

College of Coastal Georgia Students Clean Marsh as MLK Day Service Project

By Terry Dickson

January 19, 2016

BRUNSWICK | Sometimes the finders-keepers rule doesn't come into play.



Cody Cocchi, assistant director of service-learning at Coastal Georgia, pulls a big piece of plastic from the sand off the East River in Brunswick Monday morning during the project.

College of Coastal Georgia student Eason Hatcher found a shoe brush Monday and found no takers when she tried to give it away.

The brush had seen better days, however, before Hatcher pulled it from the marsh across the East River from the Brunswick waterfront as she and about 10 other College of Coastal Georgia students picked up litter and debris as part of a Martin Luther King Day service project.

It was a combined effort from the Office of Student Life and the college's Service-Learning department, said Andrew Smith, who directs Student Life.

The students wore jackets for the morning chill, but the running shoes and sneakers most wore weren't suited for the marsh mud. That didn't stop Julia Palmer from Atlanta from slogging along a creek and pulling out bottles, cans and other litter.

“We’re focusing a little more on the environment,” said Hannah Veazey, a coordinator of student volunteers. “We’re trying to help the system. This place is really dirty.”

The marsh and streams along both sides of the causeway to a huge dredge spoils site could use some help. The fishermen who frequent it dump bottles, cans and wrappers there, and the tides bring in more.

The students had filled about a dozen bags after only an hour’s work, Veazey said.

Service projects on the Martin Luther King holiday have become a tradition for the college. Last year, some of the athletic teams worked on a Habitat for Humanity house.

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