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FLYING HIGH AT PINE CREEK

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TERRY ALLEN

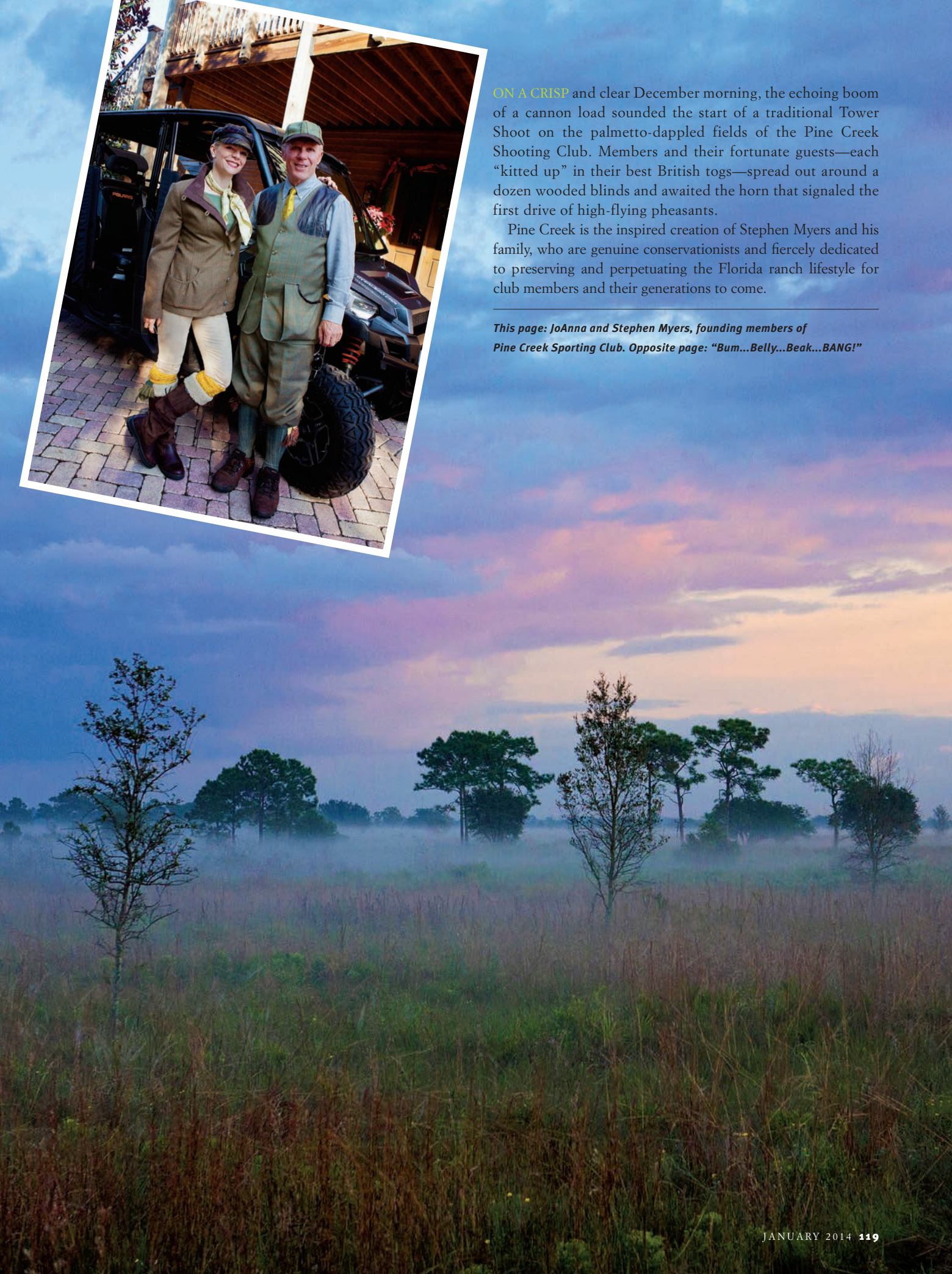




ON A CRISP and clear December morning, the echoing boom of a cannon load sounded the start of a traditional Tower Shoot on the palmetto-dappled fields of the Pine Creek Shooting Club. Members and their fortunate guests—each “kitted up” in their best British togs—spread out around a dozen wooded blinds and awaited the horn that signaled the first drive of high-flying pheasants.

Pine Creek is the inspired creation of Stephen Myers and his family, who are genuine conservationists and fiercely dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the Florida ranch lifestyle for club members and their generations to come.

This page: JoAnna and Stephen Myers, founding members of Pine Creek Sporting Club. Opposite page: “Bum...Belly...Beak...BANG!”







This page: Stephen Myers, Stephen Myers, Jr., and JoAnna Myers between drives (above); blowing the horn to commence the first drive (below). Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Dressed in traditional British attire, Pine Creek Sporting Club members gather at the main lodge to hear safety instructions from Shooting Pro Steve Middleditch; Karin Taylor smiles as she picks up a successful shot; member George Gould lights the cannon to mark the beginning of the Tower Shoot; Jim and Ann Orr waiting in their blind; a tradition: drawing for pegs; a Scottish bagpiper bellows.

The club's 2,500 acres are privately nestled within a stunning stretch of South Florida's loveliest oak hammocks, cyprus trees, and sable palms. The landscape extends to the horizon with loblollies, majestic pines, and palmetto forests that encompass a natural habitat of doves, turkeys, white-tailed deer, wild hogs, and a protected population of fast-flying bobwhite quail. The Club's master planner has artfully designed the cabins and ranches to create a panoramic view with a preservationist's vision. The internal roads are minimal, and the amenity buildings seem nearly invisible. The sound health of the wildlife is positive proof of the fertile growth in the surrounding and pristine lands.

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This page, top to bottom: Pine Creek Sporting Club's main lodge, where guests enjoy a well-appointed lodge. Shooting sports include guided quail, turkey, and wild hog hunts; Dog Trainer Bill Thacker; members enjoying breakfast in the Covey before heading out for the day. Opposite page: Pine Creek members Darcy and George Gould walking out to their blind.

On this special Saturday, Steve Myers and his fine team of guides and dog handlers—led by Pine Creek's renowned game keeper, Steve Middleditch—assembled a talented crew of crack wing shots and avid conservationists, many accompanied by their wives, partners, and children. Their upbeat mood was reflective of the authentic sensibility found in every detail of the Pink Creek community—superior hunting combined with good fellowship and a passion for the environment. And the fine game cuisine and cheerful service round out a ranching experience that is first rate throughout.

Owning a ranch at Pine Creek is an heirloom certain to become part of each member's family legacy—one that is cherished, enjoyed, and passed on to the next generation. ♦

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