

The WFB Keep Pickens Beautiful “Adopt-a-Road” Team is a group of volunteers, led by Stacy Johnson, that help keep Steve Tate Hwy clean by regularly picking up trash along the roadway. The group currently includes Robyn Bish, Martha Croft, Ina Dueker, Carole English, Sara Juneau, Bob Knight, Susan Knight, Chris McGuire, Lars McKenzie, and Karen Steinberg. Plus, Karen Rickards added her name to the list to fill in as needed, and Carla Baird signed up as a regular team member in October. Each volunteer decides his/her own schedule. Martha Croft and Ina Duecker work as a team, as do Susan and Bob Knight. All others tend to head out individually as the mood strikes them.

- Some volunteers go out each month, some multiple times a month, and others just occasionally, as they see a need. It truly is a system that lets you do this at your own pace and on your own schedule.
- The team members pick up the trash along Steve Tate Hwy, beginning at Hwy 53. Their responsibilities used to end at the North Gate, but thanks to Carole English, the team now also pick ups the additional 0.4 miles of road from the North Gate to the Dawson County line. Carole saw a need, and volunteered to take this on herself.
- Since January 1 through the end of September, the volunteers collectively have spent **86.75**

**hours** picking up an aggregate of **87 bags of trash**.

- **Special call out to Robyn Bish:** She is a machine! In 2021, she individually worked **31 hours** and picked up **35 bags** of trash. She is out multiple times each month, and, in addition to her section, she helped out in the section of another volunteer that had some difficulty getting out on the roadway during a few months.

In addition to trash, a couple volunteers discovered a box of flat head screws (over 100) scattered in the middle of the roadway at the Steve Tate/Cove Road roundabout - all standing straight up at attention, just waiting for an unsuspecting car. The 2 volunteers didn't have a magnet, so they picked the screws up by hand - all 100 of them. Who knows how many flat tires were saved that day!

Stacy encourages the volunteers to let her know when they find interesting things along the road, and she shares this info with the group. Just "fun facts" kind of stuff. Some of the interesting finds include:

- an entire roll of unused raffle tickets
- iphone
- kids straw sombrero in new condition

- channel lock (which the volunteer donated to the thrift store)
- shovel (in great condition; also donated)
- set of house plans (oops! someone got in trouble that day!)
- Nerf gun (tossed by a fed up mom? – who knows!)
- handcuffs (anyone want to hazard a guess...?)
- Credit card

Next time you see any of these volunteers along the roadway picking up trash, please slow down for safety's sake (speeding cars provide an unnecessary “thrill”), and give them a wave of thanks.