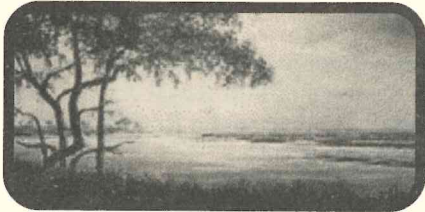


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# EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 a noble cause. And, of course, it's also tax deductible.

Please mail your tax deductible membership to:

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST  
P.O. Box 1, Edisto Island, SC 29438

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Patron \$100
- Sponsor \$500
- Benefactor \$1000
- Other/Corp./In Honor/Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You!



# Tidal Tales

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

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

WINTER 2002



## MR. & MRS. E. M. "BUD" SKIDMORE DONATE 28 ACRE EASEMENT ON THE BANKS OF BIG NECK CREEK

**M**r. and Mrs. E. M. "Bud" and Skidmore donated a 28-acre tract on Steamboat Landing Road along the banks of Big Neck Creek, a meandering of Steamboat Landing Creek, to EIOLT. This will protect 1543.23 feet of Steamboat Landing Road and Big Neck Creek.

The generosity of Bud and Ann Skidmore will live forever through this easement. Big Neck Creek overlooks Steamboat Creek and its marshes. This provides one of the most beautiful vistas on Edisto Island. The view as one approaches Steamboat Landing will never be encumbered.



## FRIEND OF EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST DONATES \$10,000

**T**o be used for the overall preservation and enhancement of the ecosystem on the Edisto and Bailey Island area of the Ace Basin and to increase collaboration among other conservation organizations that are active in the Ace Basin. We are excited to have this proactive opportunity.

We need for all of you, our loyal members, to remember us and the work we are doing. Give a gift of membership to a friend or your children. Conservation is a gift that lasts forever. Please use EIOLT for memorials or to honor someone. Together we will continue to grow, gain easements and keep Edisto rural and our ecosystems pure forever.

Many of the grants that we are applying for to accelerate the preservation of Edisto Island and its ecosystem are dependent on the level of support from our members. The success that we are now reaping is due to your support and a lot of hard work.

## CONSERVATION BANK ACT

**T**he Conservation Bank Act also known as the Campsen Bill is proposed legislation that will establish a trust fund to purchase certain property interest from willing landowners that will enable SC to maintain some of its historical and critical open space land areas.

The bank will be run by a fifteen member Board appointed by the Governor and representing all Congressional Districts. Participation will be voluntary. The bank will not participate in property involved with condemnation nor may the Board own any property interest under this act. It will be funded by twenty-five cents from the Real Estate Deed Stamp Fee for each statewide real estate transfer. It is projected that this will raise eight to ten million dollars. The trust fund will be earmarked for the preservation of open land. South Carolina is the only state on the East Coast that does not yet have such a program.

Why should the state give landowners money and let them retain the property? By deeding away the value of part of the property, the landowner has voluntarily agreed to a reduction in the market value of the land. The owner has agreed to forgo any appreciation and future use as development property in order that South Carolina maintain some open spaces for aesthetics, pollution control, recreational tourism appeal and to continue our heritage of farms and forests.

This Bill will be back before the Legislature early in 2002. It is known as Senate Bill #297 or the Campsen Bill.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST

EIOLT OYSTER ROAST WILL BE HELD MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, MIDDLETON PLANTATION, At 5 PM  
COME SUPPORT YOUR LAND TRUST AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

EIOLT HAS MOVED TO:  
SUITE B, OYSTER PARK  
MAILING ADDRESS:

P. O. BOX 1,  
EDISTO ISLAND SC 29438

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,



The events of September 11th made me want to hug, enjoy, and appreciate all of the people and things that I had taken for granted before that horrible day. Alicia, the children, and the grandchildren are the number one things in my life. The next most important is what each of us shares and that is a piece of this wonderful unspoiled island.

There is nothing like a quiet walk in the woods with the sun light filtering down through the trees. As you walk, a deer jumps up in front of you and all you see and hear are the flash of a tail and the crash through the underbrush as it puts some distance between you and it. Another few steps and you break out into a field with six wild turkeys, a few more steps and you are beside the river with the porpoise trying to catch supper.

The things we have on Edisto, like our children, are precious. The deep maritime forest, the clean water, the spectacular views, and the wonderful sunsets are all things we need to hold on to and embrace. That's what we as the Edisto Island Open Land Trust are trying to do. We need your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.".

I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.  
President, Board of Directors

## MISSION

**T**he purpose of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust, Inc. is to give leadership in preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural beauty and scenic vistas of Edisto Island, S.C. by acquiring strategically important parcels of land, seeking financial support and promoting public interest in and awareness of the fragile island environment.



## CHARLES E. FRAISER ADDRESSES EIOLT ANNUAL MEETING

**T**he members were welcomed by I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr. President Mikell then introduced Mr. & Mrs. E. M. "Bud" Skidmore and formally accepted an easement from them on a twenty-eight acre tract on Steamboat Landing Road. The tract provides one of the most expansive vistas on Edisto Island and it is now protected forever from encroachment.

President Mikell then introduced Hilton Head Developer, Mr. Charles E. Fraser. Mr. Fraser addressed members on the discrepancy between tax deductions for corporate easement donations and individual easement donations. Corporations are not allowed by IRS to take a larger deduction than their original basis in the land. Individuals may use a system of appraising property at its highest and best use and then appraising the property without some or all development rights. The difference in the two is the deduction. Changing IRS regulations for corporate easement donors would encourage and enhance easement donations by the land rich timber companies. He was proposing that the Federal Law be changed.

