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Saunders Yachtworks' Gulf Shores Boatyard Receives Environmental Award

Gulf Shores, Ala. – April 23, 2012 – Saunders Yachtworks' new boatyard is getting environmental accolades even before it has hauled the first boat. White-Spinner Construction Inc., and the entire construction team have been recognized by the Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP) with an Environmental Stewardship award for their significant and positive impact on the Alabama Gulf Coast economically, socially and environmentally.

PEP is a non-profit organization that exists to provide an opportunity for individuals and companies to join with others in promoting the need for business growth while enhancing the environment and quality of life. The group presented the award to White-Spinner, Saunders Yachtworks, and Clark, Geer, Latham & Associates at the 8th Annual PEP Environmental Stewardship Awards ceremony held on April 17, 2012, at the 5 Rivers Delta Center in Spanish Fort, Ala.

“We worked diligently with White-Spinner; Clark, Geer, Latham & Associates; and the city of Gulf Shores to plan and execute our boatyard project,” Saunders President and CEO John Fitzgerald said. We believe the construction period is just the beginning of the positive impact on the local economy and our commitment is to hold ourselves to high environmental standards.”

The 14-acre site includes a 15,000-square-foot headquarters building with administrative offices, service shop and warehouse; a 3.5-acre service and transient basin; and a dock shop to support below-waterline hardware service and equipment storage. Additionally, a fully enclosed works building for indoor projects is underway and will be complete by September 2012. Six acres remain available for future expansion and development.

“Our facility is equipped with a specially designed work pad for wash water recycling that recaptures 100 percent of the effluents from the cleaning process,” Fitzgerald said. “We also recycle all metals; used oil and coolant; and paper products. Anyone who has visited our yard in Orange Beach knows that being squeaky clean and very organized is a Saunders tradition that we are committed to maintain in our expansion.”

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In addition to on-site recycling, the construction of the Saunders facility allowed for the restoration of a neglected man-made ditch that was causing sediment to flow into the coastal waters, as well as the installation of rip rap along the ICW to help control erosion.

The Saunders family has been in the marine service business since 1959 and has operated Yachtworks at Orange Beach Marina since 1995. The company has a brand-new boatyard and basin in Gulf Shores, Ala., and offers a full array of mechanical services, vessel systems installation and repair and boatyard crafts.

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Cutline (L-R): Scott Carrier of Clark, Geer, Latham & Associates; John Fitzgerald of Saunders Yachtworks; and Seth Smith of White-Spinner Construction