

SUMMER 2016



Edisto Island
OPEN LAND TRUST

For Land's Sake!

Edisto Means Summer to So Many!



Photo: Charlotte Hutson Wrenn

When you drive over the McKinley Washington, Jr. bridge, an amazing thing typically happens; it is that ‘ahhhhhh’ moment as you look out and over the majestic oaks, the lush marshes and water teeming with wildlife below. Life’s pressures begin to lift and the weight of the world starts to release you from its grasp. Whether you are fortunate enough to live on Edisto or you only come to visit as often as you can, this is a moment for which we all yearn, that wonderful feeling of arriving at “Destination Edisto”.

It is this same experience that helped inspire the founding members of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust to take action back in 1994 and begin working to protect Edisto from over development. We continue to conserve land today because there is still much work to be done. With the good news of a rebounding economy comes the caveat of renewed development pressure beginning to build again in nearby areas. Anyone who drives down Highway 17 South through Charleston will clearly see the ever growing number of residential communities and supporting commercial businesses that are rapidly appearing, approaching closer to Edisto. As this growth continues, we are reassured that all the support our members have provided over our twenty-two year history is certainly paying off. Because of our generous donors and forward thinking landowners who have placed conservation easements on their properties, Edisto Island has emerged as a true jewel of the Lowcountry.

We know that you, our land trust supporters, often reflect on how important Edisto Island is to you, your families and to this region of our country. We hope the same is true for the summer visitors who cherish their time here year after year, and those who have just discovered the beauty and tranquility Edisto has to offer. You may rest assured that EIOLT knows the value of what has been protected and we are committed to the continued conservation of land that will improve the water quality in our rivers and creeks, to the preservation of wildlife habitat and to the assurance that the cultural and natural heritage of Edisto Island is forever remembered and guarded. As summer comes to a close and the volume of visitors begins to shrink, it is good to reflect on why so many people are drawn to this place, and why we all experience such an overwhelming sense of relief as we cross over the Dawho River onto Edisto Island!

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

Special event fundraising is a standard component of nearly every non-profit organization's annual activity, and EIOLT is no exception to this strategy. In order to fulfill our operating cost requirements and achieve greater conservation success each year, successful special events are critical. This year's ***I Love Edisto Cocktail Party & Auction*** and the ***Tomato Open Golf Tournament*** held the following day are shining examples of the accomplishments that are achieved from our events. I wish to thank all of the incredible people and businesses who made this year's weekend the most successful fundraiser we have ever had! They are:

Our **Board of Directors** (listed on the left); our **Auction Committee**, Johanna Allston, Elizabeth Boineau, Denise Kempson, Dee Dee Simmons, Debbie Spratlin, Ted Swinerton and Ellen Unger; and our **Golf Committee**, Chuck Callahan, Joel Cox, Tom Daly, BoBo Lee, Larry Nunnery and Jim Thompson.

Our MANY volunteers, without whom the events would not be possible.

All of the wonderful businesses and individuals who donated their artwork, vacations, boat trips, dinners, parties and many other items too numerous to mention.

And our amazing sponsors, led by First Citizens Wealth Management, our Title Sponsor. Spratlin Electric Co., Rizer Chevrolet Buick GMC, Edisto Real Estate Co., Pure Insurance, C.T. Lowndes & Co., Hendrick BMW, WestRock, Carolina One – Jim Kempson, Enterprise Bank, Jeanine Rhodes - Atwood Real Estate, Edisto Watersports & Tackle, 1st Federal of SC, The Plantation Course, Green Boat Liquors, and Nelson Printing.

These contributors and all the attendees have provided an enormous boost to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust's mission and we thank you all wholeheartedly. Please check the back cover for our upcoming event dates for the remainder of the year. And don't forget to mark October 30 for the Annual Oyster Roast – it will be the downright best time of the entire fall! Start planning your costumes now and watch your inboxes and mailboxes for the details.

New Program Coordinator Cameron Rhodes



Although we were sad to see Abi leave us for her exciting new venture as a graduate student with the College of Charleston, we are excited to welcome Cameron Rhodes to the EIOLT team. Cameron comes to us with a background in marine biology and environmental outreach and education. She earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Marine Science and Biology from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami and went on to pursue opportunities in didactic scientific studies and conservation campaigns. As the new Program

Coordinator, Cameron will be leading up the Young Naturalist Club and taking on roles both in the office and in the field. Please join us in welcoming Cameron to our staff and to our efforts to protect Edisto's land and natural heritage.

Bidding and Putting for Conservation



Photos: Cameron Rhodes

The island may have lost a few trees and power on the night of the I Love Edisto Cocktail Party and Auction this year, but that didn't keep the community from showing their support of land conservation in Edisto. 225 folks travelled through the stormy weather to join us for an evening of great company, wonderful food, smooth drinks, and highly sought after auction items. All silent and live auction items were donated by generous individuals and businesses in their efforts to help the Edisto Island Open Land Trust generate funds for land conservation and education and outreach programs throughout the next year.

Attendees enjoyed enticing spreads by Sushi Ninja and Lowcountry Eats while catching up with friends and neighbors and meeting new faces. And once auctioneer Tom Crawford took to the floor, the live auction escalated into exciting bidding for artwork, kayaks, and vacations. The event raised an impressive \$69,000 and EIOLT's education and outreach program, the Young Naturalist Club, will receive over \$13,000 from this event alone.



© Cameron Rhodes

Although the storm the night before delayed the start of the Tomato Open Golf Tournament, the day was a total success. Twenty-six teams enjoyed a Bloody Mary bar provided by Green Boat Discount Liquors and a hearty breakfast and lunch from Po' Pigs Bo-B-Q. The Million Dollar Shot remains elusive; but there is always next year! And while teams competed for the winning title, a charismatic cut-out of Leland Vaughan, Plantation Course manager, visited them for some photo opportunities.

Back to Nature Events

Kayaking Excursion

On a beautiful day in late May, Lindsey Young of Edisto Watersports & Tackle, and an EIOLT board member, led a group of eager residents and curious visitors through some of Edisto's meandering creeks. The kayakers immersed themselves in Edisto's estuarine ecosystem while learning from Lindsey's vast knowledge of local flora and fauna.



Crabbing the Creek

In June, Lindsey Young hosted a Back to Nature Crab Crack. Lindsey shared her naturalist knowledge of blue crab ecology, and gave the group tips on how to get their clawed catch ready for the dinner table.



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



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Full details can be found at edisto.org

September 10, 10:30 AM – Insects & Pollinators Lecture with Dr. Merle Shepard
October 22, 9 AM - Fall Migration Birding with Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux
November 5, 4 PM - Beach Exploration with Lindsey Young and Master Naturalists



Annual Oyster Roast
Sunday, October 30, Sand Creek Farm
There will be a special celebration
HINT: It involves Halloween Costumes!

Calendar of Events