

# VIEWS *from the* WOODS



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Winter 2014

Hitchcock Woods  
FOUNDATION

(803) 642-0528  
hitchcockwoods.org

## Aiken Horse Show Offers Pleasant Surprises

The 98th annual Aiken Horse Show is proof positive that tradition and invention can indeed enjoy a happy marriage. The show directors and committee have continued to respect the qualities that have always distinguished the show. But this year, they have added a few new ideas to keep things light and lively.

Show planners made changes to the Class Schedule to challenge more exhibitors and charm spectators. Here are some examples of changes this year.

- **Aiken Hunter Under Saddle Challenge**

In this division, gentlemen compete in a class and ladies compete in a class. Then the gentleman or the lady riding the best horse wins the competition in the championship class.

- **Future Hunter Division**

This addition creates a competition opportunity for riders and horses with a preference for more modest fences.

- **Silver Fox Challenge**

For people 55 and over, this class is for those who have jumped or hunted for many years, but who now prefer to compete without jumping.

- **Division Sponsors**

This year, more sponsors are participating as well, with the addition of sponsors at the division level, complementing the

support traditionally provided by Class Sponsors. Sponsorship opportunities will continue to expand next year.

- **Trophies in all Classes**

For the first time, trophies will be awarded in all classes of the Aiken Horse Show.

The 2014 Aiken Horse Show recognizes a longtime friend of the Aiken Horse Show, Heidi Beaumont, as **Honorary Chairman**. "I still remember meeting Heidi when she first ventured to the Show Grounds 12 years ago and she has been a major supporter of the show ever since," said Gail Balding King, who is codirecting the show with Linda Knox McLean.

Matt Collins, a knowledgeable and experienced judge, is the Competition Director and Course Designer for the show. Matt's creative fences created a sensation at last year's show.

The Judge for the 2014 Aiken Horse Show is Mr. J. Arthur (Bucky) Reynolds III, who is returning to the Aiken Horse Show, having judged the show in 2009. Bucky has judged almost every major horse show in the United States and Canada.

Fine luncheons will be served in the tent on Saturday and Sunday. For admission information, please contact the Foundation office at (803) 642-0528.

For detailed information about the Aiken Horse Show, please visit [AikenHorseShow.org](http://AikenHorseShow.org).



Photo Credit: Louisa Davidson

Platinum Sponsors

April 4, 5, and 6

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# The Ice Storm Cometh ...



(Left) Bennett Tucker and Eric Grande of the Foundation staff have been working tirelessly on the recovery effort. (Above) A fallen tree blocking the Cathedral Aisle entrance to the Woods was just one of countless trees that required clearing to make entrances and major trails accessible.

## Business Partners Friends of the Woods

Listed below are only the names of Business Partners and Friends of the Woods who have joined or renewed between 11/13/13 and 03/06/14. The complete list of all current Partners and Friends is published once a year in the Annual Report.

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\* New participant  
# Charter Friend or Partner



## ... But We Shall Overcome

When Aiken residents awoke on February 13, the landscape outside their windows was coated in an inch of ice from the tops of trees to the smallest blades of grass. Those who live closest to Hitchcock Woods could hear the damage happening before anyone could actually get into the Woods to assess the scene. Neighbors stated that it sounded like gunfire, as limbs cracked and popped before crashing to the ground, the ice shattering like exploding glass. In the eerie quiet that follows a citywide power outage, the sounds of breaking trees could be heard all over town.

The first task was to simply cut a path off of South Boundary in order to access the main entrance to the Woods. Over the following two weeks, Woods staff worked relentlessly to clear trails and remove hazards. In the history of Hitchcock Woods there has never been a closure of such duration, but safety to visitors was the paramount concern. Much had to be accomplished before the Foundation felt it safe to allow full use of the Woods again. The east side of the Woods sustained the greatest damage while the west side fared a bit better. The distinction is in large part due to the timber thinning that took place on 320 acres of the western flank last summer.

By the first week of March (three weeks after the storm), over 300 man-hours were logged in the cleanup effort. A delivery of diesel fuel was pushed forward by higher fuel consumption. Extra chains for chainsaws, oil, lubricants, and replacement blades had

to be purchased. Two contractors were brought in to help Woods staff access the higher limbs and provide use of a skid steer machine, which the Foundation does not own.

