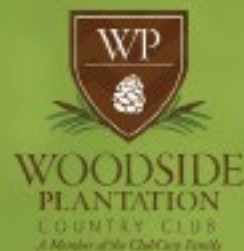


Go AIKEN

Lifestyle Magazine

Spring 2016



You're Welcome at Woodside Plantation
A club experience like no other



featuring

- 36 holes of championship golf
- 9-hole Executive Par 3 golf course
- Ten tournament-class tennis courts
- Mulligan's Grill & outdoor patio
- Sunday brunch
- Upscale dining
- Vinter's Club wine dinners
- Kidzone
- PGA professional staff
- *Access to ClubCorp's network of more than 300 private clubs
- New & all inclusive!**
- Young Executive Golf Program
- \$200/month

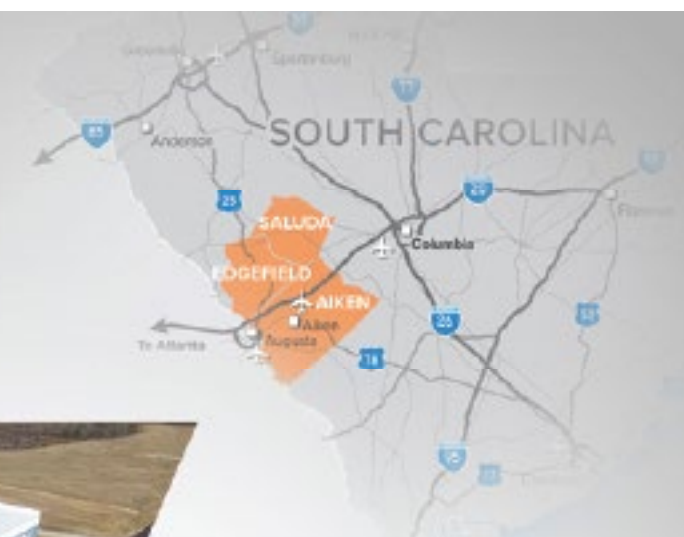
Visit our website today! www.woodside-plantation.com



Enjoy Membership for a day!
 803.649.3383 x 241
 NOREEN BOLING - Membership Director
noreen.boling@clubcorp.com

* O.N.E. Members receive 50% off Dining PLUS Free Golf & Free Dining when traveling.

AIKEN EDGEFIELD SALUDA SOUTH CAROLINA



HAVE IT MADE HERE

WORKFORCE

WORKFORCE POPULATION OF NEARLY 275,000 WITHIN A 45 MINUTE DRIVE

SITES AND BUILDINGS

AVAILABLE SITES AND BUILDINGS WITH EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN TECHNICAL COLLEGE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

QUALITY OF LIFE

EXPERIENCE THE CHARM AND SIMPLICITY OF SMALL TOWN LIFE WITH BIG CITY AMENITIES

ASK US FOR MORE REASONS WHY WE'RE THE PLACE YOU CAN HAVE IT MADE.
 WILL WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT/CEO
WWILLIAMS@EDPSC.ORG
 P.O. BOX 1708 | AIKEN, SC 29802 | 803.641.3300 | WWW.EDPSC.ORG



AIKEN

Spring

EVENTS

Aiken Trials
Saturday, March 19
Aiken Training Track
Gates open at 10:00 am

Some of the most popular Events in Aiken
take place during the spring months.
You won't want to miss these!

Aiken Steeplechase
Saturday, March 26
Aiken Horse Park
Gates open at 9:30

Pacers & Polo
Saturday April 2
Powderhouse Polo Field
Gates open 10:30 am
641-3406

Aiken Horse Show
Sunday, April 3
Hitchcock Woods
Begins at 9:00 am
642-0528

Horses & Courses Art Walk
Tuesday, April 5
Downtown Aiken
642-7631

Walk MS: Aiken
Saturday, April 9
Virginia Acres Park
Check-in at 8:00 am
855-372-1331

St Thaddeus Home & Garden Tour
Saturday, April 16
St Thaddeus Church
648-0417

Earth Day 2016
Saturday, April 23
Newberry Street
Begins at 9:30 am
642-7767

Mead Hall Strawberry Festival
Saturday, April 23
St Thaddeus Church
Begins at 10:00 am
474-6077

Run United
Saturday, April 30
Newberry Street
Check-in at 6:30 am
649-6245

Lobster Race
Friday, May 7
Downtown Aiken
Begins at 5:00 pm
646-0523

Aiken Bluegrass Festival
Friday, May 13
Aiken Fairgrounds
Begins at 4:00 pm
640-9287

Hops & Hogs
Friday, May 20
Hayne Avenue
Begins at 6:00 pm
649-2221

CONTENTS

Spring 2016



4

AIKEN EVENTS:
Mark your calendar for these popular Springtime Events!

8

AIKEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:
story submitted by the Aiken Symphony Orchestra

14

APPLIED RESEARCH CENTER:
by Helene Taylor

18

GARDENING: *by Meredith Boylan Walker*
Top 10 Essentials for a Southern Garden

23

EARTH DAY AIKEN:
Plan to attend the events in downtown Aiken
on Saturday, April 23rd.

24

GOLF IN AIKEN:
Check out the tee times at our local courses!

27

TRAVEL: *by Greg McCluney*
Charleston Tea Plantation



18



24



27

RECIPES: Warm weather is just around the corner,
check out some of our cool Iced Tea recipes!

31

NOW YOU KNOW: Grand Hotels of Aiken
by Marty Bailey

34

THE LONGEST TAPE MEASURE:

40

by Don Skinner

IN EACH ISSUE:

- 6 EDITORIAL PAGE
- 7 GO! TEAM PAGE
- 30 TRAVEL WITH GO AIKEN!
- 39 GET GO! SUBSCRIPTION
- 43 AD INDEX

Go Aiken!

LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

www.goaiken.com



One of the most difficult things to learn as an adult and something I preach to our kids on a regular basis is to compare yourself to yourself and where you want to be... not to compare yourself to others. It sounds simple but in real life it is totally counterintuitive when you consider everything, and I mean everything as an adult is a direct comparison. From who makes the most money, how many years did one team beat another, who won the race, who is better looking: the list could go on in perpetuity.

Well, in the Spring issue of Go Aiken! Magazine, we'll explore some great comparisons. For example, Aiken is the home of the World's Longest Tape Measure. In 1882, scientists determined the distance to the sun by setting up a system in downtown Aiken on Laurens Street. The Charleston Tea Plantation on Wadmalaw Island near Charleston, is one of only two places in SC where tea is grown and is the only active tea plantation in America.

Some of the best golf courses in the area and in the world have named holes on their courses after certain flowers. Not to be out done, we'll tell you the 10 essential flowers to have in any Southern Garden. Near the turn of the last century, Aiken was considered to be the Sportsman's Center of the South. The list of wealthy industrialists is staggering. You either had a winter residence in Aiken, or wished that you did. Even more staggering were the opulent hotels that housed their guests. Two of the largest wooden hotels in the world were right downtown Aiken.

Aiken is consistently ranked in the Top 10 places to retire in America. One such reason is the wealth of cultural events. In its ever expanding realm of culture, Aiken is now home to its own symphony. The all new Aiken Symphony was founded this past year and is well on its way to providing Aiken with phenomenal classical concerts.

While we are not the biggest lifestyle magazine in Aiken, we strive to be the best. With more feature stories than advertisements and exploring more in-depth what makes Aiken such a great place to cheer about - Go Aiken!

Thom & Chris Abbott

Spring 2016

PUBLISHER

752 Design, LLC

DESIGN

Chris Abbott

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Thom Abbott

Chris Abbott

ADVERTISING SALES

Chris Abbott

Thom Abbott

Lisa Glass

Jose (Pepe) Navasquez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Charleston Tea Plantation

Applied Research Center

Aiken Symphony Orchestra

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Greg McCluney

Marty Bailey

Thom Abbott

Helene Taylor

Meredith Boylan Walker


Don Skinner



PRINTER

Professional Printers

West Columbia, SC

 Professional Printers

CONTACT US

Go Aiken! Magazine

2258 Whiskey Road

Aiken, SC 29803

goaiken.com

mail@goaiken.com

Copyright 2016 752 Design, LLC

All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING & RATES

Please call an account representative

803.645.6970

or email to ads@goaiken.com

REPRINT INQUIRIES

For reprint information, contact:

Go Aiken! Lifestyle Magazine

803.645.6970 or info@goaiken.com

EDITORIAL OFFICES

Go Aiken! Lifestyle Magazine

is published quarterly

by 752 Design, LLC

2258 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29803

Postmaster: Send address changes to

Go Aiken Magazine,

2258 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29803



SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CUSTOMER SERVICE

For subscription orders or address change:

email SUBSCRIPTIONS@GOAIKEN.COM

or write to Go Aiken! Lifestyle Magazine,

2258 Whiskey Rd, Aiken, SC 29803

or call 803.645.6970

Annual subscriptions:

US rates \$15.00 Canada \$25.00

Back issues, when available, can be
purchased for \$5.00, plus \$2.00 for postage.

www.goaiken.com

The Aiken Symphony is Here

Inaugural Season Sees Much Success



There is a
sound of
music in the
air these days
in Aiken –
rich, elegant,
classical music.

