

Rain Fails to Dampen Beach Cleanup Enthusiasm

By Maureen Kilgallen

Rain did not deter dedicated volunteers from showing up to participate in the "Big Sweep" operation October 11, a one-day event held to clean up litter found in all North Carolina's waterways, roadways, and other areas. In fact, Carteret County overall had an increased number of volunteers over last year in spite of the weather.

In Pine Knoll Shores, volunteers met at the Iron Steamer public beach access and spread out along a two-mile section of the beach to retrieve harmful debris left behind by littering beachgoers and boaters. The volunteers picked up 377 cigarette butts, 14 balloons, 42 plastic bags, 43 food wrappers and containers, and 77 caps and lids. Parts



of rubber tires, two dead stingrays and a dead pelican entangled in a balloon were also removed from the beach on the soggy Saturday morning.

The cleanup is extremely important because litter contaminates the water supply and endangers people and wildlife. It also tarnishes an area's image, which can have a detrimental impact on the local economy, especially tourism.

Pat McNeese, conservation and research coordinator

at the North Carolina Aquarium in Pine Knoll Shores, spearheaded the event along with the aquarium's "Green Team." In addition, members of the PKS Recreation Advisory Committee and Town Manager Brian Kramer and his crew helped out with the "Big Sweep" operation, a component of the International Coastal Cleanup, a global effort to rid our environment of debris. Last year more than 378,000 international volunteers from 76 nations participated in this worldwide cleanup. In its 21-year history, more than 250,000 "Big Sweep" volunteers have retrieved more than 8.8 million pounds of debris from North Carolina's watersheds.

It's all about everyone being responsible beach users by removing and disposing of trash in proper receptacles and dog owners remembering to pick up after their pets to help "Keep America Beautiful!"

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The **Shoreline**

Pine Knoll Association

The marina restoration project has been successfully completed. The new floating docks at Brock Basin and Hall Haven look fabulous! And so does the seawall at Brock Basin. They performed splendidly during Tropical Storm Hannah. Now that the construction is complete, plans are underway to spruce up the rest of the park area in Brock Basin so it will be

a more inviting place for holding parties and entertaining. The end-of-summer sittum party for the PKA members was well attended and fun was had by all.

The directors of the board are working hard to keep in the loop with town officials on the beach access issues. The next PKA meeting will be Nov. 10 at Town Hall.

Atlantic Beach Post Office Under New Leadership

United States Postal Service veteran Lisa Traxler has assumed the duties of overseeing operations at the Atlantic Beach Post Office, succeeding Postmaster Dominick Spadaro. The Atlantic Beach office also serves Pine Knoll Shores.

In essence, Traxler and Spadaro have exchanged venues, with Spadaro becoming postmaster in Newport, where Traxler had been serving as the officer in charge for the past three years.

Traxler began working for the postal service in 1992 in a replacement capacity in Salter Path. She began her full-time career in 1995 as a carrier in Morehead City, moving up to the position of window clerk three years later. She moved into management with her transfer to Newport with duties as officer in charge.

Working for the postal service is a family affair with the Traxlers. Mrs. Traxler's husband, Charles, was the postmaster

in Morehead City for many years and is now serving as postmaster in Sneads Ferry as well as overseeing operations in Swansboro.

Doing double duty is apparently becoming more prevalent as the postal service seeks to maximize the efforts of personnel in the face of a continuing decline in the volume of mail. Belt-tightening moves recently brought about a shortening of service hours at the Atlantic Beach office. The office is now closed for lunch between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. weekdays, and Saturday hours have been cut to 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more than a year the office had been open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mrs. Traxler, who grew up in Raleigh, has lived in the Carteret County area since 1981. The Traxlers make their home in Brandywine Bay.



The Red Hat Ladies of Pine Knoll Shores met for lunch on October 23 at the Country Club of the Crystal Coast. Two members from the Newport Beach Red Hatters joined them and Judy Garry won the prize for answering the most questions on presidents. Anyone in Pine Knoll Shores is invited to join. Just call Pauly Brown at 247-2959.

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