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Join our e-mail list at [edisto.org](http://edisto.org)

Join us next year for one or both of these fantastic events!

- June 5, 2015 • Cocktail Party and Auction
  - June 6, 2015 • Tomato Open Golf Tournament
- Plantation Course at Edisto



Save the Date !!  
June 5 & 6, 2015



### Jim Kempson - Founding Board Member

The South Edisto River winds past incredibly scenic and critically important wildlife habitat areas on the western side of Edisto Island. Just over 20 years ago, much of the property along this portion of the river was being eyed for potential high density development. Fortunately, the drum had already begun to beat for the conservation of the ACE Basin (Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers), including this threatened portion of Edisto Island. Jim Kempson, real estate agent and founding Board member of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust, was instrumental in helping broker land transactions that placed several of these endangered properties into the hands of established conservation groups, such as the Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.

Open Land Trust and we can't thank him enough for the vital role he played in the creation of EIOLT. As we close out 2014, our 20th Anniversary year, we reflect on these accomplishments and express our sincerest gratitude for all six of the founding members of the land trust. We are extremely grateful to Jim Kempson, David Lybrand, Jenks Mikell, Jim Rice, Sandy Savage and Ellen Unger for their investment and conservation vision that became the Edisto Island Open Land Trust.



These initial acquisitions that Jim worked diligently to secure were catalysts for the formation of the Edisto Island

### Skidmore Property, Our First Conservation Easement

Bud and Anne Skidmore gave EIOLT and this community one of best Christmas presents of the year in 2001. They preserved their waterfront property on iconic Steamboat Landing Road, totaling 28 acres of marsh and high ground. This donation was the land trust's first conservation easement donation. The story of their connection to Edisto and the land they protected runs deep, and we wish to highlight this significant moment in our history.

Bud's grandfather taught him to swim and shrimp in the creek in front of the property and Bud, in turn, taught his son the same. This land was very dear to Bud, and he knew that if he found a girl that appreciated it like he did, that he had to marry her. Ann was that girl, and the two of them agreed that this special and fragile place needed to be protected forever. They are proud of their decision not to develop their property and both agree now more than ever that the emotional benefit of preserving the land far outweighs any other benefits they have received. They were very happy to know that the Edisto Island Open Land Trust would ensure their wishes are upheld forever and we are extremely grateful for their generosity and for being pioneers for conservation on Edisto.



## EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

### Mission

To preserve and protect lands, scenic vistas, heritage and conservation resources of Edisto Island for future generations, including education and outreach.

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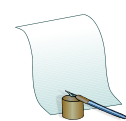
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## A Note from the Executive Director

Another year has certainly zipped by! I am very excited and thankful for all we have been able to achieve this year, and I hope you are as proud of the land trust's accomplishments as I am. With your assistance, we have completed two more wonderful conservation projects, enjoyed several extremely successful fundraising events and helped to connect more people to the natural world through our Back to Nature programs. Congratulations to all of us on a wonderful 20th Anniversary year!

We are now planning for 2015, and one of the goals we are setting is to focus special attention on our members. You are the most critical component of our success and we want to ensure that you understand how your investment is being utilized and that you are receiving all the information on the projects we achieve through your support. We are also reviewing our donor benefits, and we will have a couple of exciting announcements to share with you early next year. Our goals for the upcoming year will also include growing our membership, and we will be asking you to consider playing an important role in this effort by helping find one new member for the land trust.

Your decision to support the Edisto Island Open Land Trust is one for which we are truly grateful, and we hope you will continue to be proud of our achievements and enjoy the reward of knowing that you play a role in every success we have in preserving Edisto Island for future generations!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

John Girault, Executive Director



## Brand New Limited Edition T-Shirt

We are excited to announce a new EIOILT Limited Edition T Shirt, featuring a painting of the Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), by renowned ornithologist, Dr. Sid Gauthreaux. These beautiful birds are one of the only Herons found breeding on Edisto Island. If you would like to purchase these shirts, please visit our website, edisto.org, for ordering information. They won't last forever!

## Conservation Successes in 2014

### Legacy Live Oak Memorial Park Expansion



In 2004, EIOILT determined that one of the scenic gateways to Edisto had to be preserved, so we purchased 14.5 acres fronting Sand Creek along Highway 174. The property was designated as the location for our Legacy Live Oak Memorial sign. We are excited to announce that we have just acquired the adjacent 12.4 acre parcel, which will now provide access from Russell Creek Road and will allow us to design and create a future passive park with views of Sand Creek and stunning sunsets over the salt marsh.

### Sunny Side Plantation

122 more acres of historic property on Peters Point Road were protected when Mrs. Karen Belser agreed to place a conservation easement on two important and undeveloped tracts that are part of the original Sunny Side Plantation. Her property was one of the last unprotected pieces of the historic plantation, and now even more scenic waterfront property on Store Creek is preserved, including saltwater and freshwater wetlands, agricultural fields and a diversity of wildlife habitat. Our sincere gratitude goes out to Mrs. Belser!



### Another Outstanding Oyster Roast

Thank you to everyone who came out and celebrated oysters and conservation! We had a wonderful time, made some new friends and raised some important funds for our land protection efforts. And we would not have had such a success without Townsend and Stephanie Clarkson, our event hosts; Jamie Westendorff and his Charleston Oyster Machine; the Edisto Gumbo Band, all the amazing volunteers and a very special thank you goes to our sponsor, The Huffines Company.



Please find enclosed a return envelope if you would like to make an additional year end tax deductible contribution