

KWCB QUARTERLY

Newsletter of Keep Wakulla County Beautiful

NEWS & FEATURES

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Autumn has arrived! Who else is ready for some cooler temperatures? Well 2020 has certainly not played out the way most of us could have imagined. It really has been a year for the books. We have a pandemic, social distancing, numerous hurricanes (poor Louisiana), volatile political situations, terrible wildfires out west, and who knows what else I may have missed. ,

We have faced many challenges in learning new ways to keep engaged and active in efforts to keep our county litter free. We are doing our best to get back out in our community and getting our events back to some sort of normalcy.

The Coastal Cleanup was successful and everyone seemed to be ready to get their lives back. We are so thankful this event went well and have learned some things along the way that we can utilize in the future.

We know the delay of our Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day was not a well received choice. Our goal at Keep Wakulla County Beautiful is to keep everyone safe while we are keeping our paradise litter free. We did have to make an early call on this due to some of the involved entities being out of the area. Unfortunately at that time the weather forecast was not correct. Knowing that so many are anxious for this event to happen, we hope you will consider joining us by volunteering to help with this event.

We are always open to suggestions on ways to help in our county. Feel free to share any thoughts or ideas with us at keepwakullabeautiful@gmail.com.

On Saturday, September 19 Keep Wakulla County Beautiful joined in the 35Th Annual International Coastal Cleanup. Despite the COVID pandemic we had 309 volunteers that came out and participated. Volunteers were given KWCB gaiters, a snack, and of course the popular event shirts.

Different from past cleanups, we did not have an event at Woolley Park in order to keep our gatherings small. The cleanup sites were located at Mashes Sands, Woolley Park, Bottoms Road, Shell Point, Spring Creek, Wakulla Beach, St. Marks at San Marcos de Apalache, St. Marks Lighthouse, Wakulla Springs, TnT Hideaway and Cherokee Sink. The cleanup yielded approximately 5.2 tons of trash including everything from the usual cigarette litter and single use plastics to appliances and furniture. Some of the more unusual items gathered were box springs (3 of them), vehicle bumpers (2 of them), a recliner, a water dispenser, and a ceiling fan. Trash was removed from shorelines, wooded areas, and in the water.

Thanks to Dr. Gabrielle Gabrielli, this year we had divers in the St. Marks River near Riverside Café. The conditions were not ideal and it was not as productive as we had hoped. The storms and rain had the water very dark and the current rather strong. We hope to include this location in our River Cleanup in December and expect to yield much better results.

We were honored to have a few of our county leaders participate this year. Commissioner Quincee Messersmith acted as a site captain for Spring Creek site. Commissioner Chuck Hess came out to participate and help clean at the lighthouse. County Administrator David Edwards and his wife, Sopchopy Mayor Lara Edwards, along with their family had a group that participated at Wakulla Beach. In addition to these county representatives we had groups from local churches, Boy Scout troops, Operation Santa, TCC, and the Wakulla Road & Bridge Department.

We are very thankful at Keep Wakulla County Beautiful for our wonderful sponsors, KWCB board members and volunteers. The 2020 KWCB board members are President Steve Cushman, President Elect Erica Morse, Secretary Ethel Jefferson, Treasurer Marc Dickieson, Lesley Cushman, Joe Morgan, Greg James, Brandy King, Todd Wegenast, and Jim Davis. These members, sponsors and volunteers are the people that make these events possible and successful.





Adopt-a- Road /Adopt-a-Highway Needs You!

Instead of posting about it, do something about it! Keep Wakulla County Beautiful is still looking for new groups, businesses, neighborhoods, or families to adopt roadways within Wakulla County. Show your community pride in keeping Wakulla County litter free.

Adopt-a-Road is comprised of volunteers that give of their time to pick up litter along Wakulla County roads. It is a 2-year agreement and groups must adopt a minimum of two miles of roadway (one mile stretch on both sides). The agreement is for these groups to hold cleanups at least 4 times a year. The results from these cleanups should then be reported on the kwcb.org website.

Keep Wakulla County Beautiful will provide an Adopt-a-Road sign at each end of the adopted roadway. We also provide the garbage bags, 2 pickers, and gloves for each group. Applications can be found on our website at kwcb.org along with an up to date map showing current adopted roads and what roads are still available.

We do ask that with the current pandemic situation that groups are limited to 10 people. Social distancing should be used during cleanups. Utilize caution when cleaning and be sure to have hand sanitizer handy. Always use gloves or a picker when possible.



FDOT Adopt-a- Highway

Although the Adopt-a Highway program is not run by KWCB, we do promote and encourage involvement in maintaining our state roads also. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Currently in Wakulla County there are no active Adopt a Highway groups that have a current agreement. KWCB is updating our agreement for another two years for our portion of Hwy. 319. Here are a few links for anyone interested.

<https://www.fdot.gov/maintenance/aah.shtm>

<https://fdotewp1.dot.state.fl.us/adoptahighway/SearchRoadway.aspx>

Every year, millions of visitors get their first glimpse of our state from their car windows as they travel along Florida's Highways. First impressions can be long lasting. Do we want them to see miles of roadway cluttered with litter? Or clean, green tree-lined highways that truly represent Florida's natural beauty? The choice is an easy one: Adopt-A-Highway...



