

ANNUAL REPORT

2011

Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION

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As of 6/30/11

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hitchcockwoods.org

To save costs, gift envelopes are not inserted in this year's report. Gifts may be made online.



Photo by Todd Lista

This quiet stream in the Hitchcock Woods flows through a wooded area that once was known as Lake Kalmia, a popular recreational spot for boating, dancing, and picnicking. Lake Kalmia, which was owned by Henry Robinson, was on a portion of the Kalmia Hill property of William Gregg, the well-known textile industrialist. The land was purchased by the Robinson family from Gregg's widow. Célestine Eustis purchased the land in 1892 and changed the name to Robinson's Pond to honor the Robinsons. In 1911 she transferred the property to Louise and Thomas Hitchcock, who retained the name. The area remained a popular fishing spot for a number of years. Special thanks to Gary Hooper and Vic Johnson for their research on Lake Kalmia

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As of 6/30/11

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The Foundation's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, aligning our annual budget and operating schedule with the cycle of peak activity in the Woods, from early fall to late spring.

Enjoying Progress and Planning for Long Term Vitality

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to say that this has been another successful year for the Hitchcock Woods Foundation. We celebrated the completion of many fundraising goals and infrastructure improvements.

This year, the Board welcomed two new trustees elected at the annual meeting. Larry Byers and Kent Cabbage have much experience and knowledge to share and their passion for the stewardship of the Woods is evident.

On a sad note, we lost a dear friend this year in the passing of Edgar T. Cato II. Mr. Cato and his wife, Samantha, have enjoyed the Woods riding to the hunt for many years. They have understood the value of the Woods to the community. Mr. Cato recognized the impending issues of the possible development of the Coker Spring acreage and stepped up with a pledge toward the purchase of that land. This pledge, the largest monetary gift in the history of the Foundation, was one of the catalysts that brought in numerous pledges and gifts for the purchase of the land. The serenity of the Coker Spring entrance will forever be preserved due to the foresight and generosity of donors like Edgar Cato.

The letter from the Executive Director outlines cost reductions and successes in the operating budget. The Foundation created formal policies for, and funded, an Operating Reserve Fund. Also new is a gift receipt policy for direction on the disposition of various forms of gifts.

The Foundation also is pleased to announce an investment and spending policy for the newly created Endowment Fund. In the future, this fund will insure the long-term viability of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation. Please consider this fund in your estate plan. One such estate bequest already was received. Finally, the 2011 Aiken Horse Show was a great success, with a record number of entries.

The letter from the Woods Superintendent includes details of the new maintenance facility, a wonderful addition to the



Photo by Shawn McMillen

The Aiken Horse Show remains vital even as it approaches its 100th anniversary in 2016, with a record number of entries in 2014.

Foundation's campus. The other good news is that the City of Aiken has completed its construction project to address the municipal stormwater washout of the Coker Spring Trail crossing of Sand River. This valuable link is open once again.

The culmination of these two construction projects is encouraging, as is the completion of the City of Aiken's green infrastructure project, representing an important first step in community stormwater management.

Thank you for your support.

Randy Wolcott moved to Aiken in 1989 and joined the Board of Trustees in 1998. After serving on many Board committees over the years, and chairing several of them, he was elected Chairman of the Board in 2008.



Longevity of Service

At present, there are 23 active trustees representing, collectively, 440 years of service to the Foundation. In addition, four current members once served as Chairman of the Board: Peter L. Gray, Gail B. King, Harry E. Shealy, Jr., Ph.D., and Timothy W. Simmons. Longevity of service has ensured that the Foundation continues to honor the heritage and traditions of the Hitchcock Woods established by the legendary Louise and Thomas Hitchcock, who helped shaped the culture of Aiken. The business of the Foundation is complex and all board members serve on multiple committees, each with its own chairman or co-chairmen. To the right is a complete list of active committees.

1. Aiken Horse Show
2. Board Development
3. Executive
4. Festival of the Woods
5. Finance/Investment/Audit
6. Forestry/Conservation
7. Fundraising/Endowment/Capital
8. Historic Preservation/Archives
9. Infrastructure/Physical Improvement
10. Legal/Bylaws/Governance
11. Nominating
12. Personnel/Consultants
13. Stormwater
14. Visitors/Safety
15. Wildlife

Just some of the Distinguished Out of Area Visitors who visited the Woods this year

1. Ken Prosser and Sean Taylor, SC DNR
2. Dr. John Kush and Dr. Becky Barlow, Auburn University
3. Carol Denhof and Beth Young, Longleaf Alliance
4. Gary Burger, National Wild Turkey Federation
5. Andy Kane, Anne Springs Close Greenway
6. Dr. Drew Lanham, Clemson University
7. Dr. Vic Shelburn and his Clemson forestry class
8. Dr. Francis McGuire and his Clemson PRT class
9. Dr. Robert Peet and Forbes Boyle, University of North Carolina
10. Members of the Hitchcock family

Pledging Stewardship of the Woods and Your Generosity



The Foundation's staff consists of (from left to right) Doug Rabold, Bennett Tucker, Deon Mealing, and Chris Reichel.

