

The KMB Monthly

January 2024

Happy

NEW YEAR

2024



KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL

FIRST SATURDAY



Skyway Pier South End


Jan. 6, 2024
9 am.

CLEANUP



KEEP MANATEE BEAUTIFUL

FIRST TUESDAY CLEANUP!



Martin Luther King Park

503 17th St. W. Palmetto
(behind Palmetto Youth Center)

Jan. 9 at 5:30 p.m.



Keep Manatee Beautiful 2023 Year In Review



Volunteers -- 3,750 volunteers, to be exact -- contributed 17,047 hours to KMB projects in 2023! The total value of their service? **\$542,095!**



Last year during special events, we planted **1,000** sea oats, organized **2** under-water cleanups and helped plant **3** gardens on Earth Day!



Last year we tallied **112,670 pounds** of trash, 6,608 pounds of recycling and 162 tires. Whew!



In 2023, KMB donated 1,000 native trees to Manatee County residents!

Partnerships

- Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Sarasota Bay Watch
- Suncoast Aqua Ventures
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program
- Palmetto High School



EARTH MONTH

This year, Winnebago Industries challenged employees from across our business units to come together during Earth Month and "complete green acts for a better planet." Guided by a "Challenge Passport," employees organized park and beach trash clean-ups, planted trees with local youth organizations, practiced sustainable habits, watched conservation documentaries and learned about Foundation partners doing conservation work within our operating communities. Throughout Earth Month, employees had the opportunity to learn, act and be inspired, three core pillars of our community philosophy.



In addition to employee-led efforts, the Winnebago Industries Foundation helped support non-profit partner Neighborhood Forest, which partnered with 600+ schools, libraries and youth groups to plant 42,000+ trees for Earth Day, sequestering an estimated 250,000 tons of CO₂.



KMB and Chris Craft were featured in Winnebago Industries' annual corporate responsibility report!

2024

KMB EVENTS CALENDAR

- First Saturday cleanup
- ▲ First Tuesday cleanup

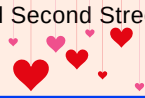
January

- 6 — South Skyway Bridge fishing pier ●
- 9 — MLK Park, 503 17th St. W., Palmetto (behind Palmetto Youth Center) ▲
- 19 — Tree giveaway, Mineral Springs Park at Riverwalk E.



February

- 3 — Riverside Boat Ramp, 899 Riverside Drive, Palmetto ●
- 13 — Love Park, 11th Avenue W. and Second Street W., Bradenton ▲



March

- 2 — Neal Park, 1740 Ballard Park Dr., Bradenton ●
- 5 — Lamb Park 950 6th St W, Palmetto ▲



April

- 2 — Pride Park, 6032 Ninth St. E., Bradenton ▲
- 6 — S.R. 64 Boat Ramp, 3020 Manatee Ave. E., Bradenton ●
- 20 (Earth Day) — Activities planned at Trinity United Methodist Church, 3200 Manatee Ave. W, Bradenton



May

- 4 — Coquina Beach South (Love It Like a Local cleanup, Star Wars theme), 1300 Gulf Dr. S., Bradenton Beach ●
- 7 — Skate Park at Riverwalk, 100 Riverfront Blvd., Bradenton ▲
- 11 — Riverside Boat Ramp, 899 Riverside Drive, Palmetto
- 28 — Day-after Memorial Day Beach Cleanup, 52nd St. Beach Access, Holmes Beach



June

- 1 — Bahia Mar West Marina, 6918 14th St. W., Bradenton ●
- 4 — Palma Sola Causeway Park, 9917 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton ▲



July

- 5 — Day-after Fourth of July Beach Cleanup, 52nd Street beach access (Holmes Beach)
- 6 — Boyd Bridge (Terra Ceia), 6251 U.S. 19 ●
- 9 — Connor Park, 505 Fifth St. W., Palmetto ▲



August

- 3 — Riverwalk Splash Park, 452 Third Ave. W., Bradenton ●
- 6 — Coach Eddie Shannon Park, 501 17th St. E., Palmetto ▲

