

Outdoors

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BULLOCK COUNTY HUNTING LODGE: GREAT SOUTHERN OUTDOORS

Duo's dream now reality



Great Southern Outdoors lodge slated to open in October

By Mark "Gritter" Griffin
Special to the Advertiser

It's all in the name. Great Southern Outdoors, Alabama's newest hunting lodge, will open for the first time in October this year.

Scheduled to coincide with the opening of deer season, a few lucky hunters will get to enjoy this beautifully managed property before word gets out. But deer hunting is not everything at this lodge. Owners Wayne Green and Rex Pritchett III say they will have a full-service "outdoor experience" facility within three years.

And these entrepreneurs are living their dream.

More than a decade ago these close friends began talking about a dream.

At first, the dream existed only as a fantasy in their conversation. Over the years, though, they worked it out in their minds.

Now, it will be perfected into reality.

These partners don't want to build "just another hunting lodge." Their dream is to create a lodge on their own property where people can come to enjoy the "total outdoor experience."

They do have some of the finest deer, turkey and wild boar habitat in Alabama, but they want to offer more. Their dream is for people to come to their lodge for fishing, hunting, wing shooting, vacationing or to simply commune with nature.

They also offer an alternative solution as a location for reunions, wedding parties and family get-togethers.

Nestled in the rolling hills of Bullock County near Union Springs is the 3,200 acres containing Bughall Plantation and Black Creek Plantation now collectively known as Great Southern Outdoors.

The allure of this land is



Photos by Mark Griffin Special to the Advertiser

Wayne Green and Rex Pritchett III had a dream to build a great hunting lodge and that dream will come to pass this October with the opening of Great Southern Outdoors in Bullock County.

easy to see and nearly intoxicating to experience. Some of the land is carpeted with rolling green pastures, a perfect foil for the background-blue of the southern sky. And the breeze is scented with the perfumes of nature.

The musty earth-smell of mixed hardwood bottoms, wild flowers and wetland swamps mixes wonderfully with the thick stands of tartly scented pines.

Two beautiful, mature lakes are sculpted out of this southern landscape and filled with bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish waiting for the lucky anglers who will fish here.

There are two lodges and a lake house on the property at present. They can accommodate up to 18 guests for an overnight stay and about 250 for a dinner.

Wayne and Rex say that the lodges will be used for only about nine hunters per week this year. This will expand in the future but their interest is in "doing it right first."



They also have a keen interest in introducing the outdoors to women and youngsters as well and have several events planned with some of the schools in the area.

The main lodge consists of a large kitchen and two dining/meeting areas. The larger of these two rooms is over 2,000 square feet. It is here that the guests will enjoy relaxed traditional southern cuisine at the beginning

and at the end of a long day of hunting or fishing. This is also the location of the notorious "Liar's Den."

Wayne and Rex agreed that they needed a "place for their clients to exercise their tongue-in-cheek skills," which is a "very important part of the outdoor experience."

The smaller of the two lodges is the more nostalgic of the two. It was built by Rex's

grandfather around 1890. It has been completely refurbished, maintaining as much of the original character as possible. This lodge will be used to house most of the guests that visit the plantation.

The lake house rests in an idyllic setting beside the smaller of the two lakes and will serve as quarters for those whose passion is fishing "for the big one."

Wayne and Rex are excellent hosts. Their passion for their dream is clearly evident in their eyes, their speech and their demeanor. After meeting these two and touring their beautiful plantation areas, it is obvious that Great Southern Outdoors is poised to join the ranks of the great lodges in America.

Contact Wayne or Rex at (334) 738-5066 or www.great-southernoutdoors.com

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