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Open Land Trust  
EDISTO ISLAND



# IT'S IN THE MAIL

## 2012 Events Schedule

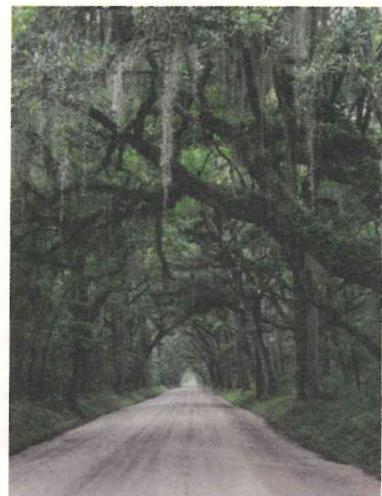
### Back to Nature Excursion Series:

In 2012 we will introduce a new format for the Back to Nature event. A series of nature excursions will be held throughout the year as opposed to just one weekend. Details are being finalized and will be announced soon.

gacy Live Oak Dedication Ceremony- Sunday, May 20

mato Open- Friday, June 22: pre-tournament cocktail party and live auction,  
Saturday, June 23: tournament play

Oyster Roast and Annual Members Meeting-  
Sunday, November 11



## HELP US GO GREEN!!

If you would like to receive future editions of Tidal Tales electronically, please send us an email message at [eolt@bellsouth.net](mailto:eolt@bellsouth.net). We do not share your email address with other organizations.



TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT LANDS, SCENIC VISTAS, HERITAGE, AND CONSERVATION RESOURCES OF EDISTO ISLAND.

# Tidal Tales

## CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP FOR EDISTO ISLAND

**F**all might be the best time to experience Edisto's natural beauty. The tourists have largely concluded their summer sojourns and cool weather is ideal for enjoying the varied outdoor activities available on the island. The Board of Directors and staff get to enjoy the outdoors as we conduct yearly monitoring visits to protected lands and host our last event of the year, the Annual Oyster Roast and Members meeting.

As the year draws to a close and we begin planning for 2012, we remain mindful of our mission and commitment to preserve the lands, scenic vistas, heritage and conservation resources of this unique island. To that end, we continue to work with numer-

Edisto landowners who are interested in preserving forever the pristine qualities of their land. Edisto has not been immune to the widespread and fundamental changes in the economy, and our challenge in the future will be to find creative solutions that will en-

able landowners to achieve their visions of conserving their lands for future generations.

Our recent events were very successful from a fund raising standpoint, and also allowed us to spread our reach in the community. The sixth Back to Nature Celebration and Legacy Live Oak Dedication, as well as the annual Tomato Open Golf Tournament, were held in the spring. Attendance at the November 20 Oyster Roast was the highest in the event's history, reinforcing that it is a wonderful opportunity for those that love Edisto and support EIOLT to join together in a yearly celebration of the island and our shared values.

The Board and staff are also actively involved in a comprehensive long-range planning initiative. The mission, goals and priorities of the land trust will be evaluated and a course will be charted for the EIOLT's continued growth and success in the years to come.

My message to you is that Edisto's community based land trust remains vibrant and cused. Now in its eighteenth year, the n that inspired the creation of a local land t focused solely on preserving Edisto's nat lands remains relevant, if not vital. The land's natural beauty and proximity to n by population centers mean that its conse tion resources will continue to be threate and there is much work yet to be done.

None of what EIOLT has accomplished the past, or will achieve in the future, wo be possible without the loyal support of members and corporate sponsors. On beh the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your past support and we look forward partnering with you in the future as we c tinue our collective efforts to preserve w makes Edisto so special. ■

— George Kimberly, Executive Director

## EIOLT Volunteer of the Year - Donna Walker

Any organization would count itself fortunate to have a volunteer like EIOLT's Volunteer of the Year, Donna Walker. Last year Donna worked at every EIOLT event. She registered participants during the Back to Nature Celebration, sold raffle and hole-in-one tickets at the Tomato Open Golf Tournament and sold t-shirts at the annual Oyster Roast. And Donna hasn't stopped! She has also volunteered at all three events this year.

Although Donna and her late husband Henry (known to many as "Roy") were city dwellers for many years, rural and unspoiled natural settings suit her best. Donna and Henry maintained a vacation home on Edisto for many years and moved here permanently seven years ago. Donna says that she and Henry fell in love with the "peace, tranquility and beauty" of the island. The sense of community on Edisto is also very important to Donna, exemplified by the outpouring of support she and Henry received during his protracted illness.

Though Donna is officially retired from her career as a registered nurse, she is as active as ever. Donna works at the Edisto Island Historical Society Museum, is a founding member of the Egrets Investment Club and belongs to the Edisto Island Book Club. She has also volunteered at Botany Bay and the Colleton County Animal Shelter.



# EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

## MISSION

To preserve and  
protect lands, scenic vistas, heritage,  
and conservation resources of Edisto  
Island for future generations.

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# Land Protection - Policy Update

Governmental policies related to land conservation have a profound impact on EIOLT's land protection efforts. Greenbelt grant funding used for the purchase of conservation easements and federal income tax laws are just two examples of key policies that have enabled numerous landowners to achieve their conservation goals.

The Charleston County Greenbelt Program has provided grant funding for the purchase of numerous conservation easements on Edisto. Greenbelt funds are raised through a half cent sales tax increase enacted in 2005. Approximately 76% of the funds available for the life of the rural program have been appropriated, and 15 million dollars remains available for approved projects.



The Greenbelt Program's funding of conservation easement acquisitions has proven to be a cost effective way to preserve more land than could be protected by outright purchases. Interested landowners should act now to take advantage of this program. EIOLT will partner with landowners and prepare a grant application for approved projects. If you are interested in learning more, please contact EIOLT to discuss the grant application process.

In December 2010, Congress extended for one year the enhanced tax incentives related to donations of conservation easements. These enhanced incentives are set to expire at the end of 2011 unless Congress takes action this year. The tax code currently allows a tax deduction for qualified conservation easement donations up to 50% of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income. Any unused portion of the deduction can be carried over for an additional 15 years. Qualified farmers may deduct 100% of their income. If the enhanced incentives are not renewed, the allowed deduction will be limited to 30% of adjusted gross income with five years of carry over.



The Land Trust Alliance, a national association of land trusts and other conservation groups, estimates that the enhanced tax incentives have been instrumental in the protection of millions of acres nationwide since their initial passage in 2006. There is strong bipartisan support in Congress for making the enhanced incentives permanent. A bill currently pending in the House of Representatives has more co-sponsors than any other piece of pending tax legislation. The ongoing debate surrounding economic policy and the upcoming elections make passage of the legislation less than certain.

The impact of these policies on Edisto's conservation initiatives has been significant and their future is uncertain. We can each get involved by encouraging both conservation-minded landowners to act now and our elected officials to support these important measures.

## A Letter from Lex Crawford, President of the Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

EIOLT had its largest Annual Oyster Roast and Members Meeting on November 20th with around 400 in attendance. In these bad economic times this is a true show of resolve by our members and friends. We all have at least one thing in common, the love of our beautiful island. It is very comforting to me that so many support our mission to preserve and protect the island's scenic vistas, heritage, and conservation of resources of Edisto Island for future generations.

As my term as President of the Board of Trustees comes to a close, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve. I feel good about the long-term prospects of Edisto Island and the fact

# John Martin - His Passion for Wooden Boats and the Lowcountry

John Martin is an historian, skilled wood worker, and "backyard" engineer. His combined skills and passion have made him an award winning boat builder. He is also a proud son of the Lowcountry who believes in giving back.

John spends his days building and restoring wooden boats at his workshop in Cottageville. Like many artisans, his work is as much about keeping a tradition alive, in this case traditional boat building techniques, as it is about producing some of the most beautiful watercraft you will ever see. An affable man with a distinctive twinkle in his eye, John lights up when he talks about his work. When you meet John you can expect a firm handshake from a craftsman who works with his hands and is accustomed to sealing a deal the old fashioned way.

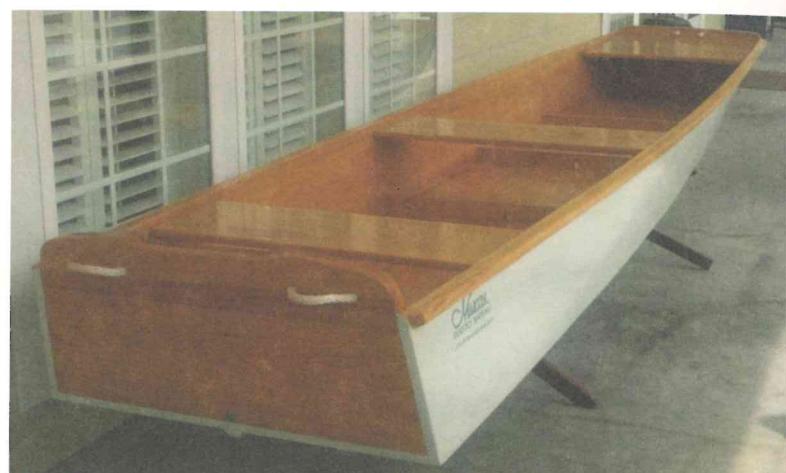
It was our good fortune to have crossed paths with John Martin early this year. John believes that the craft of wooden boat building, much like the natural lands and heritage of Edisto, is threatened and could easily be lost for future generations. John wanted to promote both causes and agreed to build a boat and donate it to EIOLT for auction at The Tomato Open Cocktail Party. The tangible result of our partnership was a beautiful handmade boat. The most significant outcomes, however, were a celebration of traditional craftsmanship and John's generous gift in support of EIOLT.

