



*Boating, the lifestyle of South Florida!*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **An Estimated 1,800 Volunteers Lent a Hand to Remove 15 Tons of Trash at 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Waterway Cleanup**

*Sites Report Cleaner Waterways, Less Bulk Trash and  
Strong Community Support for the Effort*

**FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (March 6, 2010)** – The Marine Industries Association of South Florida, organizers and sponsors of Broward’s largest environmental event, is pleased to announce that on Saturday, March 6 over 1,800 volunteers came by land and in 117 boats to 25 sites to participate in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Waterway Cleanup presented by the Florida Inland Navigation District, successfully removing 15 tons of trash from Broward’s waterways, rivers and canals.

The event also garnered strong support from local officials including Broward County Mayor Ken Keechl, who was the voice of this year’s Waterway Cleanup radio ads on Lite 101.5 and Big 106. Vice Mayor Sue Gunzburger attended the Kick-Off Press conference at Lauderdale Small Boat Club in Fort Lauderdale and gave attendees an overview of the event’s importance to the area. Vice Mayor Gunzburger also presented the inaugural Year-Round Environmental Stewardship Award to Arnaldo “Arnie” Correia for his dedication to maintaining the health of our waterways and community throughout the year.

“It is largely due to the efforts of individuals like Arnie as well as service groups and organizations that help clean up our waterways year-round that we are able to celebrate the fact that we see fewer and fewer tons of trash removed from our waterways each year,” said Gordon Connell, MIASF’s Director of Association Services.

Also at the Press Conference, Commissioner Tyler Chappell of the Florida Inland Navigation District made a special presentation of FIND’s \$10,000 Presenting Sponsorship of the Waterway Cleanup to MIASF’s Executive Director Frank Herhold. Jack Long, Director of the Southeast Florida Department of Environmental Protection was also on hand and thanked the volunteers for their hard work on behalf of

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the State's environmental agency.

Mayor Jack Seiler of the City of Fort Lauderdale was on hand to update the crowd on the happenings at Lauderdale Isles, a site where he, his daughter and his niece had volunteered that morning to help remove a 22 foot vessel from the water. Gordon Connell presented Dockmaster Del Dickerhoof and Site Coordinator and LSBC Member Diane Hodges with the club's 30 year anniversary MIA SF Membership award and thanked them for their long term support for the event.

Specially designed commemorative Merit Badges will be awarded to over 150 Girl Scouts that participated in this year's event. To promote awareness of our South Florida marine environment, writing contests on Waterway Cleanup and marine habitat conservation were conducted at two of MIA SF's marine magnet partner schools. Chelsea Currie, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at South Broward High School won the annual essay contest. She will receive a \$500 scholarship check and have her essay printed in the MIA SF Newsletter *Tide-ings*. New River Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> grader Janelle Lewis won the annual short story contest and will receive a \$250 savings bond.

The MIA SF is a not-for-profit trade organization created in 1961 to promote and protect the sound growth of the marine industry in South Florida for the benefit and education of its members, the community and the environment. The Association has 800 members in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties and is the owner of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show.

For additional details on the Waterway Cleanup, The Year-Round Environmental Stewardship Award, the Waterway Cleanup Writing Competitions, the Girl Scout Badge, or the MIA SF contact Public Relations and Event Coordinator Melanie Daily at (954) 524-2733 or visit [www.miasf.org](http://www.miasf.org).

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