



MEDIA ALERT

Virginia Green Travel Alliance Announces 2018 Green Travel Star & Green Travel Leader Award Winners!

To be presented on April 25th at the 6th annual Virginia Green Travel Conference held at the Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center

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RICHMOND, VA. -- The Virginia Green program will present the *Virginia Green Travel Star Award* to nineteen (19) Virginia tourism operations for their outstanding commitments to sustainability and contributions to green tourism at the [6th annual Virginia Green Travel Conference and Travel Star Awards Celebration](#). Five additional tourism businesses will be recognized and receive the *Virginia Green Travel Leader Award*, and three individuals will receive the *Green Team All-Star Award* for their efforts to protect the environment and promote green tourism in Virginia. One individual will be recognized for their career efforts to support green tourism and receive the *Industry Game-Changer Award*.

The conference is being held on April 24-25, 2019 at the Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center. It will feature educational workshops, amazing speakers and panels, a green tourism business expo that is open to the public. Speakers on the first day include **First Lady of Virginia Pamela Northam** and **keynote speaker Shawn Norton of the National Park Service**. The second day features sustainability efforts in the Shenandoah Valley and the 2018 Virginia Green Travel Awards hosted by Rita McClenny, President & CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation and local meteorologist Aubrey Urbanowicz.

The Virginia Green program is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, and the Virginia Green Travel Alliance. The program encourages green practices in all sectors of Virginia's tourism industry. More than 1,800 businesses and partner organizations have voluntarily certified their green business practices through the Virginia Green program.

The 2018 Virginia Green Travel Star Award winners are:

- Green Travel Partner of the Year Wild Wolf Brewing Company, Nellysford
- Green Attraction of the Year Birdsong Pleasure Garden, Luray
- Green B&B of the Year Inn at Riverbend, Pearisburg
- Green Brewery of the Year Coelacanth, Norfolk
- Green Caterer of the Year Full Circle Catering, Lexington
- Green Convention Center of the Year Virginia Beach Convention Center

- Green Event of the Year
 - Green Hotel of the Year
 - Green Dining Services
 - Green Supplier of the Year
 - Green Supplier of the Year
 - Green Vacation Rental of the Year
 - Green Winery of the Year
 - Most Innovative Green Projects
 - Most Innovative Green Projects
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- Black Run Clean-Up, Harrisonburg
 - Doubletree by Hilton Virginia Beach
 - JMU Dining Services, Harrisonburg
 - Yuck Old Paint, LLC, Vienna
 - Sysco Virginia, Harrisonburg
 - Sandswept, Virginia Beach
 - Delaplane Cellars, Delaplane
 - Civil War Trails, Williamsburg
 - BF Saul Company Hospitality Group
 - Nauticus, Norfolk
 - Virginia Living Museum, Newport News
 - Kiptopeke State Park
 - Grayson Highlands State Park
 - RIC - Capitol Region Airport Commission

The 2018 Virginia Green Travel Leader Award winners are:

- Back INN Time, Kilmarnock
- Oak Grove Plantation B&B, South Boston
- Mountain Song Inn, Willis
- Shady Acres B&B, Hanover
- Port City Brewing Company, Alexandria

The 2018 Green Team All-Star Award winners are:

- Danny Wolf, Wild Wolf Brewing Company
- Perry DeMay of Virginia State Parks
- Rehn West, Nauticus

The 2018 Industry Game-Changer Award winner is:

- Kurt Burkhart, formerly w/ Charlottesville-Albemarle Convention & Visitors Bureau

Registration information and the full conference agenda can be found at www.tinyurl.com/y3awevr5.

Members of the news media are invited to attend the conference and awards luncheon on March 2nd. If you would like to attend or for more information, please contact Tom Griffin of the Virginia Green Travel Alliance at (804) 986-9119 or VirginiaGreen@Virginia.org.

- The Virginia Tourism Corporation promotes the Virginia Green program partners at www.VirginiaGreenTravel.org and encourages visitors to plan their green vacations in Virginia.
- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality provides technical resources and oversight of the certification process -- www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx.
- The Virginia Green Travel Alliance is the non-profit organization that administers the Virginia Green certification program and supports partner outreach and educational opportunities – www.VirginiaGreen.net & VirginiaGreenTravelAlliance.org.
- The Virginia Restaurant Lodging & Hospitality Association assists in promotion and development of educational opportunities for the tourism industry.