The music is coming from the recently created Aiken Symphony Orchestra, which completed its first season in February. The group's third concert in the inaugural season was Feb. 25, when violinist Vadim Gluzman performed works by Beethoven at Aiken First Baptist Church.

In addition to the brilliance of Gluzman's playing, the Aiken audience had the rare chance to view and listen to a 1690 Stradivarius violin on extended loan to the musician from the Stradivari Society of Chicago. The audience heard one of the best violinists playing one of the best violins ever made.

The idea for the Aiken Symphony Orchestra came from a group of Aiken residents who believe the community deserves to have such a cultural entity in its midst. Tom Hofstetter is the engine driving the creation of the organization while Dr. Donald Portnoy provides the musical magic that turns black and white notes on a page into colorful sounds of wonder during performances.



AIKEN  SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



AIKEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Conductor Donald Portnoy in action



Hofstetter was instrumental in the creation of the Aiken Performing Arts Group (now Aiken Performing Arts) and has given the benefit of his expertise to the Aiken community for many years, bringing to the city some outstanding professional performers. Now he is using his energy and vision to guide a new artistic endeavor in the Aiken Symphony Orchestra.

In Portnoy, the Aiken Symphony Orchestra has an artistic director whose reputation is well established. Portnoy is the Ira McKissick Koger Professor of Fine Arts in the Department of Music at the University of South Carolina, where he teaches conducting and violin.

The maestro has led a number of orchestras in his stellar career. He was music director and conductor for the Pittsburgh Opera Theater and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He was appointed the guest conductor for the season by the China Opera and Dance Symphony in Beijing. He has served as guest conductor around the United States and in Argentina, Brazil, China, England, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Taiwan, South Korea, Italy, Romania and Switzerland.



In Columbia, he is the conductor for the USC Symphony and Chamber Orchestra. He has also conducted at Piccolo Spoleto in Charleston. One of his overarching achievements occurred in 2015 when he was honored with the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award for the Arts – the highest honor the state of South Carolina gives in the arts.



Story and photos submitted by the Aiken Symphony Orchestra

Hofstetter and Portnoy developed a relationship after another symphony came to the Aiken community. With Hofstetter's efforts, the National Symphony Orchestra made a stop in Aiken at a sold-out event at USC Aiken's Convocation Center. Hofstetter then helped the community get mezzo soprano opera star Frederica von Stade to perform one of her farewell concerts for the Aiken Performing Arts Group.

For that performance, Portnoy created the Orchestra of the Midlands. That collaborative effort between Hofstetter and Portnoy helped lead to the creation of today's Aiken Symphony Orchestra.

Already there have been two highly successful events that have added a new level of sophistication to the community's entertainment calendar. Under the direction of the renowned Portnoy, the Aiken Symphony Orchestra hosted pianist Natasha Paremski, who played selections by Tchaikovsky at the opening concert for the Aiken Symphony Orchestra.





Paremski is a native of Russia who emigrated to the United States at age 8 and has been honing her musical skills since. She won the Gilmore Young Artists prize in 2006 at the age of 18, and has also earned the Prix Montblanc, the Orpheum Stiftung Prize in Switzerland and was named the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist of the Year in 2010. She is the caliber of musician that the Aiken Symphony Orchestra is bringing to the area.

A change of tune was in order for the second performance when the Beijing Guitar Duo played with the Aiken Symphony Orchestra. The two guitarists are eminent performers individually, and with their combined talents they are exquisite. Meng Su and Yameng Wang are both from Qingdao, China, and have performed around the globe. Last year Aiken – 7,386 miles from their hometown – was one of their destinations.

The two are currently the artists in residence for the San Francisco Performances, a four-year residency program that returns them to the Bay Area each year for community outreach, to perform and teach master classes in public schools.

With the February concert, the Aiken Symphony Orchestra is seeing a completely different type of musician and program from the first two offerings. Gluzman is a classically trained musician who will perform with the orchestra in an all-Beethoven concert. Included in the program will be Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D Major, op. 61, Overture to Prometheus and Symphony No. 7 in A Major, op. 92.

For more information,
visit our website
aikensymphonyorchestra.com



APPLIED RESEARCH CENTER

Growing the Regional Economy through
Innovation and Technology Transfer



Story by Helene Taylor

Just down the road in the Savannah River Research Campus is the Applied Research Center, Inc. (ARC), a small company spun off by the Economic Development Partnership (EDP). The ARC is located in Aiken County's \$15 million, 60,000 square foot facility originally established as the Center for Hydrogen Research in 2006 and now home to not only hydrogen research and development with the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), but smaller research and development companies. The close association of Aiken County, the EDP and ARC reflects the close relationship and the desire by those organizations to establish an economy in which technology for job creation is a major player. The ARC's primary purpose and objectives are focused on research and development, technology transfer and commercialization in three primary areas, national defense, health, and education. This is accomplished through the identification of unique technologies that can be adapted to specific applications.

Photos courtesy of Fred Humes - Applied Research Center



The Applied Research Center, with its focus on hydrogen, is working to make it a viable and practical source of energy. Hydrogen, when used in a fuel cell, is an emissions-free alternative fuel that can be produced from diverse energy sources. Work done at ARC, in partnership with auto manufacturers and academic organizations, directly supports building the hydrogen fueling infrastructure that powers fuel cell vehicles. Completed in 2009, ARC constructed a hydrogen fueling station in the Sage Mill Industrial Park in Aiken, which is the only such station in the southeast. To support the introduction of new technology, a HICE Chevrolet Silverado truck was purchased that burns hydrogen in its internal combustion engine. Since then, ARC partnered with the City of North Augusta to share a 40-passenger fuel cell bus. These energy-efficient vehicles, used for various programs and events, are fueled at the Sage Mill station. The station has been used by a South Carolina manufacturer of electric and fuel cell buses as part of their certification program, by the National Institute of Standards in the development of testing and measurement equipment in support of the national hydrogen infrastructure, and by commercial gas companies in the distribution of hydrogen to their customers. Ernie Chaput, a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Department of Energy and former Deputy Manager of the Savannah River Operations Office, has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the hydrogen program, including the construction of research and hydrogen facilities.

Hydrogen was the starting point for ARC but certainly not its only interest. Just over a year ago, the Advanced Ceramics and Glass Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. George Wicks, Chief Technology Officer for ARC, was established with an emphasis on specialty glass materials that can be used in a variety of ways. ARC's core product and of most interest is Porous-Wall Hollow Glass Microspheres (PWHGMs), which are a novel form of glass micro-balloons, 2 to 100 microns in diameter (1/2 to 1/3 the diameter of a human hair) surrounded by a 1 micron-thick silica shell. The spheres hold a network of interconnected pores in the microsphere walls that allow the tiny micro-balloons to be filled with, store, and then release gases and other materials. The microspheres were developed by Dr. Wicks, former senior scientist, along with other scientists at SRNL. The microspheres were subsequently licensed to a glass manufacturer with which ARC has a development agreement.

Above left: Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus at
the Sage Mill Fueling Station
Bottom right: Hydrogen fueled truck
at the ARC building.

While the name itself sounds like something out of a James Bond movie, there is potential for major applications across a broad range of industries, particularly in the medical field for drug delivery, MRI contrast agents, and platforms in regenerative medicine, including application for the delivery of anti-cancer drugs. In addition to their broad range of potential medical applications, ARC's partnership with a major university involved in anti-counterfeiting technologies demonstrates their potential application in other industries. As Dr. Wicks has said many times, "the potential for hollow glass microspheres is limited only by your imagination".



Not only has ARC branched out from hydrogen and Porous-Wall Hollow Glass Microspheres, but its newest focus area is microwave technology, which has a variety of applications, ranging from new methods of manufacturing processing to destruction of waste. The ARC has established a microwave laboratory that contains state-of-the-art microwave equipment capable of reaching temperatures necessary to destroy electronic circuitry and an assortment of waste streams, immobilize hazardous constituents, and reclaim valuable metals. With its industrial partner, the technology is currently being adapted to manufacturing in the automotive industry. ARC and its Tier 1 auto supplier are researching new ways to use microwave technology to reduce costs. Dr. Wicks also oversees the microwave research program.

This program provides teachers with assistance on curriculum development, access to educational materials and equipment, hands on learning in the labs, etc. The Education, Training and Development Laboratory at the ARC houses a regenerative fuel cell system. This regenerative fuel cell system is comprised of an electrolyzer, hydrogen storage beds, and a fuel cell which represents the components of a Regenerative Fuel Cell Backup Power System. The objective is to provide students, teachers and researchers with the ability to understand how the individual components of a system operate. An educational park adjacent to the facility contains instrumentation that demonstrates how solar panels and wind turbines supply usable power for the production of hydrogen.