This year, the Historic Aiken Foundation recognized Hitchcock Woods Foundation's board, staff, and donors with the 2011 Stewardship Award for the protection and care of the Hitchcock Woods. Many participants over the years and throughout the community share in this award.

The recognition brings home another point. The Foundation also is a steward of your charitable giving. Great care is taken to ensure that your gifts are used wisely, an especially important effort in the current economy. More than 91% of each charitable dollar directly supports programs.

Operating expenses have been reduced for the third consecutive year: by 10% in 2009, another 6% in 2010, and another 2% in 2011. Through natural attrition of staff, total salary expense was lower for the last two years than it was for the preceding two years. Through special gifts for paying down the Foundation's capital debt, interest expense has decreased dramatically.

Over the past five years, the Foundation has made great strides in capital improvements. The Foundation's headquarters and an all new fleet of maintenance vehicles are paid for in full. Still to be paid down are the Foundation's loan for the purchase of a forested tract of land to protect the Coker Spring entrance to the Woods. Additional gifts are needed to pay off the recently constructed Woods Maintenance Complex. (See figures, right.)

Even as efforts continue to seek major gifts for capital expenses, operating income is staying slightly ahead of operating expenses, thanks to cost reductions. Capital improvements play a role in this. For example, by having all new vehicles, repair costs, once excessive, are now nominal.

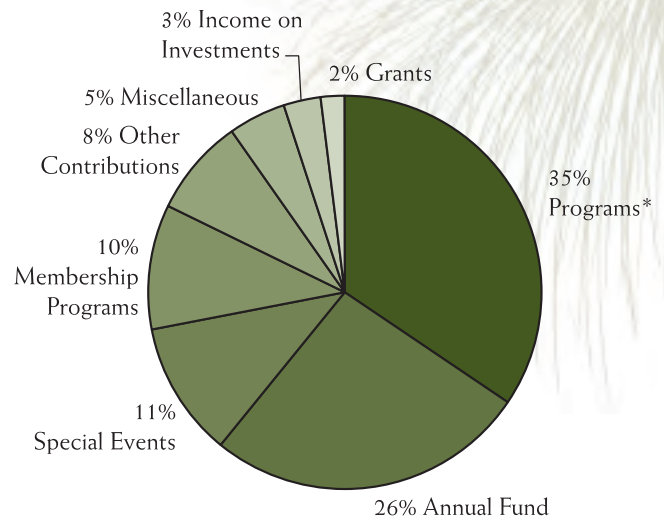
Net operating revenues of \$36,028 this year have enabled the Foundation to embark on ambitious projects that have been on the slate for more than five years. Efforts are now underway to secure a timber inventory and the development of a geographic information system to enhance woods stewardship.

Relationships are essential to the Foundation, like those being forged through the Festival of the Woods. New for the equestrian community in 2011 were the Horses Meet Wheels Clinic and a celebration for eventers that benefits the Woods. Even Foundation merchandise is more on the scene, available year round at Birds and Butterflies in downtown Aiken.

Your participation as Friends of the Woods and Business Partners is highly appreciated, as is your generous support of the Annual Fund, our most efficient source of revenue.

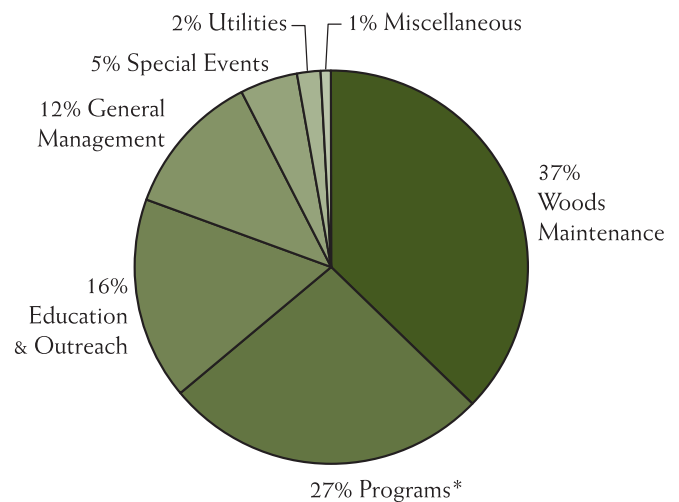
Douglas Rabold has been involved in Aiken's business, civic, and cultural life since 1990. He was hired as the Hitchcock Woods Foundation's first Executive Director in 2005.

