

# THE PALS PRINTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALABAMA PALS AND THE ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PROGRAM

WINTER QUARTER 2020 • VOLUME 40

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES BY SPENCER RYAN:

### CHALLENGE

Let me begin by thanking each of you that made 2019 the most successful and memorable year in PALS history. The dedication, energy, support, friendship and stewardship displayed by PALS from every corner of Alabama continues to inspire me, as well as the staff and Board of Directors of this remarkable organization. YOUR Organization, Alabama PALS. Your sincere vision of a cleaner and more beautiful Alabama for the future continues to pay huge dividends for our great state, both aesthetically and economically. Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to working with you in 2020! Let's Challenge each other to truly make 2020 a banner year for all PALS programs!

I also want to give sincere appreciation to our Corporate Sponsors that make

*Continued on page 3*



## 2020 Alabama PALS

“Don't Drop It On Alabama”

Statewide Spring Cleanup  
Entire Month of April, 2020

## 2020 ALABAMA PALS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Form/Application can be submitted online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

☐ Sustaining Partner: \$500

☐ Sustaining Steward: \$ 250

☐ Litter Free Leader: \$100

☐ PALS Advocate: \$50

☐ PALS Partner: \$25

(Membership Dues are paid Annually)

Alabama PALS is a 501C3 non-profit organization.

Your contribution to Alabama PALS is tax deductible

Please Make Checks Payable to:

Alabama PALS, 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36106



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### THE STAFF OF ALABAMA PALS

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*Executive Vice President*

*spencer@alpals.org*

**Margaret McElroy**

*Executive Assistant*

*State Adopt-A-Mile Coordinator*

*margaret@alpals.org*

**Jamie Mitchell**

*Clean Campus State Coordinator*

*Jamie@alpals.org*

**Phone: 334-263-7737 or**

**In-State Watts 800-ALA-PALS**

**Fax # 334-832-9400**

**NEW WEBSITE: [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org)**

**340 North Hull Street**

**Montgomery, AL 36104**

### ALABAMA PALS MISSION STATEMENT

*"Alabama Communities Working  
Together for A Cleaner and  
More Beautiful Alabama"*

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

*BY JEFF HELMS, CHAIRMAN, ALABAMA PALS*

As we prepare for the year 2020, people will once again make resolutions – most which won't be kept – and organizations big and small will use the numeric designation for the year to "focus" on a new "vision."

If hindsight truly is 2020, perhaps this year should also be one of reflection. Could it be 2020 provides us an opportunity to learn from the past, understand the present and improve our future?

Fewer people every year remember our state before Alabama PALS. Even those who do seldom credit our volunteers for their role in removal of roadside dumps, cleaner beaches and increased litter literacy in our schools.

Instead, we tend to focus on the negative. The proliferation of plastic bottles and food containers certainly makes our job harder. But constant complaining about littered roadways or the irresponsibility of polluters fails to acknowledge the good work being done.

Worse yet, obsessing over the magnitude of our litter problem can breed helplessness and complacency.

Why do we even try? Who cares if another fast food bag is added to the dozens in the ditch?

As 2020 dawns, I challenge us to get rid of that stinking thinking.

Imagine what would have happened if the late Bill Moody and other founders of PALS had thought that way. After all, they often found household trash, broken furniture and construction debris dumped on public and private land. What would have happened if they had been intimidated or paralyzed by the size of the problem?

Nothing. That's what would have happened. Nothing at all.

No Adopt-a-Mile. No Spring Cleanup. No Clean Campus. No Alabama Coastal Cleanup.

We must look back with clarity and embrace the courage, determination and ingenuity of our founders.

2020 cannot be a year of looking ahead unless we thoughtfully understand our past and appreciate our present. Visionary slogans and well-intended plans will fail without a clear mission and focused action.

In November, our Governor's Awards honored Alabama PALS volunteers who not only have adopted the ideals of PALS, but who have also fully embraced its mission and taken consistent and meaningful action to change our future.

By educating children about litter and recycling, we are preventing young people from developing bad habits as they become positive role models for their friends and families. The resources given by our sponsors are equipping volunteers to expand cleanup efforts. Programs started by business and community leaders are providing opportunity for employees and residents to engage in rewarding work while building lifelong friendships. And, support by government, judicial and law enforcement officials reinforces the value and importance of Alabama PALS.

Those honored at the Governor's Awards – and countless more throughout the state – aren't waiting on a clever logo or tagline for 2020. You already have a clear vision for what Alabama the Beautiful can be. You are focused on a cleaner future. And, thanks to you, people are seeing the positive impact of Alabama PALS.

Happy New Year. May God bless you and your family and help you be a blessing to others.

*–Jeff*

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Continued from page 1

the statewide programs of Alabama PALS a reality. PALS continues to be blessed with Sponsors and Partners that not only share the PALS vision, but give freely of their time and resources to benefit all Alabama communities in their anti-litter and recycling efforts. ALDOT, ALFA, Coca-Cola, The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Vulcan Materials Company, Association of County Commissions of Alabama, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, Alabama Farmers Cooperatives, and of course our Partner in the Alabama Coastal Cleanup, ADCNR/State Lands/Coastal Section, are all to be thanked continually for their support and leadership, as well as their hands on commitment to your organization.

**The 2020 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup will be held the Entire Month of April.** We are so pleased that Coca-Cola will once again be the Title Sponsor for the 2020 Spring Cleanup. After many requests to allow cities, counties and communities to hold their Spring Cleanup events throughout the month of April, we have decided that this is the best approach moving into the future. All materials and supplies will be available for pickup, as always, on March 15th. We are once again blessed to work with Marcia Collier with ACCA to coordinate pickup up schedules for all 67 counties. Beginning in January, you will begin receiving pertinent information regarding the 2020 Spring Cleanup. As in 2019, all documents will be sent to you by email, hard copy and will be available online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org). We are also extremely proud to work with the Alabama Community College Systems in 2020. Their most successful Clean Home Alabama effort in November was a huge success, and PALS is proud of the forming of this new partnership for the future. Let's make a commitment to have counties CHALLENGE neighboring counties, cities CHALLENGE cities, schools CHALLENGE schools, civic clubs CHALLENGE civic clubs., and let's make the 2020 "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup one that will truly "Make A Difference" for all Alabama communities.

The 2019 Alabama Coastal Cleanup was another monumental effort by so many! Over 5,500 volunteers removed approximately 45,000 pounds of litter and debris from bays, bayous, beaches, rivers and roadways during the 2019 cleanup effort, and 2,000 pounds of aluminum cans and plastic bottles were recycled. I can't give enough thanks to Angela Underwood and our special team at ADCNR/State Lands/Coastal Section, Yael Girard with Weeks Bays, Osprey and Thompson Engineering for their remarkable coordination of the cleanup and the recycling effort. Also, a special thank you to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians for their continued Title Sponsorship of the Alabama Coastal Cleanup for another 5 years! Please see inside this issue, a list of our dedicated and faithful Sponsors of the Alabama Coastal Cleanup. They meet the CHALLENGE every year and allow us to coordinate the best coastal cleanup in the country. Be sure to thank each of them.

In closing, it was a pleasure and an honor to see so many of you and your volunteers at the 2019 Governors Awards in November. The Governors Awards are special to all of us at Alabama PALS, as it is the time that we can personally thank those that do so much for the PALS mission all over Alabama. Thank you to each of the winners and nominators! It was our pleasure to recognize each of you and your groups. Congratulation to all schools, cities, counties and volunteers that we had the pleasure to recognize. Each of you absolutely meet the CHALLENGE!

We have so many new things coming your way in 2020. One will be the creation and implementation of the Alabama Clean Campus Program video. This will be available on line and will present all schools the opportunity

to experience Jamie's special On Campus program through an online program. We are extremely appreciative of ADECA for assisting with making this a reality. We plan to have the online program available in August 2020 and Jamie will keep all schools posted on the release of this exciting program.

CHALLENGES? Yes 2020 will present many challenges and I know that you and your organization are up to the task. I know that we are extremely excited about 2020 and we look forward to working with each of you as we continue the mission of Alabama PALS in 2020 and in the future.

May you and you families be truly blessed in this exciting New Year!

