

FLORIDA GREEN BUILDING

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LED LIGHTS

A Bright Idea

GEOHERMAL HVAC

Gains Ground

CONSERVE WATER

with Smart Landscape Design



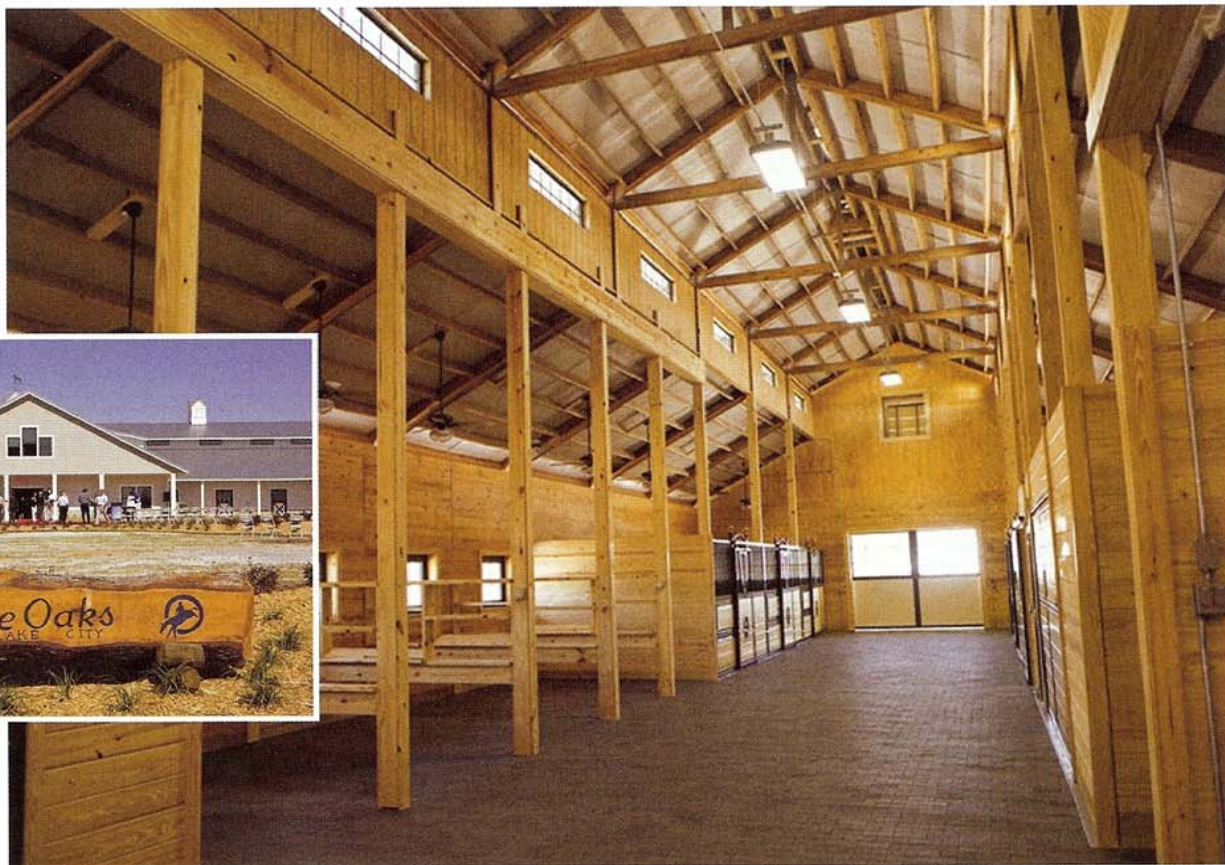
PLUS:

Project Spotlights

Green Building Update

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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Where the Grass Really is Greener

The Oaks Equestrian Center of Lake City, Fla., sets standard for sustainability

THE OAKS EQUESTRIAN CENTER

received a five-star rating from Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Equestrian Facility Program.

The Oaks of Lake City, Fla., is a horse enthusiast's dream. Located near the Osceola National Forest, this community planned by Dicks Realty includes over 1,200 acres, more than 15 miles of looped riding trails, a cross-country course (custom designed by Olympian David O'Connor), and a top-of-the-line 33-stall barn, among other amenities.

