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Island Green Living Association taps Dawn Henry as interim CEO, announces annual Earth Month raffle

By SARA KIRKPATRICK Daily News Staff
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A seven-night stay at The Beach Villa from Artistic Villas on St. John will be the grand prize for this year's Earth Month Raffle, supporting Island Green Living.

Non-profit Island Green Living Association has tapped the expertise of Dawn Lisa Henry, Esq. as interim CEO.

Henry was elected to the Island Green Living board in 2024 and serves as vice president.

She brings a wealth of experience, as former Commissioner of Department of Planning and Natural Resources she led over 200 employees and managed a budget of approximately \$30 million, and is highly informed and deeply committed to environmental concerns across the territory.

As interim CEO she will oversee the day-to-day operations while searching for a permanent administrator.

“There is no one more knowledgeable or dedicated to the environmental wellbeing, and with that the health and welfare of the community, than Dawn,” Harith Wickrema, president of Island Green Living, said in a press release. “We are fortunate that she is able to commit to a leadership role overseeing operations while she guides strategy over the next few months. Her allegiance to Island Green’s sustainable programming, and interest in expanding the protection of the environment, food security and economic wellbeing, with far reaching education and community engagement in the territory, promise to take the organization to the next level.”

“One of the most urgent environmental challenges we face is plastic pollution,” Henry said in the release. “Virgin Islanders deserve clear, accessible information about the environmental and health impacts plastics pose. I believe that Healthy People Build Healthy Environments, and that education is the foundation for informed choices, healthier families, and a more resilient Virgin Islands.”

Born in the territory, Henry received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma School of Law and returned home, where she practiced environmental law for over 20 years.

As DPNR Commissioner, one of her primary responsibilities was serving as an environmental steward for the territory, including the Division of Environmental Protection, Coastal Zone Management, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

She championed the plastic bag ban and served in a leadership capacity on the Commissioners' Debris Management Team, helping to develop a debris management plan to address the territory's green waste following the devastation of the 2017 hurricanes.

She also advocated for sustainable alternatives to air curtain incineration and authored legislation aimed at broader reforms in waste collection and management.

Henry currently leads Nehemiah Project, LLC, an environmental consultancy, and Virgin Islands Environmental Association, another environmental non-profit, and serves as Senior Advisor to the nonprofit Beyond Plastics.

Earth Month Raffle

Island Green Living also announced the start of their annual Earth Month raffle, a fundraiser to support their recycling program and sustainability initiatives.

Raffle entrants have an opportunity to win an amazing seven-night "Love City Grand Prize Vacation" for 2 to 10 guests, valued at more than \$16,000.

Accommodations will be at the five-bedroom beachfront Beach Villa by Artistic Villas, a beautifully designed tropical retreat including a private pool, garden and direct beach access, donated by board member Donald Schnell and his wife, Deborah.

"Thanks to Deborah and Donald Schnell for donating their exceptional oceanfront Beach Villa, the USVI Department of Tourism, and all our incredible partners," Wickrema said in a press release. "The theme of this year's Earth Day is 'Our Power, Our Planet,' and these entities have come together to truly support and empower Island Green's initiatives to make the territory – and the planet – a better place."

The Earth Month "Love City Grand Prize Vacation" includes:

- Seven-night stay in St. John for up to 10 guests at The Beach Villa from Artistic Villas, compliments of proprietors Deborah & Donald Schnell. This artfully designed beachfront masterpiece offers five bedrooms, a quaint pool in a garden setting, and a generous patio area for everyone to easily gather.
- Airfare voucher up to \$2,000, sponsored by the US Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
- 4-Door Jeep Wrangler rental for one week, compliments of Seashell Vacations, a local family-owned company known for sharing the very best of St. John. Courtesy of Curtis Penn



- Private boat charter experience valued at \$900 (fuel not included), also compliments of the unmatched Seashell Vacations
- Rejuvenating 60-minute Swedish massage at Crandall Massage, located within Mongoose Junction, courtesy Meagen Crandall
- Dining
 - Private Chef Dinner in the Villa for up to 6 guests, prepared by celebrated Chef Vincent Alterio of St. John Speakeasy (alcohol and gratuity NOT included, but upgrades are available)
 - \$150 at Ocean 362, offering locally sourced, exceptional “island to table” cuisine and stunning sunset views, located in the heart of Cruz Bay

- \$100 at The Longboard, serving Caribbean-inspired cuisine including local seafood and vegetarian dishes in the heart of Cruz Bay
- \$100 at Morgan's Mango, exceptional Caribbean Seafood restaurant offering a relaxed, seaside setting in Cruz Bay
- Shopping at Bamboula, located in Mongoose Junction, with a \$100 certificate good toward their eclectic inventory of ethnic art, music, instruments, home decor, clothing and accessories
- Voluntourism opportunity & private tour at Island Green Living's ReSource Depot.

This year there will be a second prize opportunity, offering an Adventure & Shopping Experience, valued at \$1,335, and available to those who purchase three or more entries. The prize includes:

- Zipline for 4, compliments of Tree Limin' Extreme! Perched high above Magens Bay on St. Thomas, the zipline tour takes guests on a one-of-a-kind journey through the rainforest of St. Peter Mountain
- Sailing credit of \$250 to be used toward any available sail on Kekoa, recipient of Trip Advisor's 2020 Travelers Choice Award
- \$200 at La Tapa Plage, serving contemporary Mediterranean cuisine with its own personal interpretation, located beachside in Wharfside Village, Cruz Bay
- \$100 gift certificate at Salt and Strand, located next to the Cruz Bay Landing, offering women's clothing, home decor and local art
- St. John Sailsack Co. handcrafted bag, valued at \$229

Additionally, there will be a bonus Early Bird drawing for a Private Wine Tasting Experience in Bovoni, St. Thomas, for up to eight, valued at \$500, is exclusively available for those who purchase chances by April 20. The winners remain eligible for all other prizes.

Earth Month Raffle entries are priced at \$50 a chance, three for \$125, six for \$250, or 30 “Golden Ticket” chances for \$1,000.

To enter, visit Island Green’s Earth Month Raffle page: bit.ly/3O8LckJ, and choose the number of tickets desired. Entrants will receive a confirmation email following.

The raffle period ends at 11:55 p.m. on Monday, May 11. The winner will be randomly drawn and announced via Facebook in mid-May and the winner will be notified by email.

All raffle proceeds go toward Island Green’s programming including St. John’s only ocean-bound plastics and aluminum recycling, as well as community education and other sustainability initiatives.



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