## PALS SUSTAINING CORPORATE SPONSORS



**HONDA**

**Vulcan**  
Materials Company



**The "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup**

**The Alabama Clean Campus Program**

**Adopt-A-Mile**

**Adopt-A-Stream**

**Alabama Coastal Cleanup**

**Adopt-An-Area**

**Adopt-A-Beach**

**Litter Education Curriculum**

**Annual Governor's Awards**

**Statewide Chapter Network**

## ALDOT REGIONAL ENGINEERS AND AREA OFFICES

### JOHNNY HARRIS

North Regional Engineer  
256-505-6141

### DEJARVIS LEONARD

East Central  
Regional Engineer  
256-234-8401

### GEORGE CONNER

SE Regional Engineer  
334-353-6850

### VINCENT E. CALAMETTI

SW Regional Engineer  
251-404-8204

### JAMES D. BROWN

West Central  
Regional Engineer  
205-562-3100



"Working Together for an Unlittered Alabama"

## MESSAGE FROM:

JAMIE MITCHELL – Clean Campus State Coordinator

Happy 2020!! A new decade is the perfect timing to implement new and fresh ideas into the lives of our students! It is a wonderful time of year to kick off your Clean Campus Program initiatives and introduce the Alabama PALS Poster and Recycled Art contests into your curriculum. Both contests give teachers and students the opportunity to have a conversation about waste, litter and recycling. These contests also involve many areas of study...from art to science to environmental studies to social studies...which is an excellent (and fun!) way to implement a cross-curriculum activity.

*Continued on page 6*

## CLEAN CAMPUS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM

Either fill out form and mail to Alabama PALS Attn: Jamie Mitchell

340 N. Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104 or apply online at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org)

Current Member? \_\_\_\_ Y or \_\_\_\_ N      Circle One:    City School    County School    Private School

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Participating School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email for Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Our school has reviewed the requirements for the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program and is therefore applying to be a participating school in this statewide program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Contact Person)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### PRINCIPAL PERMISSION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal), give consent for \_\_\_\_\_ school to participate in the Alabama PALS Clean Campus Program for the 2017-2018 school year.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal) Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## ALABAMA ADOPT-A-MILE PARTICIPATION FORM

Please Complete and Return to The PALS Office  
340 North Hull Street / Montgomery, AL 36104

Name of Participating Group \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Group or Individual on Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
State Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Highway # \_\_\_\_\_ County Highway or Road # \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Sign: Mile Marker# \_\_\_\_\_ to Mile Marker # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Currently Participating  
\_\_\_\_ Not Participating at This time and want sign taken down  
\_\_\_\_ Participating But Sign Needs Replacing or Repaired

### Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for Highway Adoption - State/Federal

City \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant (Participating Organization) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Highway section(s) you propose to adopt:  
(minimum of one mile)  
State or U.S. Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_  
State or U.S. Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature of Applicant  
Recommended for Approval:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

#### Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

**Alabama PALS**

340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Form/Application can be submitted  
online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)

### County Adopt-A-Mile Program Application for County Road Adoption

County \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant (Participating Organization) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Road section(s) you propose to adopt:  
(minimum of one mile)  
County Road Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_  
County Road Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_ to Milepost Number \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature of Applicant  
Recommended Approval:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Engineer  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, County Commission  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Engineer, Alabama Dept. of Transportation

#### Interested in "adopting"

Fill out application form and mail to:

**Alabama PALS**

340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104  
Form/Application can be submitted  
online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)

## MESSAGE FROM:

*JOHN COOPER*

*Director, Alabama Department  
of Transportation*

Alabama's natural beauty is threatened more and more every year by litter. That's why it is more important than ever that the Department of Transportation and PALS partnership keep flourishing. Our partnership with PALS is a model for how state government can work with non-profit groups and volunteers to make our state better.

The men, women and particularly young people who volunteer their time to helping keep Alabama's environment beautiful and roads clean are the most important factor in our efforts. When these dedicated volunteers remove hundreds of tons of litter from highways every year it saves Alabama taxpayers millions of dollars in cleanup costs. The impact on the environment is immeasurable.

With programs such as Adopt-a-Mile, volunteers can see their hard work payoff, not only with clean and beautiful highways, but with road signs highlighting the groups that keep a particular stretch of road litter-free. Recognizing outstanding groups is one of the small ways we can let the volunteers know how thankful we, as Alabamians, are. So the next time you see someone pick up a piece of garbage from the ground or see a crew of volunteers, let them know how grateful you are. Better yet, join them.

On behalf of ALDOT, thank you for your commitment to our ongoing battle against litter. Together, we're making a difference.

— John

# PALS 2020 POSTER CONTEST

## GUIDELINES:

- Theme: "Litter Just Isn't Normal"
- K-6th (Two categories K-3rd and 4th-6th)
- Standard White Poster or Foam Board (May be split in half)
- All mediums acceptable
- Posters will be judged on clarity of theme, age-appropriate neatness, originality, overall design and inclusion of helpful information or tips.
- Back of Poster must include the following:

**\*\*We really need ALL this information!!\*\***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email for Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

ALL posters are **due in the PALS office by Friday, April 24th, 2020**

## WINNERS:

First Place: \$200 & Award

Second Place: \$25 & Award

Third Place: \$25 & Award

Honorable Mention: Award

**\*\*All winners will be recognized at our Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2020\*\***

# 2020 PO RECYCLED A

*Continued from page 4*

The theme of the **poster** contests this year is **"Litter Just Isn't Normal."**

Remember to have your own contest at the school first, then send in only your 1st and 2nd place winners for statewide judging. Please note the judging guidelines that will help your students when planning their posters and for judging at the local contests. Be sure to have your winners include ALL contact information requested on the backside of their posters. Entries are due April 24th, 2020.

While there is no set theme this year for the **recycled art** contest, we encourage lots of creativity and imagination! We will accept both 2-D and 3-D works. The project should be made entirely from recycled materials other than a small amount of fastening materials. As with the poster contest, please only send in your school's 1st and 2nd place winners to the statewide judging. You may either deliver the pieces or enter digitally. If sending a digital entry and chosen as a winner, that piece will need to be delivered to the Alabama PALS office after notification. Be sure to have ALL contact information

# STER AND RT CONTEST

included with entries. Entries are due April 24th, 2020.

The PALS office will notify each winner, school and PALS county contact by May 15th, 2020.

Winners will be recognized and presented with their respective awards at the Annual Governor's Awards Luncheon in November 2020.

In closing, I would like to thank every school that is enrolled in the Clean Campus Program for your commitment to teaching students how to be lifelong stewards of our beautiful state! It is my pleasure to travel around the state and meet each of you and all your amazing students! If your school is not currently enrolled, head to [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org) to sign up! The Clean Campus Program is FREE to all Alabama public, private, city and county schools thanks to the generosity of ALFA, the Alabama Farmer's Cooperative and Coca-Cola. Please call or email me with any questions regarding the Clean Campus Program or our contests at (334) 263-7737 or [jamie@alpals.org](mailto:jamie@alpals.org).

~Jamie

## PALS 2020 RECYCLED ART CONTEST

### GUIDELINES:

- No set theme, so get CREATIVE and ORIGINAL!!
- 7th-12th grades
- May work alone or with one friend
- Piece may be 2-D or 3-D and any size, as long as it can be easily moved.
- Art must be made entirely of materials that are eligible for recycling or that would be otherwise considered trash, except for a small amount of fastening materials such as screws, bolts, wire, welding, glue, tape and twine.
- Pieces will be judged on originality, visual impact, overall design and craftsmanship.
- Please include the following information with each submitted piece:

**\*\*We really need ALL this information!\*\***

Student(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email for Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email of Point of Contact at School: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Art pieces due by mail, delivery or email by  
April 24th, 2020**

### WINNERS:

- |                    |                                                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| First Place:       | \$200 (to be divided if working with a friend) & Award |
| Second Place:      | \$25 & Award                                           |
| Third Place:       | \$25 & Award                                           |
| Honorable Mention: | Award                                                  |





## Boaz Intermediate Continues Clean Campus Program

Boaz Intermediate School in Marshall County is making great strides with the Clean Campus Program! I had the pleasure of speaking with the students from Boaz Intermediate back in May, and they were already making plans for the 2019-2020 school year. These students are the older ones on campus this school year and wanted to be a great example to the younger class just coming into the school.

