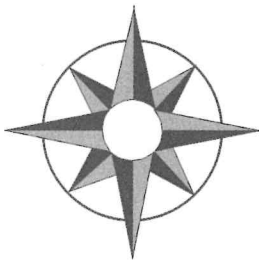


Edisto Island Open Land Trust
 P.O. Box 1
 Edisto Island, SC 29438

Return Service Requested



JOIN THE EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

Edisto Island Open Land Trust needs your help to preserve & protect our island treasure. A 12 month membership entitles you to the land trust newsletter, organization events, and the knowledge that you are contributing to Edisto's future. And, of course, it's also tax deductible.

Please mail your tax deductible contribution to:

Edisto Island Open Land Trust
 P.O. Box 1, Edisto Island, SC 29438
 (843) 869-9004

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- Benefactor \$1000
- Sponsor \$500
- Patron \$100
- Family \$50
- Individual \$35
- Other _____
- In Memory/In Honor

Thank You!

Tidal Tales



EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST



...TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE SCENIC VIEWS AND VISTAS OF EDISTO ISLAND

SUMMER 2002

Introducing Rhet Wilson, Edisto Island Open Land Trust Executive Director

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

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Phone: (843) 869-9004
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eiolt@mindspring.com
www.edisto.org

The Board of Trustees of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust is pleased to announce that Rhet Wilson has joined the organization in the capacity of full-time executive director. She will lead a new phase of growth and development for the Land Trust and its work for Edisto Island.

Preserving the rural character and landscape of Edisto during the boom years of coastal development in South Carolina is a great challenge. We found Rhet's familiarity with coastal issues combined with her organizational development experience to be the right mix for the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. She was instrumental in the development of the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, later



serving as the director of education there. Her successful history of fundraising, program and organizational development and community relations will serve Edisto well. *

Legislature Approves SC Conservation Bank

Grants to purchase land and conservation easements will be awarded to local government, non-profit land trusts or state resource agencies, based on competitive proposals. The S.C. Conservation Bank Act will provide funds to help protect the state's natural landscape. Conservation and financial criteria will assure that the best lands and the best projects are selected. A volunteer citizens' board representing conservation, business, outdoor recreation, landowning and local government interests will govern the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

The Conservation Bank will be funded by \$.25 of the state deed recording fee

(often called the real estate transfer fee) that currently goes to the General Fund which will provide \$10 million annually. This is a logical funding source in that real estate activity resulting from new growth and development will pay for setting aside significant natural areas. There is no increase in the fee; this is not a new tax. It is a dedicated source of funds that can be planned on from year to year, allowing long-term progress. Funding will begin in July 2004 and will "sunset" after 9 years. Representative Chip Campsen (R-Charleston), the bill's author, believes that incentives-based conservation efforts are necessary to maintain the heritage and culture of the state. *

From the Director

Dear Members:

Edisto, a land safe from time. That's the image I and so many lovers of Edisto wish to see in her. From anticipated summer vacations with the family to adventures along dusty roads, Edisto holds the secrets and hopes of those who come here. In return, nearly everyone who truly loves this island hopes to keep it safe.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to join you and help protect Edisto's natural beauty. This island is one of South Carolina's last refuges along our urbanized coast. At the McKinley Washington Bridge, an osprey family nests and time seems suspended looking out over the island from the bridge. But, along Highway 174, signs of change appear, as property markers and "for sale" signs proliferate. (There are over two dozen between the State Park and the Bridge.)

We can all do something to help, and you are already helping by supporting the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. Whether through keeping informed about the "state of the island" and discussing it with friends, donating to the organizations that protect the island's natural resources, attending community meetings, or setting aside tracts of your own property for protection in perpetuity, you are doing something to protect this special island's future.

You make the difference. We have great and terrible examples of what happens to coastal waterfronts and roadways from population pressure. I hope that at the Edisto Island Open Land Trust, we will continue to provide information and options so that you can make the best choices for this community's future. Your continued support will help protect Edisto.

It's an honor to be able to work with this great community. Thank you for letting me join you!



Rhet Wilson
Executive Director
To contact Rhet Wilson, call (843) 869-9004
or email eiolt@mindspring.com

Report Links Sprawl to Declining Coastal Health

When impervious surface exceeds 10%, rivers, creeks, and estuaries degrade



Abundant research now confirms that when impervious surfaces cover more than ten percent of a watershed, the rivers, creeks, and estuaries they surround become biologically degraded. In his report for the Pew Oceans Commission, Dana Beach of the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League details the effects of the suburbanization of the coast.

The report, entitled, *Coastal Sprawl: The Effects of Urban Design on Aquatic Ecosystems in the United States*, presents new tools that property owners can use to preserve the natural habitats that attract residents, tourists, and businesses to the coast.

Beach reports that runaway land consumption, suburban development patterns, and exponential growth in automobile use lead to pollution and habitat degradation on the coast. Some large coastal metropolitan areas consume land ten times as fast as they add new residents. Across the country, driving has increased at three to four times the increase in population. He concludes that if today's land consumption trends continue, more than one-quarter of the coast's acreage will be developed by

2025—up from 14 percent in 1997.