Photos:
Top right - Wind turbines supply power for hydrogen production
Above - Solar panels also supply needed power
Bottom right - STEM teachers visit ARC



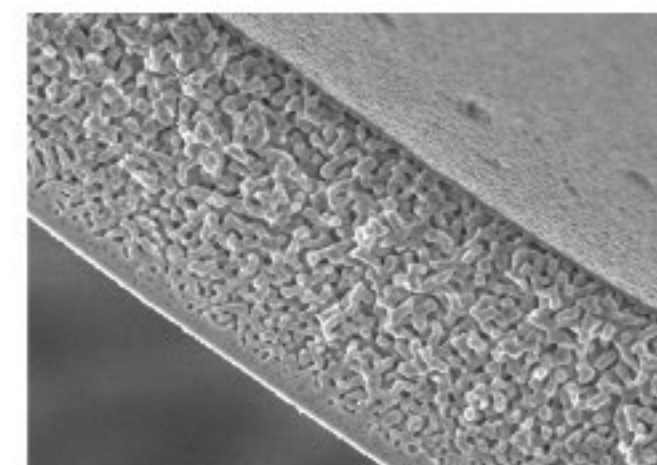
The Center participates in various community events throughout the year, including the Earth Day celebration, and supports the community through participation in programs such as the SPARK Program, which was founded in 2004 with the goal strengthening communities by helping underserved youth become motivated learners and connected community members, and by encouraging adults to nurture the next generation through mentoring and volunteerism.



Scanning Electron Microscope

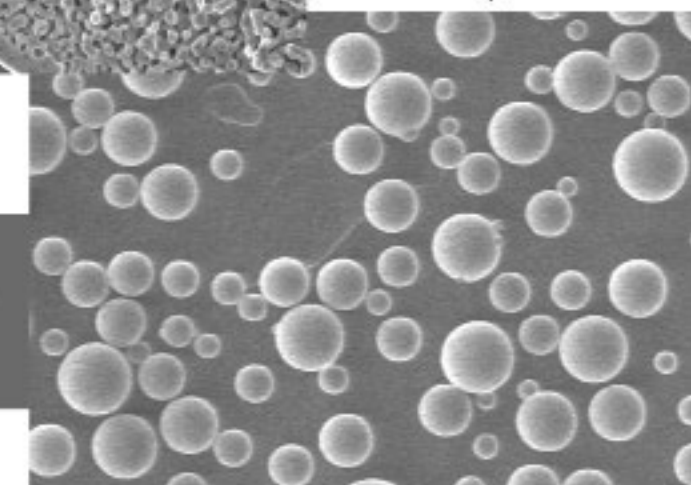
None of this can be accomplished without instrumentation and analytical devices. ARC has some of the most sophisticated equipment in the southeast to support its focus areas. While not possessing a wide variety of equipment, the emphasis is on only the equipment needed to accomplish its mission. ARC's Scanning Electron Microscope is comparable to or exceeds the capabilities of others available in the local or two-state area. The advantage is that it is available to industry, academia, and laboratories at reasonable rates. As Laboratory Manager, Mr. Patrick Woodell, a retired US Army Wounded Warrior, is an experienced technician with advanced skills. Mr. Woodell brought 20 years of lab experience with him when he began his employment with ARC.

Fred Humes, Chief Executive Officer for ARC, said, "we are excited about our progress thus far with the new microsphere patent, the work on anti-counterfeiting, the partnership with industry and our educational outreach."



PWHGM crosssection

Thanks to our talented people, we've made a great start." Obviously, that's true and there are a lot of important, innovative initiatives underway at the Center. As stated previously, the ARC's ultimate goal is to provide a steady stream of jobs that relate to, or involve the transfer of technology to establish the Aiken region as a growing knowledge economy in the State of South Carolina. It's evident based on the progress made thus far that the Center is well on its way to achieving the goal as evidenced by the multitude of projects already completed, those underway, and those already present on the horizon and by the focus on education and training to build a workforce with the competencies needed to address the local, state and national clean energy goals in the future.



HGM's all sizes

ARC's core product and of most interest is Porous-Wall Hollow Glass Microspheres (PWHGMs), which are a novel form of glass micro-balloons, surrounded by a 1 micron-thick silica shell.

Top 10 Essentials

for the Aiken Landscape

Ask anyone who spends five minutes in our town, and they'll tell you that Aiken is beautiful. Our parkways, downtown center, historic homes, equine facilities, wooded retreats, and many more scenic spaces make Aiken a special place. If you take a careful look, you'll see some patterns in what makes these areas so lovely. The many blooming shrubs and trees dotting the landscape, along with colorful foliage, is no accident. We Aikenites have spent a lot of time over the years discovering which show-stopping plants make the grade with our soil and climate.

Magnolia



Story by Meredith Walker Boylan

When planning your own landscape, you may feel overwhelmed by the huge selection available for our area. Look to this list as a starting point for guaranteed loveliness in your own Aiken yard with our most popular plants. Without further ado (and in no particular order), here are the top 10 essential plants for the Aiken garden.

1 Azalea

What's not to love about azaleas? You can hardly turn a corner in our town without spotting one. Azaleas are in full-bloom around Easter, making our yards look all dressed up for spring. Better yet, new varieties mean we can enjoy the colorful azalea blossoms for more than just a few weeks in March or April. Bloom-a-thons and Encores have risen in popularity the last several years for this very reason. You can expect these two species to flower in April, again in mid-summer, and once more in the late fall, hanging on until the cold settles in. Unlike traditional azalea varieties, Encores can take plenty of sun without any burn to their wonderful blooms or foliage.

Native azaleas, though a little different in bloom shape and form than the traditional species, are stunning in full bloom. Guests at the Masters Tournament can spot the National's fiery orange native azaleas from a mile away. Native azaleas prefer morning sun and afternoon shade with moist soil.

2 Fragrant Tea Olive

If you find yourself enjoying a sweet fragrance in the air on a fall day in Aiken, you probably have the fragrant tea olive to thank. The evergreen shrub's teeny-tiny blooms pack a powerful scent. *Osmanthus fragrans* is well-adapted to our soil and very easy to care for.

As with other fragrant plants, we recommend placing these by doorways, windows, and outdoor living spaces to fully enjoy the perfume. The tea olive will bloom for approximately two months starting in September or early October. Depending on weather, you may be treated with additional short bloom periods scattered throughout the winter and spring, too. Otherwise, glossy evergreen leaves will fill your garden in with lovely foliage throughout the year.

3 Gardenia

The gardenia is another fragrant winner to aromatize your yard. The heady scent from this evergreen's striking white blooms is intoxicating on a nice spring or summer evening. Plant gardenias underneath windows or use in bouquets and table arrangements to enjoy the lovely smell indoors and out. The gardenia came to us from England by way of Charleston in the 1700s, and is appropriately named after Dr. Alexander Garden.

You can expect gardenias burst open in the spring, with some varieties, such as August Beauty, blooming again in late summer. Gardenias can be planted in the ground or enjoyed in container combo gardens for a special touch on the porch or patio.

Varieties to try

Recommended by Cold Creek Nurseries

Azalea

Florida Flame Native Azalea
Bloom-a-thon Pink Double
George L. Taber (classic variety)

