

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



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REST EASY... YOUR SUPPORT OF THE EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST IS PRODUCING RESULTS

JOIN THE NEW BLUE HERON SOCIETY

Contribute or pledge at the \$2,500 membership level (per quarter), and you can make a BIG difference in the future. Membership in the Blue Heron Society entitles you to recognition in each quarterly newsletter, complimentary newsletters and complimentary tickets to members' event each year, and much more.

UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Upgrade your membership by moving up your level of support today - we won't have to send you a renewal reminder!

CONTRIBUTE TO THE SCENIC GATEWAY PROPERTY FUND DRIVE

Your contribution will go directly to retiring the loan on the Sand

MEMORIALS TO THE EIOLT LAST FOREVER

A memorial to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust is a long-lasting way to remember a friend or loved one.

Memorial contributions OR

Legacy Live Oak donations (\$500)

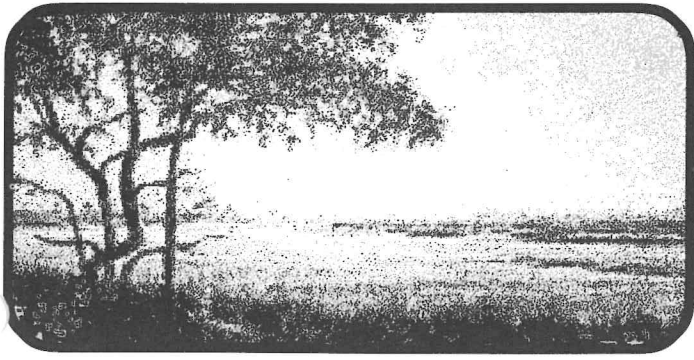
... truly last forever because they help to protect the beauty of Edisto ... time without end.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE LAND TRUST OR SPONSOR AN EVENT IN 2005

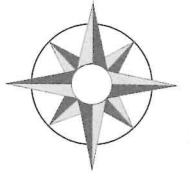
Help with numerous stewardship projects and events or Sponsor an upcoming educational or fundraising event

CALL TO SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH THE LAND TRUST

To learn the many advantages of placing a conservation



Tidal Tales

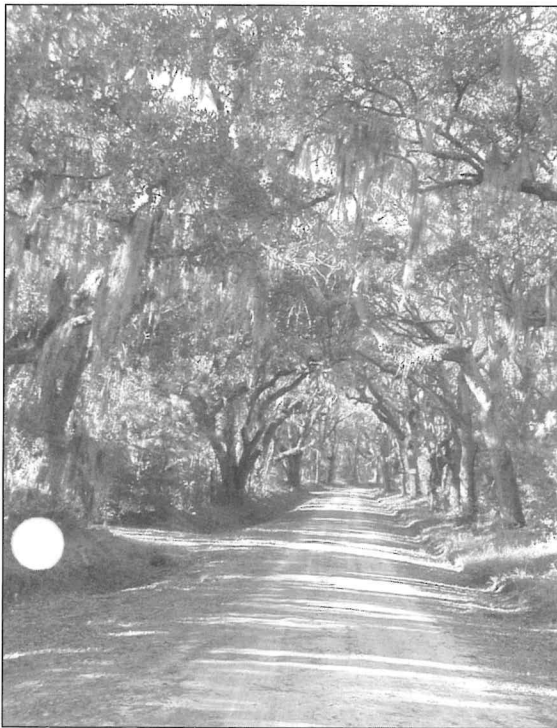


EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

... TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE SCENIC VIEWS AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF EDISTO ISLAND

WINTER 2005

YOUR DONATION DOLLARS AT WORK HISTORIC WESCOTT ROAD PROPERTY DONATED TO EIOLT



If land and ancient trees could talk, what stories they could tell. The wooded property recently donated to the Land Trust lies at the intersection of Highway 174 and Wescott Road, the historic tree-lined dirt road that is the last part of the old Kings Highway still in use. Wescott Road, which has been used continually since Colonial times, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The children of Mrs. Helen McTeer Hills and the late Mr. William Seabrook Hills have donated this two-acre property to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust in honor of their parents. The late Mr. Hills grew up on Edisto Island, the fourth generation of Hills here, and he served the Edisto Island community as their postmaster for 34 years.

