



**AIKEN HORSE PARK FOUNDATION
MID-YEAR REPORT
Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

It is hard to imagine that we are already halfway through the year. The Aiken Charity Horse Show is now a happy memory and final preparations are in order for the Classic Company's Aiken Summer Classics. Bruce's Field is enjoying the sun and rain of early summer, providing a respite for its resident flora and fauna.

June is the perfect time to reflect on the many events held at Bruce's Field since the beginning of the year. I hope you will indulge us and read on. We are all very proud of what we accomplished in the year's first half.

January kicked off with a burst of energy! The first of ten weeks of **Tuesdays In The Park** saw our team prepare four rings for the ever-popular Schooling Days: two jumper rings, a hunter ring, and a dressage arena. Despite severe weather that shut us and all of Aiken County down, our team was undeterred. We regrouped, and the following week, we welcomed a record number of riders, a trend that continued until schooling days concluded mid-March.

Weather remained the most talked-about subject in January. JP Godard, President of Equus Events Inc., made the difficult but appropriate decision to cancel the first USEF Hunter/Jumper Show of the year due to cold temperatures. However, **Aiken Winter Encore** in early February proved a popular event for all.

The AHPF hosted the popular Equine Educational Series for the second year to benefit the USEA Grooms Program. The six-week Educational Series is the brainchild of Emma Ford, retired Head Groom for Olympian Phillip Dutton. Her vision is two-fold: to provide an informative and interactive lecture series to passionate equestrians looking to learn more about best practices in horse care and, secondly, to raise awareness and funds for the USEA Grooms Program. All proceeds from this past winter's lecture series benefitted the program, including a matching grant from the AHPF.

Information on the 2025 Series will be available soon

Equine Educational Series



AHPF's very own Dressage series, **Dressage In The Park & Dressage At Bruce's Field**, managed by Teresa Uddo, in January and February, respectively, saw new friends and great camaraderie converge at Bruce's Field. Our final Dressage show of the year is just around the corner, **Dressage In The Spring** (Now in the Summer) is up next on July 6 & 7.

The Signature Event of the Aiken winter season, the **\$100,000 Conceal Grand-Prix Eventing Showcase presented by Taylor Harris Insurance Services**, did not disappoint! Doubling the prize money and heightening the VIP and Spectator experience became the talk of the Eventing world from New Zealand to the UK and everywhere in between. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and supporters for making this event a resounding success.



CONGRATULATIONS WILL COLEMAN & CHIN TONIC HS

SAVE THE DATE February 29 - March 1, 2025

Tickets Go On Sale December 1, 2024

Grand-Prix Eventing At Bruce's Field

2025 ANNIE GOODWIN RISING STAR GRANT IS NOW OPEN



APPLY NOW

The Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant provides financial support for young professional equestrians, establishing the early years of their business and wishing to continue their equestrian education and competition.



YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

Pictured above, the recipient of the 2024 Annie Goodwin Rising Star Grant, Isabelle Bosley being presented with a check for \$20,000 by Putter Goodwin this past March.

Thank you to all of Annie's friends and family who have already donated to the **Annie Goodwin Rising Star Fund**. To date, we have received \$161,000.00

Please continue to donate to this fund in support of Annie's memory so that more aspiring young professionals may experience the impact of Annie's gift.

DONATE NOW

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Gretchen and George Wintersteen
Mike Winton
Karen Yampolsky

AIKEN CHARITY HORSE SHOWS
MAY 1 - 5 & MAY 8 - 12, 2024



The best two weeks of the year!

The Aiken Charity Horse Shows are truly a celebration of the best of Equestrian sport both in and out of the show arena.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who joined us as exhibitors, support staff, family and friends, sponsors and spectators, volunteers, Horse Show management, staff, and officials. The Aiken Charity Horse Shows would not be possible without you.

Our partnership with Mental Health America, Aiken County Chapter, as this year's Charitable partner, was an honor. We are proud to raise awareness and funds for suicide prevention resources, both locally and beyond. By encouraging open conversations about mental health, we hope to have contributed to making a lasting impact.

Always remember you can call 988, Help Is Available

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ACHS I April 30 - May 4 & ACHS II May 7 - May 11, 2025



**INAUGURAL AHPF CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024**



Somehow, squeezed in between the action-packed two weeks of Aiken Charity, we were able to host our Inaugural **AHPF Charity Golf Tournament** at Old Barnwell, presented by Deirdre Stoker Vaillancourt REALTOR. Thanks to our enthusiastic golfers, sponsors, silent auction donors, the impeccable staff at Old Barnwell, and the amazing leadership of tournament chairs Gordon and Lauren Lawson, the tournament and auction raised almost \$70,000. A great time was had by all, and there is no doubt that this event will be a fixture on our calendar for years to come.



Pictured Above with their caddies: Ryan Anetsburger, Gordon Lawson, Craig Duchossois, and Kevin Williams



Congratulations to this year's winning team!

Patrick Turner, Jake Karamol, John Stephens, and Steve M. Shuster

Looking ahead to the remainder of this year, there is so much to look forward to on our calendar. We are on the eve of the Classic Company's **Aiken Summer Classics I & II**, which will run June 12 - 16 and June 18 - 23. Check their website for their daily schedule, then come over to Bruce's Field to watch great competition.

