

VIEWS *from the* WOODS



Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION

Vol. 2, No. 2
Winter 2009

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WHAT EVERY FRIEND NEEDS TO KNOW

Doug Rabold, Executive Director

What does it mean to be a Friends of the Woods member? We want our Friends to understand the purpose and nature of this program.

From our perspective, Friends of the Woods members are those donors we strive to cultivate as the most aware of our operations, the most familiar with our challenges, and the greatest advocates of Hitchcock Woods.

We regard every donor with importance and appreciation. The Foundation does not "automatically" make every donor a member of this program. To become (and remain) a member, donors must annually designate \$50 for their membership fee. Part of this fee makes your member benefits possible. The balance supports our management and maintenance of Hitchcock Woods.

As a member, you receive our newsletters, annual report, calendar, event invitations and special letters, all of which are intended to keep you informed and involved. Obviously there are expenses associated with providing you with these materials and services, but we view these costs as an investment in your awareness, good will, and support.

We often say that being a Friends of the Woods member is "a good place to start." To provide perspective, cumulative membership fees cover less than 10% of our annual expenses. If your Friends of the Woods membership is much as you can do, we are wholly grateful for it.

All members can be silent recruiters simply by sporting their Friends of the Woods decals and license plate frames on their vehicles. If you need more, please call our office.

We would like for you, as a member, to be aware of our financial structure so that you might share this information with others.

The Facts About Our Finances

Thomas Hitchcock bequeathed the original tract of 1,191 acres over a period of years. Although many have assumed otherwise, there was no attendant endowment established for the care of this land.

In the early decades, the board of trustees personally bankrolled all operating expenses.



This obviously was not sustainable, so gradually others began to contribute. Several decades ago the Foundation initiated its year-end Annual Fund campaign, a tradition that continues. Today this campaign provides about 12% of our annual income.

The Foundation over the years has raised funds to acquire additional tracts of land (totaling over 900 acres), but never has the Foundation raised an endowment. Only in the past three years – primarily due to a single transaction – has the Foundation had a reserve fund of any significance. This new fund has enabled the Foundation to make investments that earn income at about 7% of our annual operating budget.

The balance of the Foundation's annual income is achieved through proceeds from our principal program, the Aiken Horse Show (30%), fundraising events (25%), the Friends of the Woods and Business Partner programs (12%), general contributions (10%), and other income (4%). The mix of income and expenses fluctuates each year, so these figures are approximate.

Unlike public parks or public lands, Hitchcock Woods is privately owned and therefore receives no operating support through city, county, state or federal tax revenues. The Foundation annually applies for City of Aiken accommodations tax funds, but all grant awards must be spent on out of area advertising.

Today Hitchcock Woods Foundation has various critical needs for new Woods maintenance initiatives and capital improvements. If you are interested in exploring these donor opportunities, please contact Doug Rabold, Executive Director, at 803-642-0528 or drabold@hitchcockwoods.org.

Listed below are only the names of Business Partners and Friends of the Woods who have joined or renewed their membership with Hitchcock Woods Foundation between September 22, 2008 and January 14, 2009. A complete listing of all our Business Partners and Friends of the Woods was published in the Annual Report issued in August 2008.

Friends of the Woods

BUSINESS PARTNERS

\$250 Level

Green Boundary Club+‡

\$100 Level

Allstate/Tom Young+
Brandy's Best Buy*
King Management+‡
Lionel Smith, Ltd.+‡
Management Recruiters+‡
Newberry Hall*
Southern Star Feed, Tack and Trailer Sales*

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* New members between
9/22/08 and 1/14/09
‡ Charter Partner or Friend
S Sustaining Partner

Hitchcock Woods Foundation
is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization
as determined by the Internal Revenue
Service. Gifts are tax deductible
to the full extent of the law.

CELESTINE EUSTIS ESSAY CONTEST

In recognition of the contributions Miss Celestine Eustis made to Aiken, and in preserving the Hitchcock Woods, the Foundation has organized the Celestine Eustis Essay contest.

All entrants must be under 21 years of age. Contributors must describe their commitment to, or use or enjoyment of, the 2,100 acre Hitchcock Woods. Individuals, or even an entire class, may apply. Nominations are also accepted. Essays should be no more than three pages (typed or handwritten) and may be accompanied by photos or artwork. Entries will be accepted until March 21, 2009, and the winner will receive an honorarium of \$500 and will be announced at the 2009 Aiken Horse Show in the Hitchcock Woods.

For complete prize rules, contact the Foundation office at (803) 642-0528 or email info@hitchcockwoods.org.



TRAIL SPONSORSHIPS ACKNOWLEDGED

Special thanks to the following Trail Sponsors, who through their generous donations help us manage and maintain some of the 65 miles of trails in Hitchcock Woods. Trail sponsorships are won through competitive bidding in silent auctions at fundraising events for the Foundation. Sponsorships are in effect for 12 months from the date of purchase.

