

Aiken Land Conservancy
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October 2011



WINTHROP FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

Winthrop Field, purchased by the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC) in 1998 from the Winthrop family, has received several improvements this summer. This jewel, located in the center of the horse district between Grace and Mead Avenues, is a twelve acre favorite playground for Aiken residents who enjoy riding horses, driving carriages and walking.



The first improvement was installing a drip water system for the magnolias located along Sumter Street. These young trees, planted by the City of Aiken, will serve as a beautiful border along the field. They have not been receiving as much water as needed due to the large oaks that tower above them. The ALC had Nicholson Turf install this new system, which starts with a water line that extends down the side of the field along the trees. Off this line, a drip system circles each tree. This allows a slow flow of water to soak into the trees' roots while the large gun is watering the polo field. The magnolias receive one gallon of water per hour and usually the gun runs for ten hour periods, so they receive ten gallons of water. Pat Nicholson, owner of Nicholson Turf, works hard to maintain the field so everyone can enjoy it. "The new system is not a quick fix, but rather a long term solution that will keep the magnolias healthy. It will take some time for the trees to get established and we should really see them perk up in the next growing season," Pat said. Nicholson Turf also fertilized Winthrop Field last week and applied Esteem, which should help prevent fire ants.

The Aiken Land Conservancy has also done some cleanup along Grace Avenue by weed eating the Ironweed that was about to go to seed. We would like to thank Bennett Tucker and Dacre Stoker for donating their time and energy to take on this task. Maintaining Winthrop Field is a top priority for the ALC, making sure that residents can enjoy using this spectacular open space that will never be developed.

The Aiken Land Conservancy has also done some cleanup along Grace Avenue by weed eating the Ironweed that was about to go to seed. We would like to thank Bennett Tucker and Dacre Stoker for donating their time and energy to take on this task. Maintaining Winthrop Field is a top priority for the ALC, making sure that residents can enjoy using this spectacular open space that will never be developed.



Winthrop Polo Field Aerial Photo

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 Clip and mail this form to renew your membership with the Aiken Land Conservancy

JOIN THE AIKEN LAND CONSERVANCY AND HELP PRESERVE AIKEN'S GREAT SPACES

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

- Levels of membership:
- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend – \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family – \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting – \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor – \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron – \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor – \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator – \$2,500 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward – \$5,000 and above |

Make checks payable to: Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC)
 Make payments to: ALC, PO Box 3096, Aiken, SC 29802

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New and Current Members of the Aiken Land Conservancy

(This list contains members who have joined or renewed their memberships on or after 1 January 2011)

BENEFACTOR LEVEL

Mr. Wayne Raiford – Three Runs Plantation
Ms. Lydia L. Rose – Aiken Saddlery & Supply
Ms. Barbara G. Uskup
Mrs. Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom
Mr. and Mrs. David Samson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. McNeil
Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Henze
Mr. and Mrs. Shepard Ellenberg

PATRON LEVEL

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rideout
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wood
Dr. and Mrs. Harry E. Shealy Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Scott R. Ferguson
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Roth
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hosang
Cerra Homes LLC, Aiken's Green Builder
Savannah River Remediation
Mrs. Elizabeth J. Witham
Ms. Hollister Houghton
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Comegys
DBA Aiken Trials
Mr. Charles Maxwell and Mrs. Barbara Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Pimsner

SPONSOR LEVEL

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Giobbe
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Beacham
Mrs. Deedee H. Vaughters
– 1800-GOT-JUNK
Ms. Judith A. Portmann
Mr. Wilkins L. Byrd
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Stanton

SUPPORTING LEVEL

Mr. Gerald Blackwell
Mr. Albert I. Grabb
Mr. Arch W. Templeton
Ms. Vannie M. Toy
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jeter
Mrs. Alexandra S. Thomas
Ms. Thelma M. Rawls
Hutson-Etherredge Companies

Ms. Dione Appleton
Mrs. Dorothy C. M. Herbruck
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Clark
Ms. Gina Saltino – Red Barn Stables
Drs. Taylor Garnett and Robert Buchanan III
Mrs. Ann L. Jones
Security Federal Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Ross J. Culligan
Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Bird, III
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mayfield
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burke
Dr. and Mrs. Anthony E. Harris
Ms. Sherry Lukens – Woodside Farm
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Cabbage
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. White
Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Tucker
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Hill
Dr. and Mrs. Ray Vaughters, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Dewar
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt A. Fichtner
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Fliflet
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scanlon
Ms. Nancy Gould Mulcahy
Ms. Elizabeth Paterniti
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy W. Simmons
JDC Construction Management, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Fliflet
Ms. Linda Donovan
Mrs. Katrina Becker
Ms. Rosamond D. McDuffie
Ms. Olivia G. Post

