

**WOODSIDE TRAIL GROUP HIKING PROGRAM**  
**September THRU December 2023**

**September 23, 2023**

**Freeman Preserve Aiken Land Conservancy**

**When:** Saturday, September 23 2023

**Hike Leader:** Jim Parker Phone: (803) 443-5223 email:  
parkerinaiken@atlanticbb.net

**Description:** The “Freeman Preserve” is a 62-acre tract of privately owned land protected by a conservation easement held by the Aiken Land Conservancy. The ALC web site describes it as “mixed forest, spring fed streams, a pond and abundant wildlife”.

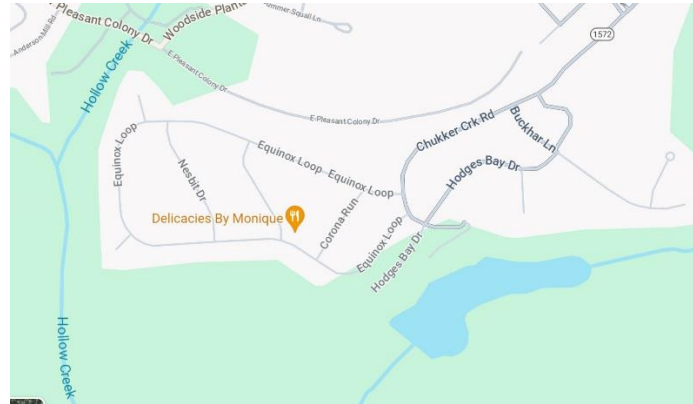


### **Morning picture of the lake on the Freeman Preserve**

The Freeman Preserve is adjacent to the Woodside's Hollow Creek Preservation Lands in the Chucker Creek area and the hike leader will show you a short side trail that connects Woodside's Hollow Creek Trail to the Freeman Preserve.

**Meeting Place:** If you live in Woodside, exit using Woodside's South Gate [Note although you do not need a barcode sticker to exit this gate you do need one to reenter]. Turn right onto Chukker Creek Road and enter The Ridge at Chukker Creek sub-division. After about 1 mile from the South gate right turn onto Hodges Bay Drive (no street sign). Park anywhere along this currently undeveloped cul-de-sac. If you are not a Woodside

resident use the Whisky Road connection to Chucker Creek Road.



**Meeting time:** Meet at 9:30am for a 9:45 start

**Distance:** Approximately 3 miles

**Terrain:** Mostly shaded wooded trails in good condition. There are some hills, minor sandy sections and a short section of eroded trail with uneven surface.

**Bring:** Hiking shoes or sneakers. Optional: water, snacks, bug spray and hiking poles.

-- Rain Cancels --

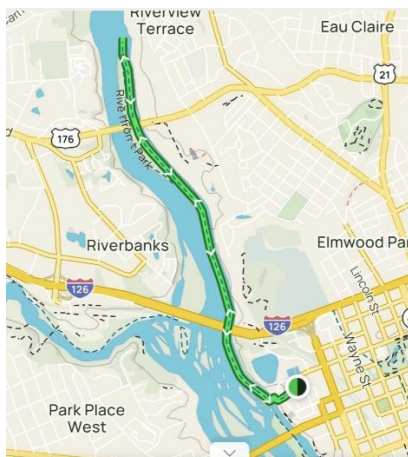
**October 21, 2023**

## **Columbia Canal and Riverfront Park**

**When:** 10/21/23 at 9.00 am at the trail head in Columbia or 7.45 am at the Publix parking lot in the area near East Gate Drive in Aiken

**Hike Leader:** Debby Smist, [debsmist@gmail.com](mailto:debsmist@gmail.com), 413-204-8146

**Description:** A 2.5-mile trail that separates the Columbia Canal and Congaree River. Flat trail that offers wonderful views of the river. In past we have seen deer and many birds. See [Riverfront Park & Historic Columbia Canal \(sctrails.net\)](https://sctrails.net). There are washrooms at the beginning of the trail.



**Meeting Place:** The large parking lot at 312 Laurel Street, Columbia, SC. It takes approximately 1 hour from Woodside. Meet there at 9:00 am. Alternatively meet in the Publix parking lot in the area near East Gate Drive at 7.45 am to carpool to the trail head.

**After Hike:** After the hike, Debby suggests that you head to Main Street (about 1 mile away) and visit Soda City. This is an event held every Saturday 9am to 1pm with 150 vendors selling homemade crafts, food, fresh vegetables. There are food trucks. Free parking. See [soda city market - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