President Mikell and Executive Director, Pat Martin, thanked Mrs. Chalmers W. Poston and her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Chalmers W. Poston, Jr., for opening their lovely home on Bailey Creek to Edisto Island Open Land Trust Members and their guests for the 2001 Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Chairman, Madeline Huffines, did a great job of planning a wonderful day of appreciation for our members. The weather was picture perfect. The young people enjoyed canoeing while other guests visited with friends and enjoyed the views. Southern Affairs Catering (i.e. "BoBo" Lee) served a delicious Lowcountry Feast to the 131 attendees.



Mr. & Mrs. David L. King  
Bob & Ann King  
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YOUR SUPPORT OF YOUR COMMUNITY-BASED LAND TRUST  
IS PROTECTING AND PRESERVING EDISTO'S UNIQUE CHARACTER

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**GAYLORD AND DOROTHY  
DONELLEY FOUNDATION AND  
TURNER FOUNDATION  
PROVIDE GRANTS TO HELP  
FUND FULL TIME DIRECTOR**

**G**aylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation gave EIOLT a \$15,000.00 grant and Turner Foundation gave a \$5,000.00 grant to facilitate the Land Trust Executive Director's position becoming full time. We are very grateful for their support.

EIOLT continues to grow and meet its goals. Twenty-two months ago, EIOLT hired a part-time Executive Director, Pat Martin, and opened its first office. We have out-grown our space and have moved to a larger office in Oyster Park without increasing the cost of rent.

The Land Trust has accomplished many things since February 1999. Our donations have doubled and our membership has increased by 50%. We have a WebSite Edisto.org that received between 130 and 150 hits per month. We have hired an assistant, Ida Tipton, who works ten hours a week. She is quite proficient in office management. We are participating in several public/private partnerships for the benefit of the community. Edisto Vision 2000, DNR's Oyster Renourishment Project, and the Edisto Island Litter Project are three such projects. EIOLT accepted a 28 acre easement from Mr. & Mrs. Bud Skidmore and have five more in the works for 2002.

We see 2002 as another year of unprecedented growth for Edisto Island. EIOLT will be extremely active in doing whatever we can to conserve and preserve as much land as possible as well as protect our ecosystem from pollution.

I will soon have some information on the Community Wildlife Habitat Project which is part of NWF Wildlife Habitat Program. This will involve volunteers. The basics of the program are providing food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise their young. This will include backyards and multiple community locations. If you would like to be part of this project, email me at [eiolt@mindspring.com](mailto:eiolt@mindspring.com) with an address and phone number. I will contact you as soon as I have all of the information.

I would like to thank you all for the support that you have shown for Edisto Island Open Land Trust in 2001. I look forward to working with each of you in the New Year.

Pat Martin  
Executive Director



## EIOLT Sponsors DNR Oyster Renourishment Program

**A**lthough South Carolina's commercial shellfish harvest has remained stable over the past three decades, the closing of oyster canneries and most shucking houses during this period has resulted in a shortage of shucked oyster shell needed to cultivate oyster beds. The increasing popularity of backyard oyster roasts and by-the-bushel retail sales have contributed to this shortage in that, contrary to the shucking houses and canneries, shells remaining from individual oyster roasts are not usually returned to the estuary to catch juvenile oysters. More often than not, the shell ends up in driveways and landfills.

During the summer months, oysters spawn and release free-swimming larvae, called spat, into the water column. The spat are carried by tide and current and after spending about two weeks moving in the water column, seek a suitable surface upon which to attach and begin building their shells of calcium carbonate. Unless disturbed, they will spend the remainder of their life cycle where they have attached. Centuries of oyster cultivation experience have proven oyster shell to be one of the most desirable materials (called cultch) for attachment and subsequent growth of young oysters. Other cultch materials, such as shucked whelk shell, have been very successful in attracting and supporting oyster spat.

Each year, oyster shell used for planting public shellfish grounds has become increasingly expensive and hard to find. A SCDNR project, funded by the Saltwater Fishing License, makes it possible to recycle oyster shell and reclaim this valuable resource to enhance shellfish habitat. As this conservation initiative gains public awareness and participation, it is hoped that increased volumes of oyster shell will be made available for planting public shellfish grounds by contract with private companies to improve recreational shellfish beds. With the cooperation of local and county governments and businesses in coastal South Carolina, oyster shell recycling drop-off sites (places where the public can bring their oyster shells) have been established in convenient locations. Seven drop-off sites have been established and are ready to receive shell.

### Location of sites:

1. Hunting Island State Park near the Russ Point boat landing
2. Town of Port Royal Boat Landing in the town of Port Royal
3. Beaufort County Public Works Department off Shanklin Road in Burton
4. Ace Basin in Green Pond off Bennetts Point Road
5. Mt. Pleasant Public Works Department at Six Mile Road
6. McClellanville near the shrimp docks at Carolina Seafoods Inc.
7. The Town of Port Royal

Recycle those oyster shells! If you know of a large oyster roast being planned call (843) 762-5028 and alert Andy Jennings, shell-recycling coordinator so that he can make arrangements to get the shell. If Andy is not available, email Nancy Hadley at [hadley@mr.dnr.state.sc.us](mailto:hadley@mr.dnr.state.sc.us) and I will pass it on.

From Nancy Hadley's News Update

We hope to soon have a recycling center on Edisto Island.



Don't forget March 16th at Middleton.