



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### ***2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN KEEPING MANATEE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL***

MANATEE COUNTY—At Keep Manatee Beautiful’s 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Celebration on September 15 at IMG Academy Golf Club, local businesses, governmental agencies, neighborhoods, organizations and citizens were recognized for demonstrating leadership by surpassing the norm in being stewards of Manatee County’s natural resources. During the recognition ceremony, the keynote speaker, Superintendent Diana Greene on the “School District of Manatee County’s Involvement to Keep Manatee Beautiful”.

#### **OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER GROUP AWARDS:**

These volunteers surpassed the norm in doing quarterly cleanups and longevity of adoption and marking storm drains to prevent stormwater pollution.

##### Adopt-A-Highway Program:

- The Exchange Club Family Partnership Center of Manatee County has been doing 4 cleanups a year since 2010 removing litter on 2 miles of highway along Manatee Avenue West from 51st St. W. to 14th St. W.

##### Adopt-A-Road Program:

- Linda, Jim & Watkins Family does cleanups daily even before adopting their road in 2014 on Southern Parkway from 26th St. W. to 43rd St. W.

##### Adopt-A-Shore Program:

- Manatee High School Ocean Awareness Club removes litter 3 times per year on ½ mile of shoreline on Palma Sola Causeway since 2008.

##### Storm Drain Marking:

Volunteers and local governments mark storm drains in Manatee County with the message “Dump No Waste – Protect Your Water”. Through this educational program, they are helping protect our waters from stormwater pollution by informing citizens that only rain should go down the stormwater drain.

- First Baptist Church of Palmetto – marked 157 storm drain out of 615 done in 2016.
- The City of Holmes Beach – marked 165 storm drain out of 615 done in 2016.

MORE

ADD 1  
KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

**GREEN SCHOOLS AWARDS:**

Green Schools strive to:

- have a litter-free campus
- have a graffiti-free campus
- landscape the campus using native Florida plants
- conserve natural resources and energy sources
- improve water quality
- contribute to the enhancement of the community's physical environment

Elementary School: Miller Elementary School  
Middle School: Lincoln Middle School  
High School: Palmetto High School  
Higher Education: USF Sarasota-Manatee Facilities Planning & Management

**RECYCLING AWARDS:**

Recycling Awards honored those going beyond the norm to recycle goods used in the workplace or at home that otherwise would be discarded.

Government: School District of Manatee County  
Small Business: Historic Green Village on Anna Maria Island  
Large Business: Tropicana Manufacturing Co. Inc.  
Individual: Rob Kozmits

**LANDSCAPING IMAGE AWARDS:**

Landscaping Image Awards recognized landscapes that surpassed the norm for design, maintenance, neighborhood enhancement, community awareness, and use of native and drought tolerant plants. These awards were given in partnership with the Manatee Chamber of Commerce

Industrial & Manufacturing: It Works!  
Professional & Office: Harbor Community Bank  
Commercial & Retail: Bank of the Ozarks  
Public Open Spaces: Palmetto Estuary  
Public Buildings: Bradenton Area Convention Center  
Neighborhood Communities: Harbor Isle on Anna Maria Sound  
Multi-Family Communities: Inspired Living at Lakewood Ranch

MORE

ADD 2  
KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

**PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS:**

These awards recognize those demonstrating leadership in cleaning up and improving the community environment through litter prevention, preventing illegal dumping, beautification and minimizing impacts of waste.

**Environmental Law Compliance:** Keeton’s Office & Art Supply for Can Jam Free Graffiti Art Battle  
For three years now, Keeton’s Office & Art Supply has held the Can Jam Free Graffiti Art Battle that provides a venue and location to graffiti legally. Plus, all sides of their warehouse are open year-round to tag.

**Business and Industry Partnership:**

**Small Business:** Around the Bend Nature Tours

Their field trips, nature tours and Audubon adventures have reached more than 7,500 school children annually. They tell the stories of the land and teach the science of sustainability.

**Large Business:** Mirabella at Village Green

Mirabella has created one of the largest “green” single family communities ever certified by the most recognizable label in sustainable construction – the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED for Homes.

**Community Organizations:** Operation Inasmuch

More than 400 members of First Baptist Church of Palmetto pooled their skills, talents and time on Feb. 27th in Operation Inasmuch as part of a national outreach initiative. Volunteers fanned the greater Palmetto area to serve in more than 25 projects ranging from landscaping and painting to paying and praying at four laundromats.

**Government Partnership:**

1. **City of Bradenton Beach** - The City of Bradenton Beach recently adopted its Land Development Code/Landscaping regulations along with a grand tree provision. They also, created 2 public beach access parks – City Park and John Chappie Park. Lastly, the on-going efforts of the City of Bradenton’s Scenic W.A.V.E.S. Committee is dedicated to the health and vitality of the citizenry and industry of Bradenton Beach. This committee advises on the City’s designations of Bradenton Beach Scenic Highway along Gulf Drive, Tree City USA, and Waterfronts Florida.
2. **Manatee County Area Transit** - Manatee County has gone above and beyond to clean and beautify all of its public transit bus stop areas for residents and visitors of Manatee County through its Transit Bus Stop, Fleet Branding, and Passenger Amenities Program. The County’s new logo, new and refurbished bus shelters, benches and trash receptacles all branded in the turquoise and rust colors, have beautified roadway corridors. Since 2014, MCAT has installed more than 121 bus shelters, 295 passenger benches with trash receptacles, and 42 passenger seating systems. They are maintained according to a strict trash pickup and maintenance schedule, keeping our highways and byways litter free!

MORE

ADD 3

## KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

### Media Community Relations: North River News

This newspaper does outstanding coverage of environmental issues, Arbor Day tree plantings and litter cleanups, as well as calendar postings of Keep Manatee Beautiful events in Manatee County north of the Manatee River.

### Youth Volunteers:

1. Easter Seals VIP Academy – Up to 10 students come twice a week with their instructor to the Westminster retirement community. They work outside picking up palm fronds, mangoes, and litter from their mangroves along the shoreline. They activities make these shoreline and grounds beautiful by keeping it free from debris and litter. They have learned the importance of timeliness on doing tasks, how to do quality work, how to treat others with dignity and respect, and how to be a good steward of personal property by doing such a great job of caring for Westminster.
2. Elizabeth Sgro - She has volunteered as a Turtle Patroller with Mote Marine Laboratory for the last 4 years on Siesta Key and Longboat Key. She educates her fellow students with school projects and gives educational speeches to beachgoers at public excavations. She started volunteering at Mote at 9 years-old with the task of picking up trash at 6:00 a.m. every Sunday.

### Outstanding Personal Contribution: Patrick Gallagher

As the past Energy and Recycling Coordinator for the School District of Manatee County, he helped save the district more than a million dollars. During a recent visit to the landfill led by Patrick Gallagher, as part of the schools' FIRST LEGO League projects, students learned about how to reduce waste and recycle. As an Officer on Keep Manatee Beautiful's Board of Directors, he enabled KMB to educate thousands of students in the areas of recycling, integrated solid waste management and litter prevention, as well as, he guided the development of KMB's Green Schools Awards. As Vice Chairman of the City of Bradenton's Tree and Land Preservation Board, he promotes awareness of the City-wide tree canopy and tree education programs, as well as open space and parklands preservation initiatives.

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