**Distance:** 5 miles round trip. This is an “In & Out” hike so you can turn around sooner for a shorter hike.

**Terrain:** Flat

**Bring:** Good sneakers, water, snack and binoculars for bird watching

-- Rain Cancels --

**November 19, 2023**

**Lake Olmstead and the Rae's Creek Aqueduct Augusta Ga.**

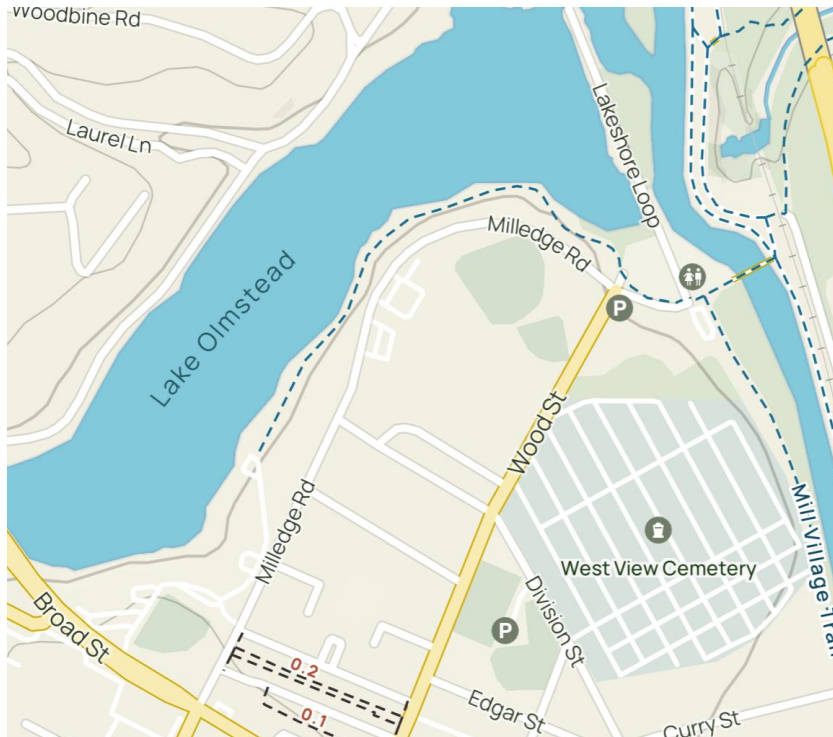
**When:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the trailhead or 9.15 am at the Woodside Village for carpooling. **Please note this is a Sunday hike.**

**Hike Leader:** Cheryl Murga, phone: 732-278-4837, email: [ibid137@aol.com](mailto:ibid137@aol.com)

**Description:** The general trail is mostly flat with changes from dirt to bridges to paved walkways. Access to the Aqueduct area requires some climbing along large flat rock for access to the aqueduct and waterfall. This area can be a little slippery if wet so the hike leader will judge an appropriate access point. Lovely scenery. Area offers hiking, biking, fishing and swimming. There are washrooms at the beginning of the trail.

**Meeting Place:** Lake Olmstead Trailhead Parking, 0 Milledge Road (take it to the end) Augusta, GA or in the

parking area of the Woodside Village Fitness Center for carpooling



**Distance:** Between 2.5-3.0 Miles

**Terrain:** Flat

**Lunch:** No lunch is organized but you can find many restaurants nearby; for example, Mello Mushroom, Farmhaus Burgers on Broad Street and Beamies at the River on Reynolds Street.

**Bring:** Good sneakers with treads, hiking shoes/boots, water, snack.

--Rain Cancels--

December 9, 2023

### Silver Bluff Audubon/Quail Trail

**When:** Saturday, December 9th at 9:30am

**Hike Leader:** Gerald McDonald, 803-270-3310.

[gerald21@me.com](mailto:gerald21@me.com)

**Description:** If you like nature and want to see and hear birds and see beautiful hardwood trees along the trail, this is the hike for you. Come take a walk with us on the Quail Trail. Approximately half a mile along the trail you will encounter a 100-acre field managed for grassland birds. The bluff overlooking the Savannah River provides a scenic view, worth checking out. Spotted Sandpiper can be seen along both shores and Red-shouldered Hawk may be visible. Continue along the trail for a quarter mile and you'll be on the shore of the Savannah River, surrounded by tall bottomland hardwoods. The trail back to where we started is an easy walk on a dirt road. It's



near winter, so watch for Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets and Wild Turkey that may be seen along the trail.

**Meeting Place:** We will meet at 9:00am in the parking area of the Village Fitness Center. If you want, we can double on cars before we leave for the Silver Bluff Audubon parking area at the southern end of Silver Bluff Road. Otherwise meet at the Audubon parking lot at 9.30 am.

**Lunch:** After the hike, for those who wish, we will have lunch at the Village Cafe. Please call Gerald McDonald by Thursday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> if you plan to join us at lunch

**Meeting time:** 9.00 am for carpooling or 9.30 am at the Audubon center

**Distance:** 3.4 miles

**Terrain:** Mostly flat except for a short section that leads down to the river

**Bring:** Water, good sneakers or hiking boots, snack, walking stick, binoculars for the birds.

**January 1, 2024**

**Fourth Annual Clear the Cobwebs Hike [HEADS UP]**

**When:** Monday Jan 1, 2024 at 1.45 pm for a 2.00 pm start

**Hike Leader:** Jim Pierce; 803-634-0513;  
[jb Pierce649@outlook.com](mailto:jb Pierce649@outlook.com)

**Description:** Come out and clear your News Eve's cobwebs on our 4th annual "Clear the Cobwebs" hike. We will take an easy going 2-mile jaunt around Woodside's Oakman Trail. This would also be a great hike to introduce any New Year's visitors to one of Woodside's most pleasant walks. After the hike, we will all stop to toast the New Year. Suitable beverages will be provided and, as in past years, I hope we will have many cookie donations from those participating in the hike. There is a big picnic table located where we will stop for these celebrations. Dogs on a leash are welcome but you must supply your own doggy snacks! Put this outing on your calendar now!

**Meeting Place:** We will meet in the "parking area" just off the road leading to the Reserve Club golf

maintenance shed. This is very close to the junction of West Pleasant Colony, East Pleasant Colony, and Woodside Plantation Drive. Signs point the way. If you find parking tight, you can also park along the maintenance road. If you are bringing cookies you might want to arrive early and take them to the picnic table. In that case stay there – we will meet you at the picnic table.

**Distance:** About 2 miles

**Terrain:** A couple of ups and downs but mainly flat easy walking.

**Bring:** Water and wear good sneakers or boots. Perhaps a walking stick. If it rains previous to the hike the trail may have wet sections. Cookies to share would be welcome.

-- Rain Cancels --