

Dear Aiken County Historical Society Member:

Thank you very much to all who participated in the program for and the actual unveiling of the Banksia historical marker this past February. Those participating were Bob Harrington, Mary White, Mary Jo Dawson, Irene Rudnick, Brenda Baratto, Owen Clary, and Dr. Sandra Jordan. It was a great afternoon as we unveiled our 18th historical marker since reorganizing the ACHS in 1999. Hopefully there will be more to come. Thanks also to Owen Clary and the Aiken County Historical Commission for paying for half of the Banksia historical marker.

Congratulations to Mary White on her retirement from the Aiken County Historical Museum staff. She has held several positions and will be greatly missed by those who worked with her daily and also by those who didn't even know her- those she served and assisted as part of her Museum duties. Don't fear though. Mary plans to do some volunteer work at the Museum with some of her free time.



Long-time Aiken Horse Show director, Gail King, poses at the edge of the show ring in Hitchcock Woods during the 100th edition of the show. She is now retired from her position.

This and all photos are by Allen Riddick unless noted.

Congratulations to the Hitchcock Woods Foundation on the occasion of the 100th Aiken Horse Show this past April. The show, a fund raiser for the HWF, was a great success on its centennial celebration. Long-time horse show director, Gail King, stepped down from her position at the conclusion of the show.

Please don't forget about the Gaston Livery Stable. That group is still restoring the old barn and any help and/or support you can give would be greatly appreciated.

Archaeologist Carl Steen, president of Diachronic Research Foundation, will be guest speaker on May 29th at the Museum. He along with Bobby Southerlin of Archaeological Consultants of the Carolinas in Clayton, North Carolina, are in the midst of a three-year project in Hitchcock Woods in which they are conducting a "cultural resources inventory of Hitchcock Woods," according to Dr. Harry Shealy, Jr., chairman of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation Board. Please make your plans to attend.

Allen Riddick
President
Aiken County Historical Society

**SPRING GENERAL MEETING
AIKEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SUNDAY, MAY 29th, 2016 AT 3:00 PM
AIKEN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**



In 2015 our speaker had a display of Hitchcock Woods items at the Hitchcock Woods Foundation Dinner. The photo shows Carl Steen on the left with Dr. Walter Edgar and Dr. Harry Shealy, Jr. on the right.

Mr. Carl Steen, president of the Diachronic Research Foundation will be our guest speaker. He and others are conducting a three-year “cultural resources inventory of Hitchcock Woods,” according to Harry Shealy, Jr., chairman of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation Board. Carl will have some artifacts on display and he will fill us in on his research thus far. A reception will follow.

2016 ACHS MEMBERSHIP FORM
DUES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

Anyone wishing to join the Aiken County Historical Society is cordially invited to do so. Please complete the application below and mail it with your dues to:

Aiken County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1775
Aiken, SC 29802

Patron:	\$25	Benefactor:	\$500
Corporate:	\$50	Life:	\$1000
Donor:	\$100		

Name: _____ Membership Type: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

One Time Donation: \$ _____

The one time donation is for those members who have already paid their dues, but would like to contribute directly toward our Historical Marker Fund. We also encourage others who may not want to become an ACHS member, but would like to make a contribution to our organization.

Aiken County Historical Society

February 2016 Meeting



Bob Harrington spoke about his great-grandfather, Charles C. Harrington, who owned the house that was on the property of the Museum prior to the construction of Banksia. That house is now part of Banksia.



The crowd.



Mary White, now former Museum asst. director, spoke about Banksia's general history.



Mary Jo Dawson, director of the ABBE Regional Library System, spoke about the time that the Aiken County Public Library was in Banksia.

