

VIEWS *from the* WOODS

Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION

803.642.0528

www.hitchcockwoods.org

www.facebook.com/hitchcockwoodsfoundation

Winter 2019-2020



Photo credit: Shelly Marshall Schmidt

WOODS EDUCATION

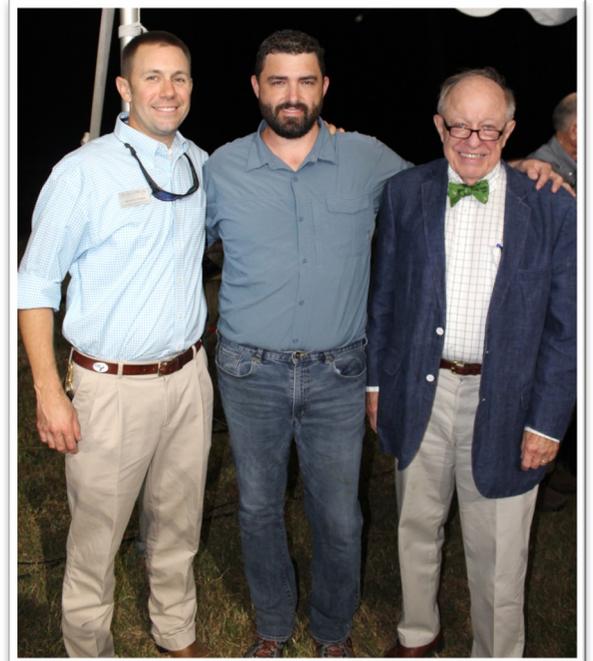
2019 FESTIVAL OF THE WOODS

The 2019 FESTIVAL OF THE WOODS is now a wonderful memory. The Foundation would like to thank our volunteers, sponsors and friends who made the evening possible and a great success! *Thank you* from the bottom of our hearts!

As the caption reads to the right, the evening was a community celebration of the natural resources of Hitchcock Woods, celebrated with good friends, sweet music and good wine. It was an enjoyable evening.

With a shortened itinerary, the reviews were welcoming and our speaker Dr. Dwayne Estes was outstanding. We could have listened for another forty-five minutes as he spoke about the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative and the work that is being done to save the grasslands.

Watch our social media for the date of the 2020 Festival of the Woods.



Bennett Tucker, Superintendent of Hitchcock Woods, guest speaker, Dr. Dwayne Estes, Executive Director for the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative and Dr. Harry Shealy, Jr. Foundation Trustee.



Guitarist and singer,
Gavin Reily



Photo courtesy of Bill Tucker

September 2019 Festival of the Woods

Twilight drops her curtain down and pins it with a star. ~ Lucy Maud Montgomery

2019 FESTIVAL OF THE WOODS



*A community celebration
of the cultural and natural
resources of Hitchcock*



Volunteers, Jan and Rich
Waugh and Edna Mills



Volunteers, Bryan Pittman and
Mark Blades



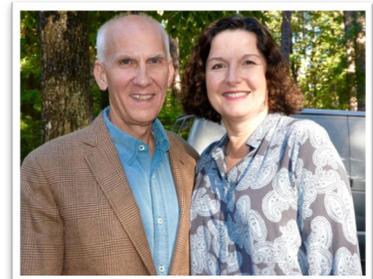
Toni Jerome and Keith Crawford



Beth Hall, Eileen Wilkinson and
Jody Boles



Terry and John Lindsay



Richard and Michele Harmon



Carl and Linda Strojan



Scott and Meg Ferguson

OUR SPONSORS



Chuck Pexa, Judy McConnell,
Carol Pexa and Chuck McConnell



Jocelyn and Larry Comegys

WOODS EDUCATION

2019 FESTIVAL OF THE WOODS *Family Day*

On Saturday, September 21, the Festival of the Woods continued with *Family Day*. The gate opened at 11:00 a.m. and the event was free to the public. Vehicles were allowed to drive to the horse show ring where the learning stations were setup to greet them. Many participants packed a lunch and picnicked under the pines. Aiken Ice Cream completed their meal. It truly was a classroom in the woods for adventurers of all ages.

