



## SPECIAL INTEREST

# LAKESIDE LITTER SWEEP

BY EMMA GERRAUGHTY, KMB INTERN



Some say there's nothing hotter than a summer in "Famously Hot" Columbia. When it seems like the AC is working overtime and you're still breaking a sweat, beautiful Lake Murray provides an oasis for friends and neighbors to cool off and enjoy time on the water. Thousands of people visit the lake each weekend for recreation and relaxation, but nothing ruins a fun trip like seeing trash littering the shorelines and islands.

Litter is a threat to the health of our environment and waterways that run all the way to the ocean.

For several years, local nonprofit Keep the Midlands Beautiful has hosted a litter cleanup blitz on Lake Murray to help keep this precious resource clean for all who enjoy it. We are an environmental and community nonprofit with a mission to keep the environment clean and connect communities living sustainably. As an award-winning affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., we are dedicated to preserving natural areas, public spaces, and the environment, including Lake Murray and its surrounding shorelines!

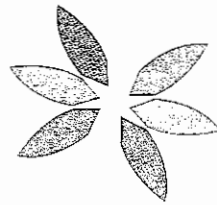
Join us this year for our Lakeside Litter Sweep on September 18th, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The KMB team, businesses and community partners, and our volunteers from across the Midlands will remove litter from shores, islands, boat ramps, parks, and even underwater! Thanks to our partners at Dreher Island State Park, Big Man's Marina, South Shore Marina, and Lake Murray Marina, this cleanup event will address all four

counties Lake Murray shares- Lexington, Richland, Newberry, and Saluda Counties. Volunteers with their boats are invited to clean islands. In contrast, volunteers without watercraft can sign up to clean the shore and surrounding boat ramps or receive transportation to islands on the lake courtesy of our partners! Thanks to Aquafun Boat Rentals & Tours, The Osprey & Lake Murray Cruises, and Fifty-Fifty Water Sports, KMB will be able to provide transportation for volunteers without boats who would like to clean on the lake! All supplies will be provided as a thank-you gift, and registration includes entry to win prizes! Registration is free, so sign up today at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/160013804597>.

The Lakeside Litter Sweep on September 18th will coincide with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' annual Beach Sweep River Sweep weekend, which is South Carolina's most extensive one-day volunteer waterway cleanup! Since 1988, South Carolinians have joined in cleaning the waterways of debris and raising awareness for the health of our lakes, rivers, and beaches. Besides this event, KMB relies on volunteers to help keep our rivers and lakes clean and litter-free year-round. We encourage businesses and neighbors around the lake to get involved in our Adopt-a-Waterway program sponsored

by Dominion Energy, which allows groups to receive recognition for committing to adopt a section of waterway. For more information on this program, please email [aaw@kmb.org](mailto:aaw@kmb.org) or visit our website for a list of adoptable locations!

The KMB team, partners at PalmettoPride, and sponsors are working hard to make this event a success. Now we're relying



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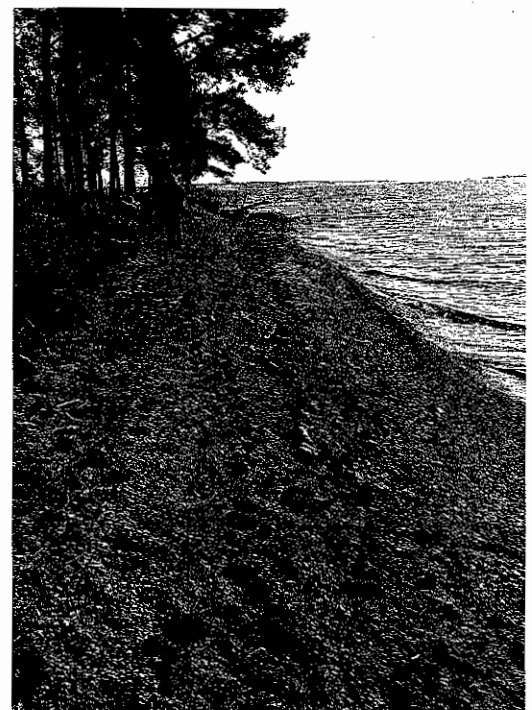
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on neighbors like YOU to join us in making a difference! Since 1989, Keep the Midlands Beautiful has envisioned a Midlands where every community is a clean, green, and beautiful place to live, work, and play. The mission of Keep the Midlands Beautiful is to engage, inspire, and educate the Midlands to invest in our community through litter prevention, recycling, and beautification. Our thousands of volunteers and local partners help us continue to make a difference. No matter your age or availability, there is a program for everyone! To get started, contact KMB's Core Programs Administrator and local Chapin resident, Laura Blake-Orr, at 803-733-1139 or [lblakeorr@kmb.org](mailto:lblakeorr@kmb.org). Visit our website at [kmb.org](http://kmb.org), follow us on Instagram @kmbgreen803, or visit our Facebook page to learn more!



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