

## Editorial

# Cherokee club could be boost for new ACE jobs

The ACE Basin has paid dividends in a big way with the sale of Cherokee Plantation to British businessman Peter de Savary for \$13 million.

The plantation should provide about 100 jobs when it opens as a luxury retreat in November, 1999.

Walterboro broker Calvert Huffines calls the sale the largest ever of residential property between New York and Miami and says it's a victory for environmentally-friendly development of the ACE Basin, one of the best preserved wetlands in the United States.

Certainly Mr. de Savary's project has success written all over it. The Cherokee club will be modeled after similar retreats he has established in Scotland and London. Plans for a golf course on the site have been called by the U.S. Golf Association as the finest its staff has seen in 20 years.

The importance of the ACE Basin has often been misunderstood by some Colleton County residents. But it remains a nationally-known preservation effort that, obviously, is now attracting international attention.

Mr. de Savary's ambitious undertaking is quite remarkable in its own right. But the real advantage is that his retreat will bring additional interest in the ACE Basin through word of mouth and through affluent businesspeople and celebrities who will come to Colleton County for vacation and to network with others at Cherokee.

That could mean further substantial investment in the county because of the ACE Basin. And growth could happen much faster than even the most optimistic of observers thought possible.

## Deal

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has no intention to subdivide the property into lots.

De Savary's purchase gives him and his guests access to a wide variety of outdoor recreation. Cherokee's stables once produced national champion Peruvian Paso

horses. The plantation's ponds and Combahee River access attract about 10,000 ducks every year. Woodlands offer quail shooting courses and the property's pine stands provide habitats for deer and wild turkeys. Wood storks and egrets nest in its hundreds of acres of cypress trees. The main residence at Cherokee, built in 1931, sits on a landscape by Frederick Law Olmstead, whose firm designed

Central Park in New York City.

De Savary plans to turn Cherokee's cow pastures into one of the finest golf courses in the nation, Huffines said. The "links" course works with natural run of the land and will challenge a golfer's ability to pitch and run rather than rely on brute force. The United States Golf Association has called the course plans drawn up by Donald Steel "the finest they've seen in 20 years,"

Huffines said.

Steel had a hand in developing the Carnegie Links at Skibo Castle and consults at Scotland's world-famous St. Andrew's Golf Club.

Huffines said the 18-hole course will be carved out of 400 acres of pastureland, without filling in any wetlands or cutting down trees.

De Savary, his wife Lana and their three daughters plan to live at Cherokee, Huffines said.



Photo By CHARLES BAKER

**HIGH-END REAL ESTATE.** Calvert W. Huffines brokers big real estate deals, like the recent \$13 million sale of Cherokee Plantation.