FAMILY LEVEL

Ms. Pixie Baxter
Mr. and Mrs. Delano Knight
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Harrington
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Spragg
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Holley
Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Drafts
Ms. Nancy Scruggs

Ms. Delina Hickey and
– Mr. David Andrews
Mrs. Lucy Knowles and
– Mr. Martin Buckley
Mr. and Mrs. Ira E. Coward, II
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hryniewich
Mr. and Mrs. Claude M. Humphries
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Knowles
Rev. and Mrs. Robert B. Hibbard
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Hofstetter
Ms. Rosamond D. McDuffie
– In memory of Mrs. Harvey Rose
Mr. Joel Peacock
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Mitchell
Ms. Laura J. Hall
Mr. Walker Spruell
Ms. Helen H. Naylor
Mrs. Sharon M. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Heitkamp
Mrs. Nancy C. Francis
Mr. and Mrs. Wade M. Brodie

FRIEND LEVEL

Mr. Charles M. Combier
Mrs. Evelyn K. Vought
Ms. Christine Rolka
Ms. Jann Smith
Ms. Elizabeth W. Baumann
Ms. Marion C. Naifeh
Mrs. Helen R. Marine
Ms. Ellen Towler
Mr. and Mrs. Mike McNeill
Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Robert D. Chelberg
Ms. Anna Zouck
Mr. and Mrs. Loren D. Fair
Mr. Thomas Coleman
Mrs. Kathryn H. Windham
Ms. Janet Wertz
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Leader

“Thank You” to everyone who has joined or renewed their memberships with the Aiken Land Conservancy. ALC relies upon membership payments and donations to fund our mission of preserving Aiken's natural heritage.

ALC extends a special “Thank You” to Allegra Marketing, Print & Mail for the award of a 2011 FootPRINT grant, which is helping defray the cost of this newsletter.

ALC Welcomes Newest Business Sponsor



The Aiken Land Conservancy is pleased to welcome 1-800-GOT JUNK as a business partner. 1-800-GOT JUNK offers full service junk removal for your home or business, including offices, construction sites and more. What will they take off your hands? Anything from appliances, furniture, carpet, scrap metal, tires, etc. They also offer television, computer, printer and monitor recycling. It's

a simple process – they load all of the items you want removed - wherever they are located – into their truck and finish by cleaning the area. 1-800-GOT JUNK ensures that your junk gets recycled, donated or disposed of responsibly. Since 1988, they have saved over 1.5 billion pounds of junk from the landfill and counting.

Deedee Vaughters, co-owner of 1-800-GOT JUNK in Aiken says: "From your largest removal needs to your smallest removal needs we are able to responsibly assist you in making your life a little less cluttered!"

To set up an appointment, please call 1-800-GOT JUNK or Deedee at 803-439-5701. 🌿

Aiken Land Conservancy Wish List!

For any of you prospective fairy godparents out there, the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC) has two equipment needs that we would love to meet in 2011-12! Any gently used donations would be more than appreciated . . .

- We need a 4 wheel drive utility vehicle to be used to conduct annual perimeter site checks for lands currently under easement.
- We also need a Stihl Brush Cutter and Clearing Saw to help us maintain clear right of ways on ALC properties. Please contact Executive Director Katie Roth at katieroth@bellsouth.net to discuss our needs further! 🌿

Executive Director's Report

Katie Roth



In this edition of the *Conservation Chronicle*, we focus on highlighting our accomplishments from the spring and look ahead to events and happenings we have coming up this fall. We brought back our signature fundraiser, Derby Dreamin', last May and are pleased to report that the new format of polo and thoroughbred racing was a huge success (see article on page 5). We've also done several improvements at Winthrop Field, a favorite playground of Aiken residents (see cover story this issue).

What do we have coming up? We are looking forward to bringing back Bloodies and Bagels on Thanksgiving Day at the Aiken County Historical Museum. Mark your calendar and bring your houseguests for this festive gathering before the Blessing of the Hounds in Hitchcock Woods. Our board is also working hard on a conservation display at the museum (see pages 6 & 7) and our annual meeting this winter.

