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Edisto Island Open Land Trust
P.O. Box 1
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LEGACY LIVE OAKS PROGRAM

The Legacy Live Oaks program gives you a way to honor family and friends while contributing to Edisto's historic beauty. With your contribution of five hundred dollars, a live oak will be planted along Scenic Highway 174 on Edisto Island in their honor. Over the years, these trees will grow to create the sheltering canopy that we see today along many of Edisto's road.

Legacy Live Oaks will be planted in the fall and winter in selected sites on Little Edisto Island along Highway 174. Each oak will be 12-15' tall when planted. A minimum of 25 trees are needed this year. The trees will be maintained to give them a good start in their permanent home along Highway 174.

Your legacy gift will be recognized in Edisto Island Open Land Trust publications and in permanent signage at the Land Trust's Memorial Site just north of Botany Bay Road. A special memorial bench nearby will give visitors a place to rest.

Each Legacy Live Oak planting requires a \$500 donation and is a charitable contribution.

Checks are payable to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. If you would like more information, please contact us!

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____
(please indicate name of person(s) to be recognized)

From: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Your name as you would like it to appear: _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

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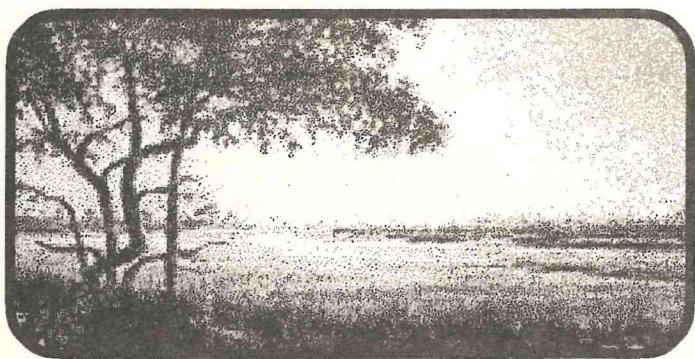
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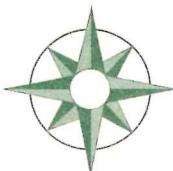
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Tidal Tales



EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

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

SUMMER 2003

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

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A RISING TIDE

It's a race and numbers tell the story. Every day, 8.6 acres of the country's finest land are lost to development according to the Land Trust Alliance. In a recent column, President Rand Wentworth noted that at this rate, most of America's special places will be gone in 20 years.

What does this mean for Edisto? As one of the most special places on the southeast coast, Edisto's rate of residential growth is higher than that of similar areas. In recent years, fewer building permits have been issued each year for most unincorporated areas of Charleston County. On Edisto, however, residential permits are going up 13% one year, jumping up 31% the next. More buildings, more people: the population growth rate for Edisto Island alone exceeds that for the area collectively surveyed as "the coastal islands" of Wadmalaw, Kiawah, Seabrook, Johns and Edisto.

People are moving here for Edisto's bounty of natural resources. It's in keeping with the national trend. The most important amenity valued by new homeowners is living near natural areas noted a survey by the National Association of Homebuilders. So, Edisto is not apart from the national trends in development but just hitting its stride in the race.

By supporting of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust, you are helping Edisto win the race to save its natural beauty and resources. With your support, the Board's programs to protect land and



enhance Edisto are reaching great success. Through your membership, live oak donations, gifts of land, and volunteering, you make Edisto's future possible.

Land trusts do succeed: 6.2 million acres are in protection in America. Each acre protected is a voluntary effort made by local landowners and nonprofit organizations. Tax law allows and encourages these efforts by removing land from the market and rewarding donors when significant conservation values will be protected. What those values are vary in each case, in each community. Sometimes projects are controversial. Those who fear losing the use of a natural area may protest just as do those with economic concerns. Protecting land in perpetuity is a great and complex responsibility. It takes the effort of all those who know and love the land to keep it a success.

We appreciate your support and recognize that you are Edisto's future. *

BCDCOG and LTA provided information for this article.

DHEC MERCURY ADVISORY TABLES 2003

SALTWATER FISH

KING MACKEREL

< 33 inches

- No restrictions.

33 - 39 inches

- 1 meal a month for Pregnant and Nursing Women & Children.
- 1 meal a week for other Adults.

> 39 inches

- DO NOT EAT ANY!