Fragrant Tea Olive

Osmanthus fragrans
Osmanthus aurantiacus
Conger Yellow

Gardenia

August Beauty
Frost Proof
Daisy

Camellia

October Magic
Red Yuletide
Pink Perfection

Hydrangea

Limelight
Endless Summer Blushing Bride
Nikko Blue

Dogwood

Cloud Nine
Cherokee Sunset
Cherokee Chief

Lorapetalum

Purple Pixie (dwarf variety)
Sizzlin Pink
Plum Delight

Crepe Myrtle

Muskogee
Tuscarora
Natchez

Magnolia

Little Gem
Teddy Bear
Majestic Beauty

Nandina

Nandina domestica
Obsession
Gulf Stream

COLD CREEK
nurseries

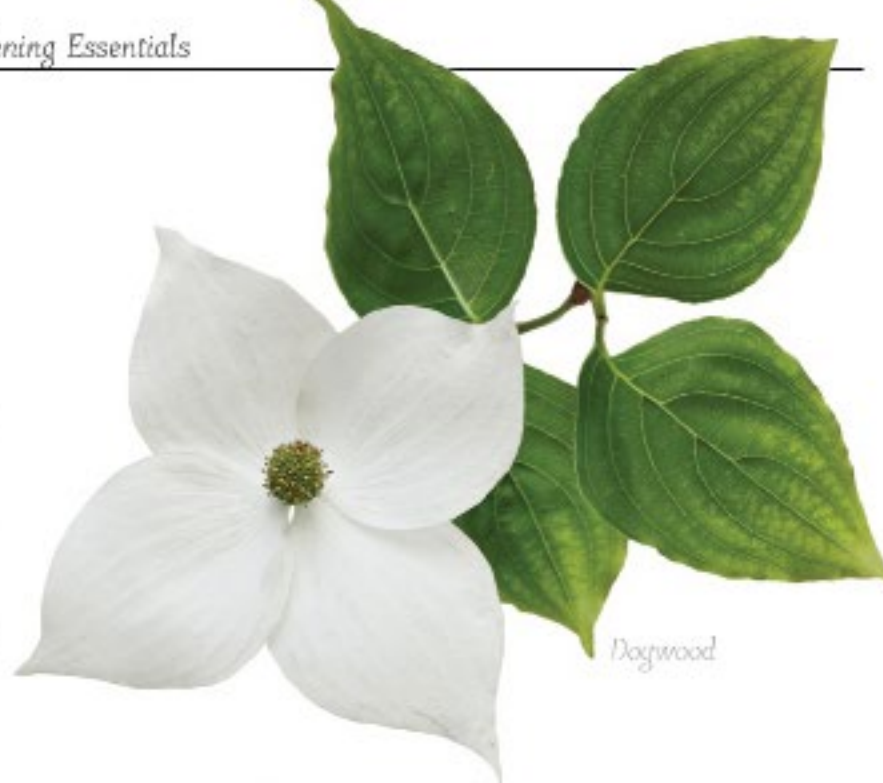


206 Hitchcock Parkway, Aiken, S.C. 29801
(803) 648-3900 or 648-6870

4 Dogwood

You know it's spring when the dogwoods begin to bloom. The dainty flowers practically burst forth overnight as if to say "come on, spring!" Part shade, especially in the afternoon, and plenty of water will keep these trees happy. Flowering dogwoods will typically reach about 12 to 20 feet tall, making them ideal for landscapes suited to smaller trees. The versatile dogwood will thrive in both sun and shade.

If you plant it in a sunny spot, you can expect the tree to stay shorter, usually around 12 feet tall, and its fall foliage will be more brilliant. Planting in the shade will give you a smaller tree. If you're looking to attract songbirds, the dogwood's berries will pique their interest. Though the tree's blooms are charming, its winter silhouette of spindly branches with budded tips will stand out in your winter landscape.



Dogwood

6 Camellia

Finally something that blooms in the winter! And "blooms" is an understatement. Camellias are practically dripping in shades of pink, red, and white from late October through early March, depending on the variety. Camellias can be categorized two ways: as japonicas or sasanquas, with many varieties under each species. Japonicas feature larger, but fewer, blooms and grow up to 30 feet over time. Sasanquas feature smaller but more profuse flowers and max out at 12 feet or so. Sasanquas are also more tolerant of full-sun conditions than the morning-sun-loving japonicas.

Like the gardenia, the wildly popular camellia first reached North America via Charleston in 1786. The bloomer was first planted at the famous estate Middleton Place. Cultivars from those original varieties can still be seen at Middleton today. Aikenites so love this blooming evergreen shrub that they named the coming out of the town's debutantes the Camellia Ball in the plant's honor. The annual Camellia Show at the Aiken Mall, hosted by the Aiken Camellia society, is a fabulous opportunity to witness firsthand the incredibly diverse and beautiful flowers the camellia charms us with.

5 Hydrangea

These showy blooming shrubs are a favorite for many, from brides on their big day to anyone looking to add color to the dining room table. Shades ranging from cerulean blue to lilac, and deep pink to delicate blush can be found on these part-sun, part-shade lovers. In fact, hydrangeas are a natural soil pH indicator. Blue blooms mean the soil is acidic, while pink blooms indicate more basic soil.

Full sun hydrangeas such as oakleaf and limelight feature conical flowers of sage green and cream. In the Victorian language of flowers, hydrangeas symbolized heartfelt emotions and gratitude. We are certainly grateful to see such beautiful blooms in our gardens throughout the spring and summer.

7 Magnolia

You can't talk about the quintessential southern landscape without mentioning magnolias. These huge, sophisticated flowers—symbols of hospitality and grace—bring to mind moonlight, romance, and sweet-tea accents. Many varieties of magnolia grandiflora, the classic southern staple, are well-suited to the Aiken climate and will enchant you with sweet-smelling blooms for years to come.

While their habit of shedding leaves year-round does mean a little more upkeep, the magnolia's reward of gigantic fragrant flowers more than make up for the extra maintenance. If you're into repurposing, the foliage makes excellent greenery for wreaths and arrangements. Magnolias are another landscape feature that require you to think ahead on when planting; many varieties can grow up to 40 feet. If you're in the market for something smaller, the variety Kay Parris, which clocks in at about 20 feet in maximum height, is fitting.

8 Crepe Myrtle

There's no denying that the summers here can be brutal. If you're looking for a flowering tree that can take the heat, the crepe myrtle is a perfect fit. And, when not in bloom, the tree's pretty bark and gorgeous fall foliage will add interest to your landscape. You want to plan ahead when planting crepe myrtles. Some varieties can be expected to grow upwards of 30 feet tall, and their blooms will shed into nearby pools.

The crepe myrtle's journey to the southeastern U.S. is an interesting story. It first came to England from its native China in the mid-18th century. Our neighbors across the pond weren't impressed with them, however, because they just wouldn't bloom. Tired of trying to get the stubborn trees to flower, they shipped them off to the colonies to see if they would fare better. It turns out crepe myrtles love the heat so much, that they'll only bloom in temperatures like the scorching South Carolina summer has to offer. It's nice having at least one up on that classic English garden, after all.

9 Lorapetalum

The lorapetalum's deep purple foliage adds interest and contrast to the Aiken landscape. Also known as Chinese fringeflower, this evergreen (or ever-purple, you might say) delights year-round, and is enhanced by fringe-like white and pink blooms in the spring. The lorapetalum loves our acidic soil and doesn't mind the scorching summer weather. Plus, this shrub tolerates drought conditions and isn't especially susceptible to pests. You'll only need to prune these easy-care shrubs every once in a while to maintain whatever shape you like. In other words, the lorapetalum is a no-brainer in just about any yard.

10 Nandina

When fall rolls around, many varieties of nandina enchant us with fiery foliage to mark the season. The best way to describe these easy shrubs is bulletproof. They'll take the heat, drought, and freezing cold, and won't succumb to any pest. Nandinas are especially fun as non-traditional "thrillers" in combo containers. The berries of the domestica variety, which you'll spot in the winter and early spring months, lend a nice touch of color when it's cold outside.



Hydrangea

Custom Design, Print & Frame



The Best Dressed Walls

- Artwork
- Framing
- Printing
- Photography
- Graphic Design
- Marketing

Southside Gallery

www.southsidegallery.com

803.226.0554

2258 Whiskey Rd • Aiken, SC



EARTH DAY AIKEN

Educate • Engage • Empower

2016

Saturday, April 23rd
Newberry Street Festival Center
9:30 am - 3:00 pm

LIGHTS OUT

Earth Day weekend will begin on Friday evening, April 22 with Lights Out. During this event, select restaurants will feature candlelit dining from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Information about the activities, exhibitors, and sponsors of the Saturday events will be available at each restaurant.

For a listing of participating restaurants, see our website and watch for updates.

EARTH DAY

From 9:30 to 3:00, Saturday April 23, 2016, the Newberry Street Festival Center will be devoted to educational displays. Included are booths and vehicles highlighting energy savings and green environmental practices, new and developing technologies, as well as fun learning experiences for children. Disc jockey Ed Girardeau will provide music throughout the day. There will be food vendors, puppeteers, and informative speakers. Aiken's own Potchop Productions will be on hand to entertain younger children. The Aiken Bicycle Club is organizing the Earth Day Family Bike Ride, a three mile ride through the downtown area, that will start from Newberry Street and Park Avenue at 12:30.



Earth Day Aiken

Come celebrate our planet and learn about

"Preserving for tomorrow what we all enjoy today."



