



For Land's Sake!

Young Naturalist Club Off to a Great Start



Twelve Young Naturalists spread out on the high marsh, splattering mud on pants and shoes. Jaden and Wyatt quickly captured tiny fiddler crabs, showing them to Emily and Tashera, who squealed appreciatively. A volunteer pointed out fiddler crab burrows and was then peppered with questions: "Do they sleep there all night?" "How do crabs dig?" "Do they fight each other?"

Another knot of students found a weathered tree stump. They tried a few theories out on a nearby volunteer before concluding that most trees can't survive when their roots are in salt water. Within fifty feet of the stump, the Young Naturalists found deer and egret tracks, snails, crab claws and mussels. Annalee asked if everyone could have a taste of the pickle weed, or glasswort. Some of the students had found a patch during a previous Club outing and remembered the salty kick in each bite.

Chewing small sprigs of glasswort, we left the marsh for higher ground. The mosquitoes instantly closed ranks, so the best plan was to keep moving. The Young Naturalists followed a deer trail, noting how deeply the tracks were sunk into the mud. The trail ended at a dead tree well marked by woodpeckers, and Parker proclaimed that woodpeckers use their strong bills to eat insects that are in the wood, not the wood itself. Other students wondered why insects were inside a tree. "Because they're decomposers!" answered several fifth graders.

On we walked down the overgrown access road, pausing to examine patches of ground rubbed bare by deer, spying large beetles in rotting logs and several varieties of mushroom. Our walk ended at a large web spanning the road, where a banana spider waited for prey. A volunteer asked everyone if they liked banana spiders. Nos changed to yesses as Linda explained how the large spiders eat mosquitoes and other biting insects.

While heading back to the van, the students showed off bulbous insect galls and sticks adorned with colorful lichen before returning their finds to the forest floor. In line for a Gatorade, an end of Club ritual, Brandon asked my favorite question, "Where are we going next time?"

The Young Naturalist Club is intended for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students on Edisto Island. The program began in August 2015, participants meet after school once a month. The program will have a total of eight lessons during the 2015-2016 school year. The young naturalists will visit different habitats on Edisto Island and identify plants and animals that live in each habitat. Through fun, hands-on activities like seining, birding and scavenger hunts, students are learning what makes each habitat important to animals and to people. A certificate will be awarded to students who attend a majority of the lessons. Sixteen students are currently participating in the Young Naturalist Club.



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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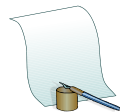
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A Note from the Executive Director

I am so excited to announce that we have taken an important step toward furthering our education outreach initiative. As you just read in our lead article, we launched our Young Naturalist Club in August, a program designed for 3rd-5th graders to develop an awareness of their natural surroundings and build a conservation ethic within our next generation of Edistonians! I was fortunate to be able to join the group on their second outing, which was a lesson on bird identification, including teaching them how to use binoculars. That is always a "hoot" for the kids and the educators alike! Watching each child discover the world through their new magnified vision was really special to witness.



Your support is helping the land trust to make this commitment to the children of Edisto and the future of this island. The program is led by our part-time staffer Abi Locatis Prochaska, and is entirely supported by community volunteers interested in environmental education of our youth. The mission of EIOLT was revised in 2012 to include our role in education outreach and this new program is exactly what we had in mind when we identified the need to ensure our future generations will carry forward our conservation work and behave as true stewards of this island that we all cherish.

We could not have started this thrilling new outreach program without the generous support of you, our members, and we thank you for your generosity and hope you are as proud of this initiative as we are! These students are our future, and they are critical to our cause, which is why our goal is to instill in them a sense of pride in the beautiful place where they live. We have begun with this group of Young Naturalists who are exploring all that Edisto has to offer.

John Girault



David Ladson Lybrand

1941-2015

David was a founding member of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust and was an instrumental figure in our growth for over 20 years. A graduate of The Citadel with a degree in Civil Engineering, his family moved to Edisto in 1946. David took over his father's rental business, turning it into the successful Edisto Realty. He charted the first map of Edisto Beach and made the first donation of property to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust 20 years ago. David will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but his impact on Edisto will live on in perpetuity.

Winter Bird Feeding by Sidney Gauthreaux



Fall migration of the smaller land birds is almost over and our seed-eating visitors from the north that spend the winter months with us have started to come to our bird feeders.

Although most of our Painted Buntings have migrated farther south for the winter, a few always remain, and the seed mixture we put in our bird feeders should have enough white millet preferred by this species. Audubon Park® Nature's Blend Premium Wild Bird Food sold at Costco stores contains an excellent blend of seeds for winter bird feeding. It is all natural, has no fillers like sorghum and cracked corn, and contains black oil sunflower, millet, safflower seeds, peanut pieces, and sunflower chips. Preferred seed types for eastern species include: Mourning Doves, Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds (millet and cracked corn); Tufted Titmouse, Nuthatches (sunflower seeds and hearts); Dark-eyed Junco and House Sparrow (millet and thistle); Carolina Chickadee (sunflower and suet); Rufous-sided Towhee, Purple and House Finches (sunflower and thistle); American Goldfinch and Pine Siskins (thistle and small sunflower seeds); White-throated Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows, and Chipping Sparrows (millet); Woodpeckers (sunflower seeds and suet); Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays (sunflower seeds and millet).

Tube seed feeders within a cage will prevent squirrels from getting to the seeds and also exclude birds that are too big to get through the openings in the cage. Not all seed eating birds will come to a feeder to feed. Chipping Sparrows will come to a feeder, but White-throated, Song, and Swamp Sparrows, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Dark-eyed Juncos prefer to feed on the ground. Make sure some of the food is scattered on the ground for the species that are typically ground foragers.

Record Attendance at the 2015 Oyster Roast

We wish to give a great big thanks to the over 500 people who came from near and far to enjoy the event; the generosity of Mark and Tucker Crawford, our hosts; Jamie Westendorff and Charleston Outdoor Catering; the music by Edisto Gumbo; all the amazing volunteers and our event sponsor, The Huffines Company.



Photos by Mary Thomas



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



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Saturday, June 18, 2016



Friday, June 17, 2016



Save the Dates!