



## **2011 Environmental Stewardship Award Nominees**

### **Youth/School Programs**

#### **Bessey Creek Elementary Green Team: School Recycling Program, Terra Cycle Program, and Monthly Environmental Meetings**

This program allows 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to hear guest speakers discuss environmental issues at their monthly meetings and take charge of the school's recycling program by emptying bins and picking up trash around campus.

#### **Boy Scout Troop 825: 2010 Community Involvement Projects**

Boy Scout Troop 825 from East Stuart volunteered throughout the community in events such as a cleanup along Dixie Highway, Adopt-A-Road, Palm City FallFest, Indiantown Back to School Help and Cleanup, and renovating homes for senior citizens.

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County: SWAT Teams: Tobacco Litter Removal**

SWAT Teams (made up of members ages 6-18) from the five Martin County branches participate in neighborhood cleanups resulting in tens of thousands of fewer cigarette butts littering our community.

#### **Geoffrey Yatsko: Eagle Scout Project-Barley Barber Swamp**

Mr. Yatsko was involved with the Treasured Lands Foundation and the Barley Barber Swamp restoration. He proposed and completed the removal of biomass from the mile and a quarter boardwalk, the repair of cosmetic damage to benches, decking, and rails, and the restoration of two bathroom facilities.

#### **Logan, Roman, and Talan Woodcock, Cub Scout Pack 822: Danforth Neighborhood Cleanup**

As a way to thank the residents of Danforth who bought popcorn from Cub Scout Pack 822, the scouts spent several hours in the neighborhood picking up trash and litter in the parking lot, woods, and entrance area.

#### **Mrs. Jean Ferreira's Fourth Grade Class: Ferreira's Fourth Grade Ink Cartridge Recycling Program**

This program at J.D. Parker Elementary is a way for students to make a positive and significant impact upon the earth by recycling used ink cartridges.

#### **Palm City Elementary: Palm City Elementary Wildcat 2 Community Playground**

Built by hundreds of community volunteers and constructed almost entirely of recycled materials, the new playground at Palm City Elementary School encourages physical fitness for students in an eco-friendly environment.



## **Unsung Hero**

### **Amanda Alker: Jensen Beach High School Community Conservation and Preservation**

Amanda has been involved in beach and coastal cleanups with the Earth Savers Crew and the Environmental Studies Center. She is the president of the JBHS Green Team, and is a member of the school's Envirothon team.

### **Boyd Gunsalus and Beth Kacunsky: Green Home**

Their home became the first residence in Florida to receive the highest level of Green Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and Florida Green Building Coalition.

### **Dana Janke: Palm City Elementary Wildcat 2 Community Playground**

Built by hundreds of community volunteers and constructed almost entirely of recycled materials, the new playground at Palm City Elementary School encourages physical fitness for students in an eco-friendly environment.

### **Dr. Eric Haenni: Rio/Jensen Skate Park Beautification**

As a project coordinator for the 2010 Great American Cleanup, Dr. Haenni helped to remove litter and dangerous exotic/invasive plant species from the Rio/Jensen Skate Park.

### **Erik Martin: Lighting Pollution Projects/Sea Turtle Nesting Projects**

Uses his 35 years of expertise to manage and monitor sea turtle nesting sites and help eliminate lighting pollution that has a negative impact on sea turtle nesting.

### **Leon Abood: Rivers Coalition**

Serves as Chairman of the Rivers Coalition and works diligently with local and state legislators to help protect and restore the health of the St. Lucie River Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon.

### **Mrs. Gretchen Hurchalla and Mrs. Patty Henderson: Native Plant Butterfly Garden at the Environmental Studies Center**

Mrs. Hurchalla and Mrs. Henderson have spent many long, exhausting hours maintaining the butterfly garden, located at the Environmental Studies Center, by weeding, mulching, trimming, and replenishing.

### **Nadia Utto: Hobe Sound Murals Project**

The tireless work of this local artist and her team has led to a variety of beautiful murals throughout downtown Hobe Sound on formerly blank walls.

