

VIEWS *from the* WOODS

Hitchcock Woods
FOUNDATION

Vol. 2, No. 3
Spring 2009

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Randolph A. Wolcott
Chairman

I. Lehr Brisbin, Ph.D.

Courtney W. Conger

Patricia E. Corey

Lee H. Dane

Nancy C. Francis

Iris W. Freeman

Patricia S. Goodyear

Peter L. Gray

William M. Hitchcock

Gail B. King

Lucy M. Knowles

Linda Knox McLean

W. Greg Paschal

Scott D. Riviere

Harry E. Shealy, Jr., Ph.D.

Timothy W. Simmons

Paul K. Simons

Dacre C. Stoker

Sandra E. Tucker

Sara S. Wood

TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Samuel A. Cothran

STAFF

Douglas E. Rabold

Executive Director

W. Bennett Tucker

Woods Superintendent

Christine M. Reichel

Administrator

Carol J. Stewart

Communications Specialist

Deon R. Mealing

Woods Technician

(803) 642-0528

WHAT IS A LONGLEAF PINE AND WIREGRASS SAVANNA?

✧ W. Bennett Tucker, Woods Superintendent ✧

The stewardship of a 2100 acre urban forest is a privilege and a responsibility that the Hitchcock Woods Foundation takes very seriously. The Foundation's care of the Hitchcock Woods is guided by a restoration and management plan developed in the mid 1990s by a consulting plant ecologist and two biology professors.

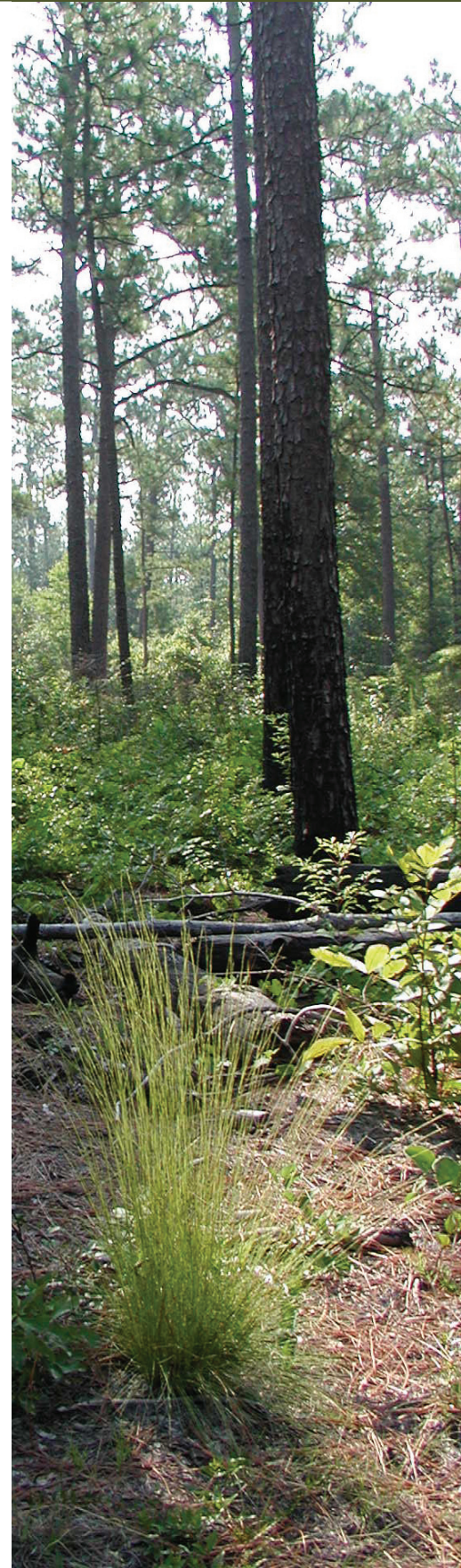
This plan outlines recommendations and prescriptions that will help over time to restore the Woods to the more natural conditions of a native longleaf pine and wiregrass savanna, which is the native forest ecosystem of the southeastern United States.

This primitive ecosystem was maintained by naturally occurring fires caused by lightning strikes associated with light rainfall. These fires would ignite every two or three years, or whenever the fuel load would be adequate to spread fire across the forest floor. They most commonly occurred in warmer weather when thunderstorms were more prevalent.

