

# Check Out Matt Thornton's New \$13.6 M Quail Plantation

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The former CEO of Louisville's largest private company, the Thorntons Inc. convenience store chain, has purchased a 2,400-acre northwest Florida quail hunting plantation.

Martha Frances Plantation LLC bought the property at 12000 Miccosukee Road from Cahoon Land & Timber LLC for \$13.6 million on May 3, according to Leon County, Fla., property records. The buyer is Matt Thornton, who stepped down as CEO of Thorntons Inc. after the \$1.8 billion company was



has been renamed Martha Plantation by the new owner.

According to the source, the family will continue to keep Louisville as its home base. The sale price equaled about \$5,666 an acre. Martha Frances Plantation LLC, 301 E. Market St., Louisville, is registered with the

Florida Department of State Division of Corporations.

The Plantation, located in Tallahassee, Fla., was originally listed for \$13.95 million in April 2018 by Jon Kohler of Jon Kohler & Associates LLC. It's located in Tallahassee, Fla., about 30 miles south of Thomasville, Ga., and less than 25 miles northeast of downtown Tallahassee. It's part of the Red Hills quail belt but is also the second-closest quail plantation to Tallahassee.

A conservation easement protects 700 acres of wetlands and upland pine. This land once formed the western side of the Chemonie Plantation, owned by T. Wayne Davis Jr., heir to the Winn-Dixie supermarket fortune. In addition to the remainder of Chemonie to the east, it is bordered on the north by the Woodfield Springs plantation. To its south and west, there are large-scale lot residential developments.



purchased by a joint venture of BP PLC and ArcLight Capital Partners LLC. That deal closed Feb. 11. Thornton had been president and CEO of the company since 2001. It's now called Thorntons LLC and operates a network of nearly 200 gas stations and convenience stores across six states. Louisville Business First interviewed new CEO Simon Richards for a cover story earlier this year.

Matt Thornton and his father John, longtime bird hunters, frequented the Albany, Ga., quail belt. They had looked at properties for sale for a number of years, a source familiar with the area property market said. This plantation was originally called Valhalla but



*Photos by Jon Kohler & Associates*