John began the project by researching boat designs unique to the Lowcountry. Most coastal areas have their own distinctive boating heritage and the Lowcountry is no exception. He wanted to build a boat that would represent the maritime history of the Lowcountry and would also serve as a functional vessel for its new owner. Although John's boats are beautiful heirlooms that will last for generations, he will tell you that his boats are meant to be used.

John settled on a design common to the Lowcountry in the mid - nineteenth century, the Charleston Bateau. The Bateau is a flat bottomed skiff designed to be poled or rowed along tidal creeks and marshes. The Bateau was first and foremost a work boat used to transport agricultural implements and products, but the functional design quickly gained favor with hunters and fishermen.

John decided to make a slight modification to the original Bateau design to make it more versatile in today's world. He added a reinforced transom to accommodate a small outboard motor, while retaining the light weight and maneuverability of the original design. John dubbed his new creation the Edisto Bateau.

In keeping with his eye for historic detail, John wanted to construct the boat with traditional techniques and materials common to the Lowcountry in the 1800s. He approached the Branton family, owners of Ashley River Lumbar Company in Ridgeville. As luck would have it, the Brantons had a stash of old growth cypress just waiting for a project like this one. After learning more about what John was up to, the Branton family offered to give John the materials needed to build the Bateau.



The Edisto Bateau ready for auction

After countless hours of research and work, the Edisto Bateau was born. John carefully ferried the vessel from Cottageville to Edisto for the unveiling at the auction on June 24.

When you first lay eyes on the Edisto Bateau, some will be captivated by the grain and color of the wood, its natural finish and the vessel's sleek low profile. Others will immediately imagine the Bateau filled with hunters, dogs and decoys; or picture themselves atop the foredeck with a cast net in hand. Boating aficionados will tell you that boats are beautiful things in their own way, and what makes them aesthetically appealing is inherently related to function. All the images that first come to mind are understandable. After all, John Martin builds boats that are beautiful and meant to be used.

If you are interested in learning more about John and his work you can visit his website, [www.johnmartinboats.com](http://www.johnmartinboats.com). John's work has been featured at numerous boat shows and he recently received a first place award at the prestigious Georgetown Wooden Boat Show.

We are happy to report that the Edisto Bateau has a permanent home on the island. It was purchased at the auction by a couple that resides on Edisto and are long-time EIOLT supporters.



Katherine and John Martin enjoying a beautiful day at the Annual Oyster Roast at Sand Creek Farm

at Sand Creek Farm

**Santa Says,  
"Do Your Christmas  
Shopping With Us !!!"**



To simplify your gift giving, EIOLT is offering special rates on Gift Memberships for your family and friends.

Single Gift \$50     2 Gifts for \$80     3 Gifts for \$100

Each gift recipient will receive a Christmas or Holiday card. If your gift recipients are not already EIOLT members, they will receive full membership benefits year-round including a subscription to the *Tidal Tales* newsletter, email updates, discounted admission to events and more.

You may send your check in the enclosed remittance envelope or call the office and charge your gift memberships by phone (843-869-9004).

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## Additions to the Board and Staff

### Louis D. Heyward, Sr. joins EIOLT Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce that Louis D. Heyward, Sr. has joined the EIOLT Board of Directors.

Louis has been employed by the SC Department of Natural Resources for the past 23 years, and currently serves as SC DNR's Education Coordinator. He routinely interacts with students and teachers across the state and conducts professional development programs for teachers and others interested in environmental education. Louis oversees SC DNR's education programs for the ACE Basin, including Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area and the Edisto Environmental Learning Center.

Louis has a strong commitment to using effective education and community outreach to preserve Edisto's conservation resources.

### Melinda Hester- Office Manager

Melinda Hester has joined the EIOLT staff as the new Office Manager after Ida Tipton's retirement last year. Ida was a valued member of the EIOLT team and served in numerous roles during her ten year tenure. Louis' background matches well with her new position. A long-time Edisto resident, Melinda was the Executive Director of the Edisto Commerce prior to beginning her service as a missionary to Haiti in 2004. During her six years in Haiti, Melinda served as Field Director Medical Ministries and then as Clinic Administrator of the Medical Clinic of Christianville. Melinda returned to