



News Release

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6th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup Scores Tons of Trash

Stuart, FL – (August 26, 2013) — The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC) conducted its 6th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup on Saturday, July 27, 2013. Thanks to sponsorship from the Florida Inland Navigation District, over 1000 volunteers came out to collect trash along the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties in the one day event.

After weeks of wet summer weather, the sun shined brightly for the one thousand plus volunteers, who set out from 24 different sites to remove trash from 125 miles of waterways in the region. The cleanup also included an offshore reef dive at Peck Lake, conducted by the Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Authority (PSCFDA) and supported by the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative and Stuart Scuba. “More than 60 divers participated in the reef cleanup,” said Butch Olsen, Jr., president of PSCFDA. “Divers found mostly cans, bottles, monofilament and a couple of lead lines. Divers who have participated each year were all saying that they were seeing less trash than in past years.”

“We are very pleased with this year’s effort,” said Charlie Hayek, St. Lucie County Team Coordinator. “This year we have been able to increase our recycling efforts in all three counties thanks to a significant sponsorship from Waste Pro. Volunteers have recorded 7.6 tons of trash to

date and data cards are still trickling in. We incorporated a new site this year at the Jaycee Park Boat Ramp and were pleased to record a turnout of 41 people working that site. Together we all made a BIG difference.”

Participants who registered in the event were asked to tally up their findings on a data card. Team Charmer was able to aid in the recovery of 30 baby sea turtles who’s nest had been ravaged by a raccoon at Peck Lake Reef Park. Throughout the Treasure Coast volunteer’s removed several bicycles, batteries, air conditioner compressors, boat parts, BBQ grills, bottles, cans, thousands of feet of fishing line and thousands of cigarette butts. “From Indian River County to Martin County volunteers reported similar conditions from previous years. The Data Cards to date confirm less trash was collected,” said April Price, Event Coordinator for the cleanup. “We counted more volunteers and a similar amount of trash from 2012, so I feel that we are making a difference. I have a personal goal to hold this event and have the volunteers find no trash, so we still have a long way to go.”

Volunteers and sponsors were recognized at an Appreciation Bar-B-Que at the Ft. Pierce Yacht Club on Sunday, August 11th. “Everyone was anxious to hear the three county totals and we really want to show appreciation for their hard work”, said Price. “This event was a real success and we are already planning next year’s cleanup which will take place on July 26th, 2014.”

For more information regarding our sponsors, or to view photos, visit the web site at www.tcwaterwaycleanup.com . For more information please contact April Price, (772) 285-1646.

The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Inc. (MIATC) is a not-for-profit trade association representing recreational marine businesses in Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River and Okeechobee counties. MIATC is dedicated to the promotion of pleasure boating and s related industries.