

VIEWS *from the* WOODS

Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION

Vol. 4, No. 3
Spring 2011

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Longtime Dream Becomes a Reality



Just shy of five years after receiving the first gift for building a Woods maintenance complex, the Foundation has enjoyed seeing the project become a reality. Construction is well along and only some final work on the interior remains. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

Thanks to a number of generous donors, this new, 60 foot by 42 foot, all metal facility will house the two new John Deere tractors and the new Kubota tractor acquired by the Foundation in the fall of 2009, as well as the pickup truck and the two special purpose utility vehicles that also were acquired through donations. The structure will keep the entire

vehicle fleet more secure, out of the elements, and easier to maintain.

Woods Superintendent Bennett Tucker and Woods Technician Deon Mealing are eager to move in, and to finally have a small, dedicated office space inside. The building also is large enough to accommodate essential maintenance equipment and supplies. Woods staff will be building storage units and workbenches this summer.

Two existing shelters onsite will be repurposed and one will be torn down. Finalization of the Woods maintenance complex will complete the "campus" at the South Boundary entrance to the

Woods, where the Foundation completed and opened its first owned office in early 2007.

The campaign for the complex began in September 2006 with a local grant awarded for this project. Over the following years, while the Foundation was pursuing gifts for other important projects, a number of major gifts were received from private individuals specifically for this purpose.

The collective gifts of all donors to this multi-faceted project have ensured that these essential capital needs will be satisfied for many years to come, benefitting all who use and enjoy the Hitchcock Woods.

The Woods Are for the Birds

Visitors to the Woods soon may notice an increase in the number of eastern bluebirds and other bird species nesting in the Hitchcock Woods. It is part of an initiative by a local wildlife organization.

Upon approvals through the Foundation's Wildlife Committee, the Central Savannah River Bluebird Society (CSRBS) installed 15 bluebird nesting boxes in the Woods, some at the Ridge Mile Track and some around the Manage and the Horse Show Grounds. CSRBS is an affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society.

The nest boxes are expected to enhance the population not only of eastern bluebirds, but also of other cavity nesters, such as Carolina chickadees, Carolina wrens, brown-headed and white-breasted nuthatches, and tufted titmice.

Members of the local Society will monitor the nest boxes for activity on a weekly basis throughout the spring and summer months. Monitors will check each box for nests, eggs, young, predators, and other factors. The CSRBS will provide the Hitchcock Woods Foundation with a written report of nesting activity in the fall of each year.



Friends *of the* Woods

Listed below are only the names of Business Partners and Friends of the Woods who have joined or renewed between March 11, 2011, and May 18, 2011. The complete list of all current Partners and Friends is published once a year in the Annual Report.

BUSINESS PARTNERS

\$1,000 Level

All Star Rents
Cold Creek Nurseries
The Willcox#

\$500 Level

International Ventures, Ltd.#
Matchless Art and Design
Security Federal Bank#

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\$100 Level

AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA
Atlantic Broadband
Baker Family Dentistry
Birds and Butterflies
Country Gardeners Club of Aiken
Cranston Engineering Group, P.C.
Double L Farm
Guest Cottage Linens and Gifts*
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* New participants from 3/11/11 to 5/18/11

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2011 Trail Sponsorships

Special thanks to the donors who were the highest bidders on trail sponsorship opportunities.

Cathedral Aisle Fences
Coker Spring Trail
Cuthbert Ridge Line
Horse Show Grounds
Juac Hollow Line
Pigeon Trap Loop
Ridge Mile Track
Whitney Drive
Willie Barton's Line

Gail and Tori McMillen
Sherry Lukens
Jane and Shepard Ellenberg
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Pat and Larry Byers
Sara and Rich McNeil
Larry Comegys
Sharon and John Reeves

Hitchcock Descendants & Family Visit

By Scott D. Riviere, Trustee, Hitchcock Woods Foundation



While visiting Aiken in April, various members of the Hitchcock family stopped by the Hitchcock Woods Foundation's office and new maintenance facility. Left to right are (standing) Patricia Davies, Louise Stephaich, Stephany Hitchcock, William (Billy) and wife Rosalie Hitchcock, and (seated) Connie and husband Julian Peabody.

Julian, on his mother's side, is the eldest grandchild of Louise and Thomas Hitchcock. He is the only grandchild to have known and had a relationship with them. Julian briefly attended Aiken Prep. He also has fond memories as a member of the Aiken Hounds hunt staff, caring for and managing the hounds, and as a participant in the Aiken Horse Show in the 1920s. As the unofficial family historian, Julian has a wealth of memories, many of which are shared in his book, *Gran: A Personal Recollection*. The Foundation's Boardroom, where this photo was taken, is dedicated to him, having been funded by family and friends in his honor. Julian and Connie reside in San Francisco.