Because of the frequency of the fires, native fire-loving grasses regenerated and dominated the forest floor, creating the savanna. The broader spacing of trees in the forest allowed more sunlight to reach the forest floor, which helped the grasses to thrive.

The Hitchcock Woods Foundation has a goal for broader tree spacing that would allow more sunlight and that would minimize the competition among the trees for available nutrients. For areas of the Woods that are identified in the management plan as densely vegetated, the Foundation will schedule operations to mechanically thin the trees. This ultimately results in a healthier forest.

Several areas of Hitchcock Woods are closer than others to the Foundation's forest management goals. For example, on the north side of the Woods, the Pigeon Trap Loop area is coming along very well. On the south side, Willie Barton's Line is a great example of the target ecosystem. To the west, the area stretching from Mrs. Allen's Ride toward High Point Line and Riviere Ride is another great example of the longleaf pine and wiregrass savanna. Please check out these areas the next time you are visiting the Woods. ♣



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 January 23, 2009 and May 15, 2009. A complete listing of all our Business Partners and Friends of the Woods will be published in the Annual Report, issued this summer.

BUSINESS PARTNERS

\$1000 Level

All Star Rents
Cold Creek Nurseries
Southworth Photography*
The Stable on the Woods
The Willcox‡

\$500 Level

Cote Designs Floral*
Elliott Davis, LLC
Southern Equine Services

\$250 Level

Aiken Pet Sitters, LLC
Bank of America Investment Services, Inc.*
Boots, Bridles & Britches*
Dinner Bell
Home Medical Inc.
International Ventures, Ltd.‡
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC*
Security Federal Bank‡
The Carolina Real Estate Company‡
Wachovia Bank

\$100 Level

A. B. Beverage
AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA
Aiken Saddlery & Supply, Inc. *
Aiken Veterinary Clinics, PA
Atlantic Broadband
Barbara Sue Brodie Needleworks
Betsy Minton - Horse and Farm Insurance*
Birds and Butterflies
Chime Bell Farm
Darren Haeusler Farrier Services, LLC
Dr. Robert T. Buchanan and Dr. S Taylor Garnett
East Coast Equine Dentistry
Equine Dentistry - Gene Beaulieu, DVM
Foxchase Stable - Brendan T. Gilligan
Howell Printing Company‡
Martin Buckley, Architect
MB Jewelry & Beads
Michael J. Costigan, Sr., CPA, LLC
Nancy Wetmore
Progressive Show Jumping Inc.*
Sporting Days Farm
Suzy Haslup, Realtor
The Community Foundation
Whiskey Road Foxhounds
York Cottage Antiques
YourLogoWorks.com*

FRIENDS OF THE WOODS

Jed and Penny Alexander
Ginny Allen
Laura Bagwell and Miles Denham
Pixie Baxter*
Johanna Blue*
Jim and Idella Bodie
Brian and Donna Bogardus
Diane and Patrick Botula
Peter and Dorothy Bowers*
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Brooks‡
Sid and Esther Brown*
Austi Brown*
Sharon M. Brown‡
George Edward Buggs*
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Burke
Carlin B. Vickery and James F. Capalino

