

# Go for Baroque

## FEATURE STORY: STEPHEN GOFORTH GOFORTH AND FISH

Picture this - a classic '86 GMC Jimmy 4 X 4 with a driver in a cowboy hat and boots bounding across the ranch with a varmint rifle and fishing rods headed for one of the best fishing holes on the property! Or, a '60 model Massey Ferguson Super 90 with a bush hog cutting food plots, or just the peaceful morning with the first light or placid evening with the waning sun in a secluded deer stand. Or simply saddling Oreo and Lefty and taking a ride with his wife across the wide open pastures. You have just identified some of Stephen Goforth's favorite pasttimes.



Ever since he was a small boy he dreamed of owning his own piece of the outdoors. His father, a missionary outside of the country, shared the same dream. Together their dreaming became scheming and eventually led them to a couple of prime outdoor parcels that have become reality. The Goforths have hand-planted nearly 60,000 trees on their Florida property, and they chose to leave the hardwoods instead of clear cutting in order to grow a more natural and native forest.



All the Goforth grandchildren, including Stephen's two sons, have learned to drive at an early age under grandpa's guidance on the farm. The Katupada Farm has a nice farmhouse on it and is quite like a true deep south plantation forest. In 2004 the Forestry Department of Florida awarded the Goforths the prestigious #1 Stewardship Farm award for the entire state!

The Circle of Fifths Ranch has 4 livable cabins, one of which is an actual restored chicken coop! Another is an authentic 40-ton BNSF red caboose complete with tracks! Making these extensive improvements has allowed them to all learn to work and play with the best of them!

Since the Oklahoma ranch pasture is leased the "work" done there would be more accurately termed as "organized play." It is not uncommon for Dr. Goforth and his father to have several guests of all ages up there eating popcorn and sitting by the fire pit, spending the night in one of the cabins, eating a big country breakfast cooked fresh and hot complete with biscuits and gravy, catching fish, target shooting, and learning to drive one of the ranch vehicles by day. On occasion there have been as many as 12 different fathers with their sons or daughters sharing together at the same time. At one event there were 23 children under the age of 6 with all their parents!

Stephen is acutely aware that he must "check out" on occasions in order to maintain his very intense music schedule. The Circle of Fifths is just that. He often has stated, "We really do not own the land - we are just tenants for the brief time we are here on earth. Our privilege is to enjoy, manage, and be responsible stewards of it while our Creator allows." For more information, visit [goforbaroque.org](http://goforbaroque.org) or call 405-840-0278.