

The Great American Cleanup Reaps Benefits Winter Park

The Great American Cleanup, a grassroots beautification, litter prevention, education and community improvement program led nationally by Keep America Beautiful is held throughout the months of March, April and May. Included in this effort is the Earth Day weekend celebrated on April 21 and 22. Keep Winter Park Beautiful supported six groups in their varied efforts.

Keep Winter Park Beautiful's presence at the Earth Day Celebration at Fleet People's Park on Saturday included a static display entitled "Look What We Can Do Together." It featured pictures of group activities over the past several years and included complimentary K.W.P.B. fans, bubbles, Publix coupon books and Gain samples.

The interactive display entitled "What's Your Excuse for Littering?" was inaugurated to encourage participants to review the most common excuses for littering, and to "make a basket" into a regular or mini garbage can or a hanging recycling bin. Prizes for winning included coloring books and crayons or can cozies. The display was rounded out with peat pots for participants to plant a marigold or herb to take home and KWPB member, Gretchen Despard was busy face painting.

Saturday was also the date of the Class 11 Leadership Winter Park work day. This herculean class not only wheeled into place and spread 150 yards of mulch, they also sealed the entire playground, picnic tables and benches with 200 gallons of sealer. Keep Winter Park Beautiful provided Great American Cleanup T-shirts, plastic and garden gloves, and Gain samples to thank and recognize this hard working group.

The Lake Wilbar and College Quarter Neighborhood groups

spent Saturday morning cleaning in their neighborhoods. K.W.P.B. supplied buckets and brushes, gloves and cleaning solution, Great American Cleanup T-shirts, Gain samples, coloring books and crayons to both groups.

Keep Winter Park Beautiful also participated in the Aloma Avenue Whole Foods Earth Day celebration on Sunday with the active and static displays, in addition to the peat pot plants and thank you gifts. Participants enjoyed complimentary sodas, roasted corn and hot dogs in addition to activities, music and dancing provided by other groups.

Later on Sunday, Keep Winter Park Beautiful attended the ECO-Action's waterway canoe cleanup launched from Dinky Dock to present the group with

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T-shirts, 800 trash bags and Gain samples to encourage their efforts. This amazing group, founded by Beth Hollenback eight years ago, and directed by Dennis Bennett, assists celebrity guide Steve Nordlinger in arranging every-Sunday (including Christmas) clean ups of the lakes, rivers and waterways of Central Florida. Bennett has been featured on NPR recognized in various national publications for his efforts and dedication. He and this group are testimony to those "who not only want to help, but are doing something to help" and who recognize that we should all be celebrating Earth day every day. These folks are most interested in putting to good use that canoe you are no longer using, and happily accept donations for their continuing efforts which include initiatives beyond waterway cleanups.