

KMB Monthly

December 2025

KMB receives state award for 'exceptional local impact'

Keep Manatee Beautiful (KMB) recently received statewide honors for its efforts to restore some of the most devastated areas of Manatee County following last year's brutal hurricane season.

At its annual conference in November, **Keep Florida Beautiful**

presented KMB executive director Jennifer Hoffman with the 2025 Project Award, recognizing an affiliate member that "has made an exceptional impact in a local community."

Keep Florida Beautiful executive director **Sherry Carpenter** said KMB "truly went above and beyond."

"Keep Manatee Beautiful was selected for their extraordinary efforts in turning a devastating situation into a story of resilience and success." –

Keep Florida Beautiful Director Sherry Carpenter



Keep Florida Beautiful Executive Director Sherry Carpenter, KMB Director Jennifer Hoffman and KMB Education Programs Manager Michele Laughrey at the Keep Florida Beautiful Conference in early November.

Joined by volunteers from around Manatee County, KMB led the community effort to collect storm debris following the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Debris cleanup from those storms alone totaled more than 145,000 pounds and went towards KMB's record-setting actions to collect 251,000 pounds (125.5 TONS!) of debris for the year. During the breakneck year of 2025, KMB organized 2,324 volunteers across 697 cleanups for a total of 7,320 volunteer hours locally.

"Keep Manatee Beautiful was selected for their extraordinary efforts in turning a devastating situation into a story of resilience and success," Carpenter said. "Recovering from hurricane damage is no easy task, yet Jennifer Hoffman and her team rose to the challenge without hesitation. Not only did they complete an impressive cleanup in record time, but

they continue to strengthen their community by restoring sea oats, replanting trees and promoting long-term environmental recovery across the region."

KMB also organized resiliency and restoration projects, including a July event when 300 volunteers planted more than 12,000 sea oats throughout Anna Maria Island. It was the largest dune restoration in Manatee County history, and it's helping to stabilize the shoreline against erosion from future storms.

Keep Manatee Beautiful also distributed 2,000 trees in 2025, and continues to give away more trees during the final Saturday of each month at the popular Downtown Bradenton Market.



Growing Future Leaders

Over the past few months, our team has been steadily building momentum – new partnerships, new events, new volunteers – and now, we’re welcoming a new team member whose passion and energy are already sparking fresh ideas. **Ed Robinson**, our new Programs Manager, has joined us with an enthusiasm that is truly contagious. In just a short time, he has begun shaping what we believe will become one of the most meaningful initiatives in KMB’s recent history.

Ed is developing a **Youth Outreach Pilot Program**, a project designed to bring high school students into the heart of our mission by forming what will become the KMB Youth Council. This council will be made up of Youth Ambassadors from across Manatee County – students who care about their community and want to take part in efforts that protect, beautify, and uplift the places they call home.

While the program is still in its early stages, the vision behind it is already inspiring. Today’s young people are eager to make a difference. They are thoughtful, motivated, and capable of incredible leadership when given the chance. This new initiative aims to meet them where they are, offering meaningful volunteer opportunities, pathways to earn service hours, and a platform for creative environmental advocacy. Whether it becomes a group that assists at cleanups,

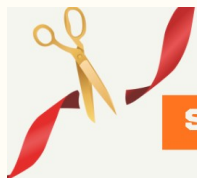
helps lead school-based beautification efforts, develops peer-to-peer education, or creates youth-driven environmental campaigns, the possibilities are wide open – and that’s what makes this so exciting.

For Keep Manatee Beautiful, this program represents more than a new project. It reflects our long-term commitment to sustainability, community stewardship, and building connections that last. Volunteers have always been the beating heart of our work, and engaging the next generation ensures that heart stays strong. When young people see their actions make a visible difference – a cleaner shoreline, a revitalized park, a restored habitat – they walk away with a sense of ownership and pride that often lasts a lifetime.

I also want to acknowledge the role you play in making initiatives like this possible. Your support – whether through volunteer time, financial contributions, or simply spreading the word about KMB’s mission – gives us the flexibility to dream big and invest in programs that create long-term impact. A youth council does not just serve today’s needs; it lays the foundation for tomorrow’s leaders. It invites young people to imagine the kind of community they want to inherit and empowers them to help build it. We look forward to keeping you updated as this pilot program takes shape, and I hope you’ll join me in welcoming Ed to the KMB family. The excitement within our team is real, and we can’t wait to see where this next chapter leads!



Jennifer Hoffman
Executive Director
Keep Manatee Beautiful



SPECIAL EVENT

KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL RIBBON CUTTING

1112 Manatee Ave W. 8th Floor
Bradenton, FL



www.manateebeautiful.com



DECEMBER 3
KMB HQ
10:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

This **Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2**, we're asking our community to come together for the place we all love. When you support Keep Manatee Beautiful, you're not just making a donation—you're shaping the future of our beaches, parks, neighborhoods, and public spaces.

Your gift helps us:

- Remove hundreds of thousands of pounds of litter
- Plant trees, sea oats, and native landscapes
- Grow community gardens and food forests
- Support volunteer cleanups across Manatee County
- Restore the beauty that draws residents, visitors, and local businesses together.

