

Pine Creek Sporting Club puts modern spin on old hunting lodge

By Jennifer Schroeder

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OKEECHOBEE — Pine Creek Sporting Club, nestled among the live oaks and nature trails 15 minutes north of Okeechobee, successfully blends champion clays and wing shooting with a simple, ranch lifestyle.

So far, Pine Creek has drawn a prestigious list of founding members, including golfing greats Jack Nicklaus and Nick Price, as well as retired New York Giants football player Tucker Fredrickson, famed custom shotgun maker Tullio Fabbri, as well as noted outdoorsmen Stephen E. Myers and Stephen Myers, Jr.

"My father and Tucker own a 5,000-acre ranch called the Flying G located outside Okeechobee," Stephen Myers, Jr. said. "We know how much money it takes to run a ranch. So, we wanted to offer the ranch lifestyle without the expenses. That's the Pine Creek concept.

"Jack (Nicklaus) and Nick (Price) are friends and true outdoorsmen. We told them about the concept and they were happy to jump on board."

Construction on the 2,400-acre, 70-home hunting and shooting community began a little more than two years ago.

"Pine Creek is a sportsman's paradise," Price said. "Stephen Myers has created a nirvana for all who love the outdoors, and I am proud to be a member. It is one of the finest facilities I have ever had the privilege of shooting at."

For John Reynolds, director of membership, Pine Creek is showing people a side of Florida they may not have known existed and it's all within driving distance of the most popular destinations in the state.

"People on the coast don't really know that the majority of land we have here (in Florida) is ranch land," Reynolds said. "We are the second-largest cow producing state behind Texas. People feel like they have left the state when they come here."

Preserving that land and the ranch way of life are both priorities, said Myers Jr., when talking about how available hunting areas are rapidly disappearing.

"The reason my father and Tucker bought the Flying G was because the land they normally hunted was sold," he said. "We want to see the land remain and be passed

down from generation to generation."

For 50 years, the land Pine Creek now occupies was a quail ranch owned by the Rollins family. Myers said the land has changed little with the completion of the club.

PINE CREEK SPORTING CLUB

WHERE: 23721 N.E. 48th Ave., Okeechobee

TOTAL ACREAGE: 2,424

TOTAL HOMES: 70

THE DEVELOPER: Pine Creek Sporting Club LLC, whose principal owners are Stephen E. Myers and Stephen Myers Jr.

FOUNDING MEMBERS: Stephen E. Myers, Stephen Myers, Jr., Jack W. Nicklaus, Nick Price, Tucker Frederickson and Tullio Fabbri.

MEMBERSHIPS: Members must own land and their membership is included.

CABIN OPTION: 23 cabins built around a 5-acre lake.

RANCH OPTION: Minimum 40-acre plots.

AMENITIES: Quail fields and dedicated common areas, guided quail and wild hog hunts, white tail deer and turkey hunting on ranch owners own property, member's Lodge, four guest suits, club concierge and staff available, Nicklaus signature putting green, shooting sports, sporting clays course and five-stand designed by Mick Howells, rifle and pistol range, trap field, high tower for tower shooting, simulated quail flush course, equestrian program, 10-horse stables, bridle paths, paddock, dog kennels, aviary, helipad, nature trails and canoe trails, recreational field, oak hammock tree house, toy barn, volleyball, swimming pool and bocce courts.

LOCATION: State Road 68 and U.S. 441, 20 miles west of the Orange Avenue (SR 68) I-95 exit in Fort Pierce.

INFORMATION: 561-346-9365.



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