

How is Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. improving Lee County?



The Clean Scene

Serving Lee County Since 1989!

Our mission is to inspire, educate, and engage the Lee County community in improving, beautifying, and protecting our environment.

September Newsletter

Environmental News And Upcoming Events



This year's event t-shirt that Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. will be giving to our participating volunteers.

International Coastal Cleanup September 18, 2021 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Keep Lee County Beautiful would like to thank our Presenting Sponsor, The Commons Club at The Brooks, and Manheim Automotive, Family Thrift Center, Waste Pro, Surfing Evolution & Preservation Foundation, Boston Red Sox Foundation, Advanced Disposal and our many other sponsors and supporters that made this event possible. Visit our [event webpage](#) to view all of these wonderful supporters of protecting our environment.

The trash and debris that is on our shorelines and in our waterways, is so much more than just a blemish to our environment. It is a public health threat as well as a serious danger to the stability and wellbeing to our ocean's ecosystems. Keep Lee County Beautiful ask you to join us in making a difference by helping to clean our beaches and waterways.

This is the world's largest, single day volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. 2021 will be the 32nd year that Keep Lee County Beautiful has hosted this event in Lee County, where we strive to preserve and protect our coastal community.

The recent study conducted by Keep America Beautiful in 2020 showed that the majority of litter polluting our country was along and, in our waterways, not on our roadsides. While this was surprising, it shows the importance of events like the International Coastal Cleanup.

[Click here](#) to register and view additional information.

[Click here](#) to register at a location on Sanibel & Captiva



Sunlight Removes Water Contaminants!

It has been known for ages that sunlight possesses healing properties. The ultraviolet radiation in sunlight is even used as a natural disinfectant to purify water for drinking. The CDC estimates that over 2 million people worldwide use solar disinfection to clean their drinking water. Water placed in a transparent bottle under steady sunlight for at least six hours will eliminate microbiological pathogens, it will not remove chemical contaminants, like lead or toxic pollutants.

There is now [research being done](#) that shows how naturally occurring organic compounds absorb sunlight and produce singlet oxygen. This singlet oxygen then helps to break down chemicals in streams, lakes and rivers. This process is called photochemical transformation. Now we need to focus even more diligently than before on removing litter from our water and keeping pollutants from entering our waterways. If we do our part, we can give nature a chance to balance our fragile ecosystem.



Florida's Flora And Fauna Now Have A Dedicated Page On Our Website

Keep Lee County Beautiful Inc. has now added an Education page to our website where we will be adding articles on both the flora and fauna that are a part of Florida's diverse ecosystem. On this page you will be able to delve into the little-known facts of our native plants and wildlife that make living in Florida so exciting when you stop and look at the world around you.

For this initial kickoff article, we are presenting information on Spanish Moss. This is an item we see quite often, and will hardly give a second thought to. Originally called *Itla-okla* (tree-hair) by Native-Americans it later was named *Barbe Espagnol* (Spanish Beard) by French explorers. This name eventually evolved into Spanish Moss. One interesting fact about Spanish Moss is that it's actually not a moss, it's an epiphytic bromeliad that does not rely on the host plant for nutrients. Read the article we have on our new [Education page](#) to learn more interesting information about the Spanish Moss that we see hanging from so many of our trees.

National Indoor Plant Week September 19 - 25, 2021

The third week of September is National Indoor Plant Week. This is the perfect time to add a few living plants to the inside of your home. Some popular choices are the Peace Lily or Sunset Jade. An Aloe Vera plant is an

National Indoor



Plant Week

easy to care for plant that has a gel which has been used for body care by many. It is also one of the indoor plants that helps to cleanse the air. Adding any living plants to your home will be a benefit as they will create oxygen, remove CO2 and give you a healthy feeling of connecting with the outdoors.



National Public Lands Day September 25, 2021

Since 1994 National Public Lands Day (NPLD) has been taking place on the fourth Saturday in September. This celebration of our natural lands brings out thousands of volunteers to help restore and improve public lands around the country. NPLD is also a fee-free day so entrance fees are waived at national parks and other public lands.

This year's theme is "More Ways to Connect to Nature". In-person projects such as park clean-ups, and trail restorations are extremely important to improving our public lands. Virtual events that are focused on education and those that are a hybrid of both are just as important for the long-term care of our natural green spaces.

Visit the [NPLD Event Locator page](#) to find an event near you.



Crush A Can Day September 27, 2021

Globally we use approximately 180 billion cans a year. 69% of these cans are recycled which makes them the #1 recycled beverage container in the world. Here in the United States, we are only recycling 55% of our aluminum cans. We have quite a bit of room to improve our recycling rate so on the "Crush a Can Day" make an ongoing effort to recycle your aluminum cans as well as any other recyclable item.



KLCB's NEW "Leave The Scene Clean" Art Contest Has Now Started

Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. is excited to announce our NEW "Leave the Scene Clean" art contest. The deadline for entries is December 1, 2021 (winners will be announced by mid-January). The contest is open to K-12th grade.