BoBo Lee, Vice President of the Land Trust said, "We are grateful to the Hills family for placing this gift of natural land in our care. Everyone who travels through Edisto in our time and in the future will enjoy this property's scenic views which extend 550 feet along Highway 174." The Edisto Island Open Land Trust has intensified its commitment in 2005 to preserving more scenic land, like this property, along Highway 174.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON MIDDLETON PROPERTY DONATED TO EIOLT

Farmland has a rich beauty all its own – particularly farmland that was once a part of historic Middleton Plantation – land that produced magnificent sea island cotton for generations, and in more recent years, tomatoes and corn. Thanks to a conservation easement donated by Katherine S. Unger a seven-acre tract of farmland in Middleton will remain farmland in perpetuity and will serve as a buffer to enhance the scenic character of the Middleton area. Chalmers Poston, Chair of the Land Protection Committee, said, "The Edisto Island Open Land Trust is pleased to

accept the stewardship of this property. With farmland all over SC rapidly disappearing, it is heartening to have a piece of property like the Unger's set aside, never to be developed." The Post and Courier recently reported that donations of conservation easements to Land Trusts in our area is on the rise, and the movement will likely grow as more and more property owners realize the advantages of protecting their land. Residents in Middleton and the entire Edisto Island community will benefit from the preservation of this farmland.

COASTAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT TO EIOLT WILL HELP PRESERVE SCENIC VISTAS ON HIGHWAY 174

The Coastal Community Foundation has awarded a \$6,000 grant to EIOLT to help preserve open space and wetlands along State Scenic Highway 174, the gateway to the island. The Land Trust's top priority is the Scenic Gateway Project which aims to maintain the natural beauty and rural character of property along Highway 174. The strategic plan calls for creating a 200-foot scenic buffer and for discouraging further commercialization except within established areas. Marian Brailsford, Land Trust Executive Director said, "We believe that maintaining the scenic and natural character of this buffer land will not only enhance the lives of those who visit or live on Edisto, but will also promote controlled growth for the rest of the island."

The grant funds will be used to orient Highway 174 property owners to the advantages of protecting their land. The Land Trust plans to offer seminars and community meetings about land protection throughout the year. The next seminar will be on February 28 at the ACE Basin Interpretive Center. These grant funds will also help the Land Trust leverage donations to the Scenic Gateway Property Fund, an acquisition fund for purchasing

LAND TRUST GROWTH*

• **Nationally:**

The number of land trusts has increased 26% from 1008

• **Regionally:**

South Carolina has 22 Land Trusts that protect 196,600 acres

**EDISTO ISLAND
OPEN LAND TRUST**

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Marian D. Brailsford,

Executive Director

Debra Tipton, Office Manager

Mission Statement:

to preserve and protect the scenic

resources and natural resources of

Edisto Island through:

conservation easements, gifts

and purchases of strategic land;

and stewarding this land into

perpetuity; and

by elevating community

awareness of our fragile island

environment.

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

Phone: (843) 869-9004

Fax: (843) 869-7820

Email: eiolt@bellsouth.net

Website: www.edisto.org



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Recently the SC Lowcountry environment has been in the news . . . some Good News and some Bad News . . .

GOOD NEWS

The recovery of the bald eagle from near extinction in the 1940's is a great success story, and the bird will likely be removed from the endangered species list soon. In South Carolina, the number of eagle pairs nesting in the state has risen from 13 in 1977 to 190 in 2004. But steps must be taken to ensure that the eagle's habitat is protected – they are such a beautiful sight perching in their nests and flying over the wild expanses of marsh and wetlands that crisscross Edisto and the ACE Basin.

The International Center for Birds of Prey being built in Awendaw, SC, received 200 raptors last month. Officials hope that the 150-acre center along Highway 17 will be at least partly open to the public by summer. Within a year, the International Center for Birds of Prey may become the world leader in raptor education and avian research center and a major tourist attraction.

The Bush Administration responded to the findings and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy regarding the condition of America's oceans. The Administration proposed immediate implementation of 40 of the Commission's 212 recommendations and created a cabinet-level committee to study the rest.

In November, 2004, the SC Conservation Bank (funded by the SC Legislature) granted \$11 Million to conservation organizations to save 25,000 acres around the state. The Bank will have a fund of \$14-\$15 Million per year to award for land conservation in SC (far less than most Southeastern states such as Florida, which spent \$3 Billion over the last 10 years to preserve 1 Million acres).

A judge recently ruled in favor of the Baruch Foundation with regard to 75 acres of contested undeveloped beachfront property adjacent to DeBordieu Beach resort. This acreage is to remain a part of the Baruch Foundation's research facility, and it will protect a critical nesting ground for turtles and shorebirds.

John Sawhill: "Our society will be defined not only by what we create, but also by what we refuse to destroy."

BAD NEWS

Coastal development and damaging weather patterns present serious obstacles to the survival of the endangered Loggerhead Turtle. Some of the reasons these inspiring creatures are vanishing from our coasts are: turtle habitat is being destroyed from the impact of overbuilding on SC beaches and from serious erosion of dunes where they build nests, and because lights from beachfront development can fatally confuse hatchlings. The number of nests on SC beaches dropped from 2,575 in 2003 to 747 in 2004.

