26th Annual Coastal Cleanup–Great Success!

On Saturday, September 20, 2014, volunteers pitched-in to clean central. There were 10 dumpsters strategically placed across the county. Land O’ Lakes was just one drop-off site where 38 teams and 445 volunteers pre-registered (42% of the 1,050 total volunteers county-wide) to participate to clean designated lakes, creeks, roads, ditches, and drainage retention areas in central part of the county. “Although we picked up a few volunteers onsite this morning, we lost several (30-40) due to the rainy weather – they don’t understand the rain makes it cooler – either you are soaked due to perspiration or you get a light sprinkle – I prefer the latter, and there was a slight breeze!” explained Betsy Crisp, area co-captain with Kurt Conover for the past 23 years in Land O’ Lakes.

After several hours of hot, sweaty work, volunteers returned to the SunTrust Bank where they turned-in 51 data cards and filled the dumpster with 1.61 tons (5% increase over 2013 and 8% of the total 19.74 collected county-wide). Just some of the most unusual things collected this year included:

- About 20 empty vodka bottles (Parkway Boulevard)
- Wedding garter (Collier Parkway)
- Couch, TV, toilet, dishwasher, garden hose and pipes (Drexel/Tower Roads)
- TV Remote Control and Credit Card (Collier Parkway/Willow Bend)

Approx. $5,000 is raised each year in T-shirts, food and prizes from local merchants to reward volunteers after all that hot and sweaty work! Kurt Conover and I want to personally thank you and our Land O’ Lakes sponsors:

- SunTrust
- Hungry Harry’s BBQ
- Ierna Heating & Cooling
- McDonalds
- West Coast Rental
- Waste Management
- Lutz-LOL Woman’s Club
- Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point
- UF/IFAS-Pasco County Extension
- And many more that helped make this day possible.

Pasco County government, citizens and our wildlife also thank you!

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To volunteer to coordinate next year’s cleanup or for more information, contact:

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Project Coordinator, Recycling &amp; Education</td>
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<td>Jennifer Seney</td>
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