



Contact: Caroline Kerrigan, Quinn & Co., 212-868-1900 x253; ckerrigan@quinnandco.com

## **Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort Invites Families to Celebrate 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day with Free Eco-Educational Activities**

### **Resort Focuses on Littlest Green Guests April 10-24: All Kids' Activities Will Highlight Marco Island Ecosystem**

Marco Island, FL – April 1, 2010 – Earth Day (April 22) is the date when Americans unite to help make a difference and promote an eco-friendly lifestyle. In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day (April 22), Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort is helping to instill green values at an early age by offering complimentary eco-education for kids and families April 10-24, 2010. Tiki Tribe kids' club attendants will host a daily free 30-60 minute activity focused on unique aspects of Marco Island's native ecosystem, i.e. Dolphin Mondays, Sea Turtle Tuesdays, etc. Parents and the children will have fun learning Marco Island eco-facts; for example: when sea turtles lay eggs, up to 100 at a time, the temperature of the sand determines whether the turtles are male or female. The majority of the Earth Day program will take place on the pristine beach so participants will be enveloped in the local environment as they learn.

"One of the pillars that we live by is a reverence for nature," said General Manager Rick Medwedeff. "Educating our guests about the wonders that thrive on our beautiful beaches and Gulf waters is only part of it. Our efforts are protecting the environment for the next generation, so we designed our Earth Day programs to focus on children."

Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort became certified One Palm in October 2008 as part of the Florida *Green Lodging* Certification Program by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The *Green Lodging* Certification Program establishes environmental guidelines for hotels to conserve natural resources and prevent pollution. Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort utilizes energy-efficient windows and doors, green-friendly paint, fluorescent lighting and LED lighting, as well as temperature controls. Both the resort property and The Rookery at Marco Island golf course employ light level meters and a computer-monitored energy management system.

The premier resort practices green-friendly initiatives throughout the property from using all low-flow faucets, shower heads and toilets to cleaning linens every three days or by request. A state-of-the-art laundry system uses 30% less water, electricity and gas. The food and beverage outlets are R12 freon-free and recycle all glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, metal and tin containers, as well as used grease. In-house printing (if at all!) is done on two-sided paper. Out of all the paper goods on property, over 60% is made up of 30% post-consumer recycled goods. All of the food and beverage outlets provide plastic cups made out of corn products and are completely biodegradable. Since February 2008, Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort has produced over 360 tons of recycled goods.

Green travelers can make reservations by visiting [www.marcoislandmarriott.com](http://www.marcoislandmarriott.com) or calling 800-GET-HERE. Kids can participate in full-day or half-day Tiki Tribe activities for \$70 (including lunch) and \$40 per child, respectively. Resort nightly rates start at \$XXX.\*

Nestled on three miles of pristine southwest Florida white sand beaches, Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort is the perfect island within an island escape. Caressed by tropical breezes and inspired by a Balinese sense of harmony, balance and hospitality, this is simply, paradise found. From the magnificent new Quinn's Pool, surrounded by lush landscaping and outdoor dining and meeting spaces, to our elegant spa, private resort Rookery Golf Course, and our luxurious rooms and lanai suites that overlook the dazzling Gulf of Mexico, Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort is the sanctuary for relaxation, rejuvenation, discovery and play. Our attentive concierge service,

choice of shopping, dining and recreational activities makes Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort the choice for unforgettable family vacations and memorable business meetings.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, Inc. (NYSE:MAR) is a leading lodging company with more than 3,100 lodging properties in 66 countries and territories. Marriott International operates and franchises hotels under the *Marriott*, *JW Marriott*, *The Ritz-Carlton*, *Renaissance*, *Residence Inn*, *Courtyard*, *TownePlace Suites*, *Fairfield Inn*, *SpringHill Suites* and *Bulgari* brand names; develops and operates vacation ownership resorts under the *Marriott Vacation Club*, *Horizons by Marriott Vacation Club*, *The Ritz-Carlton Club* and *Grand Residences by Marriott* brands; operates *Marriott Executive Apartments*; provides furnished corporate housing through its *Marriott ExecuStay* division; and operates conference centers. The company is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, USA and had approximately 146,000 employees at 2008 year-end. It is recognized by *BusinessWeek* as one of the 100 best global brands, by *FORTUNE®* as one of the best companies to work for, and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as Partner of the Year since 2004. In fiscal year 2008, Marriott International reported sales from continuing operations of nearly \$13 billion. For more information or reservations, please visit our web site at [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com).

\* Based on availability, does not include tax or surcharges.

###