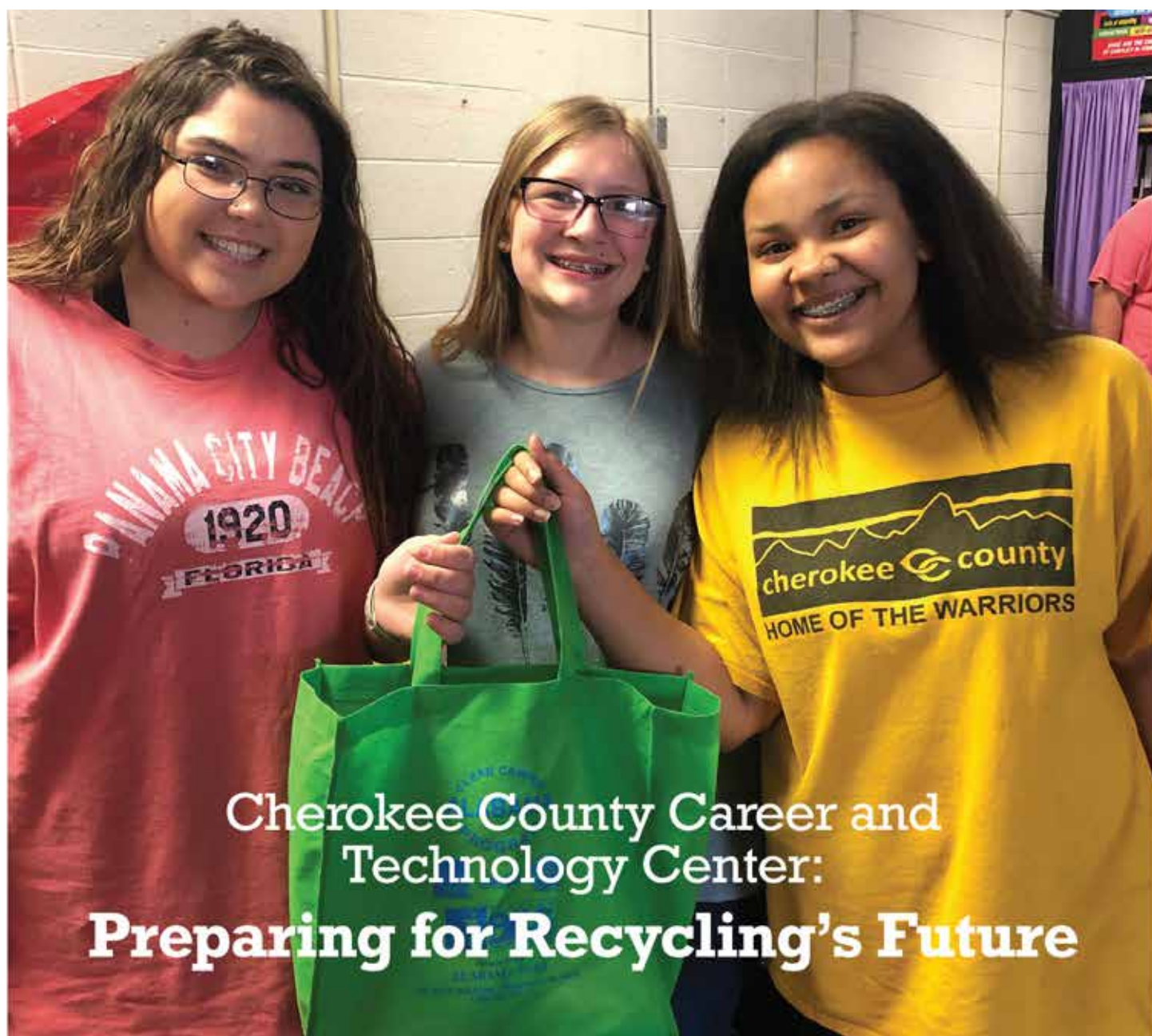
Under the direction of teacher Amanda Duckett, the school plans to start a "Green Team" that will spearhead all the Clean Campus activities. They plan to recycle as well as host regular on-campus cleanups. I provided the students with more ideas that would be easy to implement, as well, such as making posters for the hallways to remind fellow students to stay litter-free!

Alabama PALS is happy to continue our partnership with Boaz Intermediate and the very supportive and active local chapter of Marshall County PALS. Cecilia Pullen and Micky Hunt, local Marshall County PALS representatives, regularly speak to students around the county at schools and other local events, as well as organize additional cleanups in the county.

Does your county have a local PALS chapter? Are you interested in getting involved? For more information on becoming a member of PALS or to get involved in your local chapter, give us a call at 334-263-7737 or check out our website at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org). We would love to help as you journey toward a litter-free county! 🌻







## Cherokee County Career and Technology Center: Preparing for Recycling's Future

Cherokee County Career and Technology Center is producing future anti-litter leaders! I have gone to speak to their Jobs for Alabama's Graduates group for the past three years, and these students are not only preparing themselves for the workforce but to be exemplary citizens, as well. The students of Cherokee County Career and Tech Center are always attentive and inquisitive, often bringing fresh and innovative ideas to the conversation.

This year, I challenged the students to really consider plastic consumption and waste. Since there is not a convenient recycling center near the school, we discussed in depth what they could do to forgo plastics as well as formulate new ways to reuse it. The students were also

asked to consider future packaging and alternative materials besides plastics. As I was leaving, I heard some interesting ideas I hope they will continue to explore!

The students from Cherokee County Career and Tech School truly are the future of Alabama and our nation. Sometimes it just takes starting a conversation to spark innovation and creativity that may change the world one day!

If you would like to schedule a Clean Campus visit to your local school, please contact Jamie Mitchell at 334-263-7737 for more information. You may also learn more about PALS and how to become an individual member at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org). We are here to help as you journey toward a litter-free community! 🌻





## Stephens Elementary Brings Clean Campus Program to Alex City

Stephens Elementary in Alex City is new to the Clean Campus Program this year! We are so excited to have them onboard with the program. The students may be new to the PALS program, but they have already been working with cleanups and events at nearby Lake Martin. The Clean Campus Program was a natural fit for these students!

Jacob Meacham from the Alex City Chamber of Commerce along with local Clean City Partnership Chairman John Thompson have taken on the Clean Campus Program for their area. These two men are working tirelessly to clean up around Lake Martin and Alex City. They believe that starting young is the best way to make a permanent change in behavior, and we couldn't agree more! We visited Stephens Elementary in August and spoke to over 500 students to help spread the anti-litter message. Meacham and Thompson even brought each student a "litter grabber" compliments of Alabama Power.

We believe partnerships like these are the key to cleaner communities. Is your local Chamber of Commerce plugged in with PALS? Is your local school a

member of the Clean Campus Program? If not, please check us out online at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org). You may also give us a call at 334-263-7737 for more information. We are here to help you as you journey toward a litter-free community! 🌟







## Thanks to Junior Beta Club, Kinston School Joins Clean Campus Program

Kinston School in Coffee County is now a proud member of the Clean Campus Program! Kinston's Junior Beta Club will be leading the program and encouraging their classmates to keep their campus clean, participate in recycling and create posters for our spring poster contest. Their commitment and enthusiasm for the program is certainly contagious!

I had the privilege of speaking recently to the Junior Beta Club and their sponsor, teacher Lougener Wyrso-dick, about the big impact a small group can make. The students were very attentive and ready to learn the many ways they could communicate the "Clean Campus" message. PALS provided the school with recycling bins (pictured) so they can easily manage their recycling program. They also planned to make posters to spread the word about recycling and keeping their campus litter-free. These Junior Beta Club members are both smart and great stewards of our beautiful state! What a great combination!

Is there a school near you that would benefit from hearing the Clean Campus message? If so, please contact Jamie Mitchell at 334- 263-7737 for more informa-

tion. I am available to present a 30-minute presentation to your local school on the importance of keeping our state litter-free. As always, the Clean Campus Program is available at no cost to schools thanks to our corporate sponsors. We are here to help you as you journey toward a litter-free community! 🌟





## Alabama PALS working towards cleaner campuses, cleaner roads, cleaner shores – *A CLEANER STATE*



*Sponsored - Students at Flowers Elementary in Montgomery.  
Photo courtesy of Alabama PALS*

No one likes seeing litter on the side of the road. Alabama People Against a Littered State (Alabama PALS) is teaching kiddos about the negative effects of litter in Birmingham and beyond through educational programs. Learn more about how to get your child involved, and check out ways you can help.



*Students at George Washington Carver Elementary School in Tuskegee.  
Photo courtesy of Alabama PALS*

### CLEAN CAMPUS

The goal of Alabama PALS' Clean Campus program is to promote environmental awareness through litter control, campus cleanups and recycling. We only have one Earth, and it's important to take care of it! Through the Clean Campus Program, schools are provided with essential materials to promote environmental stewardship and campus beautification. The program is FREE for all Alabama schools.

Interested in participating? Alabama PALS can help your child's school get started. Jamie Mitchell, Clean Campus Coordinator, recommends schools identify a point person to manage the program—a teacher, librarian or administrator. Mitchell travels to schools across the state and teaches kids how litter negatively affects our planet and ways to protect the environment.

