

SRQ MAGAZINE GREEN SUSTAINABILITY LEADERS • JUNE 2014

LOCAL GREEN LEADERS

ROUNDTABLE



The Green Leaders Roundtable recognizes non-profits and businesses who have adapted their practices to advance sustainability and green initiatives. Our participants have pioneered sustainable practices, technology and programs to contribute to our global ecosystem. Copy by Jay McManemon. Photos by Evan Sigmund.

BIOLOGICAL TREE SERVICES

TAMMY KOVAR, OWNER



Biological Tree Services

7345 International Place #107, Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 941.706-1414 • www.biologicaltreeservices.com

WHAT DOES GREEN MEAN TO BIOLOGICAL TREE SERVICES? Green is the color of nature, fertility, and life. Green symbolizes self-respect, success and well-being. It's organic, natural, and sustainable. It is balanced and has great healing power. In fact, grass green is the most restful color. We all get energy from the green in our lives. Biological Tree Services (BTS) and Sustainable Landscape Supply (SLS) are the natural-based providers of green. We are celebrating 10 years in Sarasota reviving stressed trees, landscapes, turf and customers. Our scientific and fact-based approach to trees, landscapes and turf care is unique and unexpected, especially in a price-driven industry and marketplace. When we meet you, we will educate you on your soils, plants and tree requirements. We will review your soil test results, conserve your irrigation use through technological advances and reduce your plant replacement costs. We incorporate your psychology and home architecture and customize the best landscape design for you. We restore balance and sustainability to your outdoor living environment through partnerships with microbes such as beneficial soil bacteria and root inhabiting fungi. We produce green in your landscape and green (in the form of savings) to your bank account. When you call, we respond by phone, and frequently in-person within 72 hours. When our field technicians arrive to perform their monthly services, we pay attention to every plant and address every plant issue. Our integrated pest management (IPM) program includes the application of beneficial soil microbes and other natural nutrients and biostimulants to build healthy soils. We utilize Organic OMRI certified insect and disease control products whenever possible. We inspect your irrigation system four to six times per year, to optimize water conservation based on the time of year. We install Wi-Fi based smart irrigation controllers and personally monitor your irrigation twice per week for efficiency and results. We communicate, internally and externally, to make your life and environment greener. Our self-respect is for your well-being. Biological Tree Services is the conservator of your emerald landscapes, naturally through science.

“We are passionate about what we do, and we actively promote the knowledge and understanding of the science behind our services—one yard at a time.”

Biological Tree Services is a sustainable landscaping service provider founded by Tammy Kovar in October of 2004. BTS provides landscaping and fertility services to Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch, Venice and surrounding areas using environmentally friendly, biological soil amendments. BTS also provides recovery services to restore Oak trees, Palm trees, Pine trees, citrus, general turf and landscapes to their full bloom and grandeur. BTS's Pest Management services focus on working with and aiding nature to decrease pest populations with minimal use of chemicals and pesticides. In 2008, BTS began selling field-proven environmentally friendly products to the public at their store in Lakewood Ranch, as well as online at www.sustainablelandsupply.com. The SLS product line offers Plant Health Care Products for turf, palms, flower beds and trees, EcoSyn Distributors' KeyPlex products, BioSorb's TopFilm with applications from households to commercial agriculture.

YAMUNA BODY ROLLING

DIANNE GLASS, INSTRUCTOR

WHAT IS YAMUNA™ BODY SUSTAINABILITY? Yamuna® Body Rolling can be described as “body school”; it’s a small ball movement therapy that uses various sized balls, cued with breath, to re-organize and align our structure, encouraging length, openness and a feeling of spaciousness from the inside out, working to keep the body a well-tuned instrument. Yamuna trademarked the term Yamuna™ Body Sustainability to express this work because it is about keeping the body physically able to do all the things a person wants to do. If you do Body Rolling by itself, it is a stand-alone system that will keep you strong and fit, but it is also a great way to extend your ability to play high-impact sports or other physical activities that asks a lot out of your body. The YBR balls are extremely effective because, unlike foam rollers or large stability balls, these smaller spheres can be angled into the muscle, sinking all the way to the bone, helping you to stand tall, feel lifted and experience a greater range of movement from head to toe. All of our balls are free of harmful chemicals, which is important because we have exercises for the face, feet and other body parts that directly connect with the balls. For the face especially, it is important to have a product that is hypoallergenic. We now have a restorative program that allows you to work with the balls in bed, at the office or wherever you are—I use them when traveling on an airplane. The balls are smaller, denser and more portable, so they can be used any time the body requires.

