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Local News

January 30, 2013

Americus Inn B&B receives choice recognition

Mia Anderson
The Americus Times-Recorder

AMERICUS — By doing what we southerners do best — offering great hospitality — the Americus Garden Inn Bed & Breakfast has again landed on the list of top inns in America.

Innkeeper Susan Egelseer says there's no secret to receiving the Travelers' Choice Award, which is based on guests' reviews.

"It's about loving people," she said. "For us it's not just about a bed, or just about a breakfast, it's just about true hospitality."

Egelseer and her husband Kim opened the inn 10 years ago and have received the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice award six of the past seven years. In 2010, they made the list of top bed and breakfasts/inns in the world. This year they ranked eighth on the list of best bed and breakfasts and inns in the United States.

The Egelseers were living in Tampa when they decided they wanted to leave the hustle and bustle of the city. They searched the country for the perfect location. As it happened the inn located near historic Rees Park was on the market.

"Somehow this was the one," said Susan Egelseer. "I truly believe we end up where we are supposed to be."

Egelseer describes the house, built in 1847, as a treasure. She believes treasures should be shared with others, not hidden away.

"Kim and I both love making people happy," she said. "It's all about service to others."

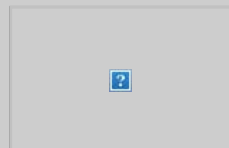
The Egelseers arrived in Americus seeking a lifestyle change and running an inn was a new venture for them too. Now they have an award-winning inn with loyal guests and new friends from around the world.

"I don't think we knew how gratifying it would be," Egelseer said.

Running the inn allows the couple to spend more time together, but she says it's liking having a baby that needs constant care. Between taking care of guests, tending to the garden and upkeep of the house, they rarely get to travel. But the world comes to their doorstep.

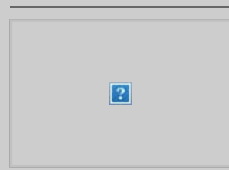
They have welcomed guests from around

Related Photos



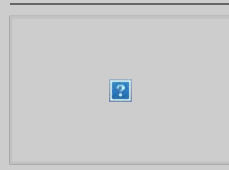
The Americus Garden Inn Bed & Breakfast is located in the historic Rees Park area of Americus. The rock arch in the front yard was a water fountain built in the 1920s. For the sixth year, the inn has received the TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award as one of the best bed and breakfasts in the United States.

Mia Anderson



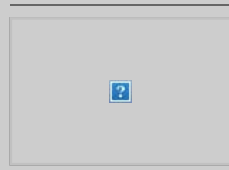
A small koi pond offers a serene spot between the house and the driveway. 'What makes our home special is we have a gorgeous garden to share with our guests,' said innkeeper Susan Egelseer.

Mia Anderson



Guests can unwind in the parlor on the first floor of the inn while listening to the player piano. Innkeeper Susan Egelseer said she and her husband enjoy making people happy. 'It's about loving people,' she said. 'For us it's not just about a bed, or just about a breakfast, it's just about true hospitality.'

Mia Anderson



A three-course breakfast is served in the home's original dining room. The meal includes freshly baked bread or pastries, a fruit course, and a hot entrée served with the 'pancake of the day.' Innkeeper Susan Egelseer says she went to the 'Culinary Institute of Grandma' and has always loved to bake. The inn serves its own blend of roasted coffee from Café Campesino. Drinks and snacks are available 24 hours a day in the dining room.

Mia Anderson

The house was built in 1847, and features unique architectural details. There are two bedrooms on the main floor and five more suites upstairs. Each room includes a king- or queen-size bed, cable TV/VCR with on-site movie collection, wireless high-speed Internet service and other amenities such as telephone, hairdryer, radio alarm clock, iron and

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the country as well as Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom, China and Japan.

"I had no idea how many wonderful friends I would make," she said. "We have met some really amazing people."

Some of their guests are people seeking a getaway close to home. Egelseer said the way people travel has changed in the last few years, especially when the economy made a down turn. Also, many people have family obligations such as caring for older parents or children that prevent them from leaving home for a long period of time. Because of those things, people are not planning trips as far in advance; they aren't spending as much money on travel, and they are looking for places close to home.

"They really need a break, but they don't know how to do it," Egelseer said.

As an example, she said there was a couple from Albany who came to spend a couple of nights at the inn.