Aiken County Historical Society

February 2016 Meeting

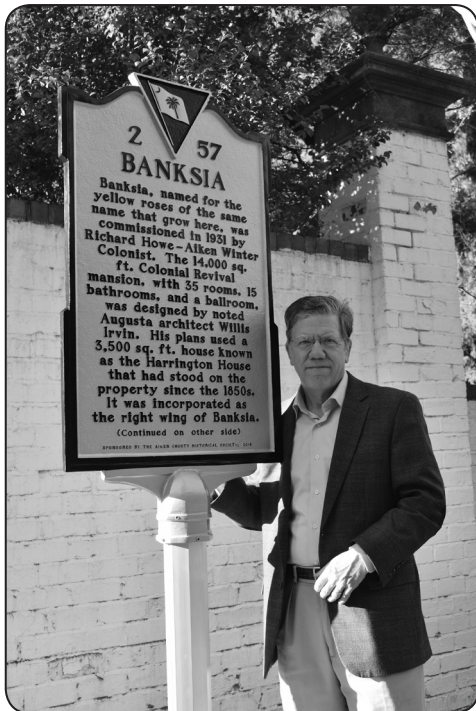


Ms. Irene Rudnick spoke about the early days of USCA at Banksia. She has taught a class at USCA starting in the first year and continues today.



The unveilers of the Banksia historical marker included from left: Owen Clary, chairman of the Aiken County Historical Commission; Mary Jo Dawson; Irene Rudnick; Allen Riddick, Aiken County Historical Society president; Brenda Baratto, Aiken County Historical Museum director; and USCA Chancellor Dr. Sandra Jordan.

Photo by Nancy Moseley



Allen Riddick stands with the Banksia marker just after it was placed on its post which faces Newberry Street.

Photo by Brenda Baratto



USCA was well represented at the meeting. From left, USCA staff and faculty members are Randy Duckett, Jeff Priest, Ph.D., Irene Rudnick, and Dr. Sandra Jordan.

Inventorying the Cultural Resources of Hitchcock Woods

Cultural resources include archaeological sites, structures, and landscape alterations. These may range from ephemeral manifestations such as the remains of an ancient Native American camp site to significant construction like the South Carolina Railroad. There are no historic structures on the property, so the resources under consideration here are mostly archaeological in nature. Field clearing, logging and earthmoving (the railroad is literally carved into the landscape) are the primary forms of landscape alteration, though archaeological remains of roads, house lots and gardens are also present.

Historic preservation got its start in the United States with The Antiquities Act (16 U.S.C. 431-433) of 1906. Additional laws were passed but cultural resources became a matter of legal concern with the passing of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Environmental Protection Act of 1976. The latter required that federally initiated, permitted, funded, or monitored undertakings “consider” their impact to cultural resources. In South Carolina easily 99% of the archaeology that gets done is a result of this legislation. Hitchcock Woods is not required to do the present survey, but in order to make the work as comprehensive and professional as possible, they required that any work conducted meet the Guidelines and Standards for Archaeological Investigations published by the State Historic Preservation Office (2013).

Hitchcock Woods is composed primarily of about 2,100 acres of land. This was accumulated mainly by Celestine Eustice, Louise Hitchcock, and Thomas Hitchcock between the 1880s and 1930s. Other parcels have been added since the establishment of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation in 1939. Our work is being conducted in three phases. Initially we were aiming for about 700 acres per phase, but we added about 50 acres in the first phase to assure coverage of an area where logging is planned.

The present work, described in more detail below, revisited and assessed twelve previously known sites and discovered 37 new sites. Some of these sites are relatively banal low density hunter-gatherer extraction sites where an individual or small group stopped briefly to complete a given task, such as butchering a kill or gathering plant resources. Others are more elaborate, representing base camps revisited many times over thousands of years. Historic sites range from plantations and freedman settlements, to a mansion built by a wealthy “Winter Colony” settler in the early 20th century.

Archaeology conducted at this level can be considered “Long Term Land Use History” (Hodder 1987). Thought of in this way all sites are of value. Thus recording evidence of a 1920s whiskey still, a 5,000 year old hunter-gatherer site, or a 1910s mansion is necessary. Although individual sites may be of variable research value on their own, documenting them is of key importance for understanding the long term land use history of the tract, and for planning future, in-depth research projects.

Aiken County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1775
Aiken, South Carolina 29802-1775

Visit <http://www.aikencountyhistory.org>



Dr. Harry Shealy, Jr., director of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation Board, and Christine Rolka, executive director of the Hitchcock Woods Foundation, pose during lunch on Sunday afternoon of the 100th Aiken Horse Show.



Sunday lunch under the big tent at the 100th Aiken Horse Show.