"Becoming a member of Clean Campus equips the school to teach litter education and include environmental activities in school lessons," she said. "The program can be as simple or involved as the schools would like—it's their program."



*Picking up litter with Alabama PALS. Photo courtesy of Alabama PALS*

### "DON'T DROP IT ON ALABAMA" SPRING CLEANUP

Another focus of Alabama PALS is the "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Spring Cleanup, which takes place every April across Alabama. During this week, about 500 tons—TONS!—of trash are picked up throughout the state. In 2020, the Spring Cleanup will run for the entire month of April. Anyone can get involved. Contact your county commission to identify a cleanup site or start one of your own. You can also visit Alabama PALS' website for more info.



*Alabama PALS volunteers. Photo courtesy of Alabama PALS*

### ADOPT-A-MILE AND ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAMS

Have you ever wondered who is behind those "Adopt-A-Mile" and "Adopt-A-Stream" signs across the state? It's Alabama PALS! These free programs are a partnership between Alabama PALS and the Alabama Department of Transportation. Groups that want to get involved—and have their very own signs on Alabama highways and streams—can visit this link to adopt a state, federal or county road or stream. The programs are two-year commitments where groups clean their adopted road or stream four times per year.



# New litter law now in effect in Alabama

The new law brings harsher punishments for those caught littering in the state.

By Ashley Knight | September 1, 2019 at 9:45 PM

(Source: {WBRC})

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WBRC) -The state of Alabama is cracking down on people who litter. A new law goes into effect today, bringing with it harsher penalties.

"One thing that we struggle with constantly in the city of Birmingham is the amount of litter, specifically litter that's thrown from motor vehicles," says Birmingham City Council Member Hunter Williams.

The Alabama State Legislature passed a law that has upgraded littering, especially litter thrown from cars, from a Class C to a Class B misdemeanor. That means possible jail time up to six months and fines up to \$3,000, plus court fees. The new law also mentions mandatory community service. Williams is glad state lawmakers are acting, but says we have a bigger problem locally.

"But we've also experienced companies coming into the city limits of Birmingham and throwing their garbage somewhere within the city limits hoping that public works would pick it up instead of paying the dumping fees."

Because of that, those responsible can face more than just the jail time and fees from the state.



"If you decide to litter within the city of Birmingham, not only will the city go after you for that criminal littering but we will also try to withhold a business license so that company will not be able to do business in the city limits."

And 50% of any fines issued will be put to the state's general fund.

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## ADAMSVILLE CLEAN-UP

The Neighborhood Clean-Up was a huge success! We got at a little over 100 bags of trash filled (guestimate the weight to be 1.5 tons). We also have a few more spots that need to be finished so we scheduled a follow-up clean-up for Tuesday, November 5th at 10:30am for whoever choose to come back and help. 22 volunteers participated. They obtained breakfast from Jack's and Food Giant served lunch. The group likes to be known as the Adamsville Forward Association.







Anyone who has spent much time outdoors in Alabama has seen it – trash on the roadside; litter tossed from car windows or blown out the back of a pickup truck heading down the highway. But, many people may not realize how much litter is intentionally dumped in mass out in our more remote woods.

As a hiker and backpacker for many years, I have seen ravines off of remote roadsides being used as extreme-rural residential landfills, with piles of trash bags, old tires, broken furniture, and even rusted out household appliances resting against otherwise majestic old trees growing from the hillside. I have also seen regular dumping areas closer into towns, yet still on remote roads. Once there was even a flowing creek



*Officer Shawn Nixon found his own garbage in an illegal dumping in the CRWMA, which led him to the culprit.*

at the bottom of the roadside dump, with bags of garbage spilling out into the water.

**“WHY FOCUS ON LITTER? BECAUSE IT IS CONSERVATION. IF IT AFFECTS THE ENVIRONMENT, IT AFFECTS FISH AND WILDLIFE TOO ... DISEASE CAN BE SPREAD TO AND BY FISH AND WILDLIFE AND TO HUMANS BECAUSE OF GARBAGE.”**

— LT. CLIFTON A. ROBINSON

These scenes have always bewildered me. Even as a kid growing up in the Oakmulgee Ranger District of the Talledega National Forest, I became appalled at the amount of trash I ran across in the woods, not just on the roadside. It always made me feel gross and want a shower, as though I had rolled around in it myself. I wondered then – and still do – why do people do this? I also wondered why they couldn't be caught and stopped.

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources officer Lieutenant Clifton Robinson took the idea of “why can't we catch them and stop them” and made it an initiative within his command as Assistant Supervisor over seven west Alabama counties.

“Operation Oscar (an Oscar the Grouch reference) was a challenge I issued April 2018, to the ten officers in the counties I supervise of Bibb, Chilton, Shelby, Perry, Dallas, Autauga, and Lowndes,” Lt. Robinson said, “They were all challenged to make at least one litter case within a year. They all did that! And two officers literally made cases for dump truck loads of garbage.”

Officer Shawn Nixon initiated a case on Cahaba River Wildlife Management Area (CRWMA) in Shelby County in which his garbage was found and it led him to a trash company employee taking a shortcut he was not authorized by the company to do. The culprit dumped an entire garbage truck in the management area. Nixon said the company assisted with the investigation with great zeal and immediately fired the employee.

In Bibb County, Officer Ricky Corn made a dump truck load case on the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge, too. Corn made 16 total cases, with one pending investigation. 13 of these cases involved national forest dumping on Cahaba WMA, or Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge.

## Operation Oscar successes in other counties:

- Chilton County: Officer Clint Tyus - 1 case. Officer Shannon Calfee – 1 case.
- Shelby County: Officer Marcus Rowell – 1 on CWMA. Officer Shawn Nixon – 1 “but what a doozy” and 1 assist made on Cahaba WMA.
- Dallas County: Sgt. Alan Roach- 1 on Autauga WMA. Sgt. Joe Johnston – 2 cases.
- Autauga County: Officer Jason McHenry – 4 with one on Autauga WMA.
- Lowndes County: Officer Jeffrey Nimmer- 2 both on Lowndes WMA.
- Perry County: Officer Michael Duncan – 3 cases. Recently retired to take over his family's recycling business.

## Lt. Robinson notes:

“During my 33 year plus career I estimate that I have made at least 100 litter cases. Knowing the state of our public lands as well as private lands and knowing that many officers may go an entire career without making a litter case I have made it my mission to see to it that all of my officers have the knowledge and ability to work a litter case. You can certainly make a litter case you witness but you can also make a litter case under title 13 criminal statutes in Alabama.

13A-7-29 provides that if certain identifying information is found in garbage that there is a rebuttable presumption that that person is responsible for said garbage. They can be interviewed and given 15 days to present evidence that they are not the person that illegally disposed of their trash. Oftentimes the suspect either confesses right





*Lt. Clifton Robinson recently received the award for MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY WATERFOWL OFFICER OF THE YEAR and is an Assistant Supervisor in charge of the enforcement activities of 7 counties in West Central Alabama. [Bibb, Shelby, Chilton, Dallas, Perry, Autauga and Lowndes].*

away or is able to direct an officer to the guilty party.

Why focus on litter? Because it is conservation. If it affects the environment it affects fish and wildlife too. Fish and wildlife can become entangled or injured on or in garbage. Fish and wildlife can ingest garbage and become sick and/or die. Disease can be spread to and by fish and wildlife and to humans because of garbage. Land values for recreational purposes like hunting and fishing can be lowered due to illegal garbage dumping. The overall outdoor aesthetic experience is damaged by the presence of garbage. The great majority of the litter cases have been made on national forest, wildlife management areas, and public boat launches and public rivers.”

With the dedicated efforts of Lt. Robinson and his fellow officers, as well as others like them and the help of concerned citizens who are also tired of the perpetual litter, perhaps one day we will be rid of the problem. Perhaps one day people will no longer see an empty patch of ground in the woods as a place to get rid of their trash, but as a piece of nature to enjoy and help tend through conservation. It can only benefit all of us to do so.

If you see or know of illegal dumping in Bibb forests (Oakmulgee Ranger District), call and report it to the local office at (205) 926-9765. Or call the game and fish violations number 1-800-272-GAME.

## Willie Mays Park gets facelift as part of WORLDWIDE SERVE DAY

*Dozens of volunteers cleaned up Willie Mays Park in Fairfield as part of worldwide “Serve Day”*

By Christina Chambers | July 13, 2019 at 8:48 PM CDT | BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (WBRC)

Willie Mays Park in Fairfield got a major facelift Saturday, thanks to dozens of volunteers from Church of the Highlands and the UAB Men’s Basketball team.