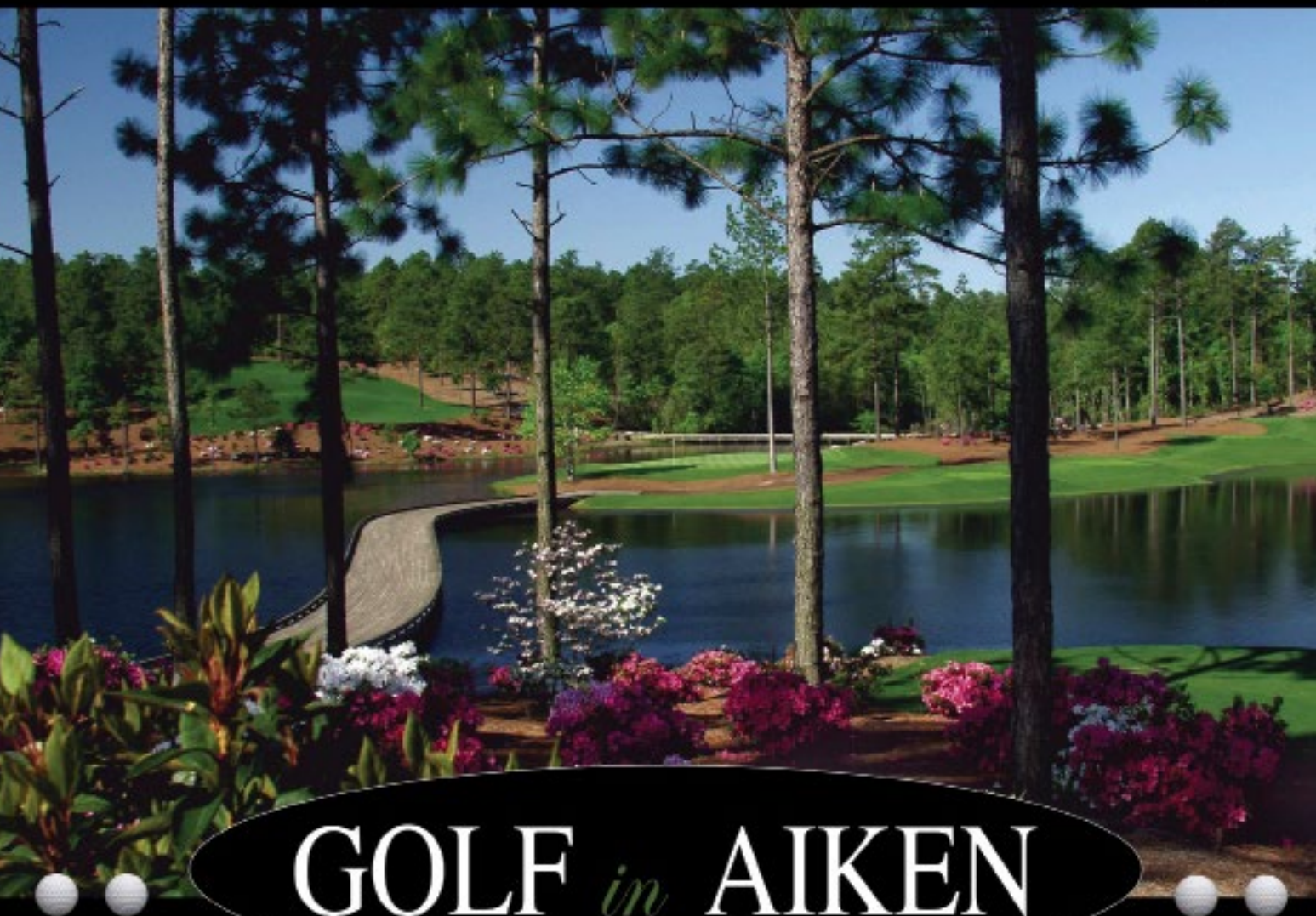
PEOPLE CHASE 5K

The People Chase 5K run and fun run will start at 9:00 a.m. Saturday (9:15 for the fun run) at Park Avenue and Newberry Street. Modeled after the Urbanathlon events held in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco, this popular race will lead participants through downtown Aiken, past such historical places as the Aiken County Courthouse, Coker Spring, the Aiken County Historical Museum, and the Bomb Shelter built in the 1960's. One section of the race goes through Hitchcock Woods where runners will trail run and hurdle downed tree trunks. They will crawl below police barricades, jump over 500 lb recycled cardboard barriers, and try their hand at sliding across the hood of a police car. Entry fees for the Earth Day People Chase remain family-friendly for 2016. Participants 12 years and under are free as long as accompanied by a registered participant who is 16 years or older. Participants 13 and over who register on line at active.com by April 10, 2016 will pay \$25. Day-of registration will be available at a charge of \$30.

For more information, please call
Ron Dellamora at 803.648.7794 or
Mary Anne Archibald at 803.644.5737.
www.earthdayaiken.org

● GOLF *in* AIKEN ●

and nearby



GOLF *in* AIKEN

Photos by Thom Abbott

Aiken County is home to over 13 golf courses. The Palmetto Golf Club is the second oldest in America and the oldest in South Carolina. Aiken Golf Club, formerly Highland Park Golf Club, was the first golf club in America to offer women's tees. Sage Valley Golf Club in just over a decade of operation has already been ranked as one of the 100 best golf courses in America.

Here is a quick list of the clubs in the area and their contact information. Many of the private clubs open their doors for special events.

We suggest you check their websites and see what's available.

Go! Golf!



The Reserve Club at Woodside



Palmetto Golf Club



#17 at Sage Valley Golf Club

The Aiken Golf Club

www.aikengolfclub.com

555 Highland Park Drive, SW | Aiken, SC
803.649.6029

The Reserve Club at Woodside

www.thereserveclubatwoodside.com

3000 Reserve Club Drive | Aiken, SC
803.648.2442

The Golf Club at Cedar Creek

www.cedarcreek.net

2475 Club Drive | Aiken, SC
803.648.4206

The River Golf Club

www.rivergolfclub.com

307 Riverside Boulevard | North Augusta, SC
803.202.0110

Houndslake Country Club

www.houndslakecc.com

901 Houndslake Drive | Aiken, SC
803.648.6805

Sage Valley Golf Club

www.sagevalleygolf.com

2240 Sage Valley Dr | Graniteville, SC
803.663.0900

Midland Valley Golf Club

www.playmidlandvalley.com

151 Midland Drive | Graniteville, SC
803.279.5352

Sweetwater Country Club

www.sweetwatercountryclub.org

571 Club House Lane | Barnwell, SC
803.259.5004

Palmetto Golf Club

www.palmettogolfclub.net

307 Berrie Road | Aiken, SC
803.649.2951

Woodside Plantation Country Club

www.woodsideplantation.com

1000 Woodside Plantation Drive | Aiken, SC
803.649.3383





RUN UNITED

Presented By
AIKEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
TOUCHSTONE ENERGY

Half Marathon + 5K + Kid's Fun Run

A Run Like No Other

April 30, 2016
7:30 A.M.

*Begins at Newberry Street in
Historic Aiken, South Carolina*

**PRIZES
+ \$2,100
IN CASH AWARDS**

REGISTER TODAY:
aikenco-op.org/RUNUNITED

EARLY REGISTRATION
\$60, \$25 + \$10

PROCEEDS BENEFIT

United Way
United Way of Aiken County, Inc.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy Partner

Aiken Regional Medical Centers
www.aikenregional.com

CHANDLER
LAW FIRM



TOP 10 REASONS
TO ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS IN

Go Aiken
Lifestyle Magazine

Target Audience
Significant Content
Competitive Rates
Published in Aiken
Extended Shelf Life
Available On-Line
High Quality
Historical Relevance
Broad Appeal
National Subscriber Base



For advertising information
Email to Ads @goaiken.com



Tea Anyone?

America's only tea plantation grows
on Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina

Story by Gregory D McCluney



Photos courtesy of the Charleston Tea Plantation

Tea Harvest at the Charleston Tea Plantation



Just about twenty miles south of Charleston on Wadmalaw Island, the Charleston Tea Plantation (CTP) operates the only working tea plantation in the U.S. and cultivates the *Camellia sinensis* plant, marketed under the retail name of American Classic Tea. The nearest competitor growing tea is 4,000 long miles away. Owned by the Bigelow Tea Company, the plantation is open to the public for tours of the grounds and factory and for special events, including their First Flush, which celebrates the beginning of the harvest season.

Lipton, Bigelow and Some History

The plantation was briefly owned and farmed by the Thomas J. Lipton Company from 1960 to 1987 and then sold to a partnership of Bill Hall, a tea taster from England, and Mack Fleming, a horticultural professor at Trident Technical College. Together, they created the trade name of American Classic Tea.

Previously, several attempts at raising tea plants in the Charleston area failed, dating back to 1799 when Francois Michaux, a French biologist, brought the *Camellia sinensis* plant to the United States. Henry Middleton, the owner of a plantation, planted the tea and became the first of many failed efforts to raise tea in Georgetown, Greenville and Summerville.

In 1888, Dr. Charles Shepherd founded the Pinchurst Tea Plantation in Summerville, South Carolina and American-grown tea became a reality. In 1915 Dr. Shepherd passed on, and for almost fifty years, the tea plants grew wild at Pinchurst. In 1960, the Lipton Company bought the failing plantation in Summerville, and in 1963 moved the plants to a former 127-acre potato farm on Wadmalaw Island where it remains today.

The Fleming-Hall partnership lasted until 2003, when the Bigelow Company of Connecticut purchased the plantation from the partners for \$1.28 million. Bill Hall went to work for Bigelow, which, with its resources, sold the brand (American Classic) across the U.S. Every plant at the CTP today is a direct descendant of Dr. Shepherd's 1888 crop. Bill Hall remains as the managing partner and is in charge of daily operations at the plantation.

