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AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION RECEIVES FLORIDA GREEN LODGING DESIGNATION

Environmentally protective resort conserves resources

AMELIA ISLAND – Amelia Island Plantation has received the coveted and hard-won Green Lodging destination certification from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The ceremony to award the certification will be held Tuesday, May 27, at 11 a.m. at the resort’s gazebo outside its Spa and Shops village. The voluntary state initiative provides the lodging industry with technical assistance by encouraging hotels and motels to adopt cost-saving “green” practices that reduce waste and conserve natural resources.

“Amelia Island Plantation is taking the necessary steps to help protect, restore and conserve Florida’s natural resources,” according to DEP district director Bill Green. “We are pleased to welcome the resort to the Florida *Green Lodging* Program family.”

Green noted the resort’s commitment to the environment through its resort-wide recycling program that includes the resort’s 800-plus full time residents, guests and employees. The program includes glass, plastic, aluminum and newspapers, plus electronics. The resort also shows its commitment to being “green” through its use of computerized energy saving HVAC systems in its oceanfront Amelia Inn, automatic and low flush water fixtures in guest and public restrooms, low energy and long lasting fluorescent lighting resort wide, Project Planet linen and towel re-use program, reclaimed water for irrigating its landscaping and golf courses, and clean and green pest control and housekeeping products. The resort also is implementing corn-based “to go” containers in its restaurants, investigating solar water heaters, golf carts, service vehicles and guest shuttles, and continuing its use of recycled and recyclable paper in its printing..

To be a designated member of the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, hotels must implement a variety of green practices. These practices include, but are not limited to, water conservation measures through low flow plumbing fixtures and a linen reuse program, and energy efficiency achieved by installing ENERGY STAR® appliances and programmable thermostats. The waste reduction criteria are met by providing the opportunity to recycle, purchasing items in bulk, purchasing recycled materials and by recycling ink and toner cartridges. All designated properties must also use green cleaners and high efficiency air filters, and clean air handler units frequently.

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“We have focused on being in harmony with nature since our founding in 1971,” said Jack Healan, president of the Amelia Island Company. “Our environmental record is unusually strong and our company’s “Green Team” has moved it to an even higher level for the environment, the resort and our island as a whole.”

Amelia Island Plantation, Florida’s premier island resort, covers 1,350 live oak-canopied acres in northeast Florida, just 29 miles from Jacksonville International Airport. With 3 ½ miles of wide uncrowded beach, 72 holes of championship golf on four Audubon International certified sanctuary golf courses, 49,000-plus square feet of meeting and convention space, a two-tiered three pool Beach Club, 10 dining outlets, 23 tennis courts, state-of-the-art health and fitness center, award-winning Kids’ Camp Amelia, and much more.

Launched in March 2004, the Florida *Green Lodging* Program establishes environmental guidelines for hotels and motels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. As reward for designation, the state is recommending designated properties in the Florida *Green Lodging* Program to companies and trade organizations seeking environmentally conscious lodging and convention facilities. With the addition of Amelia Island Plantation, the program has more than 173 designated properties and more than 335 applicants.

For more information about Amelia Island Plantation, call 866.213.8045 or visit www.aipfl.com. For information on the Florida *Green Lodging* Program, visit www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging.

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