"They feel like they are a world away," she said. "But, they are close to home in case something happens that they need to take care of."

She said they also receive guests who are in town visiting family and friends, who might not have room in their home to accommodate guests.

"They want a place that feels like family, not a hotel," she said. "Here they feel pampered. It's a safe, quiet place for them to stay. They can visit with family during the day then return to their own quiet space for the night."

They also welcome business travelers and offer a meeting room for small groups.

During the past decade, the couple has continued to refine and expand what they provide at the inn. Egelseer said the tornado in 2007 offered them an interesting twist that she calls an opportunity.

They lost 30 trees in the storm that caused much devastation in the area. Their 1.3-acre lot looked barren, so they hired a landscape architect to help them design a garden.

Now the yard features a path winding its way through a variety of shrubs, fig and persimmon trees, a large stand of bamboo and colorful flowerbeds. Tucked in one corner is a rock water fountain built in the 1920s. In the nook between the house and the driveway there is a small koi pond. And, the swing in the backyard gazebo is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the beauty of the garden.

"What makes our home special is we have a gorgeous garden to share with our guests," said Egelseer.

The couple is appreciative of their guests who share their experiences on the TripAdvisor website.

"It is easy to be a great host when you have great guests," she said. "We want to do something to make their lives better for the short while they are here."

For more information about the Americus Garden Inn Bed & Breakfast, visit www.americusgardeninn.com



ironing board. Some rooms include a private balcony, garden tub, kitchen and veranda access.

Submitted Photo

During the 2007 tornado the Egelseers lost 30 trees on their property. They looked at the loss as an opportunity to fully develop the garden, which now features a path winding its way through a variety of shrubs, trees and flower beds. The swing in the gazebo is a relaxing spot to enjoy the beauty of the garden.

Mia Anderson

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Local News

House Ads

Special BOE election set for March 18

January 28, 2014

Winter weather

Preparations were being made Monday and Tuesday as this area of the state, along with others, were under a winter weather warning. The National Weather Service (NWS) at Peachtree City was predicting freezing rain and sleet beginning in this area Tuesday afternoon with a strong possibility of snow after midnight.

January 28, 2014 1 Photo

Triwood Inc. to add 15 new jobs

The Americus-Sumter County Payroll Development Authority (PDA) joined with Triwood Inc. on Monday to announce the creation of new jobs for Americus and Sumter County.

January 28, 2014 3 Photos

Public invited to celebrate Presidents' Day with Carters

What better way to celebrate Presidents' Day than a visit from a former President and First Lady of the United States?

January 28, 2014 1 Photo

Transportation

January 29, 2014 1 Photo

Staley Middle School holds Fifth-Grade Career Day

Fifth graders at Staley Middle School were privileged to learn about a variety of careers during Career Day held recently.

January 29, 2014 2 Photos

Roller coasters

January 29, 2014 1 Photo

Sumter sheriff gives update

January 29, 2014

Winter weather warning still in effect until 1 p.m. Wednesday

January 29, 2014

Get geared up for Great Backyard Bird Count!

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, bird watchers from more than 100 countries are expected to participate in the 17th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), Feb. 14-17. Anyone anywhere in the world can count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter their sightings at www.BirdCount.org.


January 28, 2014

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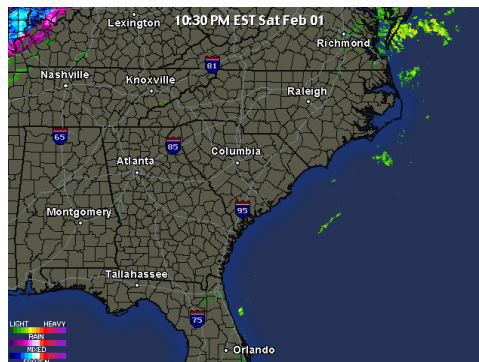
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ARE WE READY?

Preparing for, responding to natural disasters



Audio: How can we better prepare for tornadoes?

An NPR broadcast examines the question of how communities can better prepare for tornadoes like the one that struck Moore, Okla. on Monday. The broadcast features commentary from Michael Fitzgerald, who reported a five-part disaster series for the CNHI News Service.

May 22, 2013 1 Photo

[Photos: Aftermath of massive tornado in Moore](#)

[The Big One: Preparing for mid-America earthquake](#)

Complete Report:

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