

VIEWS *from the* WOODS

Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION

(803) 642-0528

www.hitchcockwoods.org

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

www.facebook.com/hitchcockwoodsfoundation

Tradition in the Woods

Continues with Family, Friends and Corporate Sponsors

The 103rd Aiken Horse Show

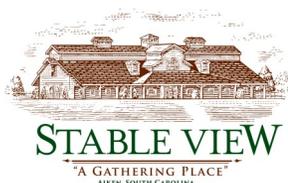
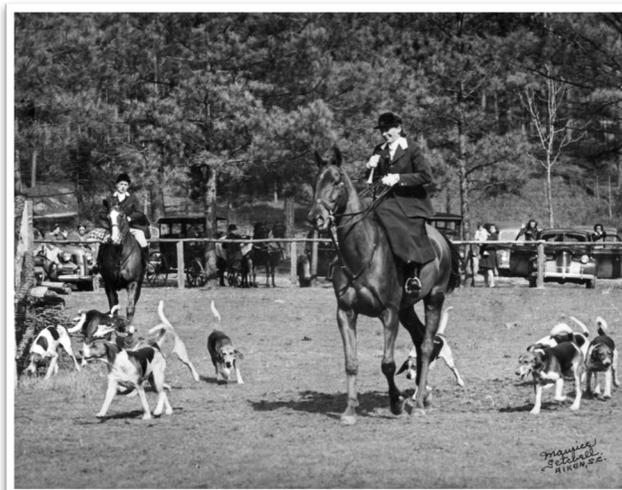
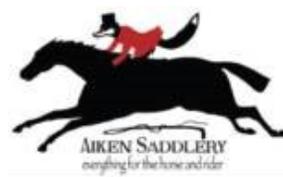
March 29-31, 2019

Platinum Level

Gold Level



Silver Level



York Cottage Antiques



Visit www.aikenhorshow.org for more information.



Controlled or Prescribed Burns are necessary to the overall health of a forest and the surrounding community. Prescribed fire is a safe way to reduce the risk of wildfire that could spread past the Woods. In the absence of fire, pine needles, leaves and other debris become fuel for wildfires. Prescribed burns also clear non-native plants that compete with native plants for water and soil nutrients, and help control diseases that may affect the Longleaf Pine.

Control lines are established to keep fire contained in a targeted area. Barriers such as a stream, a prepped trail or road are used as much as possible to contain the fire within the burn unit. The fire management team monitors and patrols the control lines to ensure the fire does not escape the burn unit.