Residents of The Oaks enjoy peaceful trail rides through acres of tall oak trees, after which they turn their horse over to groomers and stable hands so they can enjoy refreshments with neighbors who have also just returned from the trails. In addition, they sleep peacefully at night knowing that their equestrian facility is the epitome of sustainability, having received a five-star rating from Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Equestrian Facility Program,

as well as the Seal of Sustainability from the International Sustainability Council.

The Audubon Lifestyles Equestrian Facility Program was a collaborative effort between Audubon Lifestyles, Equestrian Services LLC and the International Sustainability Council to help equestrian facilities' owners and managers adopt economic, environmental, and socially responsible best practices.

"Jennifer and Michael Donovan, owners of Equestrian Services LLC came to us looking for assistance in creating a program that would offer sustainability standards for equestrian facilities, and that is how the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Equestrian Facility Program got started," says R. Eric Dodson of Audubon Lifestyles, based in Palm Harbor, Fla. "The Oaks Equestrian Center, which they manage, became a



SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES *The Oaks Equestrian Center incorporates recycled materials in the facility's construction and natural lighting in the barns.*

pilot member in 2008, and really set the bar for creating the standards of this program. The Donovans' knowledge in equestrian-facility management is unsurpassed, and allowed us to develop the most comprehensive sustainably-based equestrian facility program in existence today."

The Audubon Lifestyles Equestrian Program requires that facilities develop a Nutrient Management Plan, all persons under the age of 18 wear approved helmets, horses have access to clean fresh water at all times, only non-barbed-wire fencing is used where horses are contained, and proof is provided of negative Coggins tests for all horses. In addition, a facility must adopt an Equestrian Facility Sustainability Charter to publicly display its intent to run and manage the facility sustainably. And lastly, the facility must complete a sustainability audit specifically designed for equestrian facilities.

The audit provides facilities with opportunities to meet and exceed minimum requirements in the following categories: Economics & Business, Horse Care & Safety, Facility & Operations, Environmental, and Outreach & Education. Upon completion of the audit, the equestrian facility will be awarded a rating of up to five stars.

A few of the line items for which the audit awards points include design features that encourage use of natural lighting, such as windows in the barn door, skylights, etc.; incorporating recycled

materials in the barn's construction; trails designed to minimize erosion; horse manure that is stored more than 200 feet from any wetland or water body and is composted and reused as fertilizer in appropriate locations; wildlife corridors between pastures; native vegetation used in landscaping; and porous pavement in parking areas.

Any facility awarded a three-star rating or higher will also receive the International Sustainability Council Seal of Sustainability. The Seal of Sustainability means that the facility has adopted and put into place recognized Best Management Practices that equal environmental superiority, social responsibility, and economic viability. The Seal of Sustainability is the hallmark of excellence, not only regarding the facility itself, but in regard to the actual equestrian experience for individuals that enjoy equestrian activities, and symbolizes excellence in the care of the horses residing in those facilities.

"When we created Equestrian Services LLC nearly 10 years ago, we understood that through the implementation of innovative planning ideas, conservation and development could effectively coexist," says Jennifer Donovan.

This community built around the horse enthusiast proves that they were right. The success of the Oaks Equestrian Center shows what can happen when organizations work together out of a shared appreciation for sustainable practices. 🌍

When we created Equestrian Services nearly 10 years ago, we understood that conservation and development could coexist.

CENTER FEATURES

The 76-acre Oaks Equestrian Center was designed by equestrians for equestrians, and includes the following features:

- Thirty-three 12' x 14' stalls by Classic Equine
- Four wash stalls
- Three feed rooms
- Three hay rooms
- Two boarder tack rooms
- One lesson tack room with a revolving tack wall
- Six grooming/tacking stations
- Vet/farrier station
- Storage rooms
- Office and merchandising area
- Sixty-five acres of pasture
- Eleven-acre cross-country course
- Sixty-two-foot covered round pen
- One 120' x 220' covered arena with lounge
- One 150' x 250' outdoor arena
- Promat flooring systems in the stalls
- Rubber equine pavers in the aiseways from Abacus Sports
- Padenpor coating in the wash stalls
- Customized O'Connor stablewares
- Equine lighting by Orion West
- Custom tack lockers
- Black four-board rail fencing from LifeTime Lumber
- Automatic Nelson waterers in the stalls and pastures
- Competition-quality footings by Attwood Equestrian Surfaces
- Hay shed designed to store 1,000 bales of hay for ensured availability
- Equipment shed
- Manure shed
- Manager's residence