UAB guard Tavin Lovan has loved basketball since he was a little boy, so when he saw overgrown courts at Willie Mays Park in Fairfield, he wanted to help out.

“Not a lot of kids get the opportunity to even have a park in their neighborhood, so rebuilding this court is big for me, but not only me, for this community too,” Lovan said.

Thousands of churches and volunteers are giving back to communities all across the world on Saturday, as part of world wide “Serve Day” and fixing up Willie Mays Park was at the top of Julie Smith’s list.

“About a year ago I saw a little boy playing basketball out here with grass grown all around him, the basketball courts were just crumpled so as a mom I felt that was very heartbreaking,” said Church of Highlands project coordinator Julie Smith.

From taking down fences, mowing, picking up trash and raking up brush, dozens of volunteers brought the park and basketball courts back to life.

“It means a lot to me because I had a lot of people come out to give back to my community, I’m from Southside Chicago so you know it’s about giving back to the young kids,” said UAB forward Tamell Pearson.

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## 2020 Alabama PALS

“Don’t Drop It On Alabama”

Statewide Spring Cleanup

Entire Month of April, 2020

### MATERIALS FURNISHED FOR CLEANUPS

Large Trash Bags, Ad Slicks, Reporting Forms, Safety Tips Sheet,  
Window Decals, Recycling Bags for Participating Groups,  
All PALS Brochures

We look forward to working with each of you and your respective groups, municipalities, schools and volunteer groups as we make the 2020 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” Spring Cleanup the largest and most successful cleanup in Alabama history







## 2020 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” SPRING CLEANUP CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

We are interested in RECYCLING aluminum CANS and Plastic Bottles  
during the 2020 Spring Cleanup?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE send completed Form to  
Alabama PALS, 340 North Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

### SISTERS OF PROMISE #442 HELPING TO CLEAN UP ALABAMA With Juniel Whitfield-Tidwell and 2 others.



## Sheriff Gentry Wins PALS Governor's Award for Reducing Litter on Cullman Roads

Cullman County Sheriff, Matt Gentry, recently received the 2019 PALS Governor's Award for helping reduce litter on the roads in Cullman County. AL PALS (People Against a Littered State) helps cities by offering programs that are free and combat litter through prevention, cleanup and control.

Alabama PALS strives to create, maintain and implement statewide anti-litter programs which impact Alabama cities, counties, communities and schools.

Each November, PALS holds The Governor's Awards to recognize groups in following categories: Media, Adopt-A-Mile, Special Category, County Commission Award, City, County, Law Enforcement, Judicial, Litter Education, Business and Industry, Honda Manufacturing "Don't Drop It On Alabama" Award and the Vulcan Volunteer of the Year Award.

Cullman County Sheriff's Office deputies and inmates helped remove, as of the award date, over 48,275 lbs. of trash from 217 miles of roads of Cullman County. CCSO also picked up 3,209 pounds of scrap and cans from Cullman County Roadways which resulted in \$533.97 being donated to Cullman Caring for Kids.

"This is truly a team award for all the deputies and personnel who worked hard to clean up our county. I really believe it's better to have these non violent inmates cleaning our roads than just sitting in jail", said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Individuals and businesses may become a member of PALS through our website or by calling (334) 263-7737. Sponsorship information is also available at [www.alpals.org](http://www.alpals.org).



## City of Orange Beach Award at 2019 Alabama PALS Governor's Award Ceremony



By Melanie LeCroy

The City of Orange Beach was the recipient of the 2019 Coastal Cleanup Award in Montgomery Nov. 13 at the 2019 Alabama PALS Governor's Awards ceremony.

On hand to accept the award were City of Orange Beach Coastal Resources Director Phillip West, Wade Stevens and Nicole Woerner.

The city was selected for this award by the ADCNR State Lands Coastal Section and the Alabama People Against a Littered State (PALS).

A big thank you goes out to Coastal Resources and city staff, as well as volunteers, for their work each year during the Annual Coastal Cleanup.

*On hand to accept the award City of Orange Beach Coastal Resources Director Phillip West, Wade Stevens and Nicole Woerner. They are pictured with Jeff Helms, Chairman of board of directors for Alabama PALS.*



## Marshall County was well represented Wednesday when Alabama PALS held its annual Governor's Awards in Montgomery.

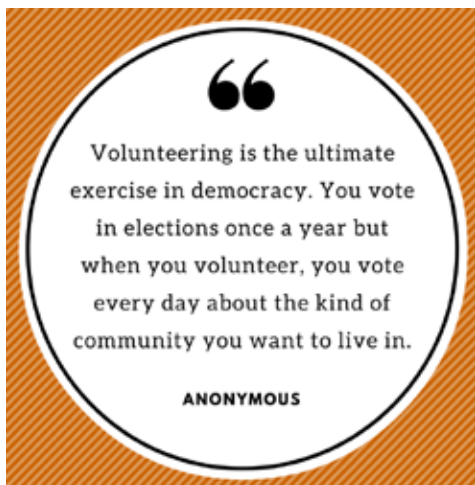
The Editor's Pen – County Represented at Anti-Litter Awards by Anthony Campbell Nov 16, 2019

Marshall County PALS is a small but well-organized group and they are very active. They could use your help both within the organization (officer elections are coming up and they'd love to have some "new blood") as well as more "boots on the ground" in their many litter clean-ups.

Winning statewide Governor's Awards for Marshall County were:

- **Marshall County PALS itself.** The state organization realizes what a stalwart outpost of the organization the Marshall County group is.
- **The Marshall County Democratic Club.** They're part of the Adopt-A-Mile program with one of the most visible miles in Marshall County, the section of Highway 431 just in front of County Park No. 1 north of the river bridge. The group has at least 4 clean-ups a year of its mile that I'm aware of. They don't just clean their mile, but also pick up the shoreline in the County Park. Politics aside, you have to give credit where credit is due. They do a great job with their litter project.
- **Federal Mogul.** They recently received Marshall County PALS Business Pride Award that goes to a business that goes the extra mile in keeping their property clean. My pals at PALS tell me they do an outstanding job.
- **Sheriff Phil Sims and the Marshall County Sheriff's Office.** The sheriff's office has an inmate litter patrol (using non-violent offenders in for things like bad checks and child support) and they've picked up dozens and dozens of bags of roadside litter in Marshall County. Sims couldn't be at the awards luncheon, but his able employees Steve Guthrie and Matt Cooper represented him.
- **Nickie Simpson and *The Sand Mountain Reporter*** received a media award for their reporting on PALS and its anti-litter activities.
- ***The Advertiser-Gleam* also received a media award.** The Gleam not only reports on PALS, but under the leadership of general manager Christine Hammers recently adopted the mile of Taylor Street in front of the Gleam office to Lurleen Wallace Drive to regularly pick up litter.

In addition to the 6 Governor's Awards, two Marshall County students, both from the Arab school system, received honorable mentions in PALS statewide anti-litter poster contest and recycled art project.



- **Ashlyn Stephens** of Arab Junior High received her award in the recycled art contest.

- **Bella Partington** of Arab Elementary received her award in the poster contest.

In addition to those awards:

- One of Alabama PALS' most prestigious state awards is named "the Jean McCrady Service Award" for MCPALS' longtime member Jean McCrady. McCrady served on the Alabama PALS Board for years and was instrumental in seeing the organization through its early years. She continues to be a part of the Marshall County group.
  - Micky Hunt is the president of MCPALS and really the soul of the organization. He's donated countless hours to the organization over the last 15-20 years. He was all smiles at the awards ceremony, proud that his home county was represented. Remember that the Governor's Awards are for the entire state, so Marshall County was competing against the Jefferson, Madison and Baldwin counties as well as counties its own size.
  - Boaz mayor David Dyar, proud that Federal Mogul was representing his hometown, was in attendance at the awards.
- PALS acknowledges that its future lies in educating youth not to litter. The statewide organization started the Clean Campus initiative a few years ago and now 500 schools statewide are involved.
- If you think PALS efforts aren't making a difference, consider the statistics shared at Wednesday's luncheon.
- The 2019 Coastal Cleanup included 5,500 volunteers in 30 different clean-up zones on Alabama's coast. In a single day, the group picked up 45,000 pounds of litter and debris.
  - The "Don't Drop It On Alabama" spring cleanup – which Marshall County and its cities participate in – resulted in over 600 tons of litter picked up statewide, all by volunteers.
  - PALS estimates the economic value of the cleanup at over \$7 million.
- Wednesday was a day to celebrate, PALS officials said. With numbers like that, we tend to agree.

## POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – WINNERS



1st Place: Grayson Hatchett  
Piney Chapel Elementary School, Limestone County



2nd Place: Brinley Baum  
Prattville Primary School, Autauga County



3rd Place: Braydon Nichols  
Leroy High School, Washington County

## POSTER CONTEST K-3RD – HONORABLE MENTION



Gene Baldwin  
Crestline Elementary, Morgan County



Arleigh Mansell  
Gordo Elementary, Pickens County



Shyann Daszcuk  
Fruitdale Elementary, Washington County



Bella Partington  
Arab Elementary, Marshall County

## CLEAN CAMPUS SCRAPBOOK CONTEST



1st Place: Bear Exploration Center, Montgomery County



2nd Place: Hanceville Elementary School, Cullman County

## EDUCATION AWARD



MLK Day Cleanup / Minor High School and Jr. High School, Jefferson County



Highland Home School "Blue Crew," Crenshaw County



## POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Stanley Chen  
Bear Exploration Center, Montgomery County



2nd Place: Halle McCrary  
Arab Elementary, Marshall County

3rd Place: Lucie Gardner, Hubbertville School, Fayette County – Not Pictured

## POSTER CONTEST 4-6TH – HONORABLE MENTION

Naveah Hoobler, Hubbertville School, Fayette County – Not Pictured



Mirfaizan Iqbal  
Riverchase Elementary School, Jefferson County



Katie Waters  
Meek Elementary School, Winston County

## RECYCLED ART CONTEST 7-12TH – WINNERS



1st Place: Skylar Rollins  
Brookwood High School, Tuscaloosa County



2nd Place: Bella Ratliff  
Thompson High School, Shelby County

3rd Place: Haley Hazelrig, Brookwood High School, Tuscaloosa County – Not Pictured



Honorable Mention: Ashlynn Stephens  
Arab Jr. High, Marshall County



Honorable Mention: Ma'Zairo Speigner  
Thompson High School, Shelby County

## RECYCLED ART CONTEST 7-12TH – WINNERS

Honorable Mention: Naveah Hoobler  
Hubbertville School Fayette County – Not Pictured

TEST



3rd Place: Parkside School, Cullman County



Litter Quitters Competition Winners, Jefferson County





Marcia Collier  
Association of County Commissions



**PALS PARTNERSHIP AWARD**  
Sharon Tinsley  
Alabama Broadcaster's Assn.



ADCNR/State Lands/Coastal Section



**VULCAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
Judie Swan, Baldwin County



Officer Ricky Corn, ADCNR  
Bibb County



Sheriff Phil Sims  
Marshall County



Sheriff Heath Taylor  
Russell County



Sheriff Matt Gentry  
Cullman County

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD



Marshall County Democratic Club



## ADOPT-A-MILE AWARD

Southside HS/Air Force JROTC/AL 961, Dallas County



**JEAN MCCRADY SERVICE AWARD**  
Mulga Loop Road Cleanup Committee  
Jefferson County



**COASTAL CLEANUP AWARD**  
City of Orange Beach



The Sand Mountain Reporter  
Marshall County, Nickie Simpson



The Advertiser Glean  
Marshall County



Jeff Ziss

## MEDIA AWARD



# PALS AWARDS



**DON HINES MEMORIAL AWARD**  
Melanie Stokley, Washington County



City of Cullman Sanitation Dept.



**CITY AWARD**

City of Florence, Lauderdale Co.



**BUSINESS & INDUSTRY AWARD**  
Home Depot, Jefferson County – 9135  
Federal Mogul Group, Marshall Co. – 9136



**COUNTY AWARD**

Jefferson County Roads and Transportation Dept. – 9143  
Marshall County PALS - 9145



Jefferson County



**COCA-COLA “DON’T DROP IT ON ALABAMA” SPRING CLEANUP AWARD**

Cullman County



ette



Timothy Howle



**SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARD**

Keith Evans



Ronnie Tew



Catherine Coleman

## Tackling Litter with New Law, Coastal Cleanup, Litter Gitter

By David Rainer - Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Very few things irritate me more than litter, especially when the litterbugs toss their trash on public land or in public waterways.

The Conservation Enforcement Officers at the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) are in a constant battle to deal with litter on public lands and waterways.

Hopefully, a new law sponsored by Rep. Margie Wilcox of Mobile will provide a deterrent for those who toss their trash without regard for the environment or fellow man.

The law, which went into effect this month, increases the fine for the first offense of littering to up to \$500. The second offense includes penalties of a fine of up to \$1,000 to \$3,000 and up to 100 hours of community service picking up litter along the highways or waterways. The law also changes violations from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class B misdemeanor.

The law kicks in additional penalties for certain types of littering from a vehicle or vessel, including tossing cigarette butts, cigars, containers of urine and food containers. Those violations will cost you an additional up to \$500.

"The genesis of this is I used to live on Dog River, so I saw first-hand the litter I had to clean up on my own property," Rep. Wilcox said. "I've been a longtime member of the Dog River Clearwater Revival.

"When I read the (previous) law, I felt like the fines for some of these offenses were horribly inadequate. An important thing that came out of my discussions from the public was that they wanted people punished by making them pick up the litter. That was my favorite part of the bill. On the second offense, you have to start picking up litter. It's great that we have people volunteer for the coastal cleanups, but people need to be picking up their own litter."

Speaking of the Alabama Coastal Cleanup, which was held last weekend, Angela Underwood of the ADCNR's State Lands Division said that close to 5,000 showed up to pick up trash along waterways, rivers, lakes, beaches and bays. While most of the work was concentrated in Baldwin and Mobile counties, she said that other volunteer groups picked up trash in the Montgomery and Troy vicinities. Between 30,000 and 40,000 pounds of trash were picked up.

"We always have great support from groups that cover all ages," Underwood said. "We get a lot of Scout groups, student groups, individuals and corporate and business partners.

"For example, Airbus had supported the cleanup in the past, but they wanted to take on a zone of their own this year. So, we established a new zone in Mobile County where Airbus took the lead. Alabama Power helps us along the Causeway (Battleship Parkway) with their boats. We have great support from the community and within our own agency and division."

Underwood said Don Bates, who developed the Litter Gitter trash collection device, Thompson Engineering and Weeks Bay Foundation have partnered with Coastal Cleanup to oversee the recycling aspect of the cleanup.

"Those three partners really take the lead on getting volunteers at each site to hand out recycling bags and talk about what can and can't be recycled," Underwood said. "Then they sort through the recycling material to make sure the things the volunteers are putting in the bags are what we want and that it's clean enough to be recycled. Plastics and such, if they're not relatively clean, can't be recycled."

The recycling partners then collect all the potential recyclable material at the end of the day, sort it, and transport the material to the proper recycling facilities.

Speaking of the Litter Gitter, Underwood said one of the sites monitored by the City of Mobile has installed a device to capture litter coming down 3 Mile Creek.

"I talked to one of the people in charge of monitoring that site, and they said that since the Litter Gitter had been installed they are finding less garbage there during Coastal Cleanup," Underwood said. "From our perspective, it would be better if we had enough outreach to prevent people from littering in the first place."

Meanwhile, Bates is busy with his company, Osprey Initiative, and updating his Litter Gitter at a new facility in Mobile. Most of the previous Litter Gitters were made of PVC; the new ones are being made of aluminum.

The Fairhope resident, who gave up an executive position with Thompson Engineering to start this venture, said he's been working as a volunteer for many years to pick up trash, mainly in waterways.

"I grew up in the swamps of south Louisiana. I've been playing in ditches my



Jack Bates and Deric Martin, right, deploy a Litter Gitter in d'Olive Creek in Daphne.

whole life," Bates said. "I'm really tied to the water. Three years ago, working with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) on a volunteer cleanup on Maple Street in Mobile, I had the idea of a small, tactical trap that you could place where the litter is entering our waterways and collect it closer to the source."

Bates started working on a prototype with the support of the City of Mobile.

"We put a prototype at the exact spot on Maple Street right before it flows into 1 Mile Creek, and it just worked," he said. "It was amazing. We had some rain events, and it captured a lot of the litter that would normally have been flushed downstream. I was able to get in there and clean it out before any went into the waterway."

Bates won grants from the Mobile Bay NEP and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to install the Litter Gitters at 10 sites in the 3 Mile Creek watershed.

"Our role is to help these areas that are concentrating on restoring their urban waterways," he said. "These waterways are at your back door and you should be able to enjoy them. We're playing a role in attacking the litter in those watersheds and promoting their resurgence. I think that's a critical gap for what we're doing."

