



Keep Montgomery County Beautiful 2011 Annual Report

Message from the Chairman

KMCB had a busy and productive year in 2011. We continued to make progress in our visibility in the community, especially in the Magnolia area. We made some new alliances about which we are very excited. We have been talking with Magnolia Police Chief Ibarra and the Magnolia West High School Interact Club about ways we might work together to improve the environment in our community. In particular we hope to partner with the MPD on a program to tear down abandoned buildings in Magnolia and we are mentoring the Interact Club to implement plastic bottle recycling at MWHS. 2012 will be a year that sees new projects and programs come to fruition.

The Lake Creek Preserve which involves the development of a green belt along Lake Creek made headway in 2011 with the preliminary identification of a trail loop and GLENN- WILL YOU ADD HERE?

We appreciate all of our volunteers, members, sponsors and others who help us make Montgomery County a better place to live and work. I especially wish to thank the members of the Board of Directors of KMCB for all they do.

Board Members

In 2011 we had an active board of 8 members several of whom have been on the KMCB board since its inception in 2004. We said goodbye to two board members (Casey McAdams and Terry Woodson) and in 2012 we welcome two new board members – Phyllis Stegen and Elsie Dillow. In addition, our first youth board member has joined us – Dakota Stormer of the MWHS Interact Club will serve on the KMCB Board in 2012. This is an exciting development for us as we have long believed that the involvement of our schools and youth are critical to our success. We continue our efforts to locate individuals interested in joining the KMCB board. Beginning in late 2011, our board meetings began being held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Events and Activities

In 2011 KMCB:

- Held the Third Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and recognized the following five outstanding volunteers for their work to make Montgomery County a better place to live and work:
 1. Waste Reduction and Recycling - Tricia McBride for her extraordinary efforts in bringing together unused or unwanted items with those in need - the ultimate recycling - keeping many useable items out of landfills while assisting families and individuals in need.
 2. Litter Prevention - Southwest Paddle Sports, James and Patti Graham have been active in planning and executing the annual Trash Bash since the early 1990s and have been strong active advocates for the reduction of waste in our waterways.
 3. Beautification and Community Improvement - The Woodlands Veggie Village, a project of Interfaith of The Woodlands, for the development of a community garden to provide fresh food, using organic and sustainable gardening practices, for the



Interfaith Food Pantry and to provide gardening and educational opportunities to people of all ages.

4. Volunteerism - Linda Crum for her many years of work with the Master Gardeners and Woodlands organizations on beautification and environmental projects. Linda teaches classes about composting, recycling, and native gardening.
 5. Environmental Education - Ken Kramm, as a Master Naturalist, Ken has gone above and beyond the program requirements. He has taken a lead in educating others about environmental issues and has created over 75 videos and posted them to YouTube sharing wonderful outdoors experiences.
- Held the Third Annual Growing Green Plant Sale
 - Raised \$778 to fund grants
 - Promoted county recycling centers
 - Educated about native plants (Hot Lips Salvia)
 - Funded grants for:
 - Veggie Village (\$500)
 - Wildflower Garden in Unity Park (\$316.92)
 - Participated in educational events by providing information and materials about litter abatement, recycling, decomposition rates (via an interactive game), green space, and waterways at:
 - Texas Forest Expo
 - Trash Bash
 - The Woodlands GreenUP event
 - Magnolia Stroll Events
 - Developed educational presentations regarding litter, recycling, green space and waterways and presented to the following groups:
 - Lone Star College – Academy of Lifelong Learning program – Tomball campus
 - Lone Star College – Academy of Lifelong Learning program – Montgomery campus
 - Magnolia West HS Interact Club
 - Sent out one newsletter
 - Held a contest for art to be included on the 2012 Growing Green Plant Sale poster. The winning artist is from MISD Alpha Academy and will be awarded a \$500 scholarship in 2012.
 - Partnered with the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District to implement a \$1500 scholarship for a student studying natural resource management
 - Submitted five articles to the Magnolia Potpourri as guest columnist
 - Obtained media coverage of events and activities
 - Nominated The Magnolia Potpourri for a Keep Texas Beautiful Media Award (weekly print) which they won
 - Nominated Glenn Buckley for the Keep Texas Beautiful Outstanding Volunteer Award for which he won third place



Goals for 2012

In 2011, KMCB faced decisions, as we have before, about how to move our organization and efforts to the next level. We have accomplished a lot since our beginning in 2004 but have found that our resources – both financial and human – are stretched more and more each year to cover a county as large as Montgomery. In the fall of 2011 we formed a strategic plan to focus on the greater Magnolia area (including Precinct 2). Our goal is to develop successful programs focusing on environmental issues of interest to this community that can then be replicated in other parts of Montgomery County as interest there develops.

In 2012, KMCB's focus will continue to be on litter, recycling, waste reduction, green space and waterway issues. We will continue our educational initiatives through writing articles, presenting to groups and attending events. We also hope to see plastic bottle recycling implemented at MWHS and that program replicated at other schools in MISD.

In addition, we plan to meet with leaders in the greater Magnolia community to identify the issue or issues of primary and immediate concern to this community with the goal of developing a coalition of individuals and groups to design and implement a program to address and resolve that issue in our community.

We welcome anyone who is interested in working with us as a member, sponsor, volunteer or Board member.

Keep Montgomery County Beautiful
Board of Directors
January 2012