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Cassidy
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Chamblin
Sally Cluff
Robert B. and Mary Anne G. Clyburn
Joseph E and Ann L Conner*
Keith and Georgann Crawford
Jon D. Crim
Robert and Melissa Cross
John and Deirdre Dabney
Sarah Dalton-Morris‡
Kim and Nicolas David
Brendan and Julie Doherty
Gary and Sarah Eakin*
Paul Eckersley Shepard and Jane Ellenberg*
Jim and Susan Elmore
Jimmie and Gail Engledow
Caryn Etherington
Abbey Farmer
Linda and Mick Ferrell*
Dr. and Mrs. Scott Foshee
Stuart and Marian Gertman
David and Pat Gilbert*
Robert and Laura Hall‡
George and Diane Hano
Mr. and Mrs. David Hathaway
Mr. and Mrs. Peter H. Hill
William and Elaine Hillan
Stephany Hitchcock*
Diane and Bob Horning*
Nancy Johnson
Wade and Gayle Jones
K. D. Justyn
John G. and Lucretia E. Kiely*
Anne B. Kiser
Elizabeth and Michael Krysztofiak
Mara Baldwin Lewis*
Mr. Bryce M. Lingo
Robert E. Lofgren, DMD
Nick and Nancy Martin
Barbara Nelson and Chuck Maxwell
Dan and Carroll Mayfield*
Peter and Suzy McHugh*
John and Susanne Mead
Ruth Merriman*
Edna S. Mills*
Kathryn Milner‡
Kathy and David Modesitt
Earle and Diana Moore*
Barbara Morgan and Fred Andrea*
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Musick*
Mitch and Jessica Mussetter
Sandi Vogus and Carolyn Nelson
Eric and Julie Nettore*
Gerry Obeirne
James B. Osbon*
Jim and Joey Peace
Steve and Mary Pearcy
George and Frances Pepper‡
Rick and Kay Preston*
Peggy Pruitt
Marjory Fair Read
Randy and Debbie Reed*
Mark Rennie*
Dr. Kerry and Christine Ridgeway*
Ashley Riviere*
Camden Riviere*
Mike Rubin
Penny and Les Rue*
Betty and Greg Ryberg

Friends of the Woods

Anonymous
Richard D. Sears, III‡
Jack and Barbara Sependa*
Virginia and Harry A. Shaw IV
Walker M. Sloan
Pascal Smith
Lynn Smith‡
Mary Lu Thompson
Anne Torreyson Magerkurth and Win Magerkurth*
Diane Toth*
Linda Vanderslice
Sue and Nick Vasileff
Chris and Carol Verenes
Francois and Helene Verglas
Mr. and Mrs. Wolf Von Teichman
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Warren, III*
Mr. and Mrs. Ward Welch
Ron and Mary Wheeler
Deborah Whitehead
Ann Wicander and Joseph Vaillancourt
David and Erika Widener*
Dr. Charlotte and Boyd Wiedenman‡
Bill and Marilyn Winn
George and Gretchen Wintersteen

New members between 1-23-09 and 05-15-09 *
Charter Partner or member ‡



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 events for the Foundation. Sponsorships are in effect for 12 months from the date of purchase.

Aiken Horse Show - April 3-5, 2009

Coker Spring Trail

Ms. Joannah Glass

Horse Show Ring

Mr. Danny Hazel

Whitney Drive

Miss Boyce Oliver Myers &
Miss Justice Oliver Myers

TAKE A DRIVE WITH ME

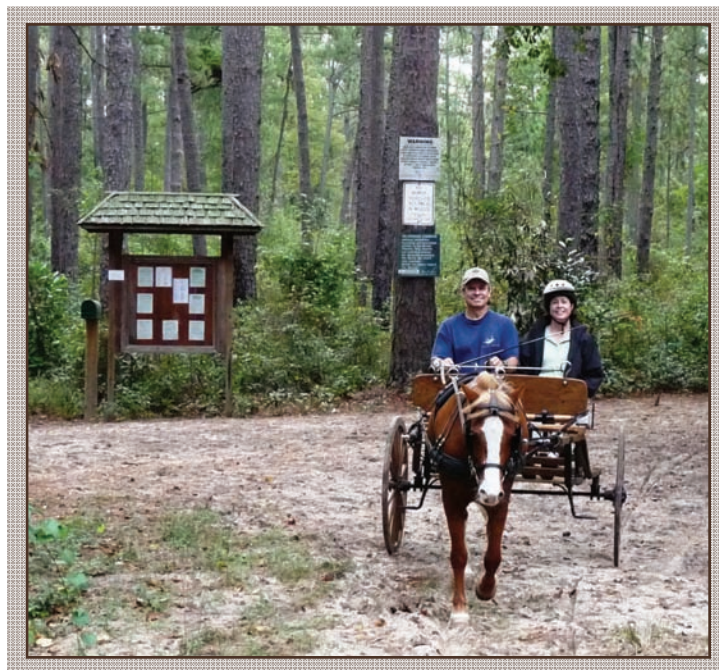
Second in a series on specific topics in our Visitor Guidelines

There is a rich history and tradition of carriage driving in Hitchcock Woods. There are even documented accounts of participants in "Aiken Buggies" accompanying the Aiken Drag. Multiple trails in the Woods are suitable for driving, but drivers should be sensitive to sharing the Woods with those on foot and on horseback. Please exercise caution when you encounter other carriages in the Woods. As you are enjoying the Woods, please be reminded of these guidelines:

- Follow instructions on all "yield" signage.
- Stay on wide paths for safety and for the protection of the environment.
- Carriage drivers will always be aware of and sensitive to current trail conditions.
- Carriages are advised to refrain from entering the Woods during special events and posted hunt times.