September

- 3 (morning) — Day-after Labor Day Beach Cleanup, 52nd Street beach access (Holmes Beach)
- 3 (afternoon) — Emerson Point Preserve, 5801 17th St. W., Palmetto ▲
- 7 — MLK Park, 509 Ninth Ave. W., Bradenton ●
- 28 - 29 — Reef & Beach Cleanup, 55 Horseshoe Loop Road, Terra Ceia



October

- 1 — Mineral Springs Park at Riverwalk East, Second Ave. E. & 14th St. E., Bradenton ▲
- 5 — Ft. Hamer Park, 1605 Ft. Hamer Road, Parrish ●



November

- 2 — Pride Park, 6032 Ninth St. E., Bradenton ●
- 5 — Sutton Park, 1036 Sixth St. W., Palmetto ▲



December

- 3 — Tot Park, 1100 Third Ave. E, Bradenton ▲
- 7 — Buffalo Creek Park, 7550 69th Street East, Palmetto ●



AMI Sun's Year in Review: Our Environment

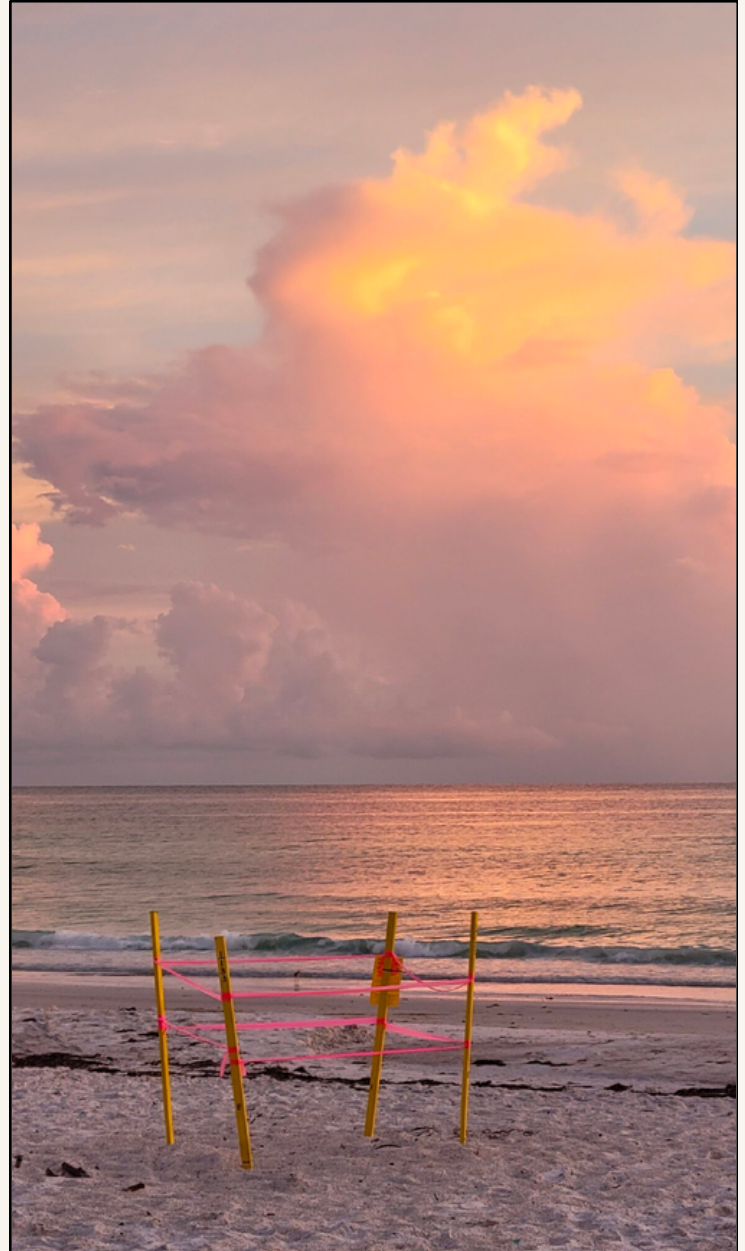
On Dec. 23, The Anna Maria Island Sun published a thorough "Year in Review" edition with one section devoted to a busy year in environmental developments around Manatee County. The KMB team reached out to the Sun and received permission to run parts of the article ([available in its entirety online here](#)) in this newsletter. Special thanks to Sun editor Cindy Lane, along with Leslie Lake who wrote and compiled the report.

