

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



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CHARLESTON
PERMIT NO. _____

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT EDISTO

- INDIVIDUALS:**
- Renew your membership level or join today – Just enclose your check in attached remittance envelope
 - Recruit a friend about the Edisto Island Open Land Trust – Recruit 5 new members and receive a free *Keeping Edisto Wild* T-shirt
 - Sign up for conservation
 - If you are opposed to or concerned about the proposed hotel/convention center on state park property on Edisto's coast, please write or call the contacts on the enclosed yellow sheet.
 - Dedicate a Legacy Live Oak to honor friends or family (see brochure)
 - Volunteer to help with events, community education, or wardship
- BUSINESSES:**
- Contribute today by enclosing your check in attached remittance envelope
 - Contact us about sponsoring an upcoming event
 - Dedicate a Legacy Live Oak to honor associates or clients
 - Provide "in-kind" services for one of our programs



New Brochure Printed with a Little Help from our Friends

Our new full-color brochure (enclosed) was made possible through donations from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and Piggly Wiggly Carolina Company, Inc. Also Susan Roberts of Susan Roberts Photos kindly donated many hours of her time creating the photographs and helping our staff lay out the brochure.

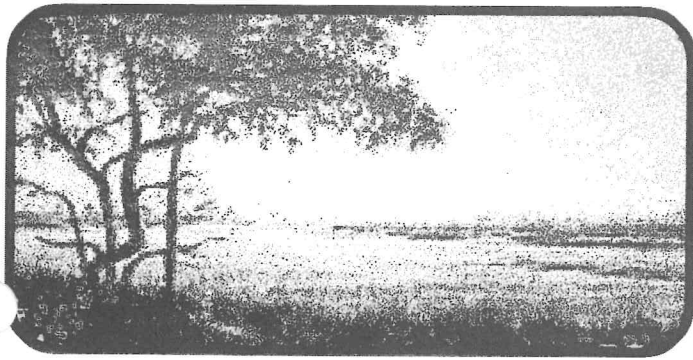
The Edisto Island Open Land Trust is fortunate to have a working partnership with Susan who has a strong personal commitment to preserving the pristine character of our island.

She is a juried artist at the SC Artisan Center, a member of the Edisto Art Guild, and has won numerous awards for nature photography. Susan Roberts Photos also provided the photograph of the Snowy Egret that graces the front of the official T-shirt for the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. If you haven't gotten your *Keeping Edisto Wild* T-shirt yet, give us a call at 843-869-9004.

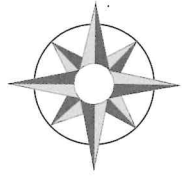
Upcoming Events

**Dedication Ceremony for Legacy Live Oak Memorial
and Members Meeting -
Spring, date to be announced**

SS _____



Tidal Tales



EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

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

WINTER 2004

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

William F. Thompson, Jr.,
President

Robert E. Lee, Jr.,
Vice-President

Ellen E. Unger, Treasurer

David L. Lybrand, Secretary

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Alex S. Crawford, Jr.

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Katharine Ravenel

Fisher C. Walter, Jr.

James A. Rice, ex-officio

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STAFF

Marian D. Brailsford,
Executive Director

Ida Tipton, Office Manager

806-B Oyster Park
Post Office Box 1
Edisto Island, SC 29438

Phone: (843) 869-9004

SCENIC HIGHWAY 174 LAND PROTECTED

A much-anticipated event took place in the last few days of December, 2003. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust was deeded title to 6.7 acres of undeveloped land along Scenic Highway 174 by an anonymous donor. This tract of land is a treasure trove containing maritime forest with palmettos, large pines, a specimen 26" live oak, wild magnolias, cassina hollies and cedars. It also contains a portion of marsh which is home to wading and shore birds and a multitude of deer and other mammals. The gift reflects the donor's commitment to Edisto and this property - to preserve its wooded beauty and wildlife habitat for now and for future generations to enjoy.

Previously the donated tract had been zoned residential and surveyed for two lots. However, with the gift the donor decreed that the Edisto Island Open Land Trust become the steward of this property, to protect it from development, never sell it, and maintain the land in its natural state forever. In addition to all the other conservation values the property will provide a green buffer along Highway 174 for more than 1,400 feet. This represents exciting progress in the Land Trust's goal of creating a natural and scenic buffer along Highway 174, which sets the tone for the future of Edisto Island . . . as a place of unspoiled beauty and rural charm.

