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Edisto Island Open Land Trust

Sign up for our eNews at edisto.org.

Edisto Island Open Land Trust works 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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Please find enclosed a return envelope if you would like to make an additional year-end tax deductible donation.

YOU'RE INVITED Back to Nature Events

Saturday, January 20th, 2-3 pm
"New Technology for Studying Bird Migration"
A lecture by Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux
Dr. Gauthreaux will discuss some amazing findings that have been made using new technological advances in tracking migratory birds.

Saturday, February 24th, 2-4 pm
Bluebird box-making and lecture with Carroll Belser
Replace an old box or build a new one – just in time for the nesting season.

Space is limited and reservations are required, so email info@edisto.org or call 843-869-9004 to reserve your spot!



For Land's Sake!



Legacy Live Oak Park gets some love

First impressions are very important, so in 2004, when one gateway property along Highway 174 presented an eyesore rather than a scenic viewshed, we knew we needed to take action. One of our goals has always been to protect and enhance the corridor that winds through Edisto Island, so the call went out to our generous donors – and you answered with enthusiasm.

Legacy Live Oak Park sits prominently along the edge of Sand Creek, overlooking National Scenic Byway 174.

Thanks to the support of people like you, we have been able to purchase the 14-acre property to help ensure that the park stands the test of time as a natural feature welcoming folks onto Edisto. The park property is already a special place protected from harmful development, and now we are working toward even greater enhancements that everyone will be able to enjoy.

Early clean up began with the removal of an old trailer home, which immediately helped the property look more appealing.

In 2014, the land trust expanded the property with the purchase of the adjacent 12-acre parcel with funds awarded through the Charleston County Greenbelt program. Additionally, funds were donated by the Ed and Dorothy Kendall Foundation for the creation of a public space accessible to all walks of life.

In the upcoming months and years, your support will allow us to create trails with interpretive signage, install a parking area, and add more benches to rest and enjoy the scenery and nature in the future Legacy Live Oak Park. If you would like to volunteer or help with the creation of this exciting park project, please call or email to let us know, at 843-869-9004, or info@edisto.org.



You're helping raise kids who care

The time we spend outside as children helps shape the people we become and what we care about. With today's children spending more time in front of a screen, it's taking a toll on their health and well-being. And we have to worry – what will be the future of the environment if these children fail to develop a connection with nature?

The good news is that your support is making a difference for children on Edisto – through the Young Naturalist program.

Deshawn, a third-year with YN, believes the program has helped him understand how to protect our environment: "I have learned that we should clean up our environment, take our own bags to the store and do everything we can to protect our island animals."

"I love being with people who can teach me a lot about our island." - Deshawn

Another student told us she loves being together with friends outdoors. "I love the beach expeditions. In Young Naturalist, I have gotten to go places on the island and have experiences I would not have had."

"I learned if we had few shells on our beach then the water might not be so healthy and animals that use shells for homes would have none." - Wendy

Aiden's parents get him outside a lot but he really loves the YN group. He has a special memory about the day they dissected a squid. "Seeing the inside of a squid and watching the ink squirt out was cool! I even got to write with squid ink!" When asked what he would say to other students about this group, his response was perfect: "You will learn a lot about nature and how to protect the environment – and you'll have some fun along the way."

Because of your support, we are raising inspired citizen scientists and nature lovers. Thank you!

Make a gift that lasts forever - Join the Legacy Circle

Your love of Edisto Island – the water, woods, wildlife, and the moonlight through the trees – can be part of your legacy. You can join an important group of passionate people who are doing something very special by leaving the land trust in their will.

The Legacy Circle includes people like you who have made a planned gift or bequest in their estate to Edisto Island Open Land Trust. All gift levels are welcome.

A planned gift may also help avoid estate taxes. Plus, it can change lives forever by ensuring Edisto remains special for children and families like yours to have this natural treasure to explore and enjoy. If you would like to find out more about becoming part of the Legacy Circle, call or email John at 843-869-9004 or john@edisto.org.

Protecting space for feathery frolicks

Wood Storks are a regular sight on Edisto. Those wrought iron legs, shin deep in tide, support a cottony coat broken by black hemmed wings of snow and a stone studded neck that mantles a bust hewn from flint and granite.

With the turn of the 20th century, breeding populations were restricted to Florida. These populations dwindled throughout the 1900s due to habitat destruction. By the 1970s, draining of wetlands in Florida forced many birds to relocate into Georgia and South Carolina.

In 1984, the Wood Stork was federally listed as endangered. This gave the birds and their critical habitats special legal protection and provided funding for rigorous federal and state conservation efforts.

Wood Storks have specialized nesting requirements and are not known to nest regularly on Edisto. However, they feed and roost on the Island for most of the year in tidal marshes and permanent and temporary wetlands. And, thanks to the conservation



of land and water you have helped save, they can remain our neighbors for years to come.

These are ecosystems of high conservation concern that your support helps to protect. Our important ecosystems – and the animals that need them – deserve preservation for future generations to experience.

A giant step forward for a piece of the past

This fall, your support has been extremely humbling. The Hutchinson House, an historic home on the verge of total collapse, is being saved because of you, and its story of important Edisto heritage will soon be celebrated.

We were honored to have so many Hutchinson family descendants (pictured right) join the annual oyster roast in November, where we announced a very special \$50,000 matching challenge donation to help us pay off the \$100,000 conservation loan used to purchase the property last fall.



Thanks to so many of you, we have nearly reached our fundraising goal!

Already, an amazing army of volunteers has erected a temporary shelter to cover the structure while we determine the next steps for saving this beloved house and sharing the story of the land that surrounds it.