



The Clean Scene

Serving Lee County Since 1989!

March 2018 Newsletter

Community News and Upcoming Events

Help Us Improve Our Local Communities And Protect The Environment

Hurricane Irma, the strongest hurricane ever observed in the Atlantic basin, made landfall in Lee County on September 10, 2017 leaving more than 320,000 tons of vegetative debris in her wake. The estimated cost to clean up the community is between \$36 million - \$40 million dollars.

Just thirteen days after the storm, Keep Lee County Beautiful volunteers and sponsors Rotary of Cape Coral, Rotary of Cape Coral North, Goldcoast Rotary, LCEC, and the Northwest Cape Coral Neighborhood Association were busy restoring the mangroves that protect our shorelines by planting over 13,000 mangrove propagules in northwest Cape Coral and in the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel.

One month after the storm, our annual Coastal Cleanup, sponsored by Suncoast Beverages, Preferred Materials, Surfing's Evolution & Preservation Foundation, Manheim, and Coca Cola garnered 4,500 pounds of trash from coastlines around Lee County. This was quickly followed by Monofilament Madness and a 3,127 pound debris collection from the back bay of Fort Myers Beach, generously sponsored by Galloway Family of Dealerships, Waste Pro and Advanced Disposal.

Hurricane Irma littered the Orange River in east Lee County with debris - not a good fit for the manatee that make this area their winter home. Keep Lee County Beautiful volunteers and sponsors Manatee Guides and Lehr Economy Tackle pitched in to restore the area for our beloved "sea cows".

Most of the debris piles have been cleared now, but there remains much work to be done. Roadways all over the county are missing trees and Keep Lee County Beautiful is committed to helping replant. In April, our annual Great American Cleanup will take place at over 25 locations around the county and we could use your help - both physically and financially.

Please consider joining the more than 3,000 Keep Lee County Beautiful supporters who serve as stewards of this beautiful place we call home. Donating is easy and tax-deductible, simply [click here](#). To sponsor a particular beautification or restoration effort, please call executive director Trish Fancher directly at 239-334-3488 or email trish@KLCB.org.

Flint Pen Strand
March 22, 2018
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

The CREW Land & Water Trust will be holding a

cleanup event to remove trash and debris from this beautiful natural preserve. Help us restore and protect this portion of Lee County that has been targeted by people doing illegal dumping on this protected property.

If you would like additional information on how you can participate in this effort please contact mike@KLCB.org.



**KEEP LEE COUNTY
BEAUTIFUL, INC.**

20TH ANNIVERSARY

**GREAT AMERICAN
CLEANUP**

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

Join Keep Lee County Beautiful in our county-wide cleanup. This year will be our 20th anniversary holding this event and we could use your participation to make this a tremendous success. We will be hosting over 25 locations doing roadside, beach, waterway and park cleanups. Come out and help us make a difference in the community and environment that plays such an integral part of our lives as this is not only where we live and work but also the place we call home.

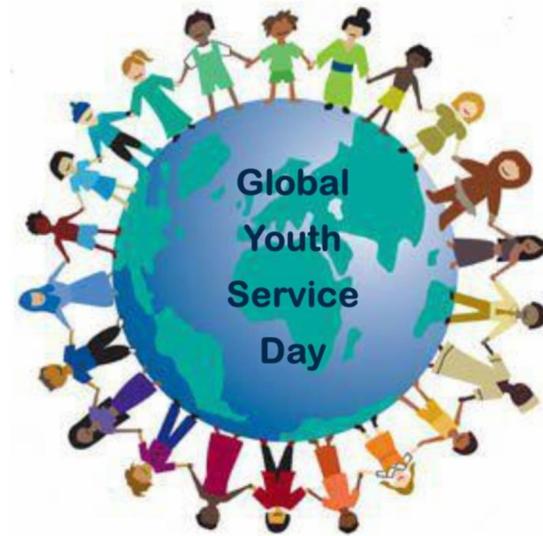
[CLICK HERE](#) to visit our webpage with additional information and a link to our registration page for this event.

**Global Youth Service Day
April 21, 2018
8:45 AM to 1:00 PM**

Global Youth Service Day is a worldwide event that is celebrated by youths every year in more than 135 countries. Young people work together to help improve their local communities. This year our students ages 12 to 18 will be volunteering at Koreshan State Park in a variety of projects such as tree plantings, building plant boxes and other fun and worthwhile tasks.