### **Rob Dawson: The Martin Grade Scenic Highway Project**

As Project Manager, Mr. Dawson leads a community-wide effort to designate County Road 714 a Scenic Highway and to protect and preserve the rural nature of the area.

### **Thelma M. Washington: GAC Extreme Martin Makeover**

Mrs. Washington coordinated a neighborhood revitalization project to paint, repair, and landscape homes of needy local families, including the creation of three new Habitat for Humanity green homes.

### **Trudy Ondich and Maria Vermont: Beach Cleanup at Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge**

Almost every day for the past 4 years, these two dedicated women have picked up trash along the 3.5 mile long corridor of the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge.



## **Non-Profit/Civic Groups**

### **EcoArt Treasure Coast: EcoArt Treasure Coast**

EcoArt is a project used to train Treasure Coast based artists in the eco-art practice, an interdisciplinary medium that combines art and science to solve local ecological problems.

### **Friends of Snowy White Doves-Betsy Gunderson: Friends of Snowy White Doves**

Friends of Snowy White Doves saves, rescues, and cares for white doves that are in need of help.

### **Habitat for Humanity of Martin County: Martin County Green Homes**

Two affordable green homes, including features such as energy efficient appliances, high-efficiency air conditioners, and double-pane insulated windows, were built this year in East Stuart.

### **Habitat for Humanity of Martin County ReStore and Deconstruction Team: “Reuse, Recycle” Program**

The program focuses on reusing building materials and home goods, with a commitment to green concepts.

### **Hobe Sound Murals Project: Hobe Sound Murals Project**

The artwork of this local group of artists has led to a variety of beautiful murals throughout downtown Hobe Sound on formerly blank walls.

### **Rio Civic Club: Rio/Jensen Skate Park Beautification**

The Rio Civic Club spent countless hours in 2010 removing litter, replacing exotic plant species, and beautifying the existing landscape of the skate park.

### **The Martin Grade Project: The Martin Grade Scenic Highway Project**

This is a community-wide effort to designate County Road 714 a Scenic Highway and to protect and preserve the rural nature of the area, including the tree canopy.

### **Treasured Lands Foundation: Barley Barber Swamp Restoration**

Restoration of the 400 plus acre cypress swamp adjacent to the FPL power plant in Indiantown was completed with the goal of restoring a vital habitat for many organisms and opening that to the public for education and public benefit.

### **Treasured Lands Foundation: Hamm Parcel (Zeus Park Community) Acquisition**

The Hamm Parcel was saved from development by this acquisition, with the goal being to preserve and restore the area for public benefit by maintaining quality of life, property values, and aesthetics in the Zeus Park community.

### **Treasured Lands Foundation: Spoil Island Restoration and Management**

Treasured Lands Foundation collected and removed debris, cut down exotic vegetation, put up signs, and restored the area of the spoil island adjacent to Sailfish Point.

### **Business/Professional**

#### **CordoBags: Sustainable Colombian Purse & Accessory Collections**

These hand crafted, eco-friendly bags are made out of renewable materials and are dyed using only plant extracts.

#### **Eric Johnson Construction & Abney + Abney Green Solutions: Gunsalus Green Home**

This home became the first residence in Florida to receive the highest level of Green Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and Florida Green Building Coalition.

#### **Martin County Fair: Martin County Fair Association Green Projects**

As a way to reduce their carbon footprint during the week of the fair, recycling bins will be added throughout the fairgrounds, and used cooking grease will be recycled by turning it into Biofuel.

#### **Organic Laboratories, Inc: Veggie Maker Organic Grow Box**

Developed the Veggie Maker Organic Grow Box, a revolutionary growing system less than 4 square feet in area that is capable of growing more vegetables per square foot than any other method of growing vegetables.

#### **Phil and John Everett, Bayview Construction: Snake Road Auto Salvage and Everett Brothers Recycling Center**

At one of the most modern automobile salvage facilities on the East Coast of Florida, vehicle parts are purchased from insurance auctions, cleansed of all automotive fluids as a way to protect the environment, and then sold to customers as recycled, high quality, and low-mile components.

