



☆ South Abaco

Friends of the Environment Hosts Fundraisers

Friends of the Environment will hold two fund-raising Reef Balls in February with all proceeds going towards environmental education. Several projects are underway by Friends, including a new research and educational center for kids and the inclusion of wetlands within Snake Cay Creeks, Bight of Old Robinson and Cherokee into the national park system, now known as the Proposed East Abaco Creeks National Park.

The Abaco Inn hosts the first fund-raising event on February 7 starting with a 6 pm silent auction and cocktails. A 7:30 pm dinner follows with a live auction. Live music and dancing with "Suppa Time" begins at 9:30 pm. The second event, also featuring auctions, dinner and live music, takes place February 28 at Marsh Harbour Marina & Jib Room. Follow "Friends" Face Book page for updates, or call 242-367-2721 or go to www.friendsoftheenvironment.org.

New Owners at The Abaco Club

The Abaco Club on Winding Bay, South Abaco's premier golf and beach community, has been bought by Southworth Development, an international firm based in Newton, Massachusetts. While a figure was not given for the undisclosed cash purchase, Southworth officials estimate that \$345 million will be spent improving the 453-acre property over the next five years, including golf facilities at the club's highly ranked Oceanside course, infrastructure and a new marina and boathouse.

"The Abaco Club has everything money can't buy," said David Southworth, president and CEO of Southworth Development. "It's a gorgeous setting, with a well thought out master plan and a



Number 18 on Abaco Club's ocean layout. Abaco Club photo

passionate membership. It's a perfect compliment to our existing properties and we look forward to taking this world-class facility to an even higher level."

Aside from the club's acclaimed tropical links course, it has two miles of crescent-shaped beach, with tennis, a wide range of water sports, bone fishing, deep sea fishing and boating. Originally developed by Peter de Savary, the Abaco Club opened in December, 2004. A number of homes were built over the following four years and in 2008 the remaining property and facilities were bought by a Marriott affiliate and managed by Ritz Carleton. Southworth has six other properties, and the acquisition of the Abaco Club is the second Ritz Carleton-managed community bought by the company. The first was Creighton Farms, a private club and community in Northern Virginia, acquired in 2009.

"We have found the perfect partner in Southworth," says Michael McCormick, a spokesperson for the Abaco Club Homeowners Consortium. "Their track record of investing in and developing world class communities is proven."

Homeowner enthusiasm for the deal is enhanced by David Southworth's personal plans to live here, at least part time. "I'll be personalizing our investment as I'll be making Abaco my winter home," he said.

The Abaco Club is considered one of the best oceanside golf venues in the world. Its tropical links course is rated number

one in The Bahamas by *Golf Magazine*. The course and facilities at the club are private, available only to members and their guests. However, a home owner rental program allows guests to play. For further information go to info@southworthdevelopment.com or call 617-630-4900.



Winding Bay from a hilltop home. Photo by Cathy Kerr

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