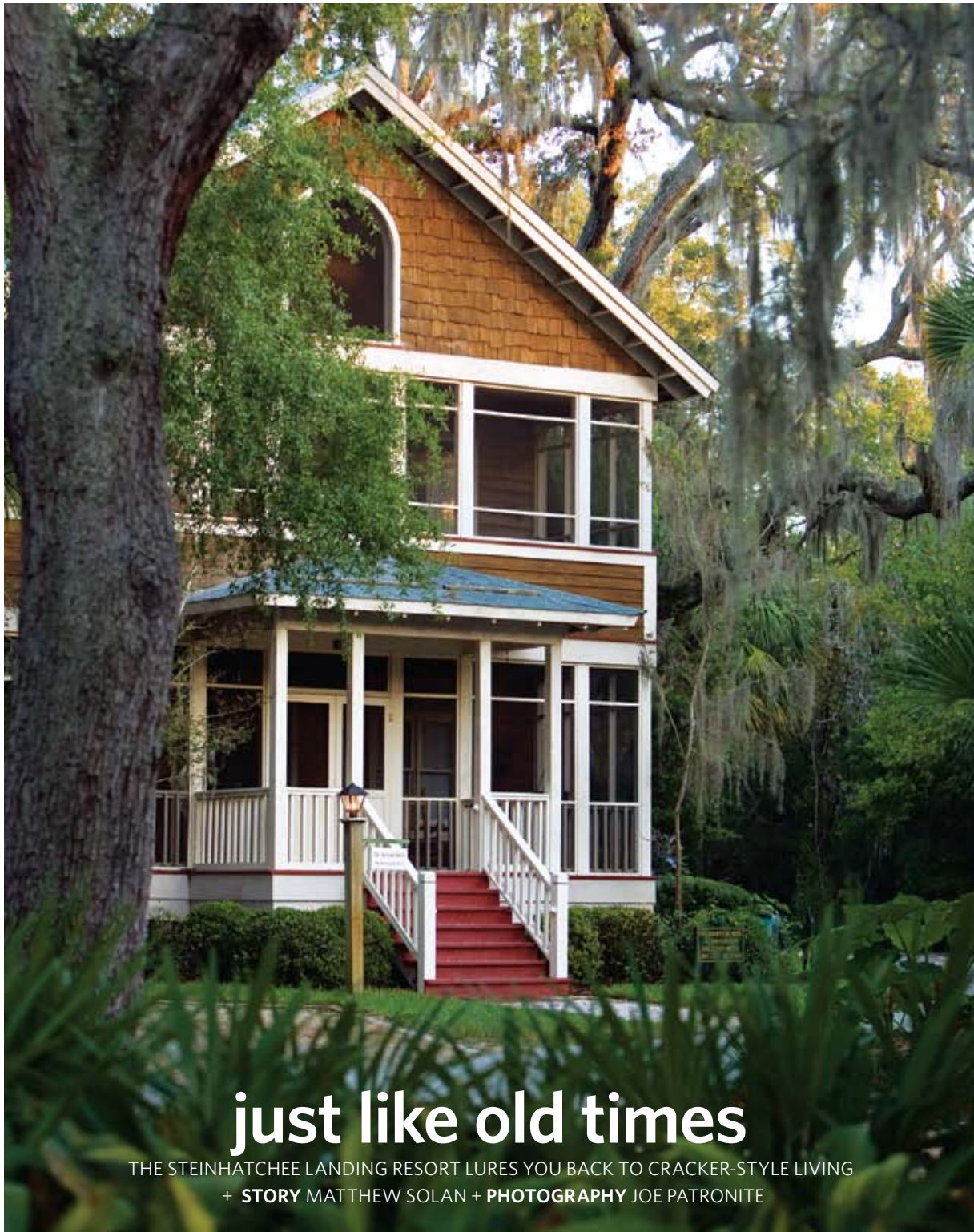


steinhatchee landing resort + shop & lunch day trips

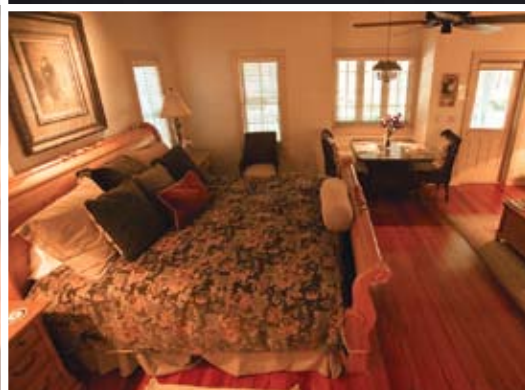
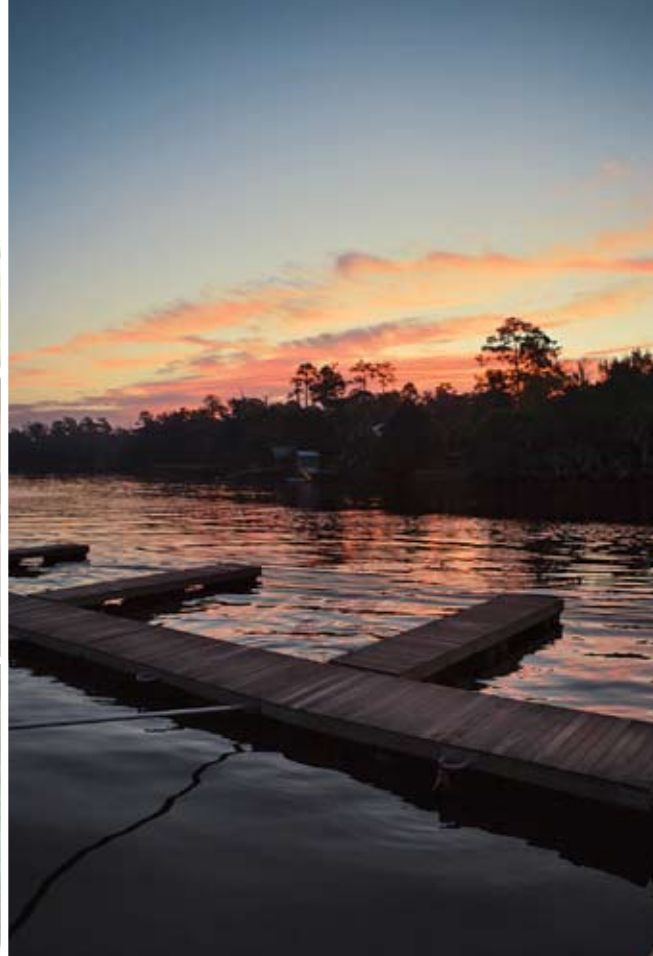


## just like old times

THE STEINHATCHEE LANDING RESORT LURES YOU BACK TO CRACKER-STYLE LIVING  
+ STORY MATTHEW SOLAN + PHOTOGRAPHY JOE PATRONITE

**Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings**, famed writer of *Cross Creek*, the unofficial guide to Old Florida living, would feel right