



For Land's Sake!

Jenks Mikell - Founding Board Member



Twenty years ago, as new development was threatening to claim the scenic views and vistas along Highway 174, islanders were worried about how quickly Edisto could change from a rural, quiet island to something completely different. While some change was inevitable, several residents felt strongly that the community should guide development in a way that would preserve the island's character and rural way of life. Jenks Mikell was one of the key founders of the Edisto Island

Open Land Trust in 1994 with the initial goal to protect the live oaks, scenic views and vistas along Highway 174.

While serving as the first president of EIOLT's board, Jenks was quoted in the local newspaper, *The Islander*, in April 1995, that he "wanted to see Edisto preserved by the people of Edisto and to have the personal touch". Jenks and other board members felt that community involvement was key to preserving land through a local, island-based organization.

Local membership was a rewarding strategy, and 362 acres were acquired by the trust for permanent protection in five short years. Acre by acre, through purchases, donations and easements, EIOLT has continued to follow the original vision of preserving scenic views along Highway 174 while fulfilling new goals, such as protecting working farms and working with small landowners. Looking back on twenty years, Jenks reminds us that "the job's never over."

Property Spotlight - Mystery Tree Marsh

Whimsically and mysteriously decorated late at night, the lone dead cedar in the marsh across from Botany Bay Road has signaled for over twenty years to travelers on Highway 174 that the beach is near. While the artist's identity is an Edisto Island secret, all should know that the marsh surrounding the Mystery Tree and the maritime forest of oaks, cedars, magnolias, palmettos and pines immediately to its south are permanently protected by the Edisto Island Open Land Trust.

The 6.7 acre tract was donated to EIOLT in December of 2003 by an anonymous donor. Previously, the land was zoned residential and permitted for the development of two lots, but any concern over development was removed by the donation. Marsh and forest will be left wild forever. Home to wading birds, deer and fiddler crabs, this land provides a 1,400 foot stretch of the scenic beauty that EIOLT has worked hard to preserve along Scenic Byway 174.



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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A Note from the Executive Director

Summer on Edisto is a time of year when some residents head to their summer retreats with cooler climates in the north and west, while MANY others travel to Edisto for summer vacations where they enjoy the nostalgia of a beach and island experience that is unique on the east coast. Edisto Island and Beach are rarities in this day and age, coastal destinations without the large scale hotels and commercial development that typically line the southeastern shore. This amazing sea island would certainly be different today if many conservation driven heroes had not stepped forward 20 years ago and decided that they wanted to keep Edisto from becoming another high density resort and marina destination. We are grateful to have had forward thinking individuals create this land trust and generate the momentum needed to grow EIOLT into the successful organization we are today.

The photo at the top this page shows a classic creek view of one of our marsh shorelines. Many of our safeguarded properties are situated directly on the rivers and creeks that wind through and around Edisto Island. The combined total of all of our conserved acreage equates to approximately 70,000 feet of protected water and marsh frontage on the island. Significant elements of these conservation easements are the increased set-backs and waterfront buffers that these property owners have placed on their land, which are extremely important for many reasons, including better water quality for the wildlife, our health and enjoyment.

I hope you found the time over the summer to explore some of the splendor our creeks, rivers and beaches have to offer. It is important to occasionally stop and think about the role our environment plays in our daily lives and more importantly, the effect we can have on the future of our living surroundings. The land trust has certainly accepted our responsibility in this environmental equation, and we hope that you know that your support of EIOLT has made a very positive impact on the natural well-being of Edisto Island, and we can't thank you enough for that.

John Girault
Executive Director

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Events and Activities

Cocktail Party and Auction



The Edisto Island Open Land Trust's Annual Cocktail Party and Auction held on Friday, June 20 was a huge success. Thanks in part to the exciting location at Grover's Bar and Grill and The Plantation Course, EIOLT had record attendance with over 200 supporters. The benefit raised over \$40,000, including a record breaking amount raised for EIOLT's education outreach program.

Guests enjoyed Southern Affairs Catering's delightful selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres. Benefit auctioneer Tom Crawford revved up the crowd with lively games and his contagious energy. Auction items, including a wooden boat constructed by John Martin of Cottageville and a hand-carved turkey

feather by Roy Smoak, inspired intense bidding. Vacation packages and the chance to hold your own event at Sunny Side Plantation were also extremely popular. Dedicated volunteers made the night run smoothly, while guests enjoyed an evening of fun and excitement.



7th Annual Tomato Open Golf Tournament



Twenty-six teams, our largest field ever, were eager to tee off for the Tomato Open on the morning of June 21. A record number of ladies participated, with Maria Woods hitting the ladies' longest drive. Nick Collins hit the men's longest drive. Dan David, Charlie Pulley, Randall Sandin, and Trina Turbeville were closest to the pin on holes 3, 6, 12 and 16, respectively. Nick Collins attempted the \$5000 Putt, but just missed out on the cash. Carol Payne made an attempt at the Million Dollar Shot. First Flight champions were Team Sinclair, Perry, Collins and Padgett, who tied for first with Team Nunnery, David, Payne and Thomerson. The Second Flight was won by Team Lee, Callahan, Kelly and Taylor. Team

Fishback, Turbeville, Turbeville and Wamer won the Third Flight.

BI-LO showed their community support as the title sponsor of this year's event, and their staff brought a high level of fun and energy on and off the course. Lead sponsors were the Huffines Company, Rizer Chevrolet Buick GMC and Southern Affairs Catering. Supporting sponsors were Atwood Vacations Real Estate, Jim Kempson of Carolina One Sea Island Group, Edisto Real Estate Company, Edisto Sales & Rentals Realty, First Citizens Wealth Management, Fort Sumter Tours, The Plantation Course, Po Pigs Bo-B-Q, the Town of Edisto Beach Accommodations Tax Fund, Sea Spirits Liquor & Ice, and Murdaugh's Tree Service.



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



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Oyster Roast & Annual Meeting Sunday, November 16



This year's Oyster Roast will be hosted by Townsend and Stephanie Clarkson and will be held at historic Middleton Plantation, one of our most recently protected properties. Get your oyster shucking groove

on to the sweet sounds of Edisto Gumbo, and be sure to check out the beautiful creek views while enjoying a buffet laden with southern goodness by Jamie Westendorff and the Charleston Oyster Machine. Tell your friends and family to mark their calendars for Sunday, November 16 at 2 PM. Check the events page on our website, www.edisto.org, or call 843-869-9004 to purchase tickets. **Volunteers are needed!** Email John at john@edisto.org to help out.