Family Day was a success because we all came together in the beginning, we worked together through the progress and together we achieved success! *Thank you.*

- ◆ *Carl Steen*, the lead archaeologist for the Woods Cultural Resources Survey from the Diachronic Research Foundation.
- ◆ *Bobby Sutherlin*, from the Archaeological Consultants of the Carolinas.
- ◆ *Tim Mettlen*, from the SC Dept of Health and Environmental Control
- ◆ *Chris Moore*, from the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program.
- ◆ *Jessica Phillips*, Outreach coordinator, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program.
- ◆ *Howard Wayt*, our local historian and railroad enthusiast.
- ◆ *Mark Pavlosky*, from MPJ Wildlife Consulting.
- ◆ *Wendy Gutfarb*, *Aiken Hounds* and *Larry Byers*, Trustee and Master of the Aiken Hounds.
- ◆ *Dr. Lehr Brisbin*, Trustee from the Savannah River Ecology Lab.
- ◆ *Drake Carroll*, SC Forestry Commission, State Firewise and Prevention Coordinator.
- ◆ *Andy Johnson*, SC Forestry Commission
- ◆ *Karen Brown*, Technical Assistance and Training Specialist from The Longleaf Alliance
- ◆ *Chris Hobson* and *Jenna Rooker* from the US Forestry Service - SRS.
- ◆ *Lisa Lord*, SC Field Project Coordinator and Savannah River Watershed Project Director, for the Longleaf Alliance
- ◆ *Brendon Spears* as Burner Bob the ambassador for prescribed burning from The Longleaf Alliance
- ◆ Savannah Hulon and Will Britt From SCDNR



WOODS EDUCATION

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION



First Presbyterian Kindergarten class and Bennett Tucker, Woods Superintendent, pose for their annual picture after completing a tour and learning about the Woods.



Woods Superintendent Bennett Tucker explains to young conservationists about the variety of trees in the Woods by identifying their barks and branches.

Coming in May 2020!

The Hitchcock Woods Foundation is delighted to partner with the Aiken Girl Scouts and the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC) in providing a day for the Girl Scouts in the Woods. The girls can choose whether to complete the ALC Young Conservationist program or to earn the Girl Scout environmental conservation/Eco badge appropriate to their age level. The event is going to take place on Saturday, May 9, 2020. Between 80-100 Girl Scouts, age levels includes kindergarten up through 12th grade will have the opportunity to learn from female subject matter experts in their field of forestry, biologists and master naturalists.

The Hitchcock Woods Foundation is pleased to be a partner in this worth-while event for young women to appreciate and explore the outdoors in Hitchcock Woods!



WANTED

No experience necessary, bring eye protection, gloves, trimming loppers or pruning clippers and a bottle of water.

Axe Club. A hard working group of volunteers from the Hitchcock Woods staff, the Aiken Hounds staff and volunteers. Responsible for brushing the “Aikens” (drag line jumps) to get the jumps freshened up for the drag hunting season.

*Thank you
Axe Club volunteers and
Blanchard equipment!*



We are thankful to the leadership/staff of the Aiken Hounds as well for their support, refreshments and guidance, and the Hitchcock Woods staff. Fifty-five jumps were completed between October 22 through November 18. The Axe Club has done a great job!



SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION

The Knox Family was celebrated by the Foundation in the Summer/Fall 2019 newsletter. In this issue the Foundation continues with a permanent plaque showing our appreciation. The plaque is mounted at Memorial Gate.



GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT HITCHCOCK WOODS!

Books can be purchased at the Hitchcock Woods Foundation office located at 444 S. Boundary Ave., SW, M-F 9-5. All proceeds support the Hitchcock Woods.

NEW: *Trailside Wildflowers of the Hitchcock Woods*; K. Perrine and H.E. Shealy, Jr. \$25.

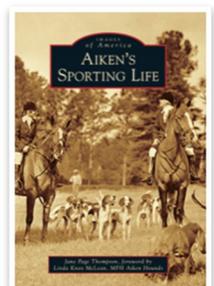
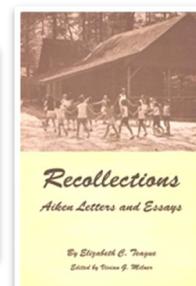
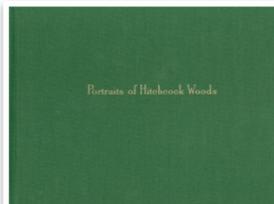
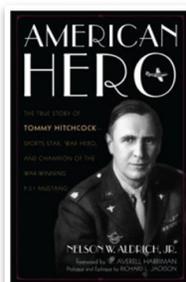
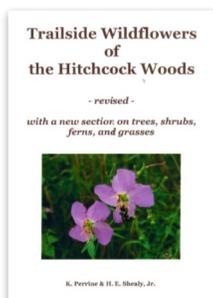
An Illustrated Collection of Hunting Haiku; poems by David Trachtenberg and watercolor illustrations by Jeremy Houghton. \$50.

Portraits of Hitchcock Woods; photos by Shelly Marshall Schmidt, words by Marti Healy. \$125.

American Hero - The True Story of Tommy Hitchcock - Sports Star, War Hero, and Champion of the War-winning P-51 Mustang; Nelson W. Aldrich, Jr. \$30.

Recollections; Aiken Letters and Essays; Elizabeth Teague \$16.00

Aiken's Sporting Life; Jane Page Thompson \$22.