at home at Steinhatchee Landing Resort. Picture tin roofs that cause even the slightest drizzle to sound like fingers drumming a folk

tune, old-fashioned rocking chairs on screened front porches and wooded walking trails. It's a welcoming and relaxing river-view setting where peaceful morning strolls turn into camaraderie among guests. >>



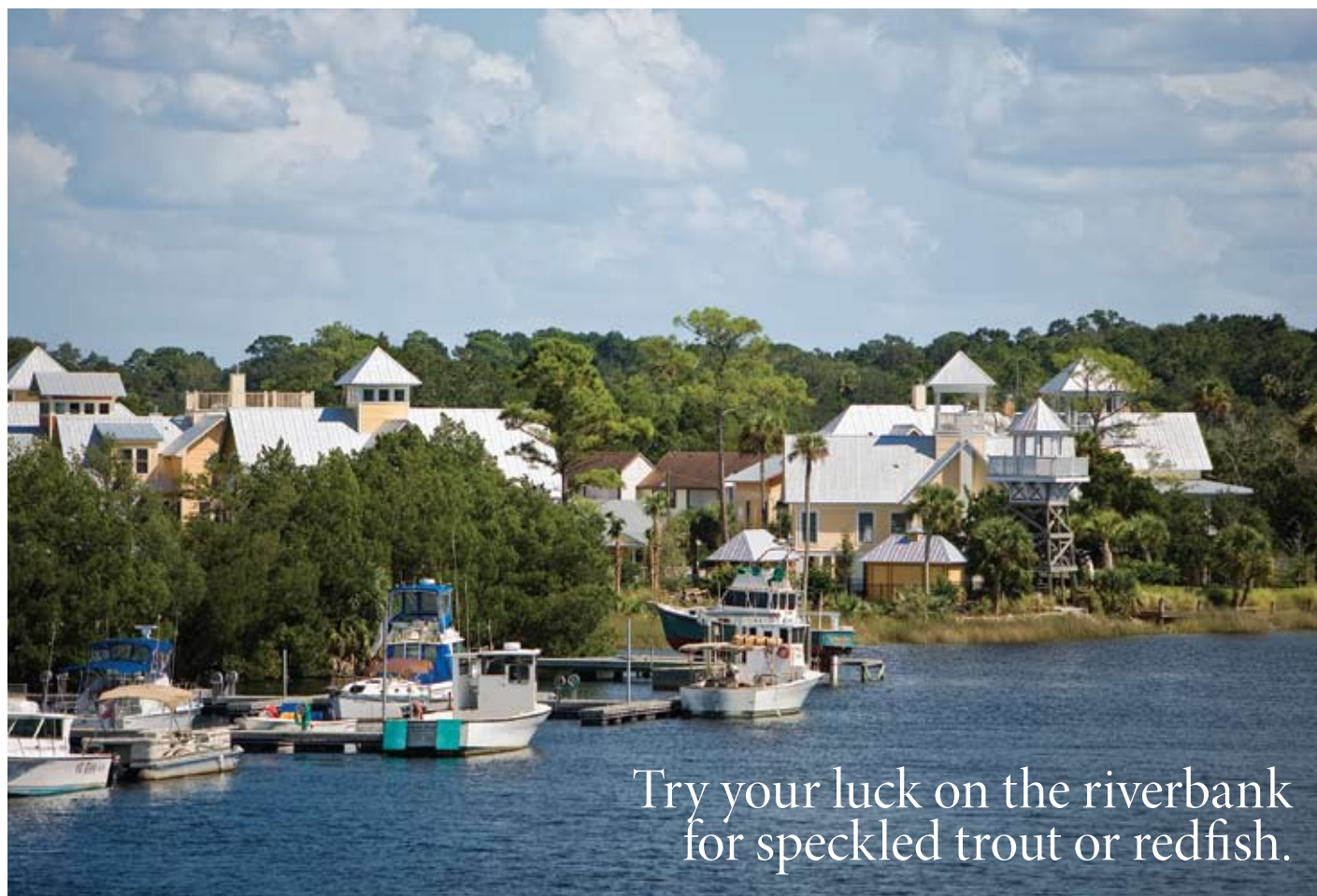
## The Steinhatchee Landing Resort re-creates that Old Florida look from the 1890s to the 1930s.