“Body Sustainability is the key to this work—it allows life-long solutions for flexibility and movement.”

Yamuna Body Rolling

www.bodyrollingdianneglass.com

[Facebook.com/BodyRolling](https://www.facebook.com/BodyRolling)



Over the years, the Yamuna® brand has become a worldwide entity. We continually grow and evolve as a global extended family with inspirational new work to share. I see the next phase in my career as being an ambassador for this work to really get the word out there. Wherever I travel, I offer local workshops. Online classes are available on my website so I have the virtual capacity to reach a global audience. I also offer unique retreats that provide an immersive experience over a several day period. I assist Yamuna in with retreats in Jamaica, Tuscany and India, as well as holding my own local retreats in Sarasota. The goal of the retreats is to learn how to solve your own body issues with body rolling combined with intensive hands on therapy everyday. When you leave one of my retreats, you will have the tools you need to take care of yourself.

GOODWILL MANASOTA

BOB ROSINSKY, PRESIDENT AND CEO



Goodwill Manasota

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GOING GREEN FOR THE COMMUNITY – TRANSFORMING UNWANTED

ITEMS INTO JOBS It goes without saying that nearly everything bought ultimately ends up in a landfill. The environmental impact of solid waste is well known, as some items can take hundreds of years to decompose. Decreasing the flow of solid waste into landfills is one very obvious solution to this problem, and the core business model of Goodwill—the resale of donated items—achieves just that. Few businesses are able to leverage their assets in such ways to benefit their local areas that match the diverse contributions Goodwill provides. Promoting economic growth through job training and placement and reducing consumer environmental impact are only possible through careful and inventive planning, along with hard work at every level of the Goodwill staff, from cashiers to management. All these efforts lead to a stronger, healthier and more viable community.

2013 GREEN FACTS

- Goodwill Manasota reduced solid waste to area landfills by 37 million pounds.
- We received more than 660,000 donations.
- About 12% of the donations we receive end up in the landfills. Several years ago, when we evaluated how we could reduce our carbon footprint, we were putting about 20-25% of our donated items into landfills.
- Our ultimate goal has always been zero waste; a goal that is consistent with our need to control and manage our expenses, creating more jobs in the community.

“We have been an entrepreneurial leader, environmental pioneer and social innovator of the ‘reduce, reuse, repurpose’ practice.” Goodwill Manasota diverts millions of pounds of clothing and household goods every year from area landfills by recovering the value in people’s unwanted material goods; in the process, we create jobs and training opportunities for people in need of work,”

Goodwill Manasota is an industry-leading, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization that changes lives through the power of work. With the sales of donated goods and philanthropic donations, Goodwill is able to assist people with disabilities and other barriers to employment by providing job skills training and employment opportunities. In 2013, we served more than 16,000 people, placed 537 people in jobs and assisted 329 veterans as they reintegrated back into the civilian workforce. Goodwill Manasota’s economic impact back to the community is worth \$39.3 million. We accomplish our mission through a network of Good Neighbor Centers in Sarasota, Manatee, Hardee and DeSoto counties and our Mission Development Services (MDS) around North America. We have provided opportunities through programs such as Donated Goods Employment Services, Job Connection, American Veterans and their Families Initiative, JobsPlus, Supported JobsPlus, GoodwillWorks, Mission Development Services, White Glove Services, Good Neighbor Program and Ambassadors Program. Goodwill is one of the pioneers of the reduce-reuse-recycle movement and this past year diverted 37 million pounds out of the landfill. Goodwill Manasota is legally organized under the laws of the United States and the State of Florida. We are accountable to a local Board of Directors. Goodwill Manasota in essence belongs to this community, and is NOT owned by any individual or company.

REGION SOLAR

ANDREW TANNER, PRESIDENT AND CEO

HOW HAS SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION BENEFITTED YOU OVER THE YEARS?

By nature we're a green company. From our perspective, being green means reducing and controlling energy demand. We achieve that principle by harnessing the power of the sun to create electricity for our clients. We help people to either reduce or eliminate their reliance on fossil fuel generated electricity by switching to solar power. We integrate solar systems from 20 panels for a residential house, to 400 panels for commercial structures and as much as 8,000 panels for 20-year power purchasing contracts with utility companies. Depending on the space available, the needs of clients and their budgets, we format a plan that satisfies their requirements and exceeds their expectations. There is speculation that solar power costs a lot of money, when in reality, it works out to being the same price as fossil fuel power, or less. If you take the life production of a solar system, warranted for 25 years, and offset that against the cost of a monthly electricity bill (a constant mortgage that you're never going to pay off) you're making out better in the long run with the solar system.