Habitat loss is also contributing to a disturbing population shrinkage in 47% of SC's migrating songbirds. 53 species, including purple martins, ruby-throated hummingbirds, whip-poor-wills, painted buntings, warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers and thrushes are declining in numbers. These migratory birds are highly sensitive to highways, power lines, and other sprawl that subdivides and fragments habitats; and without adequate habitat their populations will continue to diminish.

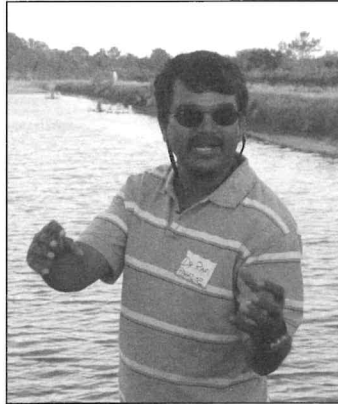
After years of study, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy concluded that America's oceans and coastal environments are in peril due to decades of damage from pollution, over-development, erosion and over-fishing. It found that a drastic loss of wetlands (one million acres along SC's coastline) is causing shoreline erosion, saltwater intrusion into aquifers, water quality degradation, flooding and loss of wildlife habitat. The Administration's response to "re-study" all but 40 of 212 recommendations downplays the urgency of the situation. Ominously, the Administration also ignored the Commission's funding recommendation (that \$4 Million be collected annually from offshore oil and gas drilling royalties), and there was no endorsement or proposal for any legislative initiatives.

People are moving into SC at an increasing rate. Projections are that SC's population will increase 25 percent (by 1 million people) between 2000 and 2015, and half of this increase will be in SC's coastal counties. Sprawl in Charleston County alone is predicted to grow from 70 square miles in 1970 to 680 square miles by 2030. Futurists predict that open spaces, rural land and wildlife habitats will be overtaken by housing, roads, strip malls and parking lots – unless more land can be set aside.

Marian

2004 YEAR-END EVENTS A SUCCESS

In September the Land Trust hosted the Edisto Chamber After Hours event at the Paradise Shrimp Farm on Highway 174, and more than 95 Chamber members attended. Cooked shrimp with all the "fixins" were provided by Paradise Shrimp Farms and Southern Affairs Catering (BoBo and Pam Lee), and other refreshments were provided by Walter Construction Company and King's Market. Attendees enjoyed a tour of the farm and watched the shrimp harvesting. Quite a number of wading and shorebirds crashed the party and ate their share of shrimp from the ponds as well.



Shrimp Farm Tour

In October the EIOLT held the first of a series of community seminars on "How to Preserve our Land and Resources." Members of the Edisto community, including real estate, legal, appraisal and accounting professionals attended to learn more about the process and financial incentives for donating conservation easements and property to a land trust. A second seminar in this series will be held on February 28 at the ACE Basin Interpretive Center – "The Benefits of Conservation Easements" – and the public is invited to attend this free seminar.



In November, the Land Trust's annual Oyster Roast and Members Meeting was held at Alex Crawford's Russell Creek home. More than 200 EIOLT members enjoyed the Lowcountry cuisine and live music and helped celebrate a very successful year for the Land Trust. The Oyster Roast was sponsored by Enterprise Bank of SC, H.M. Northcutt Corporation, and Edisto Sales and Rentals Realty. Music was provided by the SeaGals band.

NOTICE TO EIOLT MEMBERS

If you would like to receive the ACE Basin Project newsletter, please notify the office of Dean Harrigal at the SC Department of Natural Resources:

2005 EVENTS

A BUSY AND FUN YEAR AHEAD!

February 28:
Conservation Options for Landowners
workshop
(see enclosed)

April 3:
Oyster Roast and Annual Members Meeting
at Middleton Plantation

May:
Legacy Live Oak Dedication*

June:
Community education event*

July:
Shrimp Fundraiser*

October/November:
"Mystery Fun Raiser"*

Edisto Pride "Neighborhood Clean
Sweeps"*

* Dates to be announced

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH AWARDS A-TAX FUNDS TO CONTINUE HIGHWAY 174 BEAUTIFICATION

The Town of Edisto Beach has again awarded Accommodations-Tax funding to the Land Trust for their "Highway 174 Litter and Beautification Program." For a number of years the Land Trust has utilized these A-Tax funds to hire a contractor to keep Highway 174 roadsides litter-free. Support for this beautification program is also provided by Fairfield Resort's Architectural

SCENIC GATEWAY PROPERTY FUND DONORS

Thanks to the generous support of our members we were successful in reaching our matching pledge goal for the Scenic Gateway Property Fund – to help pay off the Sand Creek Property Loan.