SWORDFISH

- Pregnant and Nursing Women & Children - DO NOT EAT ANY!
- Other Adults - 1 meal a month

RIVERS & STREAMS

ASHEPOO RIVER

(from Walterboro to US Hwy. 17)

- No restrictions for Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, Redbreast Sunfish.
- 1 meal a week for Largemouth Bass, and Bowfin (Mudfish)

EDISTO RIVER

(from US Hwy. 78 to Willtown Bluff
(Ae Basin))

- 1 meal a week for Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Redear Sunfish, Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Redbreast Sunfish, Black Crappie.
- 1 meal a month for Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel.
- Bowfin (Mudfish) DO NOT EAT ANY!

LAKES, RESERVOIRS, RIVERS, and MARINE AREAS WITHOUT MERCURY ADVISORIES

COASTAL PLAIN

ACE Basin

Ashley River (downstream of US Hwy 17)

Cape Romain

Charleston Harbor

Combahee River (downstream of US Hwy 17)

Edisto River (downstream of US Hwy 17)

Goose Creek Reservoir

Lake Prestwood

Lower Wando River

Muddy Bay

Port Royal Sound

COASTAL SOUTH CAROLINA

Spanish Mackerel

Mahi Mahi (Dolphin)

*A meal is a half-pund (8 ounces) serving of fish

These advisories are from the
SC Department of Health and Environmental Control: South Carolina Fish Consumption Advisory Tables 2003.

For more information on the fish consumption advisories, you may call
DHEC's Division of Health Hazard Evaluation, at (888) 849-7241

COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND PROTECTION ACT



With strong bi-partisan support, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act introduced by Senators Ernest Hollings (D-SC) and Judd Gregg (R-NH), was marked up by the full Senate Commerce Committee on June 17, 2003. The bill, S. 861, would provide for up to \$60 million per year in matching grants to states and National Estuarine Research Reserves for coastal land conservation at the state and local level. Twenty-four other Senators are co-sponsors of this legislation. The primary goal of this bill is to "protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values and that are threatened by conversion to other uses."

If approved, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program funds will be administered to states through the National Ocean Service of NOAA. A non-federal match of 25% is required for each project. 15% of these funds go towards NERRS acquisitions. This bill has great potential to provide federal funds to protect significant areas of the South Carolina coast, including Edisto. *

INCREASED CONSERVATION TAX INCENTIVES UPDATE

In the last newsletter, we were happy to announce that the Senate passed powerful new conservation tax incentives in the CARE Act by a 95-5 vote. A version of this broad bill addressing the tax laws affecting charities was introduced in the House as H.R. 7.

Regrettably, H.R. 7 did not include the three powerful new conservation incentives the Senate included in S. 476 – expanding the deduction for easement donations to 50% or more of a donor's income over 16 years; cutting capital gains tax on conservation sales; and creating a new bonding authority for the purchase of land, with the bonds paid for through sustainable tim-

ber harvest on the purchased property.

Representative Nancy Johnson (R-CT) will introduce legislation with Representative Scott McInnis (R-CO) to allow a landowner whose income is from farming or ranching to deduct 100% of their income, for 15 or more years for conservation easements. Other landowners would be allowed to deduct up to 50% of their income in any year. (Limited to the appraised value of their gift.)

The Land Trust Alliance actively lobbies the Congress on this issue. The best way to keep in touch with the latest developments is to go to the Land Trust Alliance web site at <http://www.lta.org>. *

QUICKSILVER

Depending on your age, you may associate mercury with thermometers and that magic, silver liquid that rolls elegantly when "spilled." What a cool toy it was!

No more. Mercury vaporizes quickly when exposed at ambient temperatures. While found naturally in the environment in several forms, the quantity of vaporized mercury being released from coal and waste burning is exceptional: approximately 158 tons are released by human activity yearly. Mercury then flows into waterways from runoff and rain where biological processes convert inorganic mercury into methyl mercury, an organic easily absorbed by animals and stored in muscle tissue. The concentration of methyl mercury accumulates as it moves up the food chain from plants to fish to humans. Mercury is a known human toxicant (Mad Hatters Disease) with neurotoxic effects ranging from decreased motor skills, tremors, the inability to walk and convulsions to death. Other high level predators known to be accumulating high levels of mercury include osprey, wood stork, eagles, otters and mink.

Restrictions on fish consumption based on mercury levels were released several years ago, yet many people are unaware of the importance of heeding these restrictions. Infants and children are particularly sensitive to the effects of mercury since their nervous systems are still forming. Pregnant women, women planning to become pregnant, infants, and children should not eat any fish containing mercury. Some erroneously think that commercially sold fish do not contain mercury, but this is inaccurate. Also, cleaning and cooking do not remove mercury from fish.

If all human generated releases of mercury into the atmosphere were stopped today, it would still take an estimated 50 years to return to pre-industrial levels of mercury in fish. This is a global problem that affects even tranquil life on Edisto.

