 17, 2017

During Hurricane Irma the Koreshan Preserve sustained considerable damage. A large amount of debris was blown into the preserve from the surrounding communities. A group of our hard working volunteers gathered a very mixed variety of items. It soon became apparent that an aluminum shed had blown apart and was spread across a few hundred yards of the preserve. This shed was now in pieces along with its previous contents. They also gathered many roof shingles, boards and other construction materials. Mixed in with all of this debris was the expected trash that we typically find such as plastic bottles and bags.

Veterans Day Cleanup Fort Myers Cemetery November 10, 2017

To honor our veterans, Keep Lee County Beautiful held a cleanup at the Fort Myers cemetery. We primarily focused on the Oakridge section as this is where many veterans have been laid to rest. We gathered trash and also removed horticultural debris that had accumulated over time on these gravesites. We wanted these soldiers, who previously served our country, to have clean and respectful gravesites. We also cleaned much of the surrounding cemetery area as well.

Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. has now adopted the Oakridge section of the Fort Myers Cemetery. We have pledged to do regular cleanup events here so these soldiers final resting place will continue to be a place of respect.





Monofilament Madness November 4, 2017

Keep Lee County Beautiful has been doing this event since 1993. Every year we have enthusiastic volunteers who want to improve our environment by removing monofilament fishing line and any other debris we may find. This year we had kayakers, paddlers and boaters join in to make this a very successful cleanup. By the end of the day we gathered 3,127 pounds of debris from the back bay of Fort Myers Beach.



Many of the items collected were a result of hurricane Irma although we did find many items that were there from being dumped in the water. Some of the items we found were an old freezer, a deflated inflatable boat, tires, pallets, sheets of Styrofoam, wooden boards, a section of fencing, plastic bottles, plastic bags, numerous other items, and of coarse bags full of fishing line.



We would like to thank the sponsors of this event. Galloway Family of Dealerships for their generous donation. They have been the main sponsor of this event for many years and we are truly grateful. We are also very thankful to Waste Pro and Advanced Disposal for their donations and to Manatee Guides for donating over 20 kayaks to be used on this day. Without all of this support we would not have been able to hold this event.

Lastly, We want to thank all of the volunteers who came out and gave their time to make a difference. We saw how hard they worked and at the end of the day when they saw the amount of trash that had been gathered you could see they had a sense of accomplishment.

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