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IS THIS ANY WAY TO BUILD A GOLF COURSE?

At Haig Point on Daufuskie Island (SC), a hydraulic-powered tree spade moves a sapling to make way for the island's first golf course. The owners, International Paper Realty Corporation of South Carolina, are using the most advanced forestry management and utilization techniques in making way for the Haig Point course.

Daufuskie Island Golf Course Being Bult with Forestry Techniques

DAUFUSKIE ISLAND, S.C. — They are building a golf course on remote Daufuskie Island by cataloging trees!

Golf courses along the South Carolina coast are not unusual but this one is remarkable, by the simple fact of where it is and how it is being built. As a result, it has been attracting the attention of island watchers throughout the Southeast.

Last October, a subsidiary of International Paper Company bought Haig Point, 1,060 acres on Daufuskie Island, isolated in the Southeastern corner of South Carolina with no bridge and no car ferry service. The intention was to build a unique "retreat community" in this beautifully remote location where the natives still speak the "gullah" dialect. Neighboring island, Hilton Head, which has a bridge, has become a household word in certain circles, but not Daufuskie. What modest notoriety Daufuskie has obtained came from a 1972 book "The Water is Wide" and subsequent movie written by a former teacher in the island's two-room schoolhouse.

Now a world-class golf course is coming to Daufuskie, a place where license tags and driver's licenses are not required of its 60 full-time residents.

The fact of a golf course being built on Daufuskie's Haig Point is noteworthy to some. But, the nature of how the Rees Jones designed course is actually being built is particularly notable to those who are more familiar with the game and how its carpets of green come into being. International Paper Realty Corporation of South Carolina (IPRCSC), a subsidiary of the paper company, may be a newcomer to golf, but is nevertheless already doing some pace setting in the golfing field. The new owners of Haig Point are a company that knows trees, and knows them very well. Daufuskie Island has beautiful trees in abundance, some of them ancient oaks festooned with the billowing Spanish moss of the deep South.

To people who design and build golf courses, trees are both an asset and a problem. The problem is that many have to be removed, and the typical solution is burning and bulldozing. But not at Haig Point.

(cont'd. page 18)

(Daufuskie cont'd.)

Here the trees are being put to a far better use. Initially they are inventoried and catalogued into one of five classifications. One group will be transplanted, three will be harvested and utilized, and only one will be burned in the field.

Together these trees will provide revenue for historic reconstruction at Haig Point, support the island's only grocery store - the Daufuskie Island Cooperative, provide free firewood for islanders, construction material for Haig Point and more.

The approach by International Paper's subsidiary at Daufuskie is new to golf course builders, but it is a familiar concept to those involved in forestry. It is called "resource management and utilization."

As a result of this approach, crews with strange-looking contraptions, hydraulic-powered tree spades, are currently transplanting designated trees into landscape nurseries and into areas needing forestation. "Transplantable" trees identified for this purpose are the first of five forest categories created by the experts.

The second classification is "marketable pine." As these trees are removed, they are being stockpiled and barged to the Georgia Pacific plant in Savannah, where they are converted to plywood, lumber or paper products. Profits from this operation, expected to be modest, will be shared with the Daufuskie Island Cooperative and used to restore historic sites such as the old tabby ruins of Haig Point. Tabby was an 18th century construction technique using oyster shells and lime to build coastal houses.

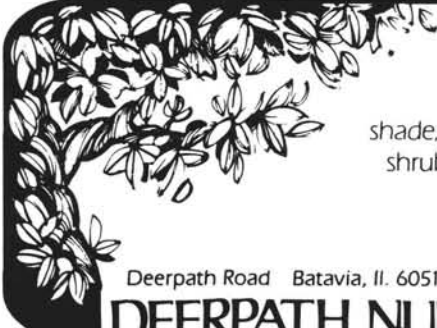
A third category for trees to be cleared is "hardwoods". These trees are also leaving Daufuskie by barge destined for a Savannah sawmill where they are becoming commercial grade building lumber. These will be barged back to Daufuskie to be used in restoring the 1873 Haig Point lighthouse, to build the Great House Inn - a plantation era styled Inn being planned to overlook Calibogue Sound, plus special treatment construction throughout the project.

Trees too small to be marketable and too large to transplant are the next designated category - "firewood" and are being sawn into 10' - 15' lengths distributed to islanders for their own heating use. The Cooperative may sell firewood to off-island locations if there is a surplus.

The final grouping is "slash", including underbrush, stumps, limbs and unusable vegetation, which is the one category that infrequently will be burned in coordination with the South Carolina Department of Forestry.

Building a golf course on Daufuskie Island is a difficult task. Every piece of equipment, every drop of gas has to be brought in by boat and on top of that, every log destined for the mills has to leave by barge as well. Mike Ross, President of International Paper Realty Corporation of South Carolina, was asked "Why - Why do it this way when almost everybody else, even with much simpler logistics, is bulldozing and burning?"

"Because it's the right thing to do," says Ross simply. "If you were to walk in the woods of Haig Point as I have, you wouldn't want to do it any other way either. I wouldn't be a part of anything less."



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