I am pleased to report that the Aiken Land Conservancy has received a scholarship to send me to the Land Trust Alliance's National Land Conservation Conference, "Rally", in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this October. "Rally" is an opportunity to take advantage of more than three hundred seasoned land conservation professionals serving as faculty. I will be attending sessions on GIS mapping, increasing land trust visibility, land management planning, and major gift development. I look forward to not only the educational sessions, but also networking with other land trusts across the country.

One important goal this year is to increase our membership. Do you have family or friends that are interested in saving Aiken County's special places? Please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to join us! The more support we have, the more we will be able to accomplish together. 🌿

Aiken Land Conservancy

Preserving Aiken's natural heritage

The mission of the Aiken Land Conservancy is to preserve natural and historic resources through land conservation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Economic Environments and Living Environments

Paul Rideout,
President

We have all been through good times and bad times. Many people would certainly consider our current economic environment to be very bad times. Some would say they see no end to our current environment, while others are optimistic the environment soon will improve. Regardless of what your feelings are on the matter, most people are actively taking steps to positively influence their personal economic condition, and looking to our elected leaders to take steps to positively impact our local and national economic environment.

With so much focus on our economic environment, many people have not had much focus on our living environment. The tough economic times have definitely impacted most charitable organizations in a negative way, with contributions to all types of non-profits down. Times have also affected government programs that deal with the environment, with funding at national, state, and local levels seeing cutbacks as leaders attempt to gain control over total spending. The cuts in funding to environmental

issues are usually disproportionately large related to cuts in other areas of spending, even though the amount allocated nationally to the Land and Water Conservation Fund is small. In 2010, for example, Congress appropriated \$450 million of a \$3.6 trillion budget – just 0.0125 percent - to the fund, and that level is at risk. At the state level, the South Carolina Conservation Bank saw funds in its 2008 budget removed for use in the education budget, and there have been no new projects funded in 2010 or 2011. The Bank has existing commitments to meet for old projects, and until funds are available to pay those, no help can be given to any potential new projects.

Aiken has always enjoyed a good living environment. Some people are optimistic this environment will improve, and others are concerned it will deteriorate. The current environment did not just happen; it is the result of hard work and financial support from many people and organizations. Aiken has been blessed with generous citizens, and we read recently in the paper about the death of one such friend. Angela Forbes Winthrop died August 5, 2011, at the age of 99. The article detailed how the

(continued on page 8)

Girl Scouts Tackle Carolina Bay for Silver Award Project



Carolina Bay Nature Reserve

Local Girl Scouts, Caroline Miller, Erin Drake, and Mina Krohn-Vernon, members of Troop 5225, have chosen the Carolina Bay as their Silver Award Project for the 2011 – 2012 year. To earn this award these young ladies must complete fifty hours of community service work, work that will make a lasting and positive difference in our community.

Towards this end, they are proposing building six benches that will have back supports and armrests to add to the existing benches already circling the bay. In addition, they are going to create ten bird houses, six butterfly houses, and six bat houses to be placed throughout the bay. According to the girls, “Butterflies, bats and birds are good for the environment. Butterflies pollinate plants and caterpillars provide food for the birds. The birds control insects and disperse seeds in the environment. Bats act as a natural pest control by eating mosquitoes and other bugs within the environment.”

Caroline, Erin, and Mina will provide additional information about the plants and animals found at the bay on some kiosks, along with a trail map of the Carolina Bay, a list of safety rules, and ways the public can help out at the bay (such as Girl Scout Sponsored clean up days).

They are also hoping to create a scavenger hunt that will help visitors recognize and locate various plants and animals found in the area, including poison ivy!

Finally, these industrious young women will create Carolina Bay patch programs for all ages of Girl Scouts ranging from the Daisy program to seniors. These

patch programs will insure that current and future Girl Scouts will continue to learn about and care for the bay. The program will include a “Be a Tree Hugger” patch, a “Carolina Bay” patch, and a “Three R’s” patch that Girl Scouts will be able to earn.

