

# VIEWS *from the* WOODS

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(803) 642-0528  
hitchcockwoods.org

## Festival of the Woods

When the Festival of the Woods was conceived back in 2009, it was imagined as an outreach to our Friends of the Woods as a way of thanking them for their loyalty and support. No one could have imagined the success that it would have just a few years later.

This year, as we celebrate the Foundation's 75th anniversary, the Festival of the Woods took place on September 26th and had the highest attendance in its history with over 230 people attending. The evening's festivities included a cocktail hour, during which the Derelict String Band performed and a catered dinner by Blue Marlin.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dana Beach of the Coastal Conservation League. Since founding the Coastal Conservation League in 1989, Dana has received awards from many institutions, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the South Carolina General Assembly, and the American Institute of Architects. He is also a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest honor.

The Festival was a wonderful evening and we hope to see each of you again for the Festival of the Woods next September!



Photo by Allen Ridick

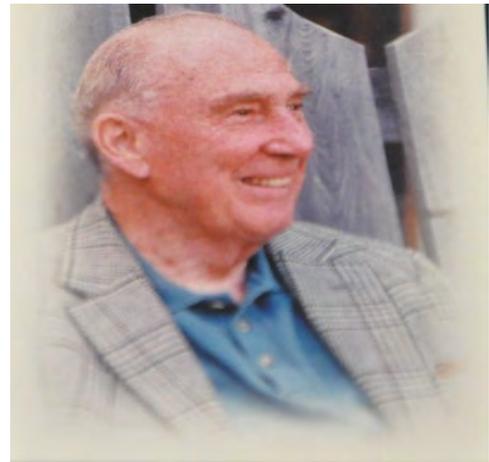
## Julian "Pete" Peabody 1914-2014

On Sunday, November 16, Julian "Pete" Peabody, passed away in San Francisco. Julian was the grandson of Thomas and Louise Hitchcock and played a part in making the Hitchcock Woods what it is today. Born on August 25, 1914, Julian passed away a few months after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Julian spent some of his childhood here in Aiken and always had a special relationship with Aiken and the Woods. Even though Julian was in his 80's, Harry Shealy remembers taking walks in the Woods with Julian and many within the Foundation, considered him a friend.

An avid supporter of the Woods, and a true gentleman, Julian was a friend to all and truly had a spot in his heart for the Hitchcock Woods. Many of our trustees have their own stories and memories of Julian, far too many to list here. Julian will live on through the cherished memories of his friends and family, as well as the Hitchcock Woods, which he loved so much.

The Foundation would like to express their condolences to Julian's family and friends. The family has asked for memorial donations be sent to the Hitchcock Woods Foundation.



Julian "Pete" Peabody

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The complete list of all current Partners and Friends  
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## Celestine Eustice Essay Contest 2014 Winner: Pippa Miller, 3rd Grade Millbrook Elementary

Let's start with I love Hitchcock Woods. You can walk on the trail, you can climb on the cliff, you can find cool rocks near the stream. But that's not all you can do, you can explore the woods. You will find cool animals and plants. Make sure not to touch poison ivy. It has three leaves. I got very close to poison ivy one time.

You may also see horses. People love to go horseback riding in the Woods. Did you know that there used to be a train called the best friend express? It ran through the woods! You can still hear a train when you're in the woods. Do you like swimming? Go to the stream if you do. The water is cool in the winter but it will feel good in the summer. I loved going when I was three. I used to have a picnic with my family, but sometimes it's just me and my dad. He runs in the Woods every weekend. Sometimes I go with him. We always go somewhere special. Like I call a place where there is a lot of dirt the moon. I take my shoes off and pretend I am a Hobbit. It is soft and mushy and feels good between my toes. But sometimes I like to explore the cliffs. I like to get the clay to make art. One time I made an owl and mouse in the owl's mouth. It did not go as well as planned. Sometimes I bring a good book to read. I climb to the top and read. I climb to the top and read. I also like going to a place where I pretend there are monsters around the corner. I got very close to one. I saw its eye and it was red and very small.

There's another place I love. I pretend it has pretty gems: red ones, green ones, blue ones, and white ones. They are always so pretty and shiny. I also love to climb trees. I have to have help from my dad. The Woods makes me feel active and happy, knowing I have a special place to go. I think the Hitchcock Woods is the best place in Aiken.



*Photo by Allen Riddick*

Pippa Miller and her mother, Mia Miller, at the Festival of the Woods

# Long Leaf Alliance Conference

*A Report by Bennett Tucker, Woods Superintendent*

The longleaf pine ecosystem was once the dominant ecosystem across the southeastern United States from the “piney woods” of eastern Texas all the way to the southeastern corner of Virginia.

This ecosystem covered an estimated, 90 million acres and due to “cut and run logging” and the lack of forethought about the future between the mid-19th century to the early to mid-20th century, the ecosystem was reduced to roughly 3% of its original footprint, approximately 4 million acres.

