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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Sabal Trust Hires New Principal**

*Local employee-owned trust company hires Gerry Lachnicht for The Villages office*

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** (March 8, 2011) – Sabal Trust Company, the largest employee-owned trust company in Florida, recently announced that Gerry Lachnicht has been hired as a principal and portfolio manager for the firm's office in The Villages.

Prior to joining Sabal Trust, Lachnicht worked as a private wealth portfolio manager for Keating Investment Counselors, Inc. in Delray Beach, Fla. Before that, he worked as an investment analyst for BFC Financial Corporation, a publicly traded holding company with controlling interests in BankAtlantic Bancorp and Woodbridge Holdings Corporation. He also served as a voting member of BankAtlantic's 401(k) Investment Committee.

"We're excited to welcome Gerry to Sabal Trust," said Ward Curtis, chairman and CEO of Sabal Trust. "He brings with him extensive experience as a professional in finance and investments that will provide significant value to our customers in The Villages."

Lachnicht is a chartered financial analyst (CFA) and was an active member of the CFA Society of South Florida until resigning in early 2011 to join Sabal Trust. He served as a member of the board of directors in various society roles, including president. Lachnicht has also taught undergraduate courses in Corporate Finance and Investment Analysis as an adjunct professor for Florida Atlantic University and has volunteered for Junior Achievement.

**About Sabal Trust Company**

Sabal Trust Company, the largest employee-owned trust company in Florida, provides investment management, trust, and other services to individuals, corporations and not-for-profit organizations. Sabal Trust Company and our predecessor companies trace our history to 1983. Sabal Trust Company has offices in St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Tampa, and The Villages, Florida.

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