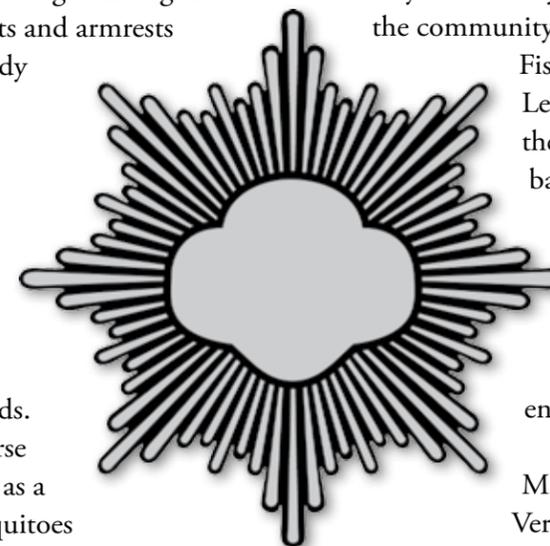
It is important to remember that the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC) held a fundraising campaign that spanned a period of six years, culminating in the

final purchase of twenty-four acres in 2002. More than \$600,000 was raised through generous donations from the city and county, local businesses and members of the community, as well as grants from the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service and the S.C. Legacy Trust Fund. After acquiring the land, the ALC deeded the property back to the City of Aiken who then placed a conservation easement on the property in 2003 removing any rights to develop the twenty-four acre parcel and preserving it for educational purposes and the enjoyment of the public.

It is quite obvious that Caroline Miller, Erin Drake, and Mina Krohn-Vernon all work hard at putting the Girl

Scout Promise and Law into action each and every day. For more information about how you can help these young women, please contact Meg at megferguson@bellsouth.net or 644.7818 and she will direct you to one of the scouting leaders in charge.



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ALC Welcomes New Board Members

The Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC) is excited to announce the addition of three new members to our very active Board of Directors.



Lydia Rose

and - as she puts it - has “two wonderful children and two wonderful dogs.” She was one of the founders of the Aiken County Pony Club and a charter member of the Aiken Driving Club. An enthusiastic kayaker, she walks in the woods whenever she can and describes herself as interested in anything outdoors.



Joanna Dunn Samson

Also joining the ALC is Joanna Dunn Samson. Joanna's twenty-five year legal career in Pennsylvania and New Jersey involved the development and implementation of large infrastructure projects: energy, garbage, water and sewer. She also served as the Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in a non-legal capacity, where she managed 3500 employees and five operating departments, including Natural and Historic Resources. Joanna brings a wealth of outside experience to our organization and a true appreciation for preserving our fast depleting open space.

Finally, we would like to welcome Linda Donovan. A brief biography on her will appear in our January 2012 newsletter.

New ALC Board member, Lydia Rose, moved to Aiken in 1978, coming to a place she already knew well. Lydia's mother grew up in Aiken, and as a child, Lydia often visited her grandmother here. A graduate of Converse College, Lydia is the owner of Aiken Saddlery and Supply,

From the President...

(continued from page 4)

Winthrop family generously donated \$135,000 to help the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC) purchase the Winthrop Polo Field. Another \$400,000 was raised by a committee headed by Dacre Stoker, former ALC Executive Director, Iris Freeman, the first president of the ALC and daughter of Mrs. Winthrop, committee members Katrina Becker, Mike Phelps, Jack Wetzel, Ken Hardin, and Nancy and Thayer Francis. Their work and the contributions of many others have helped preserve the character of Aiken. Having grown up in Aiken, I cannot imagine the area around the Winthrop Field looking any different. It would not be Aiken.

We must continue to work together to preserve and improve Aiken's living environment. We cannot depend upon funds from governments to meet our needs; we must continue our own generous contributions. As you focus on your own economic environment, please do not lose sight of your living environment. Otherwise, we may end up unhappy about both. Thank you for your continuing support of Aiken Land Conservancy.

SAVE THE DATE

The Aiken Land Conservancy's
2012 Annual Meeting

Monday, February 27, 2012 • 6 – 9 pm

Featuring Special Guest Speaker

Kevin McGorty

Director, Tall Timbers Land Conservancy



Tall Timbers Land Conservancy was founded in 1990 and is considered one of the largest regional land trusts in the South according to the Land Trust Alliance. To date, Tall Timbers has saved over 110,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land on eighty properties in the greater Red Hills region of southwest Georgia and north Florida.

A Perfect Day in May!

“The hooves of horses! Oh! witching and sweet. Is the music earth steals from the iron-shod feet; No whisper of lover, no trilling of bird, Can stir me as much as hooves of horses, Have stirred.” - Will H. Ogilvie



The buzz is still strong following the Aiken Land Conservancy's (ALC) signature fundraiser, Derby Dreamin', which took place on May 7, 2011, at New Bridge Polo Club. With close to 150 people in attendance, an afternoon of polo and horseracing proved to be the hot new event on Aiken's already crowded social calendar!