The Hitchcock Woods is a small piece of this historic ecosystem and the Hitchcock Woods Foundation strives to be an example of sustainable urban forestry through stewardship practices that aim to restore this ecosystem to the way it would have existed more than a century ago.

Mobile, Alabama was the setting for the Longleaf Alliance’s 10th biennial Longleaf Alliance Conference in late October. Woods Superintendent, Bennett Tucker and Woods Resource Steward, Eric Grande made the trek down to Mobile for the 3 day conference. Attendees of the conference were able to network and enjoy fellowship of fellow foresters, fire managers, research scientists, land owners, botanists, ecologists and longleaf pine enthusiasts from across the native range of longleaf.

The first day of the conference began with an opening ceremony, a keynote speaker, and a day filled with con-current sessions covering various topics of; restoration, research, fire ecology, economics, wildlife management, native grasses, and the list goes on. Bennett gave a presentation during one of the sessions about the re-introduction of prescribed fire into long fire suppressed stands of longleaf pine.

The second day was a tour day where we visited a private property in Hurley, Mississippi to learn about various stewardship practices including, timber management, pine straw harvesting, invasive species control, gopher tortoise ecology, native grass restoration and the lost practice of “turpentining.”

The rest of the day included a trip to the Mobile Botanical Gardens and a trip to The Nature Conservancy’s Splinter Hill Bog. The third day wrapped up with several additional con-current sessions, a closing ceremony, and our trip back to Aiken.

The Longleaf Alliance was founded in 1995 and the mission of The Longleaf Alliance is to ensure a sustainable future for the longleaf pine ecosystem through partnerships, landowner assistance and science-based education and outreach.

## AAUW Honors Sara Wampole



*Photo by Amy Banton of the Aiken Standard*

Sara Wampole, a longtime supporter of the Hitchcock Woods, was recently honored by the AAUW (American Association of University Women) for her volunteer work with the Woods.

Sara has been leading tour groups through the Hitchcock Woods for many years and has volunteered countless hours to the Foundation throughout her many years here in Aiken. We at the Hitchcock Woods foundation are truly grateful for all of the work and many hours that Sara has committed to the Foundation.

Congratulations to Sara Wampole on her award! She is truly deserving of many accolades!

For more information on the AAUW local chapter please visit [www.aauwaikenbranch.org](http://www.aauwaikenbranch.org).

## The Loss Of Our First Friend

On Saturday November 1, the Hitchcock Woods Foundation lost its first Friend of the Woods. Kathryn "Kitty" Windham was our very first friend and was a woman who was very well known in Aiken. The Hitchcock Woods Foundation felt very fortunate that Kitty supported us amongst her many other charitable endeavors.

We would like to express our condolences to the family of Kitty Windham. She will truly be missed.

## New Staff Members

During the past few months the Hitchcock Woods Foundation has undergone several staffing changes. We are pleased to announce our newest staff members!

Sam Lovejoy comes to the Foundation as a Communications and Administrative Specialist. Sam and his wife Kerrie are new to the Aiken area from Rochester, NY where Sam worked in the Banking Industry.

Suzi Kilgo has rejoined the Foundation as an Administrative Assistant. Suzi has worked for the Foundation previously and we are very happy to have her back. Suzi is a 20 year resident of Aiken.

We wish them both success and happiness in their roles at the Hitchcock Woods Foundation!

# Ruth Patrick Center Eco-Hikes

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*Photo by Brent Cline  
A class photo commemorating the field trip to the  
Woods with some Foundation Staff*

In years past, the Festival of the Woods included a both a Friday and a Saturday component. This year it was decided to only offer the Friday portion. Instead, the Hitchcock Woods Foundation partnered with the Ruth Patrick Center to offer guided Eco-Hikes to local schools. During the month of September there were three schools and nine total groups that came.

There will be continued hikes throughout the Fall and resuming again in the Spring with many schools from the area taking part. It is truly wonderful to see children take an interest not only in the Woods and its stewardship, but in protecting and preserving the earth. Hopefully these children will be the next generation to cherish the Hitchcock Woods as past generations have!



*Photo by Brent Cline  
Eric Grande, Woods Resource Steward, speaks to  
a group of children at the Chalk Cliffs.*

## Our Deepest Apologies

It has come to our attention that the photograph used for the promotion of the Festival of the Woods was improperly credited.

The photo, which can be seen on the right, was actually taken by Shelly Marshall Schmidt. We at the Hitchcock Woods Foundation would like to offer our deepest apologies to Shelly.

Shelly is a local artist who's talent has taken her throughout the world during her career. She also was featured as last year's photographer for our calendar. You can find her at her studio located at 311 Hayne Ave SW in downtown Aiken or online at [ohschmidt.com](http://ohschmidt.com).



*Photo by Shelly Marshall Schmidt*

## THE MISSION OF THE HITCHCOCK WOODS FOUNDATION IS TO:

- protect and preserve the Hitchcock Woods in a natural and ecologically healthy state,
- maintain and manage historic and traditional equestrian and pedestrian uses, and
- foster education and research on the history and resources of the Woods.



P.O. Box 1702  
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