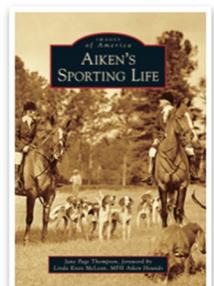
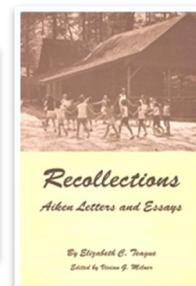
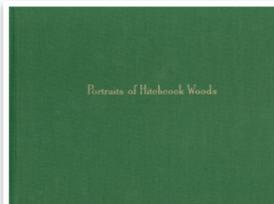
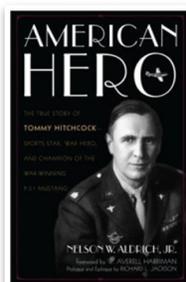
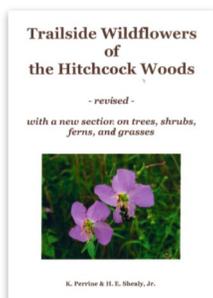


FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Looking for the perfect gift for the person who has everything? Give them a tribute and the Foundation will send the card. An honor gift is a meaningful way to honor someone special in your life. It's a way to show the honoree you care because they have touched your life.

By giving a tribute gift, you also support the Foundations work 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.*

The front of the tribute card is the photo on the cover, and the back of the card is below. Shop early and send a tribute today, by contacting the Foundation office, at 803.642.0528, or stop by the Green House, M-F 9-5.



2016 - 2019 RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS TRANSLOCATION COMPLETE

As of day break on the morning of November 8, four newly translocated Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW) were released onto the landscape of Hitchcock Woods.

To date, roughly twenty-eight other RCW's are on the property bringing our population up to thirty-two birds!

This was the fourth year of translocating RCW's back to Hitchcock Woods after they had been extirpated since the late 1960s!

Back in 2016 marked the first year of the translocation, followed in 2017 and 2018 we also translocated RCWs to Hitchcock Woods through a larger state and region wide recovery effort. This past spring we had fourteen young produced and they all seem to be doing well.

This project would have never happened if it wasn't for Randy Wolcott, board member, who had the vision and dedication to lead this project many years ago.

Also, a thank-you goes out to the Hitchcock Woods trustees, staff and our volunteers who assisted with this effort and especially our contracted biologist, Mark Pavlosky of MPJ Wildlife Consulting, LLC for his expertise, guidance and dedication.

SOUTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY RECOGNIZES HITCHCOCK WOODS

On November 20, the South Carolina Bluebird Society certified that Hitchcock Woods was a designated Bluebird Habitat. Presenting the award to the Board of Trustees was Mike DeBruhl, president of the South Carolina Bluebird Society and Ron Brenneman.

The Foundation was also presented with the 2019 "Nest Box" award for having over 100 nest boxes in Hitchcock Woods. Ron reported that over the years from 2011 through 2019 there have been 1,723 fledged birds; 1,603 were Bluebirds. The other one hundred and twenty were a mix of Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wren and Tufted Titmouse.

Hitchcock Woods also houses twelve owl boxes and has fledged eight owls over the years.



LONGLEAF PINE IN HITCHCOCK WOODS IS THE LARGEST KNOWN TREE OF ITS SPECIES IN THE COUNTRY!



LISTED IN THE CHAMPION TREES NATIONAL REGISTER

The listing of the Hitchcock tree as it is displayed on the American Forests website.

PINE LONGLEAF	
SPECIES:	Pine
COMMON NAME:	Longleaf
SCIENTIFIC NAME:	Pinus palustris
STATE:	SC
COUNTY:	Aiken
POINTS:	259

STATUS	CHAMPION
TREE CIRCUMFERENCE	140
HEIGHT	105
CROWN SPREAD	56
TOTAL POINTS	259

In September of 1940, American Forests (then The American Forestry Association) launched a campaign to locate the largest living specimens of American trees. The National Register of Champion Trees started out as a competition, a national hunt to discover and preserve the largest specimens of American tree species. Over 75 years later that competition lives on today.

To determine if the Hitchcock tree was an eligible species certain criteria had to be met. According to the guidelines handbook:

1. Species must be recognized as either native, non-native and naturalized or a recognized naturally occurring variety in the United States.
2. To determine if the tree has a fighting chance it must be measured. Three measurements are required to nominate a tree: trunk circumference, height, and crown spread. Trees of the same species are compared by using the following calculation: truck circumference (inches) + height (feet) + 1/4 average crown spread (feet) = Total Points.
3. Nominate the tree.