"Communities need to make active decisions about where and how to grow if they are going to protect their quality of life," said Joseph Riley, mayor of Charleston and chair of the Pew Commission's coastal development committee.

The Pew Oceans Commission is comprised of leaders from the worlds of science, fishing, conservation, politics, and business. Members have held regional meetings throughout the country to study fishing, marine pollution, coastal development, introduced species, aquaculture, and governance. In addition, the Commission has received science reports on marine pollution, introduced species, and aquaculture. The Commission will issue its final recommendations to Congress, the Bush administration, and the nation in early 2003. Please call if you want a copy (869-9004). *

How well do you know the oceans?

Take the "Ocean Literacy Quiz" sponsored by the Pew Oceans Commission and the National Geographic Society at www.enn.com.

Water Quality Studies Conducted in Big Bay and Fishing Creeks

Years ago, residents and visitors could go to any creek on Edisto, like Big Bay, Fishing and Store Creeks, to gather oysters and clams for a roast. But in the last five or six years, something changed. These areas are now “restricted” waters, meaning that simply collecting and eating shellfish from those creeks is no longer safe. What happened?

The State Department of Health and Environmental Control is trying to find out. Stormwater runoff appears to be the major source of fecal coliform bacteria contamination in these waterways. Possible sources of contamination include failing septic systems, pets, domestic animals such as horses and cows, wildlife, boat traffic, and drainage from roads and freshwater wetlands. These tidal creeks are shallow, so that the volume of water necessary to dilute bacte-

ria concentrations down to safer levels is simply not there. Low tidal flushing action in some places may be due to the long distances from the headwaters to the mouth of creeks. This means that water with elevated bacteria concentrations remains trapped in the creek, sloshing back and forth with each tide cycle.

In early May 2002, using tracer dye, DHEC staff began to study tidal flushing in Big Bay and Fishing Creeks. This is the first part of a two-year study to identify sources of fecal coliform bacteria contaminating waterways all along the South Carolina coast. It's still too early to know the precise results for Edisto's creeks but once the studies are complete, much more will be known about how to protect water quality in the creeks.

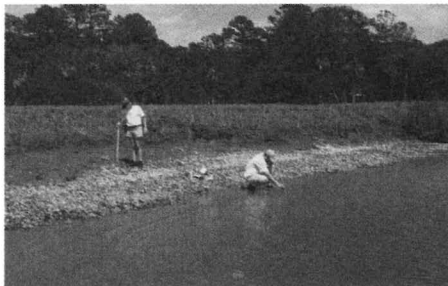
Common practices in your home — large or small, new or old, rural or urban — can contaminate water and affect the

health of your family and our environment. Coast-A-Syst is a Clemson Extension/ SC Sea Grant Consortium program that helps you protect the quality of surface and ground water near your home and throughout your community. It is focused on what you can do to avoid polluting local water sources, such as neighborhood ponds, tidal creeks, rivers, and estuaries. Simple changes in your household routine can reduce pollution. This booklet provides information to help you make the most effective use of the program. South Carolina Coast-A-Syst consists of information and a series of self-assessments that will enable you to identify and correct pollution sources and health risks in your home and around your yard. Contact the Edisto Island Open Land Trust (843) 869-9004, email, eiolt@mindspring.com. for more information. *

Oyster Shell Recycling Gives Creeks a Chance

Even mollusks get a break at Edisto! An oyster shell recycling station is now open at "The Dump Station" right across from the entrance to the Edisto Beach State Park. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust, the Edistoics and SCORE, the SC Department of Natural Resources South Carolina Oyster Recycling and Enhancement program joined to get this important initiative underway. Recycling oyster shell gives creeks, rivers and oysters a chance to take a breather and get healthier.

By recycling the shell from your next oyster roast, you can help preserve and improve Edisto's waterways. Historically, oyster reefs were numerous, but they have declined due to heavy harvesting and habitat loss. The lack of oyster reefs may be one of the reasons that Big Bay, Fishing and Store Creeks are polluted. *What good is an oyster reef?* Adult oysters filter and clean more than 2.5 gallons of water per hour, a tremendous help for cleaning up the water. Oyster reefs help



SCDNR staff prepares oyster site.

stabilize the shoreline and provide habitat for many species of small fish, shrimp and crabs.

This summer, volunteers are needed to fill shell bags and help build Edisto's first recycled reef. The new reef will be located near the dock of the new Interpretive Center being built by the SC Department of Natural Resources and SC Parks Recreation and Tourism. Later this year, monitoring the reef will afford more volunteer opportunities. To join this effort to save Edisto's creeks, call the Edisto Island Open Land Trust at 869-9004 or email us at eiolt@mindspring.com. *

Tips for recycling oyster shell

(Courtesy SCDNR website)

DO separate shell from trash. Shell mixed with trash is not suitable for recycling. Provide separate containers for shell.

DO keep shell in a porous container to reduce odors.

DO bring your shell to the shell recycling center across from the Edisto Beach State Park entrance.

DO NOT put live oysters in South Carolina waters. If the oysters you purchased were harvested outside of South Carolina, it is illegal to place them in South Carolina waters. Placing imported oysters in our waters can create public health problems and may harm local oysters or other animals.

DO NOT put freshly shucked shell in South Carolina waters. To avoid contamination, shell should be dried for 6 months.