EARLY START TO SEA TURTLE SEASON

Island sea turtles got off to an early start in 2023 as the first nest of the season appeared on Anna Maria Island. "AMITW got a big surprise early this morning, finding the first loggerhead nest of the season," Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and Shorebird Monitoring Executive Director Kristen Mazzarella wrote in an April 18 statement. Sea turtle nesting season officially begins May 1 and lasts until Oct. 31.

FOX HONORED AT CELEBRATION OF LIFE

At the celebration of Suzi Fox's life in January, local dignitaries, family and friends painted a picture of a dedicated advocate for Island turtles, a fun-loving and funny friend, and a caring mother, sister and grandmother. Fox, longtime executive director of Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and Shorebird Monitoring, died on Sept. 30, 2022 after a fall. More than 150 people attended the event at the Center of Anna Maria Island to pay tribute to Fox.



Loggerhead sea turtles nested on Anna Maria Island's beaches early from April through September. - **Cindy Lane**

PINEY POINT CONTAMINATION EXTENDED FURTHER THAN ORIGINALLY THOUGHT

A study showed that contaminated water from the 2021 Piney Point spill, which contributed to algae blooms and red tide in Tampa Bay waterways, traveled farther than originally thought. According to the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP), a chemical signature from the spill was found more than 30 miles away, in St. Joseph Sound near Tarpon Springs.

BIOLUMINESCENCE FASCINATES BEACHGOERS

The bioluminescent glow that came off the water in September may be related to the aftermath of Hurricane Idalia, according to one local expert. “This could be related to the nutrient pulse from Idalia,” said Dr. Dave Tomasko, executive director of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. “The water came up and much of the grass clippings and yard debris on our landscape got dragged back out into the bay as the water receded.”

HURRICANE IDALIA CAUSES BEACH EROSION

Hurricane Idalia’s Aug. 31 storm surge eroded the Island’s renourished beaches, but the full extent of the damage and when it will be repaired is not yet known. “It could be months before any decision on what efforts will be undertaken is made,” Manatee County spokesman Bill Logan said in a Sept. 8 email to The Sun.

U.S. COAST GUARD SUSPENDS INVESTIGATION INTO SEAPORT MANATEE OIL SPILL

Following testing of multiple potential sources, and with no responsible party identified, the U.S. Coast Guard suspended its investigation on Sept. 26 into the source of an oil spill at SeaPort Manatee, pending any new information. The spill was reported by SeaPort Manatee on Sept. 1, launching the Coast Guard’s examination of facilities and ships for evidence of an improper oil discharge.

PINEY POINT CLOSES FIRST OF FOUR WASTEWATER COLLECTION PONDS

In September, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection said the work on the first of four wastewater collection ponds was complete. The pond, built to contain industrial wastewater from phosphate processing operations, is located at the top of a phosphogypsum waste stack.

MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REDUCE WETLAND BUFFERS IN A 5-1 VOTE

Commissioners voted on Oct. 5 to default to the less restrictive state of Florida minimums from more restrictive county standards. Buffers between sensitive wetlands and new upland development were reduced from 50 feet to 25 feet. Buffers between outflowing wetlands and new upland development were reduced from 30 feet to 15 feet.



In October KMB partnered with the City of Holmes Beach to restore sea oats lost during Hurricane Idalia. More than 40 volunteers joined us, planting 1,000 sea oats!

– Sun Correspondent Joe Hendricks contributed to this story