OPERATING INCOME



* Aiken Horse Show and Festival of the Woods

OPERATING EXPENSES



Purchase of Forested Acreage at Coker Spring Entrance

Total Cost To Date*	\$2,111,929.12
Paid or Pledged to Date	\$1,979,056.00
Unfunded Balance	\$132,873.12

* Interest accrues monthly

Construction of the Woods Maintenance Complex and Purchase of All Terrain Vehicle for Prescribed Burning

Total Cost	\$138,925.94
Paid or Pledged to Date	\$112,716.28
Unfunded Balance	\$26,209.66

Adding Depth to Woods Management, Safety, and Navigation

It truly has been another busy year in the Hitchcock Woods. Highlights include continued progress in the prescribed burn program, construction of the new Woods Maintenance Complex, information sharing with local agencies for emergency response in the Woods, a sign project to help visitors navigate the Woods, and an experimental method of hardwood control for continued restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

This year's prescribed burning seasons were limited in scope due to the La Nina weather pattern and summertime heat and drought. However, we were able to burn critical areas, primarily on the southeast side of the Woods. Every acre applied with prescribed fire is beneficial for the good of the whole.

A critical improvement this year was the construction of the new maintenance building, which has added a new dimension to the care of the equipment and the stewardship of the Woods. The structure provides a secure and weatherproof storage area for maintenance vehicles, equipment, and supplies, as well as a flat concrete floor that is helpful when servicing vehicles. The building also houses an office and facilities for Woods staff. We are thankful and proud to have this multifunctional facility.

Every two years, Foundation representatives meet with liaisons from local emergency agencies to help facilitate response to different incidents in the Woods. Maps and other resources are distributed and discussed during the meetings for response personnel to access in emergency situations.

In an effort to help visitors who may not be familiar with the Woods, staff installed over 40 additional and new signs to help with trail navigation and to make multidirectional intersections less confusing. Hopefully, with the addition of these signs to existing trail signs, visitors will find their way through the Woods more easily.

The Foundation implemented a test plot program to assess the application of a hardwood control herbicide. The purpose is to



Just shy of five years after receiving the first gift for building the Woods Maintenance Complex, the Foundation has enjoyed seeing the project become a reality.

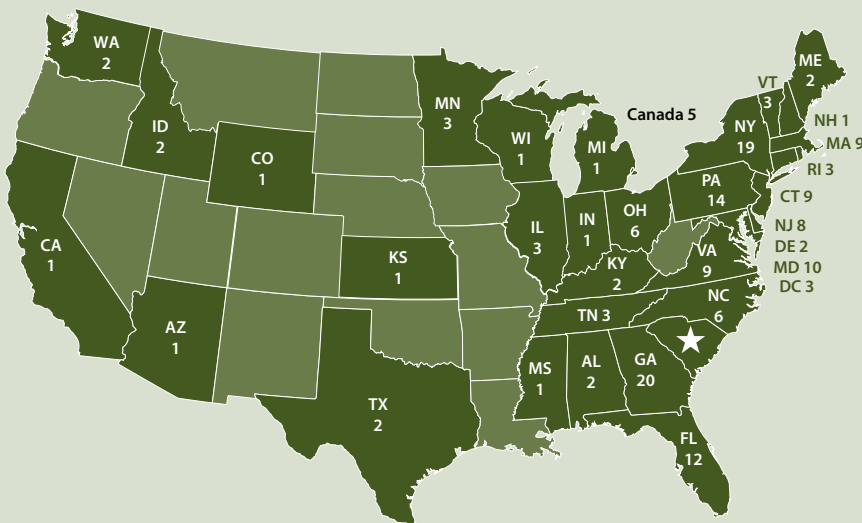
enhance the restoration of the native longleaf pine understory of native grasses, legumes, and forbs. These plots are an important step in evaluating yet another tool for controlling hardwoods that have become well established after many decades of fire suppression.

Youth outreach this year involved exhibits at the City of Aiken's Earth Day celebration and the National Wild Turkey Federation's Jakes event.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, I'll see you in the Woods!

Bennett Tucker was hired as Woods Superintendent in June 2006. His many certifications in firefighting and first responder training strengthen our prescribed burn program and enhance our ability to work with public agencies in achieving more efficient response to incidents in the Woods.

Friends Across the Country



Out of state participation in the Friends of the Woods program was last reported in 2008. The map shows total household figures from 2006 to 2011. The chart shows progress in total out of state households since the report three years ago.

	2008	2011
Total Participating States (Including South Carolina)	25*	33*
Total Out of State Households	98	168‡
Current Households on 6/30/2011	575	632
Total Households Since 2006	674	953

* Plus Canada and DC

‡ Plus 44 two-state residents using a SC address

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

Cumulative giving from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011

\$50,000 and Up

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- 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.

VISION

The vision of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation is to maintain and restore the ecological integrity of the Hitchcock Woods and to serve as a model for sustainable urban forestry, balancing stewardship of forestland natural resources with compatible human uses.