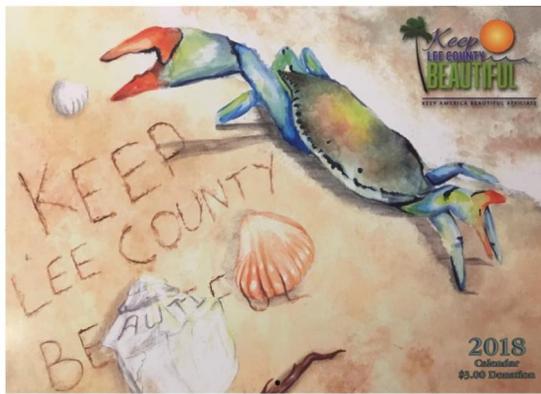
Koreshan State Park is where our Lee County youths volunteered last year. They did a painting project, trail trimming, exotic removal, building picnic benches and tables and other projects. At the end of the day the youths had a good sense of accomplishment. Like last year, they will enjoy a free lunch in the afternoon and admission to the park for the day.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit our webpage with additional information and a link to our registration page for this event.



This event is for youths ages 12 to 18.

**Leave The Scene Clean Art Contest
Entries Due By: April 23, 2018**



The deadline for the "Leave The Scene Clean" calendar art contest is quickly approaching. We urge all of our Lee County students in grades 1-12 to submit an entry into this fun and educational experience. Winners receive prizes and 13 of the winning artwork will be in next years calendar with the overall best picture being selected for the cover. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to show off your artistic abilities.

[CLICK HERE](#) for additional information

Facebook Is Changing

Facebook recently announced forthcoming changes to the Facebook news feed. Friends and family will be given immediate priority with businesses and organizations like Keep Lee County Beautiful receiving less. If you have liked KLCB on Facebook, please consider selecting the option **"See First"** on the **"Following"** drop down menu. This will ensure we stay connected and we are still reaching you with the latest news.



Ongoing Programs and Projects

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program

Even though cigarette butts may be a small item of litter they are consistently the most collected item during the majority of all cleanup events. While being harmful to animal and aquatic life, who often mistake them for food, they also release harmful toxins. Each butt contains up to 4,000 different toxins. To make this an even worse item for the environment these butts are not biodegradable as the filters contain plastic which breaks down into pieces of plastic microfibers.

The goals of this program is to encourage enforcement of litter laws, raise the publics awareness, place ash receptacles in smoking areas and distribute pocket ashtrays to adult smokers. By doing these things we can significantly reduce the amount of cigarette litter that is getting added to the environment.

[CLICK HERE](#) - for additional information



Event Updates

**Tunaskin Aquatic Apparel
Beach Cleanup**

February 4, 2018



Keep Lee County Beautiful would like to thank [Tunaskin Aquatic Apparel](#) for collaborating with us on cleaning up the north end of Fort Myers Beach. 296 volunteers came out and did a great job gathering the trash and litter that had accumulated on our beach. They removed over 350 pounds of debris from this area and made a significant improvement to the beach. This will make the beach a more enjoyable place to visit and also greatly decreased the environmental hazards that were present. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event as you made a difference in our community and environment!

Flint Pen Cleanup January 25, 2018

On this cool morning in January all 42 of us who had shown up to volunteer at the Flint Strand Pen did not realize just how much trash and debris we were going to uncover. Time after time we came across locations where someone had obviously come onto the property unlawfully and dumped large amounts of items.

This is protected property that is managed by CREW Land & Water Trust. One good thing we had going for us is that CREW was there managing this cleanup and they knew the area very well. They work very hard to maintain this area and are fighting an uphill battle to get the entire area into pristine shape. This area is vitally important to our local environment so anything we can do to help get trash removed needs to be done.

During the cleanup over 100 tires were gathered and a roll off dumpster was completely filled. We could have continued gathering but the dumpster was full! On March 22, 2018 there will be another cleanup effort to remove more of this trash that has been illegally dumped.



Koreshan State Park Painting & Restoration Project January 6, 2018

Keep Lee County Beautiful would like to thank The Urban Land Institute for their participation in the painting of a historical building at the Koreshan State Park. This building was in much need of repair and paint and the ULI did a wonderful job getting this done.



[Visit our website](#)