We are grateful for the gift of this strategic property, which is on the west side of 174 across from Botany Bay Road. Coming down 174 toward the beach, this beautiful tract begins on the right just before you pass the "Edisto Mystery Tree," the dead tree in the middle of the marsh which is mysteriously draped with decorations for each season by an artist who works in the dead of night. Permanently protected, this scenic property will continue to provide a home for birds and wildlife, as well as serve as an environmental and educational resource for Edisto residents and visitors. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust is the only conservation orga-



Top 10 Reasons to Donate Land or a Conservation Easement*

1. It preserves the uses and character of your land for future generations.
2. It protects the natural beauty of Edisto for all to enjoy.
3. There can be generous Federal income tax benefits.
4. Also, there can be State income tax benefits.
5. You can save on property taxes.
6. You can save significant ecological areas such as wetlands, watershed and wildlife habitat that are important to the quality of our lives.
7. Your heirs could realize savings in inheritance tax.
8. With a conservation easement your land is still private - you can sell it, trade it, pass it on to future generations - the easement goes along with the title change.
9. With a conservation easement you can still continue timber harvesting, agriculture, hunting and planting for wildlife and game habitats.
10. With a conservation easement, your land can be developed in any manner permitted by your customized easement; for example, "single family residences on no smaller than 5 acre tracts with no more than four waterfront tracts with no more than two docks."

* A Conservation Easement is a tool landowners can use to voluntarily protect their land. Simply put, a conservation easement is a legal agreement between

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Edisto has a way of wrapping her fingers around your heart. No matter where you're from or how long you stay, it's only a brief time before the smell of pluff mud becomes perfume, bracing salt air soothing therapy, the birds or pets, the turtles an inspiration in dogged determination, the dolphins and otters playing the creeks your evening's comedic entertainment, and the heart-stopping sunset skies or spiritual connection to all creatures with whom we share this rich paradise.

10 years the Edisto Island Open Land Trust has grown from a group of concerned residents who wanted to protect a unique island — to a professional organization, run by a committed board and staff. As the torch is passed to new leadership, let's recognize an individual who has invested much of himself in this organization. I. Jenks (Jenks) Mikell, Jr. has stepped down as president, but we are fortunate that he will continue working as a board member. Thank you, Jenks, for your dedication and for helping the Edisto Island Open Land Trust evolve to the successful organization we are today.

In the face of the challenges ahead — the pressure of growth and the threat of sprawl into this natural environment — there is reason to be optimistic about Edisto's future. We have the right Edisto Island Open Land Trust team in place to help achieve the goals that you told us were important in our recent membership survey. Our top priority for the year is to focus on protecting scenic vistas and natural habitat along Scenic Highway 174, and we have begun working toward the National Scenic Byway designation. Other goals include pursuing conservation-critical properties on the Island and conducting environmental education programs, with the help of other Lowcountry conservation organizations. There is no time to lose — the pressure to develop Edisto is escalating, as evidenced by the recent proposal to build a hotel and convention center on state park land.

Our members, are the key to our success — when you renew your membership in the Land Trust or volunteer to help, write letters to your legislators, or set aside areas of your own property for protection — you are saving Edisto for future generations. Thank you for your support. It is a privilege to work in this community with members of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

New Executive Director

In September Marian Downs Brailsford moved from the Board of Trustees to Executive Director for the Edisto Island Open Land Trust.

Personal background: Marian was born in Spartanburg, grew up in Columbia, and received her BA degree from the University of South Carolina. After spending many weekends and holidays here, Marian and her husband, Jim (Jimmy) Brailsford, made a permanent move from Columbia to Edisto Island two years ago. Their two children, Jamie and Lulu, live in Columbia. Jim is a practicing attorney, and when they are not working, Jim and Marian like to sail, sea kayak, snow ski, or sit on their porch and read.

Professional background: Marian's career has been in sales and sales management — working for IBM and other high-tech companies. For the last 18 years she has managed her own company producing video-based sales and customer service training programs.

New Board Member

We are delighted to welcome Katharine Ravenel (Kathy) to the Board of Trustees of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust.

Personal background:

Kathy was born in Charleston, but spent most of her childhood in Virginia. The Ravenel family returned to the Low Country every summer to vacation on Johns Island. She received her BA degree from Hollins College and her graduate degree from Dartmouth. Kathy's son, Hal Woods, attends the University of Colorado. Kathy recently moved her primary residence from Chicago back "home" to Edisto Island. In her free time she enjoys boating, photography, golf, gardening, her four dogs, and collecting Southern art.

Professional background: After teaching school for 16 years, Kathy became a fundraising consultant in 1981. Ravenel and Associates helps non-profit organizations throughout the country meet their objectives.

New Officers Elected



From left to right:

Secretary —
David Lybrand

Treasurer —
Ellen E. Unger

President — William
F. Thompson, Jr.

Vice President — Robert
E. "BoBo" Lee, Jr.

President, William F. Thompson, Jr.

Personal background: Bill was born in Marion, SC, and he spent his summers on the coast in Horry County. He attended Clemson University, graduated from Newberry College and attended the USC School of Business. Bill and his wife, Gale Belser, and their two daughters — Bel, 5, and deRosset, 3 — live in Charleston. They spend a lot of time on Edisto with other family members at Sunnyside Plantation.

