

Earth Day Journal

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Marine Debris Clean up

The Marine Cleanup Initiative, in cooperation with the Treasure Coast Waterways Cleanup and Earth Day Journal, is asking for dedicated scuba divers, boat owners, kayakers and other volunteers to help with the underwater and surface clean-up of the Indian River Lagoon during the week of July 18-25, 2009.

The clean up of fishing line, nets and other marine debris will begin with an underwater clean up of Sebastian Inlet on Saturday, July 18 and continue with a Sebastian Inlet jetties pilot clean up on Wednesday, July 22. The scuba clean up will continue from the previous week with the underwater clean up of Ft Pierce Inlet. The dive is a continuation of the Waterways Cleanup produced by the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC) and sponsored by the Florida Inland Navigation District.(FIND)

The island and shoreline clean up utilizing kayaks and motor boats will take place on Saturday, July 25 from Riverview Park in Sebastian and McWilliams Park in Vero Beach. Kayaks are ecologically friendly, easy to maneuver and a healthy way to enjoy the biodiversity of Florida's aquatic environment. Power boats are needed to assist the removal of trash from kayaks and take to docks. We are seeking dive boats to deploy scuba teams as well.

A cookout for volunteers is being sponsored by the Orchid Island Rotary Club at Riverview Park in Sebastian on Saturday, July 18 and a pizza party sponsored by a conglomeration of pizza parlors at the Ft Pierce Yacht Club on July 25. A cook out is being produced by MIATC and sponsored by FIND for all volunteers on August 16 at the Ft Pierce Yacht Club

Fishing line and abandoned nets kill birds, sea turtles, crustaceans, and marine mammals. Six-pack rings, fishing line and strapping bands entangle and kill thousands of marine life yearly. Plastic bottle caps are mistaken for food and kill sea birds by blocking digestive tracts. Debris fouls propellers and/or causes engines to overheat. Plastics can last hundreds of years and impact marine life for several generations.

For more information including sponsors and to sign up, please visit www.earthdayjournal.com