Help us protect the place we all call home. **Give today and keep Manatee County beautiful.**

Donate at www.manateebeautiful.com

#GIVING TUESDAY



Scenes from November

In November, volunteers across Bradenton and Palmetto rolled up their sleeves to keep our community looking its best.

The **Bradenton Runners Club** hit the Riverwalk for an early-morning cleanup along Riverwalk Boulevard, where they collected hundreds of discarded cigarette butts – a small item that remains one of the most common and stubborn sources of litter in our waterfront parks.

Across the river in Palmetto, members of **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity** spent the day at Coach Eddie Shannon Park, tackling litter hidden in brush lines, around ballfields, and near playgrounds. Their efforts helped restore the park as a safe, welcoming space for families and kids who rely on it every day. By the end of the month, cleanup teams from the Cities of Bradenton and Palmetto had removed **more than 2,640 pounds of trash** from public spaces – a great reminder of what's possible when neighbors, civic groups, and community partners work together!

Volunteer-driven efforts continue to make Manatee County cleaner, greener, and more beautiful for everyone. If you'd like to be part of the next community cleanup, visit

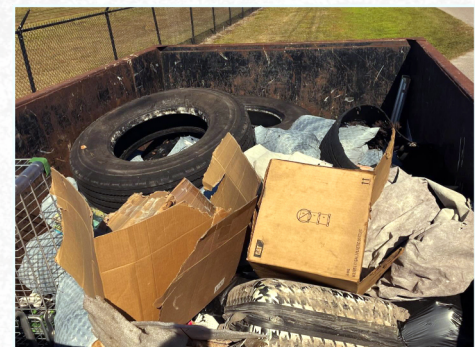


Sea Monkey Apparel Joins KMB for 53rd Avenue Cleanup

Thank you to **Sea Monkey Apparel** for partnering with Keep Manatee Beautiful for a road cleanup on 53rd Avenue on Nov. 15!

With more than 30 volunteers, we cleared roadside debris and filled an entire 12-yard dumpster. Incredible work from an amazing crew!

If you'd like to get involved and make a difference in your community, check out our upcoming volunteer events at **ManateeBeautiful.com**. We'd love to have you join us!





Upcoming Events



A

December First Tuesday Cleanup

Tues. Dec. 2 @ 4:30 p.m.

Connor Park
505 Fifth Street West
Palmetto

C

January First Saturday Cleanup

Saturday, Jan. 3 @ 9 a.m.

Sunshine Skyway Bridge 7901
U.S. Hwy. 19
Terra Ceia

B

December First Saturday Cleanup

Saturday, Dec. 6 @ 9 a.m.

Coquina South Boat Ramp,
2651 Gulf Dr. S.
Bradenton Beach

D

January First Tuesday Cleanup

Tues. Jan. 6 @ 4:30 p.m.

Emerson Point Preserve
5801 17th St. W.
Palmetto



2026 Events

First Tuesdays

First Saturdays

 Jan. 6 Emerson Point Preserve	 5801 17th St. W., Palmetto
 Feb. 3 Pride Park	 815 63rd Ave. E., Bradenton
 March 3 Sutton Park	 1036 6th St. W., Palmetto
 April 7 Estuary Park Preserve	 98 U.S. Hwy. 41, Palmetto
 May 5 Rossi Park	 444 3rd Ave. W., Bradenton
 June 2 Coach Eddie Shannon Park	 501 17th St. E., Palmetto
 July 7 Taylor Park	 309 8th Ave. W., Palmetto
 Aug. 4 Palma Sola Causeway	 9917 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton
 Sept. 1 Conner Park	 505 5th St. W., Palmetto
 Oct. 6 Mineral Springs Park	 1312 2nd Ave. E., Bradenton
 Nov. 3 S.R. 64 Boat Ramp	 3020 Manatee Ave. E., Bradenton
 Dec. 1 Neal Park	 1740 Ballard Park Dr., Bradenton

 Jan. 2 Sunshine Skyway Bridge Cleanup	 7901 U.S. 19, Terra Ceia
 Feb. 7 Ola Mae Sims Park	 11800 Erie Rd., Parrish
 March 7 Neal Preserve	 12301 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton
 April No First Saturday cleanup this month	 April 18 Earth Day Celebration (Details coming soon)
 May 2 Mixon Farms	 2525 27th St. E., Bradenton
 June 6 Riverside Boat Ramp	 857 Riverside Dr., Palmetto
 ** Sunday, July 5 ** Beach Cleanup	 52nd Street beach access, Holmes Beach
 Aug. 1 Rowlett Middle Academy	 400 30th Ave. W., Bradenton
 Sept. 5 S.R. 64 Boat Ramp	 3020 Manatee Ave. E., Bradenton
 Oct. 3 Ft. Hamer Park	 1605 Fort Hamer Road, Parrish
 Nov. 7 Pride Park	 815 63rd Ave. E., Bradenton
 Dec. 5 Cornerstone Church of Lakewood Ranch	 14306 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch

NOTE: First Saturday cleanups begin at 9 a.m. First Tuesday cleanups begin at 4:30 p.m.