In South Carolina and in the Edisto area, we are advised to watch our consumption of king mackerel and swordfish. Spanish mackerel and dolphin are not restricted at all. The sidebar chart indicates DHEC recommendations specific to the Edisto area. *

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FOR LAND'S SAKE! . . . GET YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND SHRIMP at the EIOLT Shrimp Bazaar and Sale!!!

For your Labor Day Weekend festivities and football game-watching, stop by our Shrimp Bazaar and Sale and pick up

- your shrimp (boiled shrimp or ready-to-cook),
- your boiled peanuts, and
- your Edisto Island souvenirs and other sale items.

Our prices are great, and this is a tasty opportunity to support the Edisto Island Open Land Trust.

SHRIMP BAZAAR & SALE

Saturday, August 30

Highway 174, next to the Edistonian

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thanks to the generosity of Paradise Shrimp Farms, the Land Trust is able to offer you the convenience of fresh shrimp, headed, bagged and ready to go – either steamed by Chef Bobo or ready for your recipe or your freezer.

Order you now in either 2 or 5 pound increments, as many as you need!

Shrimp are only \$5 per pound in advance or \$6 per pound on site.

ORDER IN ADVANCE:

Call the Edisto Island Open Land Trust at 843-869-9004 or fax your order to 843-869-7820. (We would appreciate your mailing your payment in advance to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust, P. O. Box 1, Edisto Island, SC 29438.)

Please tell us your:

Name • Phone number • Quantity (in 2 or 5 pound bags) • Cooked or raw

Advance order deadline: Monday, August 25

Order now! Don't skimp on shrimp!

Your patronage will help us preserve Edisto Island!

Town of Edisto Beach Supports Highway 174 Clean-Up

It is thanks to the financial support of the Town of Edisto Beach accommodations tax funds that the Edisto Island Open Land Trust is able to administer the Highway 174 litter and beautification project with daily litter pick-ups. Residents of Fairfield Ocean Ridge also contribute to the beautification of Highway 174. We all owe them our appreciation for protecting the aesthetics and wildlife of the road to Edisto.

Oysters Thrive Thanks to Friends

Last summer, many members of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust gathered oyster shells into bags and stacked them on the shores of Big Bay Creek under the direction of the SC Oyster Restoration and Enhancement program of SCDNR. The oysters have grown rapidly and more have been "planted" this year. FRESPACE is to thank for adopting this oyster project and making it a success.

But do remember, shellfish beds in South Carolina are monitored by DHEC. When conditions indicate an increased chance of bacterial contamination, shellfish beds may be closed to harvesting. For current information about specific shellfish beds, you may call DHEC: for Charleston County, call (843) 740-1590; for Beaufort and Colleton Counties, call (843) 522-9097.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR 2003 LANDTRUST EVENTS

NOVEMBER 9, SUNDAY FALL OYSTER ROAST

An Edisto tradition with views of marsh and sky, come enjoy one of the area's finest delicacies with your friends.

DECEMBER 14, SUNDAY BRUNCH AT BROOKLAND

In full holiday splendor, Brookland plantation will be open for the Land Trust's guests to enjoy its renovated, landscaped beauty.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Edisto is a place of peace and inspiration and all those who spend time here are fortunate to enjoy one of the earth's great places. The members of the Board of Trustees of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust are genuinely dedicated to helping protect and preserve the natural beauty and environmental resources that make this island special. It's not an easy job as indicated in the article on page one – just as historic preservation often leads to conflicts over the color or content of stucco, so too does land stewardship lead to the conflicts over the appearance and use of land. Federal and state guidelines are established broadly enough to allow for local flexibility so it is at the community level that decisions have to be made. The trustees of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust represent many interests on Edisto and are responsive to the many needs of the community. As a member, you are a community leader who plays a vital role in the future of this island.

Over the past year, the great pleasure has been getting to know the wonderful community here – strong individuals, untiring community workers, wry retirees: hundreds who love their island home. Unfortunately, I will be unable to live on Edisto as planned and therefore will be leaving the Land Trust in early fall. The person who takes this position will lead a period of exuberance for the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. There is such enthusiasm and earnest responsibility in the work of the Board of Trustees; as the board continues to mature, it will lead the voluntary protection of Edisto's rural and natural character.

Land protection happens in fits and starts. Many projects take years to come to fruition and some never make it despite the worthiness of the conservation values. The members of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust are its greatest asset. Thank you for saving Edisto for the future. I can't wait to see it! *