Bates said his team is working with Dog River Clearwater Revival on a project in Dog River, while four Litter Gitters have been deployed in Decatur, Ala., as well as several in Atlanta. Bates expects Cincinnati and Charlotte, N.C., will be the next to get Litter Gitters.

The first Litter Gitter was basically a wire cylinder, which couldn't hold up during significant rain events.

Bates reached out to Brunson Net Company in Foley for help, and netting material was incorporated into a PVC frame. The latest Litter Gitter is made of aluminum fabricated by Custom Metal Fabricators on Dauphin Island Parkway.

"We are working out the final details, but a neat thing is we might be able to take the aluminum we're collecting and get the material recycled into ingots in Robertsdale," Bates said. "Then there's a company in Gulfport (Miss.) that will make the ingots into roll aluminum. Then Custom Metal Fabricators will make the traps out of that roll aluminum. Hopefully soon, we'll be making our devices out of aluminum we're pulling out of our waterways."

Bates sure hopes this venture is the wave of the future for mitigation of litter in the environment.

"I sure hope it is," he said. "I quit my job of 19 years as an executive vice president with Thompson Engineering. It's a great company. Three years ago, I never intended to leave Thompson. As the Litter Gitter took off, I left Thompson last spring. I still support them, and they support me."

"This project just stirred an entrepreneurial spirit. This gives me the opportunity to live my passion in a different way than Thompson. We're talking to four or five other states, so the energy is there. I decided to take a shot."

Bates has six employees in Mobile with a new warehouse facility and actually does more than deploy litter traps.

"I was trained by Thompson to be very adaptable," he said. "It's bigger than litter traps. We actually help by assessing where the litter is, developing litter removal plans, and we actually help handle the material after we clean it up. Our plastic from the Alabama Coastal Cleanup will be going to a facility in Atlanta that makes graduation caps and gowns out of recycled plastic."

"We started a little company in south Alabama from a vision that is really getting lot of attention across the country."



## ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP

The next big event for Alabama PALS is the Alabama Coastal Cleanup. The event is in partnership with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and it's happening September 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. along Alabama's coastline. Even though we're landlocked here in Bham, people from all over the state participate. Last year, approximately 5,800 volunteers picked up 50,000 pounds of trash. Visit [alabamacoastalcleanup.com](http://alabamacoastalcleanup.com) for more info.

*"PALS is so unique. It brings together environmentalists, communities, state agencies, cities, counties and volunteer groups to accomplish a common goal. It's fun to watch generations of Alabamians working to protect and preserve our home."* – Spencer Ryan, Executive Director of Alabama PALS

This article is brought to you by Vulcan Materials Company, a proud partner of Alabama PALS. Vulcan Materials Company believes that environmental stewardship is key to building strong communities.

Sponsored by: Vulcan Materials Company



*PALS volunteers pick up 123,440 pounds of litter this year in Jefferson County, Wenonah High School Wins Litter Quitter Campaign  
Photo via the Alabama Coastal Cleanup on Facebook*

## OSPREY INITIATIVE TEAM Over 300 pounds of litter recycled from Alabama Coastal Cleanup



For the fourth year in a row, members of the Osprey Initiative team participated in the Alabama Coastal Cleanup efforts on Saturday, September 21st.

Four employees and two volunteers were on the Osprey team, who coordinated the recycling for all 28 sites of the cleanup. The team started at 6:30 a.m. and completed the last bit of data collection and sorting around 5 p.m.

The long day was worth it: the final tally was 385 cubic feet of recycling.

What does this mean? Roughly 126 pounds of aluminum, 200 pounds of plastic, and five super sacks were removed from the coast and sorted to go to recycling. This not only cleaned up the coast, but helped to keep these items out of the landfill.

The Osprey mission isn't just to remove litter from our waterways, but to also find sustainable solutions to prevent litter and determine second uses for litter collected. We work with the local Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in each area to get as much of the materials we recover into the recycling stream. All items collected are tagged and included in the data we record at each site.

This was the 32nd year for this annual event, coordinated through the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources State Lands Division, Coastal Section, and the Alabama People Against A Littered State (PALS). Since its start in 1987, over 87,000 volunteers have helped to "get the trash out of the splash."

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked to clean up our coast. We hope that you will get involved next year and find out everyday ways you can prevent marine debris. Learn more on the Alabama Coastal Cleanup website.



## Sun Coast Team Volunteer Day

September 21, 2019 was International Coastal Cleanup day, and teams from Mobile and Robertsdale Coca-Cola UNITED were there to lend their support to this worthy cause. Alabama People Against a Littered State (PALS) first began in 1987, and Coca-Cola UNITED is proud to be a regular supporter.

### PALS around the Canal

The team from Mobile were tireless as they worked around Theodore Industrial Canal, a 110+ acre industrial area that offers direct access to the Gulf of Mexico in Theodore, Alabama. Volunteers decked out in Coca-Cola t-shirts spent their morning clearing litter along the streets, and having fun while doing it!

### PALS in the Park

The Robertsdale team worked around May Day Park, which was opened in 1887 and was a festival site for over 60 years. Offering a playground, fishing pier, and beach & water access for canoes and kayaks, this park is a popular recreational site on Mobile Bay. The Robertsdale team did a fantastic job clearing the park of litter, even bringing along their children to teach them the importance of responsible garbage disposal.

We thank our Coca-Cola UNITED volunteers for taking time out of their busy weekend to make a difference in our local communities. Way to go!



*Mobile Coca-Cola UNITED employees helping with Coastal Cleanup around Theodore Industrial Canal*



*Mobile Coca-Cola UNITED employees cleaning up litter around Theodore Industrial Canal*



*Robertsdale Coca-Cola UNITED employees helping with Coastal Cleanup around May Day Park*





## Help Keep Our Shorelines Beautiful at the Alabama Coastal Cleanup

No matter how many litter laws we pass, and no matter how efficient our waste management services become, there will always be a need for good citizens helping to keep our beaches clean.

That's why the Alabama Coastal Cleanup has been going strong for three decades here on the Gulf Coast. And in a couple weeks, they'll need all the help they can get to maximize this year's efforts.

From 8am to 12pm on Saturday, September 21 (rain or shine!), thousands of volunteers will split into teams to clean up Alabama's coastal waterways and beaches along 30+ different locations. Volunteers are needed by foot and by boat, so whether you come by land or by sea, there's a cleanup zone nearby that needs your help.

"It is always amazing to me how much litter is recovered from our shorelines and beaches every year during the Coastal Cleanup," said Chris Blankenship, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). "We appreciate all the volunteers and groups that come out and participate."

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup is more than just a morning of feel-good community service—it's a crucial part of maintaining our coastal ecosystems.

Since the origins of the Alabama Coastal Cleanup in 1987, a coordinated effort between Alabama People Against a Littered State (PALS) and the ADCNR to join the

International Coastal Cleanup, more than 98,000 volunteers have helped clean the beaches on a sunny day in September. More than 5,000 volunteers have pitched in each of the last few years.

This includes a tremendous recycling effort. Over the past two years, more than 4,000 pounds of recycling have been collected from our waterways and shores. This year, the Alabama Coastal Cleanup is partnering with Coca-Cola, Weeks Bay Foundation, Thompson Engineering, and Osprey Initiative to recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The goal is to use recycled aluminum in Osprey Initiative's "Litter Gitters" and use recycled plastic for t-shirt products.

Live on the Alabama Coast? Want to pitch in? We thought you might.

Find a cleanup zone near you, then click on the location to find contact information for the zone captain. Or you can call 251-928-9792 for general information. There's always room for more volunteers when we're keeping Alabama beautiful!

And if you can't make it to this year's events, don't worry—there are plenty of ways to get involved and help keep our coast clean.

"Besides making our beaches more pristine, removing litter protects fish, bird, dolphins, sea turtles, and other wildlife," Blankenship said. "It gives me good feeling every year to see how much trash can be removed when many of us work together."

## Thousands pick up trash in Alabama Coastal Cleanup

*By Dennis Washington  
September 24, 2019*

Thousands of people volunteered several hours Saturday morning picking up trash along Alabama's coastal waterways and beaches.

The 32nd Annual Alabama

Coastal Cleanup was held at more than 30 locations in Mobile and Baldwin counties. Volunteers took "trash out of the splash," recycling as much of it as possible.

"It's very important to the communities," said Amy Hunter, one

of the zone captains for the Alabama Coastal Cleanup. "It changes behavior, creating a connection to our waterways. It makes everything looks better."

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup was coordinated through the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources State Lands Division, Coastal Section, and the Alabama People Against A Littered State (PALS). Organizers say more than 87,000 volunteers have assisted in this event since Alabama joined the International Coastal Cleanup in 1987.

