

# St. Lucie, Florida...



**Carter  
Oosterhouse**  
Green Living



## ...an ECO-Destination

What Do Carter Oosterhouse, Green Living & the 2009 HGTV Green Home Have in Common? You can find them all in this jewel of Florida's Treasure Coast.

**S**trategically located midway between Miami and Orlando lies St. Lucie – an area that has been called “Florida’s Best Kept Secret.” Even those who know Florida well may not realize that, in addition to its breathtaking coastal beauty, thriving arts and culture, championship-caliber golf at the PGA and training grounds for the New York Mets, St. Lucie is a haven for eco-tourists and a model of sustainability for those who want to live green.

St. Lucie has preserved 11,000 acres of environmental lands, including miles of unspoiled Atlantic Ocean beaches, 100 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding, and undisturbed river preserves where you can canoe and kayak. St. Lucie is also an exporter of energy—creating three times as much energy as it consumes locally—and is actively courting green energy technology companies to make their home in its 1600-acre research park.

Under the water, St. Lucie has done its part with its artificial reef program, reusing steel and concrete otherwise bound for the landfill to create a habitat for fish, sponges and corals. Materials are deployed at a variety of

depths, making it easily accessible for divers and fishermen to enjoy.

St. Lucie offers endless opportunities for you to explore the “real Florida” – natural Florida, the way it was before rampant development. And, for a limited time, you can even meet one of the well-known faces of the green movement and discover how little steps can make a big difference in preserving our natural habitat.

### Mark Your Calendars January 17-18, 2009

You won't want to miss Carter Oosterhouse of Home and Garden Television's (HGTV) Carter Can and Red Hot & Green at the Art of Living Green festival, Saturday and Sunday, January 17-18, 2009 at the A.E. Backus Museum in historic downtown Fort Pierce in St. Lucie county.

One of America's most recognized lifestyle experts, Oosterhouse will be on hand Saturday talking about green building, tips for making your home more environmentally friendly, his experiences working with HGTV, and signing autographs. You can also win a chance to meet Oosterhouse

at a special VIP private party – simply purchase your festival tickets in advance at [www.artoflivinggreen.org](http://www.artoflivinggreen.org).

But that's not all you'll find at this family-friendly celebration featuring workshops, exhibitors and activities focused on greener living.

Come learn how to attract harmony and success using feng shui principles from *Awaken Your Space*, find a purse made from recycled tires at High Road's exhibit and taste mouthwatering organic chocolates from Faith, Hope and Chocolate. Sip Tea and Chi's organic tea, see a Healthy Gourmet cooking demonstration and learn about hydroponic gardening from Decker Farms. You can even pick up something for your four-legged friend at Mr. Barksmith Healthy Dog Treats.

You might even leave with a premiere, one-of-a-kind eco-art project, an eighteen-foot sculpture designed by renowned artist Patrick Cochran. The sculpture will be constructed over the two-day event from discarded pieces of metal or aluminum visitors to the festival are asked to bring. The completed work of art will be auctioned off after the event.

### See the HGTV 2009 Green Home Site

St. Lucie is also the site of HGTV's second annual "green" home, now being constructed in Tradition, a dynamic master-planned community conveniently located off of Interstate 95. One lucky winner will receive the fully-furnished, custom-built 2009 HGTV Green Home during a giveaway from April 17 to June 5, 2009. But you can drive by the site now and see the house being constructed.

Located on one of the main thoroughfares of the community, the 2,430-square-foot custom home has a Spanish contemporary style and features sustainable site development, indoor environmental quality, energy efficiency and innovative design.

The HGTV Green home will be registered to receive certification from LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the recognized standard in measuring building sustainability from the U.S. Green Building Council.

### Explore A Premier Florida Eco-Tourist Destination

The festival and green home are the newest additions to St. Lucie's eco-friendly heritage.

A premier Florida eco-tourism destination, St. Lucie is blessed with a variety of natural resources, including 21 miles of pristine coastal habitat, a portion of the Indian River Lagoon, designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as the most bio-diverse estuary in North America, and the north fork of the St. Lucie River, an environmental preserve with more species of fish than any other river in Florida.

The Oxbow Eco-Center is the perfect "green" place to view some of these habits. Located on a 225-acre preserve along the St. Lucie River, the Oxbow was built to sustain native wildlife, using trails, bridges, boardwalks and observation towers so that visitors can fully experience nature yet not disrupt it. Explore three miles of trail twisting through pine forests and

hammocks on your own or on a guided tour with a naturalist.

You can also enjoy the Oxbow's observation towers, canoe dock and a nature center. The nature center offers educational exhibits and a host of activities and events for all ages, including the annual Earth Day Celebration, Lecture Series and Nature at Night programs.

The center itself was built using green building technologies including solar panels, passive light design, recycled as well as recyclable materials. The floors were made of salvaged pine trees from the St. Johns River that were lost during the early logging days. Water for toilet flushing is captured from rainfall through its cistern system. A model for sustainability, The Oxbow Center, is a "must do" for any eco-traveler.

St. Lucie was fortunate to be able to preserve over half of its 21 miles of oceanfront beaches. This coastal area offers one of the few places in south Florida where you can walk for a mile or two without a condo in sight. Here you can also watch baby sea turtles enter the world. Guided by moonlight, beautiful sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs, bury them safely in the sand to hatch and go back out to sea. Just make sure you don't get too close! St. Lucie has fenced off these protected areas so that sea turtles will continue to visit for generations to come.

You also won't want to miss the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit at the St. Lucie County Marine Center. This constantly changing exhibit features plants and animals culled from the over 4,000 species in the Indian River Lagoon. You can get a first-hand look at the exhibit's nearly 8,000 gallons of aquariums and its touch tank.

St. Lucie's calm waters also make it the ideal spot for manatees. Moore's Creek on the Indian River is a great place for to look for these lovable creatures. No visit would be complete, either, without a trip to the Manatee Observation & Education Center, where you can also catch scenic pontoon boat trip.

In fact, whether you want to dolphin watch or observe an alligator up close and personal, St. Lucie offers the best scenic tours around. The River Lilly, based in Port St. Lucie, offers a taste of what natural Florida is all about on the St. Lucie River. Common sightings are alligators, turtles and birds. If it's dolphins you are looking for, try the Dolphin Watch Tour.