Aiken Steeplechase Association Fall Fete/October 24, 2008

Cathedral Aisle Fences	Mr. & Mrs. John Harte
Juac Hollow Line	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Bremer
Ridge Mile Track	Mr. & Mr. Richard McNeil

BURN NOTICE:

Recent local rains have replenished subsoil moisture and have nourished the flora of the Woods. In mid-January, Woods staff will initiate the 2009 burn season with a controlled burn north of the Ridge Mile Track. Other areas of the Woods are targeted for burns this winter. Weather conditions permitting, growing season burns are planned for areas with low levels of vegetative debris. All units slated for potential burns this year are identified on maps posted at the seven formal entrances to the Woods, as well as at Gamekeepers Lodge and the power line easement near Foxchase. Visitors are reminded to avoid burn areas during and immediately following a controlled burn.

THE 93RD ANNUAL AIKEN HORSE SHOW



Established by Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock in 1916, the Aiken Horse Show remains one of the foremost equestrian competitions in Aiken. The Show's popularity is primarily due to its unique setting in the middle of Hitchcock Woods. As a private, non-profit organization, the Hitchcock Woods Foundation depends heavily upon the proceeds from the Aiken Horse Show to accomplish its work of protecting this important natural resource. This popular three-day event is Hitchcock Woods Foundation's signature annual fundraiser.

This year's event, scheduled to be held April 3, 4, & 5, will feature open hunters, adult amateurs, open pleasure, foxhunter, junior pony hunter, junior foxhunter, and ladies sidesaddle classes as well as the Aiken Horse Show Classic, Aiken Hounds Welcome Stakes, Junior Pony Warm Up Stakes and Security Federal Foxhunter Winners Stakes. Participants can request a prize list by contacting the Hitchcock Woods Foundation office at 803-642-0528. Information is also available on the Aiken Horse Show website (www.aikenhorshow.org). The entry deadline is Tuesday, April 1; there will be a \$10 late fee per horse after that date.

Individual sponsorship opportunities and invitations will be mailed to past subscribers and Friends of the Woods in late February or early March. Please contact the Foundation office at 642-0528 if you wish to donate items for the Silent Auction.

☞ 2009 Aiken Horse Show Gold Sponsors ☛



Savannah River
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☞ 2009 Aiken Horse Show Silver Sponsors ☛



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SHARE THE VIEWS!

Do you know someone who would like to learn about Hitchcock Woods?

It's easy to share our e-newsletter. Just send the name of your friend or family member and their email address to info@hitchcockwoods.org. By sending an e-newsletter, we are saving paper, printing, postage, and staff time. Thank you for helping us to be better stewards of your financial support and our shared natural resources.

SAVE THE DATE...MAY 2, 2009

Some of polo's top talent will team up to participate in the Aiken Equine Charities Cup, a 30-goal polo match staged to benefit the Hitchcock Woods Foundation on Saturday, May 10, 2009 at New Bridge Polo Club. The Kentucky Derby will be shown on a large screen television!



FOR THE DOGS ... AND THEIR HUMANS, TOO!

First in a series on specific topics in our Visitor Guidelines

Most cities and counties have some form of leash, license and pick-up-after-your-dog laws. Aiken is no exception. But while dog walkers must leash their puppies while walking the streets of town, Hitchcock Woods offers an alternative.

When bringing your dog into the Woods, please keep in mind that not everyone is comfortable with dogs, so it's up to the owner to present a dog who is well-socialized and under control. Whether a dog is friendly or aggressive, his instincts to investigate his surroundings and approach others could be misinterpreted. If your dog is not restrained by a leash, please make sure he responds to voice commands. Under no circumstances should a dog be out of their handler's sight. Please remember these other guidelines found in our Visitor's Guide:

- Dogs are the legal responsibility of their owner/handler.
- Carry a leash in case your dog needs to be restrained for safety reasons.
- Dog walkers who feel that the presence of wildlife in the Woods is a threat to their dogs are advised to keep their dogs on a leash at all times.
- Remember that dogs are not allowed in the Woods during the times that the drag hunt is in the Woods with hounds.

Thank you for helping us make the Woods enjoyable for all of our visitors!

IN MEMORY



A dear friend and fellow trustee, Lucetta Crisp Knox passed away October 12, 2008 after a long illness.

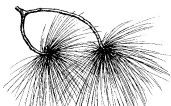
Lucetta Crisp first visited Aiken at the age of 15. It was during this visit that she met Northrup Knox, the boy next door. They married the week after he graduated college and shared 48 wonderful years.

Passionate about the outdoors, Mrs. Knox was a member of the Genesee Valley Hunt for 45 years and served as the Aiken Hounds' Master of Fox Hounds for a decade. She was a skilled angler and enjoyed tennis, golf, gardening and quail hunting.

The Hitchcock Woods were dear to Lucetta and she served as a lifetime trustee of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation. She will be greatly missed.

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.



Hitchcock Woods

FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1702
Aiken, SC 29802