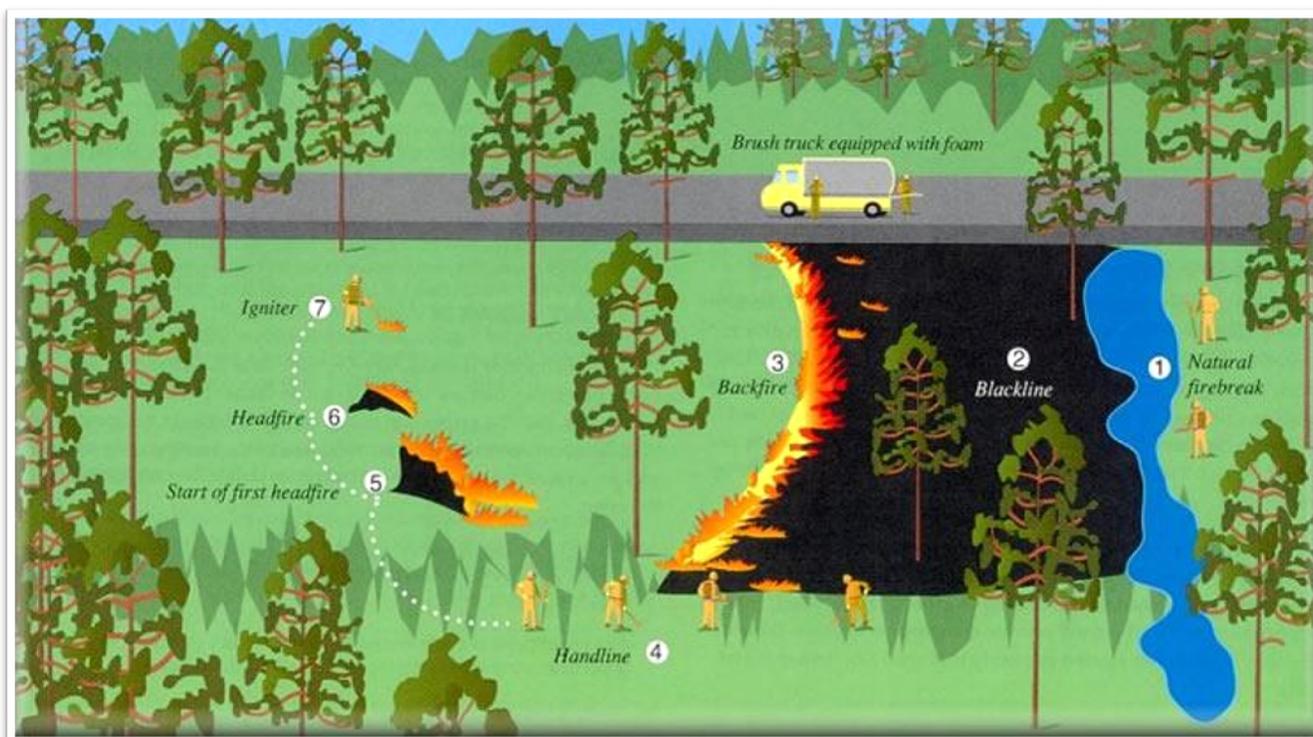
Burns improve the wildlife habitat by opening up the understory from scrub oak competition. The herbaceous groundcover promoted by prescribed fire is beneficial for foraging and cover for the wildlife species. Because of the slow pace and low intensity of the fire, wildlife has ample opportunity to leave the area. They will move temporarily near a water source, a fallen tree or burrow in a hole until the fire line passes. Opening up the forest stimulates seed growth and enhances visibility for feeding.

Equally important benefits of Prescribed Burns are:

- Creating thriving environments for plant and animal diversity
- Controlling competing vegetation and disease
- Improving wildlife habitats
- Reducing forest fuel
- Managing endangered species
- Reducing tick population



The Foundation's new brush truck generously donated by Howard M. Hickey Jr., and Linda C. Hickey, DVM.



Prescribed burn managers try to find a natural firebreak, such as a creek (1), from which they set down a wind backfire (3). This creates a blackline (2) at which the spot-headfires (set in successive ignitions (5, 6, 7)) will stop. Crew members patrol a handline (4) to ensure that the burn is contained. *Diagram courtesy of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.*



ANATOMY OF A PRESCRIBED BURN



Photo 1: Open, fire maintained Longleaf eco-system.



Photo 2: Fighting Fire with Fire; the photo above shows the ignition pattern at work during a prescribed burn.



Overgrown grasses and trees; the start of a backing fire in the initial step of the prescribed burn. Reference #3 on the diagram to the left.



Part of the HWF burn team, from left, Board Trustee, Randy Wolcott, Woods Technician Mike Grabowski, Board Trustee Anne Kiser, Woods Technician Frank Morelli, Charlie Possee, Robert Winston and Woods Superintendent, Bennett Tucker.



Prescribed burns decrease the risk of wild fires by reducing the fuels on the forest floor.



ANATOMY OF A PRESCRIBED BURN



Known for its long needles, Longleaf pines are the most fire resilient pine species in the south. The needles help protect the bud from fire.



After the burn the terminal bud of the Longleaf will continue to thrive.



The forest floor after burn completion.



Photo Credit: C. Rolla

Ferns and other flora begin to flourish once the underbrush competition is reduced by the prescribed burn.



GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS
MARCH PRESCRIBED FIRE
AWARENESS MONTH

This official designation brings attention to the many benefits of controlled burning.