>> Owner Dean Fowler had a single goal in 1990 when he broke ground for this Gulf Coast getaway, 70 miles northwest of Gainesville: “To re-create that Old Florida look from the 1890s to 1930s.” This 35-acre spread along the Steinhatchee

River is part of the Big Bend region. Its charm is pervasive: Amusing roosters and chickens roam the grounds; there’s a flourishing vegetable garden and even an unexpected small vineyard under the majestic moss-draped oaks, pines and cabbage palms.

**Few Florida escapes include river views and the charm of cottage living — with an upscale twist.**

Choosing one of the resort’s 40 Victorian cracker-style cottages is part of the allure. All are poetically named, including April Showers, Pineapple Plantation and Fisher’s Cove. Fowler designed the resort to accommodate couples and families. There’s an on-site chapel, or you can get hitched in a tent ceremony. Think family reunion or romantic retreat. President and Mrs. Carter stayed in one cottage in the 1990s when they gathered their clan for a family holiday. There are also huge barbecue pits on-site that large groups can fire up for all-you-can-eat suppers and late-night banter.



Try your luck on the riverbank for speckled trout or redfish.

>> Steinhatchee's Old Florida cache is one thing, but the amenities are modern-day luxuries: shiny hardwood floors and lavish Italian marble bathrooms with ultra thermo-masseur tubs where you can gaze into a fireplace while you soak.

**Only three miles from the Gulf, fishing is tops here, especially during scallop season, July - September.**

As comfy as you might become inside, the outdoors are guaranteed to draw you back. Fishing is the game here. Try your luck on the riverbank for speckled trout or redfish, or take a charter to the nearby Gulf for a deep-sea excursion. Water play is also plentiful — Keaton Beach is

the closest to the resort, just 17 miles away. You can also kayak or canoe the river's various meridians leading somewhere unexpected. Hitch a ride on Fowler's 12-passenger pontoon boat if you'd rather someone else do the driving. Adventurous paddlers can journey two and a half hours east for a half-day trip to Steinhatchee Falls, a gentle three-foot waterfall. Native American trails on both sides of the bank mark where Zachary Taylor's troops stood during the Second Seminole War.

Back at the resort there is a manicured croquet court overlooking the wide river as well as badminton, basketball and tennis courts for those who want to stay active without leaving the grounds.

Daily continental breakfast is served in the on-site general store, which is a great place to thumb through history books on the surrounding area. In town, Fiddler's is the place for fresh grouper pulled in that day, while Roy's Restaurant — open since 1969 — is famed for its fried mullet, cheese grits and homemade Key lime pie — a fitting Old Florida supper Marjorie no doubt would enjoy.

**STEINHATCHEE LANDING RESORT**

352.498.3513,  
steinhatcheelanding.com

**FIDDLER'S RESTAURANT**

352.498.7427,  
fiddlersrestaurant.com

**ROY'S RESTAURANT**

352.498.5000,  
roys-restaurant.com