"We have folks from Alabama Power and several other companies throughout the area who volunteer their time, pick up the trash and transport it to the dumpsters," Hunter said. "This can't happen without them."

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup is made possible by the generosity of many businesses, including Alabama Power Company, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ike's Beach Service, Airbus, LogoBrander's, Bebo's, LuLu's, city of Gulf Shores, city of Orange Beach, Riviera Utilities, Utility Board of Gulf Shores, Baldwin EMC, Flora-Bama, The Home Depot, Mobile Area Water and Sewer System, Evonik, ExxonMobil, Republic Services, Volkert Inc, Coastal Conservation Association Alabama, Compass Media, Coast 360, Alabama Department of Transportation, ALFA Insurance, Coca-Cola, Vulcan Materials, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Association of County Commissions of Alabama, Weeks Bay Foundation, Osprey Initiative and Thompson Engineering.

For more information about the Alabama Coastal Cleanup, visit [AlabamaCoastalCleanup.com](http://AlabamaCoastalCleanup.com).



*Volunteers pick up trash across Mobile and Baldwin counties during the Alabama Coastal Cleanup. (Dennis Washington / Alabama NewsCenter)*



*Thousands volunteer for Alabama Coastal Cleanup 2019 from Alabama NewsCenter on Vimeo.*



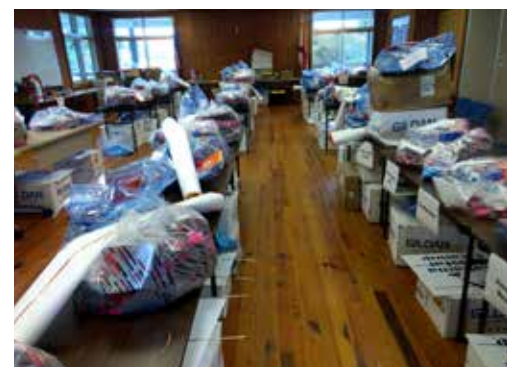
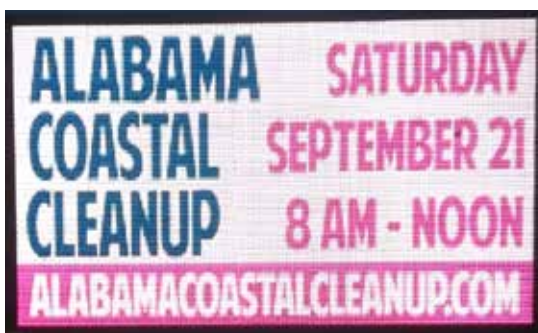




# ALABAMA PALS 32ND ANNUAL ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP









# ALABAMA PALS 32ND ANNUAL ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP



**BON SECOUR**



**FIVE RIVERS**



**CAUSEWAY**



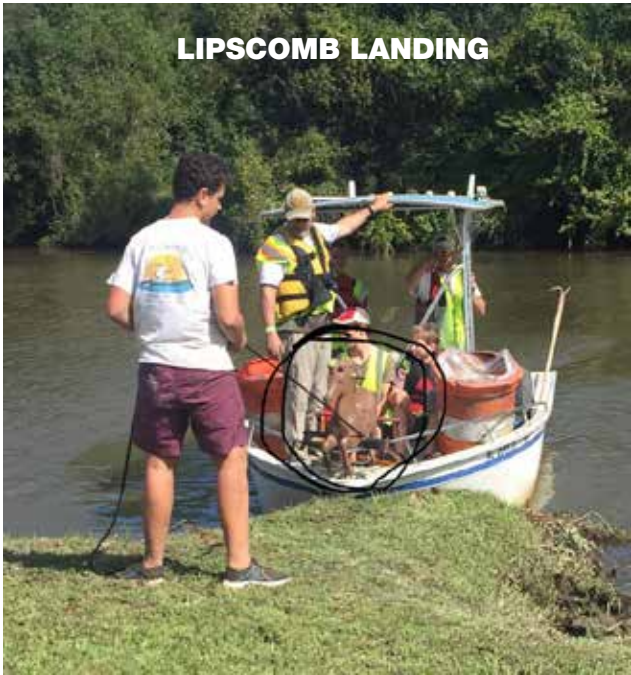
**FOWL RIVER**







**BAYKEEPER**



**LIPSCOMB LANDING**



**ARLINGTON**



**ORANGE BEACH  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**DOG RIVER**



## Dates to Remember

### January

2020 Spring Cleanup Materials  
Prepared

### January

Winter Newsletter Mailed and Online

### March 3rd

PALS Board Meeting

### March 15th

Spring Cleanup Supplies Ready for  
Pickup

### All of April

“Don’t Drop it On Alabama” Spring  
Cleanup

### April 24

Posters and Recycled Art Due in  
PALS Office

### July (Date TBD)

PALS Board Meeting

### September 17th

Alabama Coastal Cleanup Materials  
Distribution Day

### September 19th

2020 Alabama Coastal Cleanup

### October

Governors Awards Nominations  
Due Date

### November

- Alabama PALS Governors Awards
- wAlabama PALS Board Meeting

## 2019 ALABAMA PALS QUICK FACTS

### 2019 Alabama Coastal Cleanup Partnership with ADCNR/State Lands/Coastal Section

5,500 + Volunteers

31 Cleanup Zones

45,000 Pounds of Litter Removed

1,000 Pounds of Recycled Plastics and Aluminum

All Materials and Supplies Furnished  
Through Corporate Sponsors

Recycled at ALL Zones

Recycling Super Sorter Training Provided

### 2019 “Don’t Drop It On Alabama” Spring Cleanup

Over 220 Cleanups Organized Statewide

Over 650 tons of litter Reported

Provided Approx. 185,000 Trash Bags Statewide

Provided All Supplies and Support Materials

Continued Promoting Recycling during  
Spring Cleanup efforts

### 2018-19 Alabama Clean Campus Program

500 Alabama Schools Enrolled

Updated Clean Campus Data Base

20+ On Campus Programs

Clean Campus On Line Video Initiated  
(Will be Available August 2020)

Clean Campus Scholarships and Awards Presented  
at 2019 Governor’s Awards Program

### Alabama Adopt A Mile Program Partnership with ALDOT

Total Miles Adopted Statewide – 832

Federal Miles – 222

State Miles – 244

County Highways – 365



# Millry Resident Melanie Stokley Wins Highest Alabama PALS Award

Millry resident Melanie Stokley has won the highest award given by Alabama PALS (People Against a Littered State), at the organization's Annual Governor's Awards.

The "Don Hines Memorial Award" is awarded to one individual each year that has given years of their life to serving their communities in litter removal, education and has generally gone "above and beyond" the call of duty for PALS.

Stokley has worked with all five Washington County elementary schools, even creating her own local contest for recycled art. She has also invited the state Clean Campus Coordinator, Jamie Mitchell, to speak to schools in the county for the past six years.

She has served at the Annual Coastal Cleanup and has volunteered for local cleanups in Washington County, and works closely with the local Alfa Women's Committee to ensure student participation in the PALS' Annual Poster Contest.

For the fifth year in a row, two Washington County students were statewide winners in the poster contest. In addition to her work for PALS, Stokley volunteers for her church and regularly sews and cooks for others in the community.



*From left, Margaret McElroy and Jamie Mitchell from Alabama PALS, Melenie Stokley and Jeff Helms, ALFA representative.*



*Braydon Nichols, of Leroy High School, left photo, and Shyann Daszczuk, Fruitdale Elementary student, right, were among the statewide winners in the PALS poster contest.*

## ADOPT-A-STREAM APPLICATION FORM

Name of Participating Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Proposed Stream Crossing: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Location for Adopt-A-Stream Signs (Hwy #'s, Mile Markers, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send Applications to Alabama PALS, 340 N. Hull Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Application can be submitted online at [alpals.org](http://alpals.org)



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**Alabama PALS Newsletter**

*People Against A Littered State*

340 North Hull St.  
Montgomery AL 36104

# **2019 ALABAMA COASTAL CLEANUP SPONSORS AND PARTNERS**

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*Ike's Beach Service • AirBus America's • Bebo's • LogoBranders  
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City of Gulf Shores • Riviera Utilities • Baldwin EMC  
Gulf Shores Utilities Board • Flora-Bama • Home Depot • MAWSS  
Evonic • Volkert • Republic Services • The Original Oyster House  
Mobile Bay NEP • Baldwin County Sewer Service • TurnKey Vacation Rentals  
ALDOT • ALFA • Coca-Cola • Vulcan Materials  
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama • Alabama Farmer's Cooperative  
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