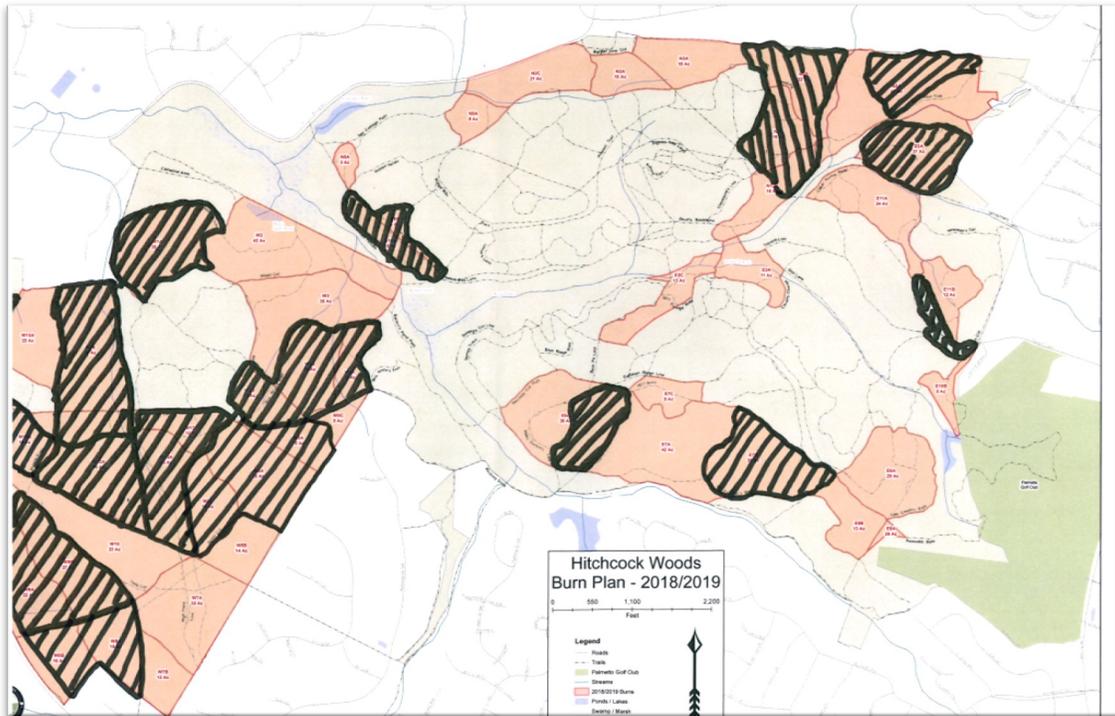
Please click or paste the link below to read the proclamation.

<https://www.state.sc.us/forest/releases/>

[prescribedfireawarenessmonth-march2019.pdf](https://www.state.sc.us/forest/releases/prescribedfireawarenessmonth-march2019.pdf)



2018-2019 HITCHCOCK WOODS BURN PLAN



The above map shows the candidate prescribed burn units that were identified for dormant season hazard reduction burns for the 2018-2019 winter season. When we identify units we pick a variety in order to have choices so that we can have options for various wind patterns we may utilize for burn days throughout the winter.



Photo credit: Bennett Tucker

At the end of a prescribed burn with the sun filtering lazily through the tree tops, the white smoke was high overhead shutting out the direct sunlight.

FESTIVAL OF THE WOODS

AN EMMY AWARD WINNER, A VISIONARY AND A TEXAN

The Hitchcock Woods Foundation would like to thank the volunteers, partners, sponsors and friends who made our 10th Annual Festival of the Woods event and associated education and outreach activities possible and a great success!

SCHOOL FIELD DAY EVENT

Every year the Foundation collaborates with the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center to host a series of eco-hikes and the 4th Annual Natural and Cultural Resources of Hitchcock Woods Field Day Event, on September 20th for forty-eight 6th grade students from Tall Pines STEM Academy.

Our partners that made this day special for the students included:

- Ruth Patrick Science Education Center
- Savannah River Archaeological Research Program
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- The Diachronic Research Foundation
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- Archaeological Consultants of the Carolina
- MPJ Wildlife Consulting
- Howard Wayt

A special thank you to our Festival of the Woods Committee, sponsors and partners for making a September evening a night to remember.

SILVER SPONSORS



PARTNERS



Celebrating 10 Years



GUEST SPEAKER PATRICK MCMILLAN

The Emmy Award-winning host, co-creator and writer of the popular ETV nature program *Expeditions with Patrick McMillan* celebrated the Festival's ten year anniversary as our guest speaker. He received a warm welcome and spoke about *Personal Space: The Importance of Land in our Lives*.



HONORARY CHAIR DR. HARRY E. SHEALY, JR.