Stephany, on her father's side, is the youngest Hitchcock grandchild. Stephany has only recently begun to experience Aiken, thanks to the tutelage of her uncle Billy. She is captivated by the welcoming spirit of the community and the magic of the Hitchcock Woods. Stephany is a jewelry designer and, as a Silver Sponsor of the Aiken Horse Show, she creates custom jewelry for four fortunate champions each year. She and her husband, Bret Bailey, live in New York City.

Billy and sibling Louise also are grandchildren of the Hitchcocks, through their father Tommy Hitchcock of polo fame. Billy attended Aiken Prep and, during that period, also participated on the Aiken Hounds hunt staff. He has indelible memories of his time in the Woods and, as a Trustee of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation, has a sharpened interest in preserving the Woods for future generations.

Louise enjoyed coming to Aiken as a young girl with her mother. She looks forward to returning each spring to renew friendships. Along with the rest of the family, she also enjoys checking in to see what is new at the Foundation. Louise resides in New York and Palm Beach.

Patricia Davies, daughter of Julian Peabody, lives in Idaho with her husband Jimmy Davies. Rosalie and Billy live in Houston. Patricia and Rosalie have come to anticipate the serenity of the Hitchcock Woods and, when visiting, enjoy morning walks on the many forested trails.



Third and fourth grade students of Aiken Preparatory School anxiously await their tour of the Hitchcock Woods. Other classrooms touring the Woods this school year with RPSEC were from Schofield Middle School, Millbrook Elementary School, St. Mary Help of Christians School, and Byrd Elementary School.

The Woods Offer a Living Classroom

Since 1990, the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center has conducted tours of the Hitchcock Woods for elementary and middle school classrooms, both public and private, across Aiken County as well as in neighboring counties. The Center is a cooperative effort among the University of South Carolina Aiken, the local business community, and area public school districts. The Center's programs are designed to enhance education in science and mathematics.

Tours of the Hitchcock Woods reflect the Center's "hands on" approach to teaching, combining fun and learning to help students experience and discover the world around them. This past school season, the Center conducted 21 group tours of the Woods, providing a real world learning experience for more than 500 students in grades 3 through 7.

Carefully prepared lesson plans by experienced tour guides ensure that students' time in the Woods is well spent. Lessons focus on flora, fauna, and dynamics of the natural environment. Parents accompany the classes as chaperones, picking up good information along the way.

Valuable programs such as this one are a manifestation of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation's mission charge to "foster education and research on the history and resources of the Woods."

For more information about the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center, visit rpsec.usca.edu/.



Gary J. Senn, Ph.D., led the class on a fact filled and adventurous tour of the Woods. Dr. Senn is an Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina Aiken, and is the Director of the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center.



Célestine Eustis adopted her orphaned niece, Louise Eustis (later Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock), and brought her to Aiken in 1877. Later in life, Louise fostered Aiken's fabled Winter Colony.

Essay Contest : Célestine Eustis Prize

Célestine Eustis purchased land in the pine forests of Aiken more than 100 years ago. The aunt of Louise Eustis (Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock), Miss Eustis had a passion for flora and fauna, and loved the serenity of the woods. She helped to ensure that her family and future generations could enjoy what we know today as Hitchcock Woods. An essay contest for students has been created to honor her legacy.

Individuals may apply for themselves. Others may nominate a deserving youth. Even an entire class may apply. A cash prize of \$500 is awarded annually to a recipient whose appreciation of the Woods is in the tradition of Célestine Eustis. A panel of judges reviews all entries. The winner is announced at the annual Festival of the Woods held in September and the winner's name is engraved on a sterling silver trophy.

Entry Rules

1. Candidates must have contributed time to the preservation of Aiken traditions or values in support of the Hitchcock Woods
2. The candidate/s must be under 21 years of age
3. Candidates, or a third party wishing to nominate a candidate, must submit an essay explaining why Hitchcock Woods is important to the candidate/s and detailing the project or involvement of the candidate/s
4. Essays may be typed or hand written and may be sent with photos or artwork
5. Entries are accepted until September 2, 2011.
6. The review panel's majority vote will determine the recipient of the prize
7. The prize will consist of a monetary honorarium of \$500 and the winner's name engraved on the Eustis Trophy



This new event celebrates the wide range of pedestrian uses of the Hitchcock Woods. Activities feature the history and resources of the Woods, highlight the Foundation's management and stewardship efforts, and enhance the visitor experience.