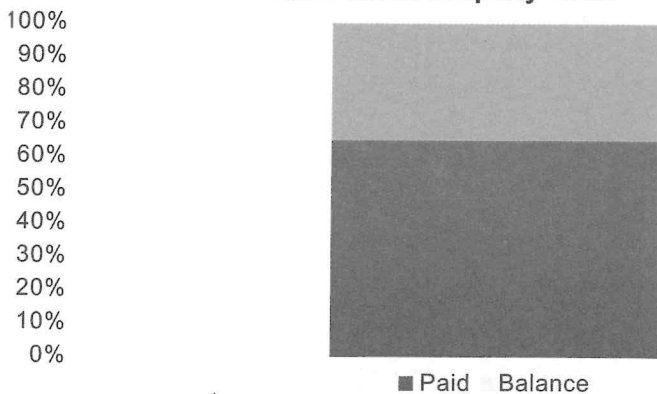
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Sand Creek Property Loan



This graph shows that 2/3 (66%) of the loan balance on the Sand Creek Property was paid off in 2004. With only 1/3 of the loan amount remaining, contributions to the EIOLT Property Fund would be appreciated! The goal is to pay off this loan as quickly as possible, so that future funds can be devoted to saving more land on Edisto . . . before time runs out.

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST TO TAKE LEAD ROLE IN COMMUNITY'S "EDISTO PRIDE"

Edisto Pride, a non-profit organization funded by a State grant, was founded more than a year ago to promote litter prevention and litter removal on Edisto Island. The mission is accomplished by educating the community and by conducting neighborhood litter pick-up campaigns. Bill Barutio, Edisto Pride Director, is relocating; and the future responsibility for running the organization will be shared by four Edisto Pride partners:

1. Edisto Island Open Land Trust will serve as Director for Edisto Pride, responsible for obtaining grant funding and acting as spokesperson for the organization.
2. Edisto Island Community Association will serve as Grassroots Coordinator, responsible for organizing the neighborhood clean-up campaigns.
3. Town of Edisto Beach will manage the funds and the financial records.
4. Edisto Pride Board will provide the vision and goals and assist the other partners in implementation of the goals.

NEW BOARD MEMBER ELECTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS LAND TRUST MOVES INTO ITS SECOND DECADE



Dr. Richard C. (Duke) Hagerty has joined the EIOLT Board of Trustees. Duke has been a lifelong resident of Charleston, and he has an active medical practice there. He and his family – wife, Barbara, and children Richard, Jr., Gervais, Curry, and Hart – also enjoy their country house on Edisto Island. Duke has been an active proponent of green space preservation for many years and has placed a

conservation easement on some of his land on Edisto. He has served on Charleston City Council and on a number of local and national boards, including the Spoleto Festival Board. As the Land Trust begins its second decade and eleventh year of work to preserve Edisto's open spaces, Duke's talents and experience will be a considerable asset to the Land Trust and to this community.

EIOLT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS TO EIHPs MEMBERS

Marian Brailsford was the featured speaker at the January Edisto Island Historic Preservation Society's Annual Members Meeting. She noted that the Edisto Island Open Land Trust and the EIHPs share an important objective – to protect the quality of life on Edisto. Where their missions diverge is that the Historic Preservation Society is committed to preserving Edisto's past and the Land Trust is committed

to preserving Edisto's future. Marian spoke about the disturbing demographic predictions for Charleston and surrounding areas and the studies forecasting a development explosion in the SC Lowcountry. She expressed hope that the two organizations would continue to work in close partnership to help preserve the historic and natural treasures of Edisto Island.

AWARD FOR SCORE PROJECT RECEIVED



In the Spring of 2002 a SCORE (SC Oyster Restoration & Enhancement) project was established on Edisto Island, thanks to the persistent efforts of Jenks Mikell, then President of Edisto Island Open Land Trust. At the recent International Conference on Shellfish Restoration, Marian Brailsford accepted the Coastal America Partnership Award for outstanding results in habitat restoration, on behalf of the Land Trust and other Edisto community volunteers who have participated in the SCORE project. On an on-going basis, FRESpace volunteers have partnered with DNR personnel to bag recycled oyster shells and construct and monitor several reefs on Big Bay Creek. Oysters enhance our lives in so many ways – not only are they delicious, but they also improve creek water quality by filtering out impurities and help prevent creek bank erosion. Congratulations to all the volunteers who have contributed to this Edisto success!

EIOLT RECEIVES TWO-YEAR MATCHING GRANT FROM THE DONNELLEY FOUNDATION

The Edisto Island Open Land Trust has received a two-year grant of \$40,000 from the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation to support its land protection, public education and general operations – \$20,000 each

memberships. The Donnelley Foundation's partnership with the Land Trust over the last few years has enabled EIOlT to develop its strategic plan for land protection, to develop board and staff effectiveness, to grow its

PALMETTO

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