Dacre Stoker, former Festival of the Woods Honorary Chair, Hitchcock Woods Foundation Trustee, and logistics extraordinaire, who continues to donate his time and expertise to the Aiken Horse Show, introduced this year's honorary chairman, Dr. Harry E. Shealy, Jr.

A VISIONARY AND A TEXAN; CELESTINE EUSTICE ESSAY WINNERS

The Foundation congratulates both Caroline and Joy for writing winning essays about the appreciation of Hitchcock Woods. A sixth grader from Mead Hall Episcopal School, Caroline Lorraine Wiedenman received \$500. Joy Saine, a tenth grade student from San Antonio Texas received \$100 as the Reserve winner. Although Joy could not attend the Festival, her grandfather Jim Saine, graciously accepted Joy's award.

NEW STAFF MEMBER



Frank Morelli grew up in Aiken and has resided here since 2010, while remaining an active member of the outdoor community. Frank has volunteered with the Hitchcock Woods Foundation Prescribed Fire Team since 2015, prior to his hiring, and has been a volunteer and daily visitor to the Woods for years prior.

In February of 2019, he became a Certified Prescribed Fire Manager with the SC Forestry Commission. Before his employment in the Woods, he was an employee of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Clemson Horticultural Department. Frank has studied in the fields of Forestry, Wildlife Biology and holds a B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering and an Agricultural Business Management minor from Clemson University. He has also studied at the University of South Carolina in graduate course work in the fields of Landscape and Population Ecology, Plant Science, and Environmental Resource Management Implementation.

FEATURED FLORA



Golden Ragwort
Senecio aureus

Senecio aureus is a mounding perennial with shiny heart shaped basal leaves. Several species of small bees, bumblebees, butterflies, hoverflies and pollinating flies seek nectar and pollen from the flowers.

The generic name *Senecio* is from the Latin word *senex* meaning “old man” due to the achene’s silvery pappus.

April through June Golden Ragwort can be seen near Juac Hollow Line and Mrs. Allen’s Ride.

Hunt Week Gala

The Annual Hunt Week Gala was held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at The Willcox. We were entertained by 4 Cats in the Dog House as everyone mingled throughout the hotel enjoying delicious food, good music and comradery among friends. Our Sponsors for the evening included:

- ◆ Elizabeth P. Carey and Thomas G. Stizmann
- ◆ Robert and Victoria Cunningham
- ◆ Shepard and Jane Ellenberg
- ◆ Linda Knox McLean
- ◆ Mary Kate Moulton
- ◆ David and Joanna Samson

Thanks to everyone for making the 2019 Hunt Week Gala a success!

*The Hitchcock Woods Foundation
would like to thank the
donors and volunteers
who make our work possible.*

*Visit www.hitchcockwoods.org
to view a donor listing in the
Foundation’s 2018 Annual Report*

DID YOU KNOW?

The Hitchcock Family’s original and wonderful gift of land did not come with an endowment.

By making a planned Legacy gift you can help sustain and ensure the Foundation’s future work.

For more information about planned giving please call the Foundation office at 803.641.0528 or visit www.hitchcockwoods.org


Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 1702
Aiken, SC 29802



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Save the Date

FESTIVAL
of the WOODS

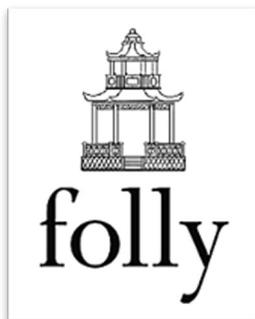
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

At the Show Grounds in Hitchcock Woods

Photo credit: Beth Maynor Finch

*A community celebration of friends, and the
cultural and natural resources of Hitchcock Woods.*


Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION



Thank you **folly** for selling Hitchcock Woods merchandise. Support the Woods . . .shop **folly**!

116 Laurens Street SW
Aiken, South Carolina 29801 (803) 226-0550

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.