Driving clubs must contact the Foundation office (803.642.0528) prior to a scheduled drive. In addition to the above guidelines, driving clubs must:

- Provide all special signage required to make other users aware of their presence in Woods. This signage must be placed two weeks prior to an event and must be removed immediately after the event. (If Hitchcock Woods Foundation staff members assist, the Foundation will be compensated.)
- Keep the designated route to the wide paths. All routes must be cleared with the Woods Superintendent.
- Provide proof of specific liability insurance listing the Hitchcock Woods Foundation as additional insured for the time of the event. Proof must be provided prior to the event. ♣



AIKEN EQUINE CHARITIES CUP RECAP



George Buggs Photography



George Buggs Photography

Some of polo's top talent teamed up to participate in a high goal polo match staged to benefit the Hitchcock Woods Foundation on Saturday, May 2, at New Bridge Polo and Country Club. Under partly cloudy skies and a passing shower, the sidelines were lined with excited and happy spectators. The hospitality tent proved to be a great place for everyone to gather after the match for hors d'oeuvres before watching the Kentucky Derby in the clubhouse.

Tommy Biddle, Adam Snow, Tiger Kneece, and Horatio Onetto made up the MAVOFFICE.com team and Owen Rinehart, Julio Arellano, Julian Daniels, and Shane Rice played for Designer Builders. In the end, Designer Builders defeated MAVOFFICE.com 11-8. Designer Builders' Julian Daniels was the Most Valuable Player, and Sasha, played by Julio Arellano and owned by Beth Skolnik, was the Best Playing Pony.

Hitchcock Woods Foundation would like to thank everyone who participated in the Aiken Equine Charities Cup. ♣

IN MEMORY

Jack Seabrook was a captain of industry, accomplished at everything that he tackled. He was very generous with his time. When the Hitchcock Woods Foundation turned to him in its time of need to captain our ship, he graciously came to our aid and served as our Chairman while we raised the funds to purchase the Aiken Prep property that everyone thought was already part of the Woods. Jack would not take no for an answer and with the help of his lovely wife Liz he showed us how to get the job done. Not only did he get the fundraising job done, but also he brought the Foundation into a new era of professional management by hiring our first forester and getting the modern management of the Woods started. He personally raised the funds to see that the first few years of the new forester's salary was covered. From all of us that use and love the Woods ...

Thank you, Mr. Seabrook.



FESTIVAL OF THE WOODS

On September 25 & 26, Hitchcock Woods Foundation will celebrate 70 years of making the Hitchcock Woods available for the enjoyment of our community's residents and visitors. To commemorate this milestone, the Foundation will hold its first annual Festival of the Woods. This new program will include a variety of family activities such as tours, hikes, races, Foundation exhibits, guest speakers, and picnicking. All Friends of the Woods households will receive an invitation by mail. 🍁

THE 2009 AIKEN HORSE SHOW FINISHES BIG

The Aiken Horse Show has come and gone for another year and what a year it was! Apart from a lot of rain on Thursday, we were blessed with glorious weather and the dogwood bloomed as always to add to the considerable beauty of the ring. Randy Wolcott and JP Godard get better each year. The new tent was much admired and looked wonderful once decorated with smilax and cheerful geraniums. This year's show produced a record number of entries and some strong competition. Next year we will try to shorten some of the courses so that the Welcome Stakes does not make the day's competitions last into the dark! We want to thank all of our many volunteers who help to make the show such a success. It is very much a team effort and we are grateful to our staff, hard working trustees, exhibitors and, last but certainly not least, our very generous sponsors. You all help to fund the Woods for another year. Thank you. ☞ Gail King, AHS Director ☞



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.