



News Release

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Contact: April Price, Event Coordinator
Phone: 772-285-1646
E-mail: info@TCWaterwatCleanup.com

Tons of Success for the 3rd Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup

Stuart, FL – (August 16, 2010) — The Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC) conducted its third Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup on Saturday, July 24, 2010. Thanks to sponsorship from the Florida Inland Navigation District, the MIATC and over 900 volunteers came out to collect trash along the waterways of Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties in the one day event.

Despite Tropical Storm Bonnie dumping buckets of rain the previous day, hundreds of volunteers and 250 boats collaborated to cover over 125 miles of waterways in the region. The cleanup also included an offshore reef dive at Pecks Lake, conducted by the Port Salerno Commercial Fishing Dock Authority in Martin County. The dive cleanup had to be postponed a week due to weather conditions, but the turnout was impressive.

“We are very pleased with this year’s effort,” said Steve Haigis, immediate Past President of the MIATC. “Everyone came away from the event feeling we really made a difference. We made a BIG difference. As of today’s date, we have recorded 9.3 tons of trash and debris collected and disposed of; much of which was recycled. We also distributed more than 250 mini recycle bins to area boaters.”

Some of the more unusual items included deer antlers that were found at the Stuart Causeway site, a sofa, a size 16 mens sneaker, more than a half dozen shopping carts, a deceased juvenile alligator, several home made toilets, several mattresses, a few bicycles and a kitchen sink. Also noted was a large amount of building materials, broken chairs, BBQ grills and thousands of cigarette butts. Volunteers also reported improved conditions from previous years at Pecks Lake Reef and the spoil islands near the Ft. Pierce Inlet.

Volunteers and sponsors were recognized at a Bar-B-Que at the Ft. Pierce Yacht Club on Sunday, August 8th. "Everyone was anxious to hear the three county totals and we really want to show appreciation for their hard work", said Haigis. "This was a real success and we are already planning next year's cleanup which will take place on July 23rd, 2011."

For more information regarding our sponsors, or to view photos, visit the web site at www.tewaterwaycleanup.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, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. MIATC is dedicated to the promotion of pleasure boating and s related industries.