FESTIVAL
of the WOODS
September 23 & 24, 2011

In Celebration of Eventing

A very special thank you is extended to the sponsors:

Heidi and Charles Beaumont • Annie Jones • Gretchen and Bob White • Sarah and James Wildasin

Appreciation also is extended to the donors to the silent auction at this winter's premiere of this new annual celebration, recognizing the importance of the eventing community to Aiken.

Aiken Feed and Supply • Lara Anderson, Full Gallop Farm • Heidi Beaumont • Stephen Bradley
Amy Brooks, Aiken Barn, Bed & Breakfast • Louisa Davidson • Pamela Blades Eckelbarger, Hoof Pix

Bubba Forrester, Sandy Hills Farm • Lesley Garrison, Ya Ya Beads • Taryn Hartnett, Equine Divine

Juli Hearn • Hitchcock Woods Foundation • Eric Horgan and Carol Lenna

Richard Lamb • Chris Powers • Mary Sheehy, Free the Spirit Wellness Practice

Jeanie and George Thomas, Jt-MFH, Why Worry Hounds • Nicole Tur-Waters, Pad Perfect

Gloria van den Berg and Emma Biederman, Sky Hollow • Heidi White • Julie Zapapas, Jumping Branch Farm

The Hitchcock Woods Foundation would like to congratulate all of the winners at this year's Aiken Horse Show.

Aiken Hounds Welcome Stakes

Oscar, Cathy Chambers

Open Hunter

Champion: Mariatchy de Cluis,
Hallie Anderson

Reserve: Bravado, Lauren Allen

Gentlemen's Hunter Hack

Biscotti, Larry Comegys

Adult Amateur Hunter

Champion: Oscar, Cathy Chambers

Reserve: City Limits, Jenna Weiner

AHS Open Hunter Classic

City Limits, Jenna Weiner

Walk, Trot

Champion: Napoleon, Dora Johnson

Reserve: Run for the Roses, Celia Cram

Walk, Trot, Canter

Champion: Likely Story, Catlin Rugg

Reserve: Black Jack, Savanna McNeill

Sidesaddle

Champion: Clover Hills Silver Lining,
Taylor Myers

Reserve: Wyatt,

Amber Asbell-Jackson

Junior Sidesaddle

Champion: Lady Bug, Boyce Myers

Reserve: Run for the Roses,

Justice Myers

Leadline

Robyn Bongers, Isobel Bruun,

Lila Bruun, Audrey Dietzel,

Elizabeth Fleming,

Benjamin Garrison, Peter Garrison

Maddie Godard, Henry Haeusler,

Karma Jackson, Caroline Kraeuter,

Claire Wrobleski, Mairin Wrobleski

Family Class

Hallie and Crawford Anderson

Costume Class

Clifford the Big Red Dog,

Audrey Dietzel

Foxhunter Hilltopper

Champion: Peanut, Toni Urben

Reserve: Truth Be Told,

Sarah Bridges

Open Pleasure

Champion: Truth Be Told,

Sarah Bridges

Reserve: Omar, Peggy Keeler

Junior Horse / Pony Warm Up Stakes

Mariatchy de Cluis, Hallie Anderson

Junior Horse / Pony Hunter

Champion: Mariatchy de Cluis,

Hallie Anderson

Reserve: High Cotton,

Hannah Grimm

Best Child Rider on a Horse

Hallie Anderson

Best Child Rider on a Pony

Hannah Grimm

Sportsmanship Award

Hannah Griffith

Honorable Mention:

Joelle Ramson

Foxhunter

Champion: Steel Smile,

Shellie Sommerson

Reserve: EZ, Tayloe Compton

AHS Foxhunter Winners Stakes

Harriet the Spy, Amanda Blake

Junior Foxhunter

Champion: Lady Bug, Boyce Myers

Reserve: Dylan, Shannon Hardiman

AHS Junior Hunter / Junior

Foxhunter Classic

Mariatchy de Cluis, Hallie Anderson

Aiken Hounds Master's Trophy

Rascal, Toni Urben

Best Turned Out Foxhunter

Breakfast in Bed, Paddy Ann Burns

Best Turned Out Hilltopper

Peanut, Toni Urben

Best Fieldhunter Judges Pick

Oscar, Cathy Chambers

Aiken Hounds Mentor Trophy

Joey Peace

Pony Club Winner

Palmetto Pony Club

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.