“It is our mission to fulfill our environmental responsibility by improving the health of society and future generations, while keeping up with the growing demand for electricity. Growth should not only be sustainable, it should be responsible. We are proud to provide solar power solutions to institutions such as The Florida House, Mote Marine and Sarasota Sailing Squadron.”

Region Solar

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Andrew outside the Solar Powered Florida House Institute.

Providing over 4.5 megawatts of clean power integrated into the grid, Region Solar is an industry leader. We design, integrate and develop renewable solar energy solutions for residential, commercial and utility scale clients. Our team specializes in electrical and structural engineering, system design, project management, installation and system commissioning. Headquartered in Sarasota, Florida, we are one of the largest photovoltaic integrators in the state, in addition to covering the Caribbean basin from this location. Our satellite office in southern Vermont serves EPC clients, from boutique to large-scale solar farms. For more information, visit Region Solar's website at www.regionsolar.co.

ROBERT DAVIE & ASSOCIATES

ROBERT DAVIE, OWNER



HOW DO YOUR SERVICES ENCOURAGE REDUCING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT? You can create a destination in your own backyard with virtually all the amenities of a resort. Your creation is yours for more than a short vacation time, it's yours every day of the year! Celebrate and entertain at your home by creating a destination that will allow you to cultivate your own style. Robert Davie can customize your living space in a rich and artistic fashion that is both exceptional and distinctive. Your space can be enhanced in a manner that is aesthetically pleasing to your family and your friends. Imagine that beyond your back doors lies a unique and pristine pool with crystal blue water, an outdoor recreation space that is both functional and entertaining, and a spectacular spa area for melting into perpetual relaxation. All of these luxuries can be combined in one cohesive design that you can enjoy at any time. When you compare this to few trips a year out of town, investing in your own home is an intelligent option that reaps many rewards such as value added to your home and your family experiences. It is also lowers your overall carbon footprint!

“There is a lot of natural beauty around, and you can enjoy this personal and permanent paradise by enhancing your own environment.”

Robert Davie & Associates, Inc.

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Robert Davie and Associates Landscaping, Inc. specializes in innovative landscape design of commercial and residential properties in the greater Sarasota area. For more than 35 years, Robert Davie and his team have transformed landscapes into creative works of aesthetic, sustainable design—bringing harmony, balance and tranquility to the landscape and architecture as well. Robert Davie and Associates Landscaping Inc. have won best residential landscape in the US, Florida and greater Sarasota area on many occasions. In the early 80's, Robert Davie's landscape advertising was simple, conveying a concept that is more than just a trend today; his ad read, “THINK GREEN”, 30 years ahead of the curve. Green that sustains itself and green that appreciates over time has always been a governing philosophy of his landscape projects.

WILLIS SMITH CONSTRUCTION

DAVE SESSIONS, PRESIDENT AND CEO



HOW HAS SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION BENEFITTED YOU OVER THE YEARS?

Willis Smith Construction originally sought to pioneer the sustainable construction movement in Southwest Florida in 2006. We wanted to highlight the benefits of preserving limited resources and improving the quality of life for occupants living and working in this type of facility. We decided to construct our new headquarters based on LEED™ guidelines for their stringency and credibility. Our building was a success, reducing our overall energy consumption by 60 percent and serving as a working model for our LEED™ building experience. As we are always seeking to grow and adapt to changes within our industry, we are also looking to become more efficient. Recently we sought to increase our headquarters' energy efficiency with the investment in three new solar panel arrays from Brilliant Harvest, based in Sarasota. Twice as powerful and with the same footprint as our original array, these new panels provide an additional 47,520 watts of direct current power, which translates to an estimated 69,500 kilowatt hours per year of

electricity produced. Combined with our previous array's output, the total energy now produced on average completely offsets all electricity consumption in the building. The benefits of this investment will serve us well into the building's lifetime, decreasing our reliance on limited resources overall.

“The benefits of this investment (additional solar panels) will serve us well into the building's lifetime, decreasing our reliance on limited resources overall.”

Willis Smith Construction

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Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc. is a construction management firm headquartered in Lakewood Ranch, primarily serving Southwest Florida since 1972. The company has a longstanding reputation for superior construction and offers its clients particular expertise in the areas of commercial, industrial, education, healthcare, museum specialty work and sustainable construction. Willis A. Smith Construction serves to promote excellence and integrity in the construction industry while contributing to the betterment of our clients and the communities we serve.