



INNS AT MONTPELIER

Discover Virginia's Piedmont

Media Contact:

Dan Cawley, 757-314-3100

dan.cawley@diinc.com

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Inns at Montpelier Receives Virginia's 2014 Green Travel Star Award

Orange, VA – The Inns at Montpelier, a guild of B&Bs and boutique hotels in central Virginia, has been recognized for having the Most Innovative Green Project as part of the 2014 Green Travel Star Awards program. Through collaboration and coordination of recycling and energy saving efforts as well as visitor education programs, the efforts by Inns at Montpelier are being celebrated for establishing practices from which the tourism industry can learn.

"Our inns are all very different in style but we share collective pride in being good stewards of the environment," says Sharon Elswick, of Holladay House who accepted the honor on behalf of the association. *"Of our 10 inns, eight are already certified through the Virginia Green program and we are on track to reach 100% participation by next year."*

The Inns at Montpelier green program has included committing to water and energy saving appliances and practices. Replacing appliances with energy efficient water models combined with a reusable guest towel initiative has resulted in a measurable 1/3 average reduction in water use among the inns. The majority of the guest rooms and common areas have recycling bins and innkeepers have committed to collecting and sorting the waste, even down to wine corks.

Additionally, the inns are working together to encourage environmentally-friendly guest behavior, from water use to recycling, and educate visitors about the region's native landscapes, wildlife and biodiversity.

"When we meet as group we regularly review green efforts and offer advice to each other right down to identifying and fixing leaky faucets and running toilets," says Elwisck. *"We know that ideas about what is working for our respective inns can create best practices for others to follow."*

The Green Travel Stars Awards program recognizes the greening efforts of participants of Virginia Green, Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally friendly practices in the tourism industry. Awards were presented at the Virginia Green Travel Conference held December 9-10, 2014 in Richmond.

The Inns at Montpelier is a registry of distinguished Virginia bed-and-breakfast Inns near President James and Dolley Madison's Montpelier. The 10 inns in Orange and Madison County are all unique, ranging in style from restored farmhouses, to grand historic homes, to renovated plantations. For more information, visit www.innsatmontpelier.com.

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