



THE PONDS

NEWS RELEASE

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Nesting Bald Eagles Raise a Chick at The Ponds

State Department of Natural Resources Commends Conservation Efforts

Summerville, S.C., Oct. 13, 2008 – The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has commended Greenwood Communities and Resorts for conservation efforts at The Ponds, a 1,950-acre master-planned community in Summerville. According to a September letter from the SCDNR, The Ponds' 1,100-acre nature preservation is home to a pair of bald eagles who successfully raised a chick during the 2008 nesting season. (**Note to Editors:** For photos of The Ponds' conservation area and a bald eagle stock shot, please click on links at end of this release.)

Though the bald eagle was removed from the nation's list of threatened and endangered species in August 2007, rapid growth and development continues to be a key area of concern. "We are proud to have done our part to increase the bald eagle population right here in our very own conservation area," says John Morgan of Greenwood Communities and Resorts, General Manager of The Ponds. "We are committed to protecting the natural beauty of this land and the wonderful creatures who called it home long before we did."

According to the SCDNR letter, The Ponds' bald eagle chick is one of 305 born in South Carolina this year. This number is substantial, considering South Carolina reported only 13 at the low point of this majestic bird's endangerment. "Reaching the status of 'recovered' has been a long journey for our nation's bald eagle population," writes Thomas M. Murphy, State Coordinator for the SCDNR. Records from the late '60s show as few as 417 nesting pairs across the lower 48 states. Today this population exceeds 10,000 nesting pairs, thanks in part to considerate development and protection of eagle nesting areas.

Greenwood Communities and Resorts will continue to honor its commitment to the environment through The Ponds Conservancy, a not-for-profit organization created to enhance the quality of life and sense of community at The Ponds. Major functions of The Conservancy include educational programs, social events, cultural endeavors and environmental stewardship. While protecting nature and the beauty of the land at The Ponds is an important responsibility of The Conservancy, its overriding purpose is to become a thriving resource for community activity and spirit. Residents of The Ponds will benefit for years to come, along with the family of bald eagles.

About The Ponds

The Ponds is a 1,950-acre master-planned community set between the town of Summerville and the Ashley River Historic District. In addition to a 1,100-acre nature preserve, residents of The Ponds will enjoy the benefits of an onsite Summerville Family YMCA, EMS/Fire Station and village center with retail and shopping. Greenwood has also set aside land for a proposed K – 8 public school.

The Ponds' residential offering includes custom homesites priced from the low \$100s and single-family homes priced from the low \$300s. Several homes are now complete, and the first residents have moved in. Also complete is the first of four amenity complexes, including a pool, outdoor pavilion, 11-acre multi-purpose field and a restored historic farmhouse. The first phase also includes a waterfront outdoor amphitheatre and several neighborhood parks. A 60-plus-mile sidewalk and trail system connecting to The Ponds' 1,100-acre nature preserve will be phased in as development progresses. An early part of the system, however, linking the community trail head at the restored farmhouse to hundreds of acres of woods, pastures and ponds, is complete and in service. For more information, please call 843.832.6100 for details, or register online at www.DiscoverThePonds.com for ongoing updates.

About Greenwood Communities and Resorts

Greenwood Communities and Resorts, based in Greenwood, S.C., is a leader in the creation and management of award-winning residential and resort communities in the southeastern United States since 1978.

The company has achieved success over the years because of steady, consistent and reliable service to its customers and its communities. Beginning with the award-winning Palmetto Dunes Resort at Hilton Head Island and evolving to current communities like The Ponds, Big Canoe near Atlanta and The Reserve at Lake Keowee, Greenwood's mission has remained the same: Create memorable places that foster meaningful and fulfilling lives.

Greenwood has been actively involved in the Charleston market for almost 20 years, successfully completing Coosaw Creek Country Club in North Charleston and Beresford Hall on the Cainhoy Peninsula in Charleston.

For more information, please visit www.greenwooddevelopment.com.

Photo links to The Ponds' conservation area photos:

www.corderphilips.com/pr/PondsConservation1.jpg

www.corderphilips.com/pr/PondsConservation2.jpg

www.corderphilips.com/pr/PondsConservation3.jpg

www.corderphilips.com/pr/PondsConservationHeron.jpg

www.corderphilips.com/pr/PondsConservationTurtle.jpg

Photo link to bald eagle stock photo:

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www.corderphilips.com/pr/BaldEagleStock.jpg

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