SCHOOLING DAY

Join us for the first

After the Show Schooling Day

at the Horse Show Ring in Hitchcock Woods

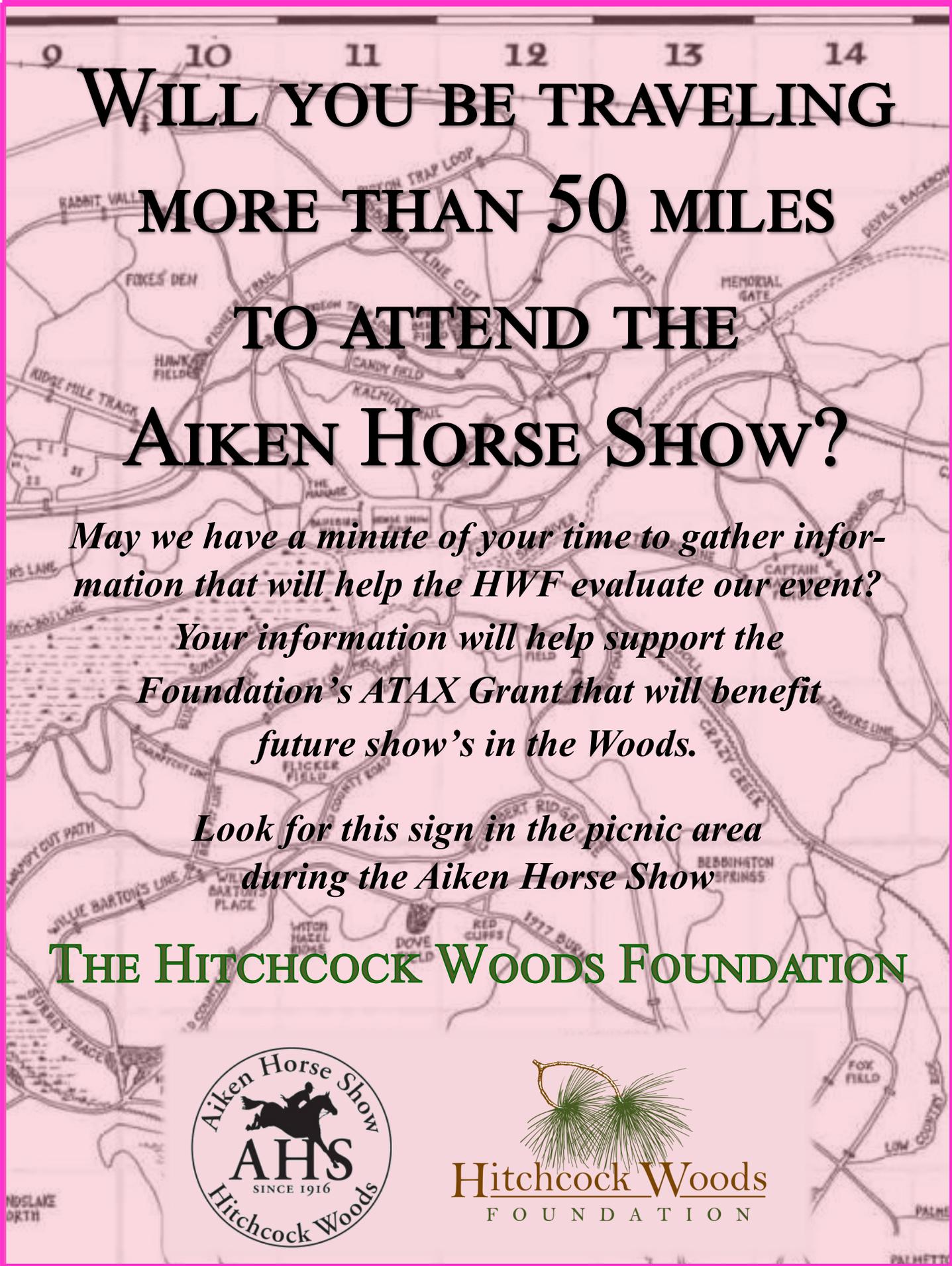
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019

9:00am-1:00pm

\$25 per round

Sign-up at the Horse Show Ring

No vehicles allowed in the Woods



**WILL YOU BE TRAVELING
MORE THAN 50 MILES
TO ATTEND THE
AIKEN HORSE SHOW?**

May we have a minute of your time to gather information that will help the HWF evaluate our event?

Your information will help support the Foundation's ATAX Grant that will benefit future show's in the Woods.

Look for this sign in the picnic area during the Aiken Horse Show

THE HITCHCOCK WOODS FOUNDATION