#### **Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club: Mapp Road Fence and Hedge Beautification & Restoration**

The restoration project included removing old, damaged hedge and fence material and replacing it with a new fence, viburnum hedge, and an irrigation system

#### **SEPCO-Solar Electric Power Company: Solar Lighting**

Located in Martin County, SEPCO has 28 years of experience as the largest manufacturer of solar electric lighting and power systems, and is an important contributor to our local economy and environment.

#### **Southeastern Printing: Green Ink**

“Green Ink” is Southeastern Printing’s environmentally-friendly printing program, using practices that encompass vegetable-based inks, recycled paper, and environmental certifications.

#### **Sunset Bay Marina & Anchorage: “Green” Marina**

Sunset Bay provides recycling bins and monofilament recycling stations along their docks, uses no pesticides or chemical fertilizers in their landscaping, and uses a solar water heater and fluorescent bulbs throughout their facility.

#### **The Stuart School of Music: The “green” renovation of the Stuart School of Music**

As part of the renovation project to become the first “green” music school in Florida, a new energy efficient metal roof, increased insulation, LED lighting, and low flow water fixtures, as well as many more “green” features, were added to the building.

#### **Willoughby Golf Club: Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses**

Willoughby Golf Club has recently received certification from the Audubon Cooperation Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses for their use of re-used water for irrigating their golf course, and the initiative to go green throughout their property.



## **Government Agencies**

### **Martin County Board of County Commissioners: Leach Mansion and Mount Elizabeth Restoration**

Two nationally registered historical sites were restored and cleansed of vandalism and deterioration, with the additions of landscaping, public art, and prevention of sedimentation into the Indian River Lagoon all adding to the beauty of Martin County.

### **Manatee Pocket Dredging Project: Manatee Pocket Dredging Project**

The dredging of the Manatee Pocket will restore the historic navigability of this important waterway and the environmental health of the Pocket.

### **Oyster Reef Restoration Project: Oyster Reef Restoration Project**

The project is focused on re-establishing the oyster population in the St. Lucie Estuary via the construction of artificial oyster reefs, in order to improve water quality and restore habitats for many species associated with oyster reefs.

### **South Florida Water Management District: Legacy Program**

The Legacy Program is a hands-on environmental education program for local high school students. The program connects water resource and environmental education with land management activities.

### **The City of Stuart: Creating a Healthier River...Day by Day 2011 Calendar**

Provided to all residential and commercial utility customers and local students, the calendars display useful environmental information about recycling, water conservation, storm water runoff, household hazardous waste, and more.

### **The City of Stuart: Downtown Recycling**

As a way to provide environmentally responsible service to downtown shoppers and visitors, the City of Stuart has placed 17 trash and recycling receptacles throughout the Downtown Stuart area.

### **The City of Stuart: National River Cleanup**

The City of Stuart hosted the National River Cleanup, joining forces with the Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup to remove trash from the St. Lucie River and area creeks such as Krueger Creek, Poppelton Creek, and Frazier Creek.

### **The City of Stuart: Neighborhood Clean-Up Program**

The Neighborhood Clean-Up Program offers Stuart residents free convenient collection and drop off services for disposal of yard trash, bulk items such as appliances and furniture, hazardous waste, and electronic waste.



**Government Agencies (continued)**

**The City of Stuart: Sammi Mobile**

Sammi Mobile, an electric car displaying mascots Sammi and Samantha Sailfish, is being used as an educational and outreach tool to promote recycling and water conservation throughout Martin County.

**The City of Stuart: Water Conservation Public Outreach Campaign-Sammi Sailfish**

The City of Stuart, along with the help of mascot Sammi Sailfish, is using various programs, contests, and giveaways to promote water conservation throughout our community.

**The City of Stuart Police Department: Neighborhood Clean-Up Crime Watch Participation**

The Stuart Police Department teamed up with various Crime Watch volunteers and joined up with each Neighborhood Clean-Up to promote and educate citizens on Crime Watch and bike and pedestrian safety.

**Town of Sewall's Point: Fertilizer Ordinance No. 359**

Sewall's Point became the first municipality in Martin County to pass an ordinance to reduce the use of fertilizers than can have damaging effects on the natural habitats of the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River.