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**WALTON COUNTY TDC WELCOMES THREE OUTFITTERS  
TO THE NATURE BASED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

**WALTON COUNTY, Fla. – (Oct. 15, 2009)** – With more than 40 percent of land protected from future development, Beaches of South Walton offers visitors and residents opportunities to experience the area’s pristine natural lands through the Nature Based Certification Program. The Nature Based Certification Program provides a resource for businesses to gain the necessary information to provide an accurate natural experience. The Walton County Tourist Development Council (TDC) adds three new businesses to the respected list of outfitters. The new additions include Sean Coppedge of Emerald Coast Outdoor Adventures; Snookie Parrish of Go Native Tours with Snookie; and Karl Renelt of Into the Wild.

“The program affords nature based businesses to implement environmentally sound practices that contribute to the conservation, protection and enjoyment of the area’s natural resources,” said Sonny Mares, Walton County TDC executive director.

Nature Based Certified Outfitters must complete the Master Naturalist Program through the University of Florida, which provides facts and knowledge on the natural areas of Walton County. These individuals dedicate many hours to educational workshops and hands on learning to ensure guests have a unique experience beyond the beach.

Three new and well trained individuals join the Nature Based Certified Outfitters. Into the Wild offers interpretive nature tours and programs. Karl Renelt utilizes several platforms to access nature including biking, hiking, kayaking, and sailing on a Hobie 16 to provide the visitor with the ultimate outdoor experience.

Go Native Tours with Snookie provides interpretive hiking, biking and walking tours of Walton County. On a guided tour with horticulturist Snookie Parrish, outdoor enthusiasts will explore natural habitats as she identifies plants and trees indigenous to Beaches of South Walton.

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Emerald Coast Outdoor Adventures brings a new adventure to the collection of outfitters by offering guided ecotours to include kayaking, bird watching, swimming, snorkeling, and more. Tour guide, Sean Coppage has been diving, kayaking and exploring Walton County for more than 15 years. With his education and experience, Michael focuses on providing small personalized tours to accommodate what the customer wants to experience. From freshwater river and creeks to rare coastal dune lakes and the Gulf of Mexico, Emerald Coast Outdoor Adventures offers multiple interpretive water tours.

The new members join an elite group of Nature Based Certified Outfitters consisting of environmentalists, historians and tour operators. These businesses include Big Daddy's Bike and Beach, Blue Sky Kayak Tours, Choctawhatchee Delta Tours, DESTINATION Management, LC, Glendale Memorial Preserve, Island Winds Sailing, Not a Dog Charters, Shaping Florida, Sundancer Adventures, Terrie Cosson and Wetland Wilderness Adventures.

“We refer these businesses with confidence, knowing that each of them provide a premiere experience to our guests,” said Vicki Kitahara, Walton County TDC new product manager.

For more information on Nature Based Certified Outfitters, contact Vicki Kitahara at (850) 267-1216 or [vkiahara@beachessouthwalton.com](mailto:vkiahara@beachessouthwalton.com).

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