Note: Bigelow teas do not contain any of the green leaf tea harvested on Wadmalaw at the Charleston Tea Plantation. They use imported teas. Only American Classic brand use the tea grown on CTP.



*William Barclay Hall,
Partner and Tea Taster*

William Hall is a partner with Bigelow Tea in the CTP and oversees daily operations. He has been at the plantation since 1987 when he established the American Classic Tea brand. Hall is an expert third-generation tea taster, having spent four years in an apprenticeship in London, England. He is also an international tea buyer who has traveled the world in search of the finest tea. He is responsible for growing, harvesting, processing, manufacturing, packaging and quality control and the final product at CTP, America's only tea garden.

Hall was born in Winnipeg, Canada and is the owner of William H. Hall and Company, Inc., an international tea trading company and does consulting work around the world.

If You Go

The plantation is open for visitor tours year around, Monday through Saturday from 10 – 4 and Sundays from noon – 4. Visitors can explore a working tea factory, a trolley tour of the tea fields and a plantation gift shop. Don't miss a photo opp with Waddy the Frog, a human-size, custom made frog created just for his job as he holds a CTP mug on his park bench.

Taste the First Flush!



Tea leaves, flower and buds

Harvest season at CTP begins in May of each year, when the plants reach their first "flush" of new leaves. This first harvest is so distinctive and special it was once reserved for royalty. Dedicated tea drinkers taste something different in the first flush leaf and regard it as something very special. They taste a unique and more defined flavor that is smooth and mellower than the usual tea harvested the rest of the year.

Tea production continues through the summer until the fall dormant season, which usually begins in the early days of October. However, tours are open throughout the mild island winter as well.



Touring the Charleston Tea Plantation factory



Waddy the frog

Meet Charles Frog Smith, the man who created Waddy

Local artist and sculptor Charles "Frog" Smith began the work that brought Waddy to the CTP in 1974 when Smith left a career in science and engineering to devote full time to making these full human-sized metal sculptures. Smith's first works were clowns and dancers made with sheet copper overlaid with brass. Over a three-year period in the 1980s, the clowns morphed into frogs when a client requested one. Smith is now joined in the studio by his sons who have their own careers as "frogsmiths" here and in Atlanta. Each piece is an original and is signed by the sculptor. The Smith's frogs can be found at the Atlanta Botanical Garden and gardens at Murray Bay, Quebec, Canada in addition to many private collections.

All CTP teas are Certified South Carolina Grown

The Certified South Carolina Grown (CSCG) program is a cooperative effort among retailers, manufacturers, processors and growers to let the public know where their food is coming from and is coordinated by the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA). Supporting local producers is important to the health and growth of our state's future agriculture and sustainable income and provides jobs to our residents across the state.

In terms of healthy products, CTP teas are all natural – no pesticides, herbicides or insecticides are used to protect the growth and yield of the tea plants. CTP does not offer a decaffeinated tea product at American Classic, because producing a decaffeinated tea requires the use of chemicals. The use of heat reduces caffeine naturally, without the use of chemicals, a simple and natural way to reduce the caffeine in your cup of tea (see instructions included in "Making the Perfect Cup/Glass of Tea.")



A typical cup of American Classic contains about half the amount of caffeine of an average cup of coffee. Black teas typically contain slightly more caffeine than green teas. CTP recommends making a sweet solution with sweetener and water prior to pouring into your fresh tea. Iced tea has a short shelf life, and CTP recommends it is at its best for no more than two days from brewing.

How to Make the Perfect Cup of Tea

(Information provided by CTP.)

The Best Iced Tea

First, pour cold water over your tea bags (not boiling water) and allow to sit overnight at room temperature. In the morning, remove your tea bags, add a sweetener if you like and serve over ice.

The Best Hot Tea

Bring your water to a boil and pour directly over your tea bag or loose leaf. Limit the amount of water, as this first brew will contain the most caffeine and should be discarded. Infuse for 45 to 60 seconds, and then pour the tea out while leaving your tea bag or loose leaf in the cup. Now add more boiling water to make your cup of naturally decaffeinated tea.



RECIPES:

ICED TEA FAVORITES

Ginger Tea

- 3 cups hot tea
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, grated
- 7 cups cold water
- lemon slices for garnish

While tea is still hot, stir in honey and ginger. Pour into a 1-gal. container then add 7 cups cold water. Serve over ice. Garnish with lemon slices.



Mint Julep Sweet Tea

- 1/2 cup fresh mint leaves
- 1 lemon, sliced
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3 cups cold sweetened tea
- 1 cup bourbon
- Crushed ice
- mint sprigs for garnish

Combine first 3 ingredients in a 2-qt. pitcher. Press mint leaves against sides of pitcher with back of spoon to release flavors. Stir in tea and bourbon. Pour over crushed ice and garnish with mint.

Southern Fruit Tea

- 2 quart-size tea bags
- 6 cups water
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 can (48 ounces) pineapple juice
- 1 can (12 ounces) frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 can (12 ounces) frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
- orange and/or lemon slices + mint, for garnish

Place the tea bags and cinnamon stick in a large pitcher. Pour boiling water over tea bags and allow to steep for 15 minutes. Remove the tea bags and cinnamon stick; stir in the orange juice and lemonade. Add the pineapple juice and stir until combined. Serve over ice. Garnish with fruit slices and mint.



Go Aiken Magazine

Around the World



Puerto Rico



Friends from The Reserve Club sailed to the Spanish Virgin Islands on a 45 foot catamaran. Front row: Carole Pincavage, Linda & Mike Semoranski. Back Row: Carl & Cheryl Bell, Barry Sroka, Rick & Martha Funk.

St Kitts



Vince and Lynette Brunfield
Caribelle Batik and Botanical Garden

Send your travel photos...

Send your photos with names and location to chris@goaiken.com or mail to: 2258 Whiskey Road, Aiken, SC 29003

Peach Tea

- 7 tea bags
- 1 lemon, sliced
- 2 tablespoons fresh ginger, peeled and smashed
- 1 quart boiling water
- 8 cups ice cubes
- 2 peaches, peeled, pitted and diced
- 1/2 cup sugar
- mint & peach slices for garnish

Place tea, lemon and ginger in a heatproof container and add boiling water. Let tea steep 7 to 8 minutes. Place half of the ice in a pitcher, then pour in tea. Blend diced peaches and sugar in a blender until smooth; mix into tea. Serve in glasses over remaining ice and garnish with mint and peach slices.

Lemon Berry Tea

- 1 (12-oz.) package frozen blueberries
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 4 cups cold brewed tea
- 3/4 cup sugar
- fresh blueberries & lemon rind strips for garnish

Bring blueberries and lemon juice to a boil in a large saucepan over medium heat; cook, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes. Remove from heat; pour through a wire-mesh strainer into a bowl, using back of a spoon to squeeze out juice. In a large pitcher, combine sugar and blueberry juice mixture with the 4 cups cold tea. Chill for one hour. Serve over ice with blueberries and lemon rind

Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Join the American Cancer Society in the world's largest movement to end cancer.

Form a Relay For Life team and sign up online to start fundraising.



Relay For Life of Aiken
May 20, 2016
7:00pm-1:00am
South Aiken High School
232 E. Pine Log Road
www.relayforlife.org/aikensc



Survivor Dinner
May 10th at 6pm
St. John's

Aiken Golf Classic
April 25th
Reserve Club @ Woodside

See our Facebook page Relay For Life of Aiken for many more local events

GO AIKEN!
Lifestyle Magazine

Something to Cheer About



www.goaiken.com



BUSY. BUSY. BUSY. BUSY. BUSY.

Danny Michaels, Ins. Agent
Danny Michaels, Agent
445 Silver Chalk Road
Aiken, SC 29803
Esc: 803-648-1143

Life insurance shouldn't wait. Even though life is busy, take a moment to reflect on what's most important. For peace of mind, protect your family with State Farm® life insurance. We put the life back in life insurance.™
CALL ME TODAY.



State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not licensed in NA, NY or WI)
State Farm Life and Accident Assurance Company (Licensed in NY and WI)
1311009 Bloomington, IL



Landscaping & Design
Exclusively Customized



We know Southern Landscaping...
...because We are NATIVE.

803.507.8790
info@nativelandscapingsc.com

Crepes Cafe
150 Laurens St SW



803.226.0573

Crepes made fresh to order
Sweet & Savory

Coffee & Tea
• Espresso • Latte • Mocha

Mon-Sat 7 am to 7 pm
Sunday 8 am to 4 pm



Highland Park Hotel

Aiken's Honored & High-brow Hotels

Story by Marti Hanley
Owner of Tailored Tours of Aiken

Have you ever wondered how people a long time ago discovered where to vacation or in which hotel to stay? And have you wondered how so many Northerners learned about Aiken and where in Aiken a cultivated lodger would have slept? Word-of-mouth advertising was the best way to know where to go and where to stay; friends sharing experiences and opinions is always a great form of advertisement. And just as today, magazines and newspapers with their own travel writers scoured the countryside in order to find the best places for their readers to travel.