Students are to visualize a correct environmental action and transfer that mental picture into a work of art. Possible ways of expanding on this theme could include: litter prevention, clean-up campaigns,

beautification efforts such as landscaping and tree planting, protecting the environment, and recycling.

For the NEW art contest, the four overall winning illustrations will be enlarged and appear on the side of a Lee County Waste Pro truck and also printed on reusable tote bags. The overall winning and honorable mention artwork will be on display at the Lovers Key State Park Discovery Center during April 2022 in honor of Earth month. All winners will also receive a certificate and prize pack.

[Click here](#) to view additional information or to print an entry form.



"Go Green" Golf Tournament October 15, 2021

Sponsorship opportunities and team registrations are available for our 30th annual "Go Green" Golf Fundraiser. Team registrations are filling up fast so act now to reserve your spot. There are a variety of sponsorship opportunities available to select from. Visit our [event webpage](#) for sponsor details and to register your team today.

This year's "Go Green" Golf Fundraiser will be taking place at the beautiful Plantation Golf & Country Club in Fort Myers, Florida on October 15. We would be honored by your participation as we work to promote environmental awareness, community engagement and raise funds to support the efforts of our non-profit organization. All donations, monetary or in-kind, are tax deductible and stay right here in Lee County to directly benefit your home community. Your generosity is vital to the ongoing success of our programs.

[Click here](#) for additional information



Monofilament Madness Waterway Cleanup November 6, 2021 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us in removing monofilament fishing line, and other harmful trash and debris from our local waterways. Volunteers will go out in paddlecraft, boats and even jet skis. During this event we will not only clean popular fishing areas of a large amount of fishing line and litter, we will also help to protect our local marine life from the harmful damage these items may cause. Another benefit is the environmental awareness that is brought to those in the areas we will be cleaning.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for this event. This is a multi-site event with hundreds of volunteers participating to clean our local waterways. Show your support by becoming a sponsor today.

[Click here](#) for additional event information.

[Click here](#) to learn more about becoming a sponsor.

Support Those That Support Us

Keep Lee County Beautiful would like to encourage you to visit, or use the services of, these businesses that through their support have helped us work towards achieving our mission. With their assistance we have been able to engage the Lee County community and make a lasting change to improve, beautify, and protect the world we live in.



[Safeguard Shredding Services](#) is a family-owned business that always puts the customer first. With over 30 years of experience in the shredding industry they can handle all of your shredding needs. They offer commercial, residential, government, HIPPA, NAID, GLB, FACTA, HITECH shredding along with many other services. Call 239-437-7441 or visit their [website](#) for additional information.



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Concierge services offered include stocking your fridge prior to arrival, golf cart, kayak and bike rentals delivered prior to your arrival, chartered fishing trips, a personal chef for that special occasion, and other spectacular services to make your stay both memorable and relaxing. Call 941-964-1426 or visit their [webpage](#) for additional information to schedule your next vacation.



[Captiva Cruises](#) has a cruise experience that will be the perfect fit to any vacation. They offer dolphin and wildlife cruises where you are sure to see a wide variety of sea life. Sunset cruises are available when you would like to truly enjoy the sparkling waters of Southwest Florida. In addition to these, Captiva Cruises can take you to a number of fantastic locations. If you are looking for an exciting adventure, sailing cruises are offered.

Call 239-472-5300 or visit their [website](#) for additional information and to schedule your next Southwest Florida cruise.

Event Updates

Vacationing Family Cleans Fort Myers Beach August, 2021

When most families come to sunny Florida to take a vacation they gather seashells on the seashore. This was not the case with the Watson family that visited our beaches while on vacation from New York. During their vacation, they did multiple beach cleanups and gathered a wide variety of items which included food wrappers, plastic and glass bottles, and a large assortment of bottle caps that they were able to find along the shoreline. On a positive note, they did make the comment that our



beaches were much cleaner than the ones they have back home.



Florida Gulf Coast University Students Step Up To Make A Difference Summer Term, 2021

Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. would like to thank a group of Florida Gulf Coast University students that went far above what their assignment called on them to do. These students, Luke Maguire, Michael Brito, Banks Prevatt and Ben Schlessel, were required to do a simple project and they became as active in our projects during the summer term as possible.

Members of their group participated in our 5th of July cleanup and the planting of 4,000 sea oats that we did this past July. They also created a flyer to help recruit FGCU students for the planting and another flyer to raise awareness on the topic of how harmful litter is to our environment. On top of all of these activities they also put efforts towards fund raising for Keep Lee County Beautiful's programs.

Would you like to help keep Lee County Beautiful?

Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. is a non-profit that has always strived towards coordinating programs and events that will beautify and improve our local community. We are also strongly focused on protecting the environment by removing litter and debris throughout our county. One of our main goals is improving both our resident's and visitor's awareness of proper trash disposal and recycling procedures. Our ultimate goal is to someday not need to have large scale cleanup projects. To achieve all of our goals we need your help. If you would like to make a small, tax-deductible donation, please visit our [membership page](#).

We thank you for your support!

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www.klcb.org

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If this email was forwarded to you, you can [subscribe here](#).
