



Keep Montgomery County Beautiful 2013 Annual Report

Message from the Chairman

2013 was an active and busy year for KMCB. We saw a lot of diverse projects and activity and continued to make a difference in our community thanks to our members, board members, volunteers and their continued support.

We appreciate all of our volunteers, members, sponsors and others who help us make Montgomery County a better place to live and work.

Board Members

Our board began with nine members in 2013 but we said goodbye to several throughout the year due to conflicting obligations. Our long time Director and past Board Chair, Gerry Luther, served KMCB well for many years and will be missed. Youth Board member, Dakota Stormer, graduated from high school and continued his education at UT after a busy spring leading a project for KMCB related to recycling in schools.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to the other Board members who left us in 2013, Sharon Craig and Cameron Wilde, for all they did during their tenure of service.

Thanks also to the board members who served throughout 2013 – Charlotte Riser Harris, Glenn Buckley, Phyllis Stegen, Christine Leard and Brenda Biggerstaff. Your contributions and commitment are appreciated and valuable to KMCB and our community.

Grants

- Received a \$500.00 ExxonMobil VIP grant

Events and Activities

In 2013 KMCB:

- Held the Fifth Annual Growing Green Plant Sale
 - Raised \$1923 to fund grants
 - Promoted county recycling centers
 - Educated about native plants (Black and Blue Salvia)
- Funded grants for:
 - Ty Maldonado – Lake Creek Preserve Eagle Project - \$500
 - Plants for refurbishing of Magnolia City Hall flower beds
- Held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner with over 75 attendees who honored the following for their significant contributions to Montgomery County:
 - The City of Conroe received the Environmental Education Award for the water conservation program that resulted in Conroe reaching the goal of keeping 2011-12 water usage at the same rate as that of 2008-09.
 - Boy Scout Troop 1855 received the Overall Volunteer Award for accumulating over 900 hours in volunteer activities in one year by adopting a road (3.5 miles) and keeping it litter free, making church events litter free, and by participating in Trash Bash.



- The Magnolia Police Citizen's Academy Alumni Association received a Beautification/Community Improvement Award for the demolition of an abandoned and dangerous home on Roy Street. Jill Gabriel, Summer Foltz and Officer Juan Lopez led this effort which involved many community organizations and businesses and became a neighborhood event.
- Project Building HOPE also won an award for Beautification/Community Improvement for their extraordinary work to raise funds and rebuild a playground devastated by the 2011 fires
- Jan Hatfield received the Recycling/Waste Reduction Award for her efforts and diligence in implementing recycling at the Magnolia Methodist Church and generally promoting recycling person by person.
- A Special Award was given to Anheuser-Busch and The Texas A&M Forest Service for the Texas ReLEAF program that provided free trees to those in Montgomery, Grimes and Waller Counties who lost trees due to the drought and wildfires in 2011. Holly Currie with AB and John Warner with TAMFS are the brains and inspiration behind this amazing project which brought hope and joy to so many who suffered so much.

- Led by Phyllis Stegen and with support from The Texas A&M Forest Service, volunteers and local nurseries, the two main flower beds at Magnolia City Hall were refurbished with Texas native plants. This was a significant project that provided a much-needed makeover for the entrance to City Hall. Volunteers worked throughout the year to water and weed the beds.
- 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
 - Caring for Creation Environmental Fair
- Developed educational presentations regarding litter, recycling, green space and waterways and presented to the following groups:
 - Magnolia ISD School Board
 - Magnolia Rotary
- Sent out three newsletters, seven press releases and seven other communications
- Held a contest for art to be included on the 2014 Growing Green Plant Sale poster. The winning artist is from MISD Magnolia West High School and will be awarded a \$500 scholarship in 2013.
- Partnered with the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District to grant a \$1500 scholarship for a student studying natural resource management.
- Obtained media coverage of events and activities which resulted in 14 articles in local newspapers
- Attended the Keep Texas Beautiful conference at which MPD Chief Domingo Ibarra was awarded the Ed Davis Law Enforcement award and Magnolia West Interact Club was awarded the Ruth Jackson Youth Award in the High School category. These are prestigious statewide awards and we congratulate our local winners!
- Continued the Anti-Litter Campaign Ambassador Program by facilitating presentations by MWHS students to several groups; one of which adopted a road



- Worked with MWHS Interact Club to provide an educational program about recycling at Williams Elementary for the H-E-B Green Bag Grant in the amount of \$1200 received in 2012. Williams exceeded their recycling collection goal and both schools received recycling bins.
- Interviewed community leaders to identify leading environmental issues in our community – the results are in – it's LITTER.
- Worked with Litter Patrols at several Stroll events to pick up litter and interact with the crowds about anti-litter messages. Also provided recycling bins at events to redirect some trash to recycling.
- Worked with the Texas A&M Forest Service and Anheuser-Busch to provide the second tree give-away through the Texas ReLEAF program which gave trees to families in Montgomery, Grimes and Waller Counties that were lost trees to the drought and fires in 2011.
- With Eagle Scout candidates began developing an educational nature trail on the county Lake Creek preserve.

Goals for 2014

In 2013, KMCB continued to face decisions about how to move our organization and efforts to the next level with resources that are stretched more each year. In the fall of 2011 we formed a strategic plan to focus on the greater Magnolia area (including Precinct 2) and we continue that focus. Litter was identified by leaders in Magnolia as the premier environmental issue facing our community. Litter costs real money – tax payer dollars – and creates an ugly community that does not attract new residents and businesses.

In 2014, 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 continue our dream of a full recycling program in MISD and plan to work with Precinct 2 to increase the items to be recycled and volumes being recycled to divert even more resources from landfill.

As always, we encourage and welcome anyone who is interested in working with us as a member, sponsor, volunteer or Board member. Our number one need is passionate individuals who are interested in becoming involved with KMCB as a Board member or as a leader of a program or project. Give us a call or shoot us an email – we have some interesting things going on! 832-567-3404 or kmcbtexas@yahoo.com

Keep Montgomery County Beautiful
Board of Directors
December 2013