Highland Park Hotel

Locations, restaurants, and hotels highlighted in periodicals lured inquisitive excursionists, and those who had previously visited the sights recommended them to their friends. The really good cities and their businesses became great, and the not-so-good ones withered and died. Aiken was one of the really good places to visit and with its amazing hotels; it truly became the hot spot for wealthy travelers from the North. According to an article, *The Trade-Winds of Travel* written in 1895, "One of the most recent resorts to come into prominent notice and favor is Aiken, SC." It continued to say, "the climate of Aiken is very salubrious" and that "this element of the resort-communities brings it about that one finds social functions, fox hunts and the like, in full blast here quite *comme il faut*." With a glowing report like this, who wouldn't want to visit Aiken? And come they did. The wealthy Northerners came by train to our fair city and of course stayed in the finest hotels available until they bought or built their own private cottages.

For others there were hotels such as the Palmetto Inn, the Park Avenue Hotel, and in 1898, the Commercial Hotel which today is called Hotel Aiken. For the high-brow, heavy-pocketed visitors we call Winter Colonists though, their journey to Aiken was for an extensive vacation – usually November through April or May – and it proved them to be a whole different breed of visitor. When these millionaires such as the Posts, Hitchcocks, Graces, and Clarks, arrived in Aiken they wouldn't have stayed in a "nice" hotel or boarding house; oh no, they'd expect to stay in a fine, plush, exquisite hotel. And to satisfy their discerning tastes, some enterprising business men opened grand hotels "to cater to the fancies of the wealthier class of tourists who prefer hotels to boarding houses", as was reported the *Aiken Journal and Review* in 1889. And not only were these hotels a treat for the guests but they set a shining example for other hotels to aspire to be like, but for none to equal.

Highland Park Hotel

The Highland Park Hotel was considered the first and most sumptuous hotel of Aiken. Building began in 1869 and was completed in 1870, the same year it opened for business. Mr. B. P. Chatfield of Connecticut, the owner of the Highland Park Hotel, made sure his lodging was "the finest winter resort hotel in the South". The first of its kind, it offered accommodations for up to 250 guests and after a second wing was added in 1874, the hotel could comfortably accommodate 350. The hotel stood on a hill on the western side of town where today the Highland Park Terrace and Highland Park Avenue meet today and it faced what is now known as the Hitchcock Woods.



Park in the Pines Hotel

There were quite a few hotels at the time. If the traveler came alone, chances are he or she would rent a room in a local boarding house or homes turned into hotels like the Busch House, owned by Henry Busch who advertised his establishment as being "lighted by electric lights" and offering free transportation to and from his "House" from the railroad depot.

Aiken had three luxury hotels and each one was as good as or better than the next, depending on what amenities the guest expected.





The Willcox Inn



Through word of mouth, this hotel became so popular and such a desired location that the establishment soon had to turn down applicants. In 1889, “over three hundred of such applications were declined. And it is fair to infer that as many more hearing of this did not apply” it was reported in the Aiken Journal and Review. It was noted in 1895 in the Review of Reviews to have, “few equals and no superiors” and that fact is likely due to their “excellent service and faultless cuisine for which this hotel has long been noted”. Unlike today’s motels though, it didn’t operate all year long. It opened for business in November and closed in June, giving Aiken’s Winter Colonists a first-class place to stay. As one came upon the Highland Park Hotel, its imposing Empire styled, four-storied wooden structure with verandas that stretched across each wing was enough to impress from first glance. According to an 1889 Aiken Journal and Review article, the grounds were

seeded with rye grass during the winter and spring months so that the lawn would be a lush green vision for their special guests. “Several hundred acres” were “enclosed as a park and care was taken to preserve the evergreen native pines”. But upon entering the establishment, one was amazed that they offered both men’s and women’s billiard rooms, a bowling alley, and a ballroom. It was lighted with electricity and gas, the bedrooms were heated by open wood fire places, while the public rooms in addition to these and the halls are heated by steam,” according to an 1892 article in the Aiken Journal and Review. The kitchen bragged that the guests were “supplied with an abundance of the best and richest milk” because Mr. B. P. Chatfield’s dairy that supplied the hotel, was about a mile away from the hotel. Outside there were tennis and croquet courts, stables and riding trails, walking trails, a tall windmill, and a beautiful pavilion. The hotel was also

utilized by the Winter Colonists as a reception area where they would throw dinners and luncheons for their special friends and balls were thrown in the formal ballroom. Sadly the opulent wooden structure was burned when a fire that started in the laundry room spread quickly and destroyed the hotel on February 6, 1898. Luckily all 168 guests were able to escape unharmed and with all their belongings except for one gentleman from Boston who was wounded by a hotel manager who thought him to be a thief. A second Highland Park Hotel was built on the exact location of the first, but this time it was built in a three-story Spanish Colonial Revival Style with what looked

Above photo:
Aerial view of the Willcox Inn at the turn of the century. The Inn once had a cafe attached, (the building to the right of the front entrance) The cafe was replaced years later and the fenced pool with waterfall is in it's place. The photo was taken while the roads were still sand.

Left photo:
Current day Willcox Inn, photo by Larry Gleason

like twin bell towers in the front of the building. Originally built in 1915 with 80 rooms, it was quickly enlarged to 125 rooms. The new hotel also boasted of every modern amenity plus a ballroom where balls were held such as the “Annual Forty and Eight Ball” held in 1932. The hotel from time to time too, used its ballroom to host special sales demonstrations such as exhibits of fine linens and others ladies’ items. This hotel too played host to the many Winter Colonists who came to town but because of a second fire, the hotel was closed for business, its furniture and fixtures sold and the building razed in 1940 by T. G. Tarver and his associates who purchased the hotel and said they had “plans of improving and developing the property.” Today the property is a residential area.

Park in the Pines

Another very highly regarded and prosperous retreat was known as the Park in the Pines Hotel, built in 1900

near where the now old county hospital building stands; in the vicinity of Ligon Street between Morgan and Perrin Streets and faced the back of Eustis Park, it was owned by Mrs. McArthur of Detroit, Michigan, and cost \$160,000.00 to build with an additional \$75,000 for furnishings. In 1906 it was said to be “among the most elegantly equipped and liberally conducted hotels of the South”. It was a very impressive and sprawling white wooden structure with an elevator for its three stories that contained 300 rooms, a large veranda that stretched the length of the front of the building. The grounds were adorned with shrubbery, young trees, and tall pine trees which were believed to offer reprieve from respiratory problems. The walks and driveways were in “excellent shape” so as to invite guests to stroll through the yards. Park in the Pines also offered rooms for sales displays of elegant laces, clothes, and accessories of which the female guests could purchase. Other conveniences provided was a squash court, the Pine Tree Club (a gambling casino for guests of the hotel) which also contained numerous alcoves, six bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, and great wide halls that ran in both directions. And as an added bonus for their guests, there were golf links adjacent to the hotel. As with the Highland Park Hotel, the Park in the Pines Hotel didn’t enjoy a long career. One night a fire began in a basement storeroom directly across from the elevator. It spread quickly to the

1898, its first guest signed the registry on January 5, 1900. A small hotel when compared to the Highland Park and Park in the Pines hotels, the Willcox was nevertheless a classic beauty. At the beginning, the white Second Empire styled building was very pretty but when the Colonial Revival addition was in place, it became the iconic gem we have today. With its 30 rooms, impeccable furnishings, and sterling service the hotel quickly grew in popularity among the winter sojourners. At first it opened for men only but very quickly included women as lodgers. Adding to its allure was the fact that it was the first hotel to offer a bathtub (made of tin) to its guests and to boast



Aiken had three luxury hotels and each one was as good as or better than the next, depending on what amenities the guest expected.

elevator and up the shaft seeking the rest of the hotel and quickly consumed the building. According to an article in the February 3, 1913 issue of the New York Times, “Winter residents from New York and other cities were compelled to flee for their lives, leaving jewelry and other belongings behind, when the Park-in-the-Pines Hotel burned here today. Low water pressure troubled the firemen and only the wing containing the dining room was saved.” Though the hotel was a loss that Sunday morning, the club house still stood until it too burned down in 1927.

