

PRESS RELEASE - OCTOBER 2003

Willow Point Golf and Country Club Renovates Its Vintage Jewel

Willow Point Opens Newly
Renovated Golf Course
October 14, 2004

Willow Point Golf & Country Club,
a subsidiary of Russell Lands, Inc.

For More Information
About this release

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*Making Dreams Come True
On Lake Martin*

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Willow Point Golf Course. Number Thirteen

On October 14, 2003 Willow Point Golf and Country Club will officially unveil its newly renovated golf course on beautiful Lake Martin.

Willow Point Golf and Country Club is a private club that is perfectly situated on the shores of Lake Martin. Along with the newly renovated 18-hole golf course, Willow Point offers its members access to a magnificent clubhouse and restaurant, professional tennis courts, a state-of-the art fitness center, lakeside beach and cabana, swimming pool, boat docks, a professional conference facility and luxurious villa accommodations for guests.

FUN RENOVATION FACTS

Over 200,000 cu. yds. of earth was moved to create the new features.



1.8 billion Bent Grass seeds were installed on the putting surfaces.



10,859 tons of sands was used to build the bunkers and greens.



Built 6.5 miles of new cart paths



Installed over 1600 irrigation heads.



Used over 5500 bales of pine straw.



Planted over 4.7 million square feet of sod or 1,753,731 individual pieces. If placed end to end its enough sod to stretch to Lake Michigan.

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Russell Lands, Inc. is the parent company of Willow Point Golf and Country Club. Russell Lands was started in 1902 by Benjamin Russell, the founder of Russell Corporation. It remained a part of Russell Corporation, the textile and apparel giant, until 1962 when it became a separate entity. Russell Lands owns more than 25,000 acres of timberland, most of which borders beautiful Lake Martin, a 44,000 acre lake in central Alabama. The company has always been a very diversified, and extremely forward-thinking company. Russell Lands owns many of the premier real estate developments on Lake Martin, including The Ridge and Willow Point subdivisions. The company also owns four marinas on Lake Martin and six Russell Do-it-Centers in the area.

Exactly one year ago to the day, Russell Lands closed its Willow Point golf course to begin its complete renovation. The original course was a fabulous 18-hole championship golf course designed by Thomas Nichol. In July of 1965, Willow Point first opened the original course and it has since been a treasured home to many for decades.

The idea of a renovation was originally due to a much needed update of the irrigation system, greens, bunkers and tees. The company then made the decision to completely renovate. This also included an improved practice facility, new entry road and clubhouse addition. The final outcome is absolutely breathtaking!

The new Willow Point Golf Course measures 7,465 yards from the championship tees. The course has 6 sets of tees to accommodate all levels of play. A total of 12 holes are located along the shores of the lake and all 18 holes have a view of Lake Martin. All the tees are elevated, giving a scenic view from tee to green. The greens are seeded with Bent Grass that originated from Augusta National and the fairways are 419 Bermuda.

The natural areas are a combination of native grasses and tall fescue. All the stone and rock work that accent the course are from the local area.



Willow Point Golf Course. Number Twelve

Lake Martin

Lake Martin is one of the largest man-made lakes in the United States.

It is the largest lake in Alabama with over 750 miles of pristine shoreline and 44,000 acres of "pure drinking water".

This is a great lake to enjoy all types of water sports, including, boating, fishing, skiing, swimming, sailing.

Lake Martin is the absolute ideal place to live, work and play.



The True Pros At Willow Point

Steve Lyles
Director of Golf

Nancy Lyles
Pro Shop Director

Gary Hines
Director of
Golf Learning Center

Cole McInnis
Golf Course
Superintendent

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The golf course renovation at Willow Point was designed by the world-renowned golf course architectural firm of Hurdzan/Fry. Hurdzan/Fry have designed some of the most beautiful, challenging and environmentally sound courses in the world. They have received countless awards from *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine* and *Golf World*. Some award winning courses with the Hurdzan/Fry name include: Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend, Indiana, Cook's Creek Golf Club in Ashville, Ohio, Devil's Pulpit Golf Club in Caledon, Ontario, and Old Stonewall Golf Club in Elmwood City, Pennsylvania.

Once the course design was approved, Landscape Unlimited was contracted to actually build the course. Landscape Unlimited is the largest golf course contractor in the United States. It has received over 37 national awards. Bill Kubly founded Landscape Unlimited in 1976 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Bill has been named in both 1991 and 2001 as one of the 25 most influential people in golf.

This golf course is sure to be a claim to fame for the Lake Martin area for many years to come.

Willow Point is located on Lake Martin approximately 45 miles north of Montgomery, AL on Hwy 63 North. From Birmingham via US Hwy. 280, take Hwy 63 South in Alexander City for approximately 11 miles and yield right at Our Town.

For more information about membership, real estate opportunities and other interests at Lake Martin contact the main office at Russell Lands, 256.329.0835.

If you need more information about this press release, or photography packages contact Dave Commander 256.212.1465.



The Economic Impact For Lake Martin Communities

The total cost of the golf course renovation at Willow Point Golf and Country Club was approximately \$8.3 million. This includes course redesign and construction along with a new Clubhouse addition.

The economic impact of this Russell Lands project has been very significant to the Lake Martin area and to surrounding communities.

During construction of the golf course over 50 separate contractors were hired and over 150,000 man-hours of labor purchased.