The Hitchcock Longleaf Pine was nominated by Bennett Tucker, Superintendent of Hitchcock Woods. The Champion Trees in the National Register are the biggest of their species as reported to American Forests in the most current year. <https://www.americanforests.org/big-trees/longleaf-pine-pinus-palustris-2/>

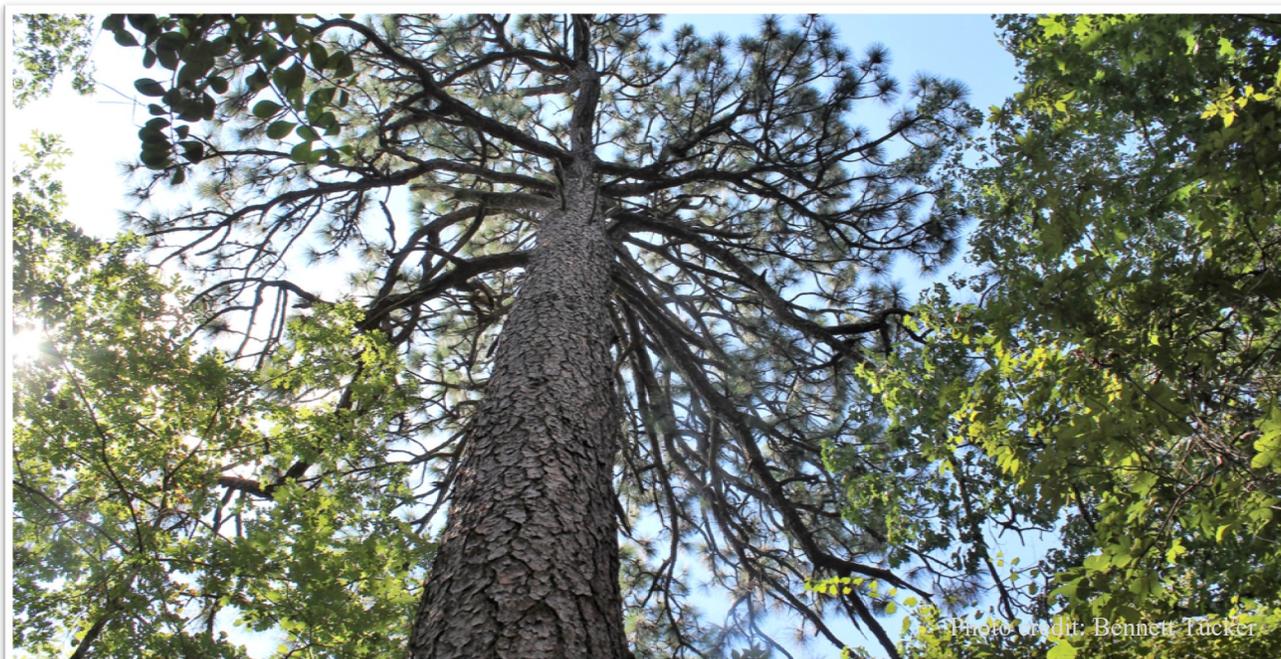


Photo credit: Bennett Tucker

PINUS PALUSTRIS

*This champion Longleaf Pine of South Carolina made its debut on the list of American Forests Champion Trees in 2019, as it is **the largest known tree of its species in the country**. By recognizing these champions, we recognize the beauty and critical ecosystem services provided by our biggest and oldest trees.*



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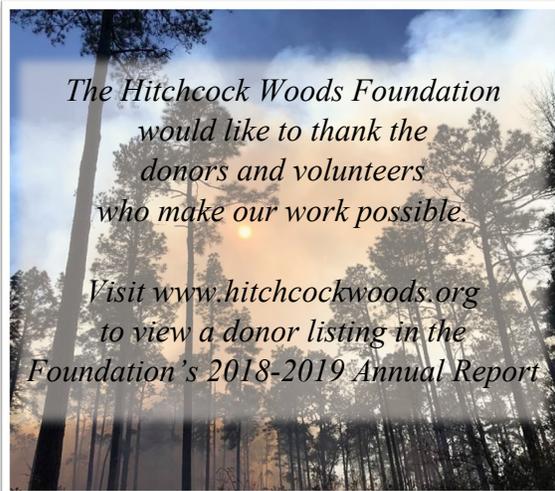
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*The Hitchcock Woods Foundation
would like to thank the
donors and volunteers
who make our work possible.*

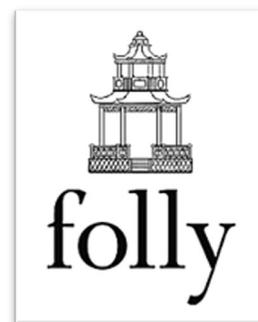
*Visit www.hitchcockwoods.org
to view a donor listing in the
Foundation's 2018-2019 Annual Report*

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



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

116 Laurens Street SW
Aiken, SC 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.