

2017 Rainbow River Cleanup By Paul Marraffino

The Rainbow River Cleanup took place on May 20th with over 150 people participating. Using kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, pontoon boats and skiffs, volunteers scoured the river from the headwaters down to the convergence to remove floatable trash and junk that had sunk to the bottom of the river. The Sheriff's Dive Team participated in the lower area below the CR 484 bridge. Some of the worst objects found were a 12 volt lead acid car battery, two car tires, and numerous large pieces of lumber with long nails sticking out of them. The participants started at 9 am and converged at Rio Vista Park by noon to turn in the debris they had collected and enjoy a free picnic.

Prizes were awarded in many categories. The youngest participant was 3 years old and the oldest was 81. This annual event, besides cleaning the shoreline and marshes of debris, is a celebration of the river, its wildlife and its beauty. Rainbow River Conservation organizes this event each year and much of the food and prizes are donated by local merchants but almost all the debris that is collected is done by volunteers who just love the Rainbow River. People came from Citrus and Hernando Counties as well as Orlando and other more distant communities.

The photo below shows the trailer that was the collection point for the trash and some of the people that helped clean up the river. County Commissioner Kathy Bryant canoed the river with former Mayor Nathan Whitt. She also assisted RRC President Burt Eno with the awarding of the cleanup prizes. People that come to the cleanup from a distance continue to tell us that this is one of the most beautiful rivers they have ever seen.



Some of the over 150 people that used 50 kayaks, canoes and boats to scour the Rainbow River and purge it of debris and trash which they bagged and put into the trailer.