Professional background:

Previously the President of Thompson Lubricants, he is now President of Belser Thompson Real Estate and Property Management Company in Charleston. Bill has been an Edisto Island Open Land Trust board member since early 1990.

Vice President, Robert E. "BoBo" Lee

Personal background: BoBo was born in Orangeburg and grew up in Sumter

Professional background:

BoBo is the former mayor of Springfield, SC, has worked as a commodity broker and in the agri-chemical business, and he has served as a member of the Orangeburg County School Board. BoBo and his wife, Pam, operate a restaurant here on Edisto, Pig's Bo-B-Q, and a catering business, Southern Affairs Catering. Bobo has been an active board member of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust since 2001.

Secretary, David Lybrand

Personal background: David was born in Aiken, SC, and his family moved to Edisto when he was five. He left Edisto briefly to attend college and graduated from the Citadel with a BS in Civil Engineering. David and his wife, Doris, have four children and 5 grandchildren. When they are not working, David and Doris enjoy their grandchildren, boating, and David's primary hobby, researching Edisto Island history.

Professional background: David was a practicing Civil Engineer in the US Navy, and he is a retired Lieutenant in the US Coast Guard. He has been involved in real estate on Edisto Island since 1970 and owns Edisto Realty. David was a founding member of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust and has been an active board member since the beginning.

Treasurer, Ellen E. Unger

Personal background: Ellen was born in Hampton, Virginia, and grew up there. She received a BA degree from the University of South Carolina and hasn't left SC since. Ellen and her husband, H. Wayne "Bubba" Unger, Jr. have lived on Edisto for many years and have two sons, Manning and Jay, and two grandsons. When not working, Ellen and Bubba enjoy boating, travel and their grandsons.

Professional background:

Ellen has worked as a teacher, a DSS coordinator, manager of law offices and commercial real estate, and for many years has volunteered in the area of preservation and conservation. She was a founding member of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust and has been a member of the Board since the first organizational meeting in 1994.

DONNELLEY FOUNDATION AWARDS MATCHING GRANT

In December, 2003, The Edisto Island Open Land Trust was awarded a matching grant of \$20,000 from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation to support its land protection efforts on Edisto Island. The EIOLT qualified for this matching grant by successfully meeting the Donnelley Foundation's fundraising challenge for the last quarter of 2003 - the challenge was, if the Edisto Island Open Land Trust could raise new funding of at least \$10,000 from members, the Donnelley Foundation agreed to double their \$10,000 year-end grant award. EIOLT members rallied to the cause, and even more than the minimum amount was raised. Thanks to our members, we have gained much needed funds for protecting land on Edisto and for educating the community about preserving our fragile island environment.

Over the last five years the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation's grants have enabled the Edisto Island Open Land Trust to develop a strategic plan for land protection and to employ staff to implement these programs. The Donnelley Foundation has made a huge difference in conservation in the SC Lowcountry through their generous contributions. But they have also demonstrated their commitment by conserving their own lands. Since 1988, they have donated more than 6,000 acres of land for an addition to the Bear Island Wildlife Management Area and the formation of the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve. They have also placed conservation easements on their personal holdings totaling more than 10,000 acres. With partners like the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Edisto Island Open Land Trust will continue to succeed in its mission: to preserve the scenic vistas and natural resources of Edisto Island.

Special Events

Shrimp Bazaar

On August 30, we held our first Shrimp Bazaar and sold over 500 pounds of shrimp T-shirts, paintings donated by artist Jud Bradford, and photos by Susan Roberts. Many thanks go to Robert Underwood, President of Paradise Shrimp Farms for the donation of the shrimp, to the many members and supporters who turned out, and to the Board members who worked in the "seasonably" warm weather.



Fall Oyster Roast

On November 9 Mr. and Mrs. Alex Crawford, Sr. and Jr. opened the gates of their Sand Creek Farms to welcome members and guests to the EIOLT Annual Fall Oyster Roast and Members Event. More than 222 supporters turned out for this creek side feast of Lowcountry bounty and song. Music was provided pro-bono by musicians Terry Blackberg, Vera Fisk, and Jim Reed. Other event sponsors included H.M. Northcutt of Mt. Pleasant, Barr, Unger & McIntosh law firm, John Hiott and PoPigs Bo-B-Que. All proceeds from the shrimp bazaar and oyster roast went toward land protection efforts.



Brailsford Speaks at DNR Workshop

On November 6, the SC Department of Natural Resources held an informative workshop at the new Interpretive Center. The workshop was called, "Effects of Land Use Patterns on the Economy and Cultural Heritage of Communities in the ACE Basin." Marian