AMERICA RECYCLES DAY IS NOVEMBER 15

Join us to celebrate America Recycles Day with a **Green Drinks** event at Riverside Cafe in St. Marks.

Speaker Jim Davis will be giving the presentation on **"A Common Sense Approach to Recycling and Waste Reduction"**. Jim is a CPA that works with nonprofits and small governmental units, KWCB Board

Member, past Director of Sustainable Tallahassee, and sits on the Board of Directors for Recycle Florida Today.



Thursday, November 12, 2020

Riverside Cafe

69 Riverside Drive, St. Marks

7:00 PM





So what exactly is plastic film and how do you recycle it?



Plastic Film – also known as plastic film packaging – is soft, flexible polyethylene (PE) packaging such as grocery, bread, zip-top and dry cleaning bags. It's also the wrap around many products including paper plates, napkins, bathroom tissue, diapers, and more.

Find this and more information on the WRAP program at plasticfilmrecycling.org

RECYCLE empty, clean & dry plastic bags & wraps at store drop-offs

NOT in Curbside Recycling



Produce Bags



Plastic Shipping Envelopes



Bread Bags



Dry Cleaning Bags



Case Wrap



Air Pillows



Bubble Wrap



Newspaper Bags



Food Storage Bags



Product Overwrap

Also look for any packaging with this How2Recycle label



how2recycle.info

NO candy bar wrappers • chip bags • six-pack rings • degradable bags • prewashed salad bags



Find drop-off locations at PlasticFilmRecycling.org/drop-off



Recycle empty, clean & dry plastic film, bags & wraps at participating drop-offs.

Did you know?

You can recycle plastic film packaging items like air pillows, product overwraps, bubble wrap, and dry cleaning bags along with your plastic carryout bags at participating drop-off locations.

How to Recycle

Find your local drop-off location at PlasticFilmRecycling.org/drop-off. Put all your clean and dry plastic bags and film packaging in a single bag and return to a local store drop-off.

Remember to:

- make sure bags are clean and dry
- remove any labels and tape

What to Recycle

If it's stretchy it can be recycled. If it's crinkly or tears like paper it cannot be recycled.



DO NOT INCLUDE:

These are made of different plastics that cannot be recycled with the bags and film.

- degradable bags
- salad bag mix bags
- frozen food bags
- candy wrappers
- chip bags
- six-pack rings



Want to do more?

The Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP) is working with communities, consumers and other organizations to support the 5 Habits to Handle Film Responsibly:

- 1 REDUCE WASTE
- 2 REUSE FILM
- 3 RECYCLE RIGHT
- 4 PREVENT LITTER
- 5 BUY RECYCLED



For more information on film recycling, the 5 Habits to Handle Film Responsibly, and more, visit: PlasticFilmRecycling.org



WE HAVE A SURPRISE COMING



**KWEB YOUTH
COUNCIL**

*Have a teen interested in the environment?
Interested in "Keeping Our Paradise Litter
Free"? Looking for volunteer opportunities?
Wanting to learn leadership roles? Want an
impressive application for college?*

Watch for more details coming soon!!

Upcoming Events

with KWCB

Events may be subject to some changes. We will post any changes as quickly as possible.

11/12/20- Green Drinks at Riverside Cafe

In honor of America Recycles Day we will be having a Green Drinks event with Speaker Jim Davis. Jim will be giving a presentation on "A Common Sense Approach to Recycling and Waste Reduction" and be available for questions you may have. Thursday, November 12 @ 7:00 PM.

Jim is a CPA that works with nonprofits and small governmental units, KWCB Board Member, past Director of Sustainable Tallahassee, and sits on the Board of Directors for Recycle Florida Today.

11/15/20- America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day®, a program of Keep America Beautiful®, is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States.

12/5/20- KWCB National River Cleanup

National River Cleanup® is a key initiative for American Rivers. Since its inception in 1991, we have engaged more than 1.3 million volunteers who have participated in thousands of cleanups across the country, covering more than 260,000 miles of waterways and removing more than 27 million pounds of litter and debris.

KWCB will be hosting its 3rd Annual River Cleanup. We will be needing volunteers for kayaking, canoeing, and diving on the Wakulla and St. Marks River. Watch for more details.

2/27/21- Apalachicola National Forest Cleanup and Leaders Against Litter

The Apalachicola National Forest Cleanup is an annual event held with help from the U S Forestry Service and kicks off the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup for our local affiliate.

The Leaders Against Litter was first held at last year's event and will also be incorporated into this year's cleanup. The purpose of his initiative is to raise awareness about how Florida's pervasive litter problem affects communities by inviting community leaders to observe the problem first-hand by cleaning up a local site and educating participants about the direct and indirect costs and damage caused by litter.

TBA- Household Hazardous Waste Day

We promise we are working hard to get this event rescheduled. As soon as we can get it coordinated we will be posting for everyone.

Please remember that we have to keep everyone safe. Potential thunderstorms with lightning, hazardous waste, and volunteers does not make for safe conditions.



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION- VOLUNTEER

**We have forgotten how to be
good guests, how to walk
lightly on the earth as its other
creatures do.—Barbara Ward**