The first priority was to make the Woods safe and usable. The two-week push achieved just that. On February 28 over 80% of trails were open to all visitors, 2-legged and 4-legged alike, and the Aiken Hounds hunted the west side of the Woods the following day.

But the real work has just begun. Narrower side trails still need to be cleared. Logs must be split, limbs need to be chipped, and debris must be removed. The plan is to use what is salvageable for jumps, trail maintenance, and erosion control. Woods staff will merchandise select trees damaged in the storm to raise funds for the cleanup effort. It is a conservative estimate to say that Woods staff will be continuing ice storm recovery work well into summer.

It can be disheartening to see a landscape so loved seem to be in a shambles on the ground, but with continued work of Woods staff and strong community support, Hitchcock Woods will fully recover. All the entrances had multiple cars parked outside them the very first day the Woods re-opened. One person even did a cartwheel before skipping down the trail with her two dogs. And as a recent Woods visitor stated, "A little more sunlight to dapple our meadows isn't necessarily a bad thing."

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## An Angel On Your Shoulder



*South Carolina Secretary of State Mark Hammond (second from left) recognized the Hitchcock Woods Foundation as one of ten "angel" nonprofits exemplifying charitable work across the state. Accepting for the Foundation were (from left) Douglas Rabold, Executive Director, Christine Reichel, Administrator, and Dr. Harry Shealy, Chairman of the Board.*

Over the years, generous donors have shouldered the many operating and capital expenses of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation. In turn, the Foundation has honored your gift through responsible management and fiscal stewardship.

As 2013 was drawing to an end, right at the height of the charitable giving season, the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office recognized the Hitchcock Woods Foundation as one of ten "Angel" nonprofits statewide. Every year, that office "selects ten organizations that represent some of the most efficient and effective charities soliciting in South Carolina."

This is truly an honor and a milestone achievement for the Foundation. There are about 8,000 registered and 10,000 active public charities operating in South Carolina, and the scope of the evaluation also extends to national nonprofits that aggressively solicit in the state.

The Hitchcock Woods Foundation is greatly appreciative of this recognition and shares it with all of its donors who have entrusted the Foundation with their charitable gifts.

## Doug Rabold Wished Well

In late February, the Foundation extended well wishes to Doug Rabold after eight years of service as the Foundation's first Executive Director. In early January, Doug announced to the Board of Trustees that he would be returning to private practice as a business consultant. Doug had consulted with the Foundation for a year prior to his hire.

Doug wrote to the board: "My nine year relationship with the Hitchcock Woods Foundation truly has been the most rewarding experience of my professional life. I have found it very exciting to work with a dedicated and talented board and staff to advance the work of the Foundation."

Thank you and best wishes, Doug!

# Eventers Party Expands to Support Storm Cleanup

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Photo Credit: Janice Freeland Photography

*Julie Hearn organized and hosted a silent auction with outstanding featured items.*

The fourth annual "Celebration of Eventing" party to raise funds for the stewardship of the Hitchcock Woods took on a different feel after the ice storm. In light of the damage sustained from the storm, the sponsors graciously welcomed the entire Aiken community to join the eventers in raising funds for the recover effort.

At a lovely evening at The Willcox, guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment by 4 Cats in the Dog House. A silent auction included items such as lessons with Olympians Philip Dutton and Eric Horgan, a Palace Malice print by Barry Bornstein, and handmade bags by Theresa King. Two tickets to a Foreigner concert generated some very competitive bidding!



*Richard Lamb, who donated three lessons to the silent auction, enjoying the party with friend Suzy Haslup.*

## Hitchcock Woods Shop

Hitchcock Woods Foundation merchandise has grown in popularity with the community ever since former Trustee Sandy Tucker championed the idea a number of years ago. Current board member Dana Massey has taken up the mantle and has been busy ordering interesting items to make available at the Aiken Horse Show and at Birds and Butterflies downtown.

Dana recently delivered some new merchandise to Birds and Butterflies owner Ron Brenneman, who has graciously carved out a Hitchcock Woods Shop in the Laurens Street business he operates with his wife, Dori. Please pay a visit soon and see what exciting items are "in store" for you!



### 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.



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