



News Release

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Lucky 7 for the Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup... More volunteers and less trash

Stuart, FL – (September 4, 2014) — Lucky 7 for the Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup... more volunteers and less trash. This summer's Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup conducted by the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC) and sponsored by the Florida Inland Navigation District, engaged 1087 volunteers who collected 6 tons of trash from the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. "This was down from 7.6 tons in 2013," says Event Coordinator April Price. "In 2013, we had 42 less volunteers collect more than 1.6 tons of trash. I truly feel that this is an indicator that our continued efforts are making a real difference. Over the past seven years our volunteers have removed close to 60 tons of trash."

The sun shined brightly for the one thousand plus volunteers, who set out from 27 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 (PCSCFDA) and supported by the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative and Stuart Scuba. "Sixty divers participated in the reef cleanup," said Butch Olsen, Jr., president of PSCFDA. "Divers found mostly cans, bottles, monofilament and a couple of anchors. Divers who have participated each year were all saying that they were seeing less trash than in past years."

“This year we increased our outreach to community groups both young and old. We were also able to increase our number of targeted sites from 24 to 27. This is a direct result of our volunteers who have been with us from year to year and multiple groups coming onboard for the first year. Our hope is that these new groups found value in their participation and will want to be onboard with us in 2015.”

Participants who registered in the event were asked to tally up their findings on a data card. Some of the more unusual items included a surf board, a fishing rod & reel combo, a storm drain cover, a hummingbird feeder, a trolling motor, an iron and a vacuum cleaner with attachments. Throughout the Treasure Coast volunteer's removed boat parts, BBQ grills, bottles, cans, fishing line and thousands of cigarette butts. From Indian River County to Martin County volunteers reported seeing less trash from previous years. The Data Cards confirmed those findings in all categories with the exception of cigarette butts.

Volunteers and sponsors were recognized at an Appreciation Bar-B-Que at the Ft. Pierce Yacht Club on Sunday, August 17th. “Everyone was anxious to hear the three county totals and we enjoy showing our 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 25th, 2015.”

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.