

Shhhh! It's a Silent Auction!

If you are looking for an Hermès scarf, a pair of Tiffany cufflinks or a rare book, you can get your shopping done right at the Aiken Horse Show. For the fourth year, the show is hosting a silent auction to benefit the Hitchcock Woods Foundation. Bidders will have over 80 items to choose from, and can buy anything from a cocktail party to a fabulous African safari for two.

“The auction opens on Thursday evening and goes until Sunday at 2:30,” says Jane Page Thompson, who is in charge of the event once again. You can bid on items in two ways. First, you can write your name and your bid on a sheet of paper posted near the item you want to buy. Second, you can leave a sealed bid in an envelope with your name on it.

“We encourage people to leave sealed bids,” says Jane Page. “Some people are at the show on Friday and Saturday but not on Sunday. With the sealed bids, it's fair for everyone. We do it like they do on Ebay. First, we suggest that you start your bidding with your name on the regular list. Then, you can leave a sealed bid with the maximum amount you are willing to pay. At the end of the auction, we open up the sealed bids. If your maximum is more than the highest amount on the sheet, you will get the item, but you won't necessarily have to pay the figure that you wrote down. We raise the price in increments. If you bid 20,000 on the African safari and the highest open bid is 10,500 dollars, you will buy the safari for



10,600 dollars, assuming that the bidding has been going up in increments of 100 dollars.”

“We have some wonderful parties, lunches and brunches donated by Trustees of the Foundation and Friends of the Woods,” continues Jane Page.

“We have some historic books donated by private collectors, including a Derrydale Press collection of foxhunting stories with Paul Brown illustrations. We have another Derrydale book with some golf stories in it donated by Alice and Lucy Knowles, the daughters of Bobby Knowles.”

There are many other special items on the auction table this year. New York

jewelry designer Stephany Hitchcock, granddaughter of Thomas and Lulie Hitchcock, is renewing her association with Aiken by donating a piece of jewelry dedicated to the Hitchcock Woods Foundation.

The Carolina Company and Horse Show Director William Howard have given an Hermès scarf and tie, respectively. Bidders will also have a chance to purchase some original framed artwork, including a number of bird and botanical studies, as well as a Snaffles print donated by Jane Page and Mark Thompson.

“The silent auction plays a major role in generating proceeds for the Aiken Horse Show,” says Hitchcock Woods Foundation Executive Director Doug Rabold. “Jane Page continues to do an amazing job in getting great items for the auction.

We appreciate her enthusiasm and hard work.”

Organizing the auction certainly is hard work, but it is also rewarding, according to Jane Page.

“It’s so fun to see the things that people give,” she says. “It’s amazing how much talent there is in Aiken and it’s wonderful to see all these talented people get together and donate to the silent auction. They come up with so many great ideas and so many wonderful items.”

Be sure to check out the auction tables in the Silent Auction. If you have an idea of something that you would like to donate next year, contact the Hitchcock Woods Foundation office. You will be raising money for a good cause and you get to share your special item or talent with people who appreciate it! 🍄