Extend your July 4th celebration, make plans to come show, volunteer, or watch **Dressage In The Spring** (Now In The Summer) July 6 & 7.

Equus Events Inc. will host three Hunter/Jumper Shows at Bruce's Field this August! Aiken Summerfest I August 8 - 11, Aiken Summerfest II August 15 - 18 , and Aiken Summerfest III August 22 - 25.

Early September sees **Equus Events Inc** back with us for their Fall Festival I September 4 - 8 & Fall Festival II September 11 - 15.



We are so proud of the opportunity to support the **Aiken County Pony Club** by providing them with the venue to host the Carolina Region Show Jumping Rally. Come cheer all of the riders on September 28 & 29. These riders represent the future of horse sport, and they have all worked very hard to get to this competition.

SOUTHERN STRINGS FESTIVAL
October 4 & 5, 2024
Bruce's Field, Aiken SC
to benefit the Kisner Foundation



TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

We are especially proud of our new partnership with the **Kevin and Brittany Kisner Foundation**. Bruce's Field will be the site for their annual fundraiser **Southern Strings Festival**. The Aiken Horse Park Foundation is committed to curating exceptional equestrian competitions and supporting local and national charitable partners with fundraising and awareness efforts.

**THE ACTION CONTINUES WITH THE 5TH ANNUAL
OCTOBER AT BRUCE'S FIELD I & II**

COME PARTY WITH US!



October at Bruce's Field

USEF National A Rated Level 3 Jumper

Oct. 17 - 20 Wk I & Oct. 24 - 27 Wk II

Bruce's Field - Aiken, SC

October 17th - 20th

Week I - **HOMECOMING**

\$5k Welcome Stakes

\$5k USHJA National Hunter Derby

\$25k Grand Prix

Homecoming "Dance"

October 24th - 27th

Week II - **HALLOWEEN**

\$5k Welcome Stakes

\$5k USHJA National Hunter Derby

\$25k Grand Prix

Halloween Spooktacular!

Admission is **FREE & OPEN** to the public

Trainer's Incentive – **CASH PRIZE** – Most Stalls Across Both Weeks

THE MOST FUN YOU'VE EVER HAD AT A HORSE SHOW!

for more information visit aikenhorsepark.org/october



THE LUGANO DIAMONDS
SPLIT ROCK
JUMPING TOUR

Competition continues into November

SPLIT ROCK AIKEN CSI₂*

November 6 - 10



SPLIT ROCK AIKEN CSI2*

06/Nov - 10/Nov
AIKEN, SC

Rounding out 2024, & the start of the 2025 USEF calendar are Equus Events Inc.

December Classics

December 5 - 8 & December 12 - 15



Pictured above: Craig Duchossois, Janet Duchossois, Kim Duchossois, Tom McGrath, and Dayle Duchossois-Fortino

As you can see, 2024 is chock-full of equestrian events and fun activities, and 2025 looks even bigger and better. The Foundation appreciates everyone who has competed or plans to compete, spectators, volunteers, sponsors, and donors. Without your support, we would not have found the extraordinary success we are currently enjoying. Please join us in celebrating those who have generously supported our fundraising initiatives.

2024 ANNUAL FUND DONORS (as of June 10, 2024)

Patricia Aitken
Mallory Gilliam
Pamela Montegut
The Yawkey Foundation

THE NEXT CHAPTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

\$7.25 Million was raised by the end of 2023,
successfully concluding The Next Chapter

However, there remain many opportunities to make gifts
Please consider naming a stall, tree, or bench

DONATE NOW

DONORS (as of June 10, 2024)

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The Young Family



Pictured above: Helen Noelle Byrd seated on the bench she donated in loving memory of her sister Eleanor Carraway Noell.



Pictured Above: Culver Academies students performing at the 2024, Conceal Grand-Prix Eventing Showcase at Bruce's Field.

The Horsemanship program at **Culver Academies** seeks talented horses to expand their herd. Their programs offer a range of equestrian experiences for riders ages 9-18 of all skill levels, including basic equitation, jumping, polo, vaulting, trail riding, mounted archery, skijoring, and beyond. Horses receive the best care possible, including the latest equine therapies, a dedicated farrier, and full-time onsite veterinary technicians. For more details on donating a horse to Culver Academies, please reach out directly to Captain (ret) SRA Nicholls Sean.Nicholls@culver.org

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 HOST HOTELS

Please make your reservations directly with either Country Inn and Suites or The Inn at Houndslake, and tell them that the team at Bruce's Field sent you! We are incredibly fortunate to have developed meaningful partnerships with these two properties.

Many Thanks, Tabatha, Peggy, and Pete



COUNTRY INN AND SUITES by RADISSON
3270 Whiskey Road
Aiken, SC 29803
803-649-4024
1.8 miles from Bruce's Field



THE INN AT HOUNDSLAKE
897 Houndslake Drive
Aiken, SC 29803
803-648-9535
3.5 miles from Bruce's Field



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2024 PARK SPONSORS



2024 Park Partners



Established in 2013 by the late R. Bruce Duchossois, the Aiken Horse Park Foundation received its IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status in November 2014, with a mission to promote Aiken's equestrian way of life and to encourage the community's civic, educational, and charitable endeavors

Aiken Horse Park Foundation | 931 Powderhouse Road PO Box 1951 | Aiken, SC 29802 US

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