Ladies donned their spring finery, sporting elaborate hats and silk dresses as they enjoyed a fast paced and high energy polo match with teams competing for the Equine Charities Cup, compliments of Barb Uskup and Meadow Hill Farm, followed by the highly anticipated Run for the Roses. A picturesque setting of umbrella tables on the clubhouse lawn provided the perfect spot for guests to enjoy the afternoon. Eqwine.bar & grill manager, Kishan Shaw, provided a delicious menu of traditional Kentucky Derby fare – including the must have mint julep - for guests to enjoy as they cheered on their Derby favorites. Fans watched the Derby from the comfort (and air conditioning) of the clubhouse with four big screen TV's providing plenty of race day action.

“This is definitely an event we can build on for years to come,” stated Katie Roth, Executive Director of the ALC. “I couldn't be more pleased with the attendance and the venue. Both 302 Polo and eqwine.bar & grill have gone out of their way to make Derby Dreamin' a true success

(continued on page 7)

OUR 2011 DERBY DREAMIN' SPONSORS



Aiken Saddlery & Supply, Inc.

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Auto Tech, Inc.

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Aiken's Green Builder

Mrs. & Mrs. Larry Comegys



Meadow Hill



Eqwine Bar and Grill

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hosang

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Ferguson

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Roth

Savannah River Remediation

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wood

Land Management Practices at Work

Part 2

As you may recall from our May newsletter, the Aiken Land Conservancy (ALC) currently manages a 330 acre easement in Barnwell County known as the Thomas Tract. Attached to this easement was a defined Forest Management Plan that details exactly what land management practices could and could not be used on this particular piece of property. When a case of root rot was uncovered on a portion of this property in 2010, the Stewardship Committee, headed by Bennett Tucker, had only to review the Forest Management Plan to ascertain what specific steps should be taken to combat this fast spreading, southern pine destroying fungus.

After visiting the site in January of this year with certified forester, Stro Morrison of Morrison Forestry and Real Estate Company, it was decided that we needed to clear the affected tract, sell the timber, and begin the year long process to prepare the area for replanting. Mr. Morrison measured or "cruised" the timber to be sold to determine product suitability and volume expectations. Sealed bids were invited from a number of regional timber companies with Caw Caw Timber offering the best price at \$9,611.00 for the stand. On March 18, 2011, the heavy equipment arrived and the timber was harvested.

The trees were then loaded on trucks and taken to one of the many timber processing plants found in the Barnwell / Allendale area. Once there, the trees were processed, ending up as either lumber, sawdust, or any number of other wood related products. According to the Clemson Corporate Extension Information Leaflet #21, timber is South Carolina's largest cash crop exceeding that from soybeans, tobacco, corn, peaches or any of the lesser crops. In many counties, timber income exceeds that of all other crops combined.

With the timber felled, the land is allowed to rest for a number of months. In September / October the area will be chemically treated. It will then be burned in November before planting again in December / January. It is a long process that typically takes close to a year to complete thus beginning the cycle of regeneration and regrowth again. 🌱



Trees prior to being cut.



The trees come down.



Preparing for transport.

The Aiken Land Conservancy proudly announces the return of

Bloodies & Bagels

Thanksgiving Morning

9:00 am

on the lawn of the Aiken County
Historical Museum.

Join us before the Blessing of the Hounds



Perfect Day in May!

(continued from page 5)

and a wonderful event that people will look forward to next year."

Roth went on to say, "Plans are already underway to improve upon our success from this spring. Sponsorship packages will be going out early this fall so that we can hopefully reach partnership deals early in most companies' budgeting process. We are also looking to find ways to include more of our membership in the planning and execution of Derby Dreamin', feeling strongly that the more input received the better the outcome. Those interested



in volunteering can contact us through our website at mail@aikenlandconservancy.org."

In the meantime, we would like to once again thank the people and businesses who did so very much to make Derby Dreamin' the fun day that it was! 🌱

**"IN THE END WE
WILL CONSERVE
ONLY WHAT WE
LOVE, WE WILL
LOVE ONLY WHAT
WE UNDERSTAND,
AND WE WILL
UNDERSTAND
ONLY WHAT WE ARE
TAUGHT."**

Baba Dioum Senegal