Willcox Inn

The reigning crown jewel of posh hotels built especially for the rich and famous Winter Colonists is The Willcox Inn. Built by Frederick Willcox in

of concealed plumbing in each bathroom. And once it was known that the establishment prepared fine European dining and even created special and individualized meals not on the menu for their preferred guests, even more people attempted to stay at the inn. So many came that eventually, like the Highland Park Hotel, people were turned away; such was the case with the Duke of Windsor who was turned away because there was no room for him. Business was so great that Frederick Willcox was able to easily turn away would-be guests that didn’t fit the stylishness of the Colonists. It’s said that even the bellmen identified unacceptable lodgers by the shoes, saying, “If they don’t wear shoes by Peel or Maxwell of London, we don’t want ‘em.” Well-known visitors signed the Willcox Inn registry: Sir Winston

Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Elizabeth Arden (of Arden cosmetics), and even a Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden, just to name a few. The Willcox Inn never wanted for upscale clients and the clients never wanted for anything during their stay.

As we today have our way of learning where to vacation, to be sure, the prosperous traveler of the past had his or her own way of discovering where to go and where to stay. Aiken was no stranger to the knowledge that advertisements were necessary to introductions but knew too that service and amenities was and still is the key to keeping clients happy and returning. And now you too know how Aiken’s stately and opulent hotels beckoned and captivated the Winter Colonists year after year.

Protecting Your Health & Property

Pest Control
Mosquito Control
Termite Protection
Moisture Control
Environmentally Responsible

Protect your most valuable investment.




Trusted Service Since 1967

Call Now!
803-649-9803

www.aikenpest.com




Tailored Tours of Aiken



Aiken's leading tour service, offering private driving tours of Historic Aiken


Our Services:
Certified Tour Guide
Private tours for parties of 1-6
Pick-up and drop-off at Aiken location of your choice



Please call to arrange a tour date and time.
Marty - 803.295.3870

Member of the Aiken Chamber of Commerce

www.tailoredtoursaiken.com




Subscribe Today!

Great Meals Begin With Prestige Appliance.



Shop anywhere else and you'll PAY TOO MUCH!

Two locations to serve you.

AIKEN 2575 Whiskey Road 803-644-6113	COLUMBIA 3905 Fernandina Road 803-772-5721	STORE HOURS 9 am - 7 pm, Mon-Thurs 9 am - 5 pm, Fri-Sat
---	---	--

PRESTIGE Appliance
Your Appliance Professionals

Sales, Service and Installation

Visit us online @ prestigeappliance.net

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Card Number | Visa/MC/Discover accepted _____

Expiration Date _____

3 Digit Security Number and Billing zipcode _____

- ☐ 4 issues (one year) \$15
- ☐ 8 issues (two years) \$25
- ☐ This is a gift subscription

A gift card will be mailed before subscription begins.
Please note Recipient(s) and Sender(s) names.
To: _____
From: _____



Subscription forms may be mailed to:
Go Aiken! Lifestyle Magazine
2258 Whiskey Road | Aiken, SC 29803

Please make checks payable to 752 Design

history character golf tradition lifestyle charm food travel equestrian

The Longest Tape Measure

Story by Don Skinner



One end of the tape measure was in Aiken; the other end touched the sun.

Calculating the distance from Earth to the Sun

It was December 6, 1882, and a transit of Venus was about to occur. A transit is when one of the inner planets (Mercury or Venus) passes between the earth and the sun, and appears to cross the face of the sun. This is, for Venus, a rare thing, happening only every 243 years, occurring in pairs some 8 years apart, separated by gaps of 121.5 and 105.5 years. A group of German astronomers, led by Dr. Julius Franz, chief astronomer from the Royal Observatory in Königsberg, Germany, would be attempting to calculate the mean distance from Earth to the sun by taking photographs and timing the passage of Venus across the sun during the Transit of 1882.

Eclipses of the moon and sun have been known about and forecast for thousands of years, but as stated, transits are rare and irregular. The astronomer, Johannes Kepler, predicted such a transit in 1631, but the methods he used to determine the sightings were not reliable, so no one could utilize his prediction. The first true observation of the transit of Venus was made in 1639 by Jeremiah Horrocks, of the English Royal Observatory from his home near Preston, England. Horrocks estimated the size of Venus as well as the distance from Earth to sun, but missed by almost half the distance. Edmund Halley, famous astronomer and discoverer of the comet that bears his name, suggested timing the transit of Venus from two known points as a possible means to determine the distance to the sun. He was able to make limited observations during a transit of Mercury in 1676, but did not collect any usable data.

Although several possible viewing spots around the world were selected, only two within the U.S. were chosen by the German expedition in 1882 – Hartford, Connecticut and Aiken, South Carolina. There were others selected, but outside the Northern Hemisphere. It was felt that a number of spots should be designated, so as to render as many clear viewings as possible. The Aiken estate owned at the time by Henry Smith at Laurens Street and Edgefield Avenue was chosen as the Aiken location. This property was later purchased by E.P. Henderson.

A sheet iron observatory was constructed at the corner of Laurens Street and Edgefield Avenue, in two sections that revolved independently of each other. A powerful telescope was installed, and the entire structure placed away from the roads to avoid any unintentional jostling by onlookers or their horses. It was also necessary to place it away from the railroad so the jarring passage of the trains would not interfere with alignments. All these arrangements were so secret that it is said that the mayor of Charleston was once refused admission to the grounds.

Luck, along with the Sun, shone that day, for as it turned out, Aiken was the only position that had a clear, unobstructed view of the transit, although some accounts state there was a heavy rain the night before, with the weather clearing just as the transit began. Some 48 photographs were taken, (three sets of 16 each) and data from these enabled scientists to calculate the distance from Earth to the Sun.



Located outside the Aiken County Historical Museum is the iron cage that once protected the heliometers in the make-shift observatory.

The German team made the required observations and recorded precious data that later enabled them and other scientists to also update the orbital calculations of Venus.

A stone marker commemorating the event was placed at the location a short time later, at the request of the team leader. Incidentally, this stone marker was cracked in a ship-board accident, but still placed at the site. This marker was eventually replaced by a bronze marker and the original stone marker was donated to the Aiken Historical Society. The observatory was disposed of some years ago. The owner of the property at this time, John Weems (now deceased,) a well-known retired architect and figure in Aiken society, allowed the iron cage surrounding the observatory to be moved years later to the grounds of the Aiken County Historical Museum, to be re-united with the stone marker. The bronze marker still sits in the back yard of the home he owned.

So, the next time you visit the Aiken County Historical Museum, you may see the iron cage that once protected the delicate heliometers in the make-shift observatory or when you visit the Post Office on Laurens Street, glance over at the large house on the corner across from Aiken Public Safety and remember that just behind there was where they held the tape measure so long ago.

Their calculations placed it at a distance of 92,720,000 miles (as compared to today's laser-measured 93,000,000 miles.)



Stratos Wealth Partners
Elevating Financial Strategies

• Retirement Planning • Estate Planning
• Tax Strategies

35 Varden Drive, Ste. B | Aiken, SC 29803
www.stratosaiken.com
(803) 714-3150

Robert Freitas
Wealth Advisor

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Stratos Wealth partners, Ltd, a registered investment advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial.

Complete Tax Preparation



Sharma & Associates
Tax & Accounting

35 Varden Dr., Suite A
(off Hitchcock Parkway)
Aiken, SC 29803

601 N Belair Road #25
Evans, GA 30809

Starting at:

\$99

\$300 Value!

Special!
*some restrictions apply

Call for your appointment today!
803-714-3204 Aiken office
706-622-5909 Evans office

Includes Federal, Two States & Electronic Filing
*Additional charges for business returns, additional states and multiple rental properties.

Best Oldies & Beach

Wherever you are



Listen to 92.7 fm on your laptop, tablet or phone



Available Worldwide!
www.ksx927.com

Spring, 2016

2....Woodside Plantation Country Club
3....Economic Development Partnership
22....Southside Gallery of Aiken
26....Run United
32....Relay for Life of Aiken
33....State Farm - Denny Michaelis
33....Crepes Cafe
33....Native Landscaping
38....Aiken Pest Control
38....Tailored Tours of Aiken
38....Prestige Appliance
42....Stratos Wealth Partners
42....Sharma & Associates - Tax & Accounting
43....WKSX 92.7 fm
44....Thom Abbott Golf Collection
Back....Southside Gallery of Aiken

Advertiser's Index



Tell our advertisers you saw their ad in Go Aiken Magazine!



Swing in to Southside Gallery



Thom Abbott
Golf Collection

available at

Southside Gallery of Aiken



Custom-sized golf prints
Aerial photography
Custom framing available
We ship everywhere

As featured in:

Golf Digest
Links Magazine
Stratos
Georgia Dept of Tourism
Easy Street Magazine
Carolina Golf
Wall Street Journal



2258 Whiskey Road | Aiken, SC 29803

803.226.0554

Your Source For
**LARGE
FORMAT
PRINTING**



We See to the Details

• Photo Paper • Textured Art Paper • Canvas • Metallic Photo Paper • Peel & Stick Fabric



DESIGN.
PRINT.
FRAME.

2258 Whiskey Road | Aiken, SC 29803 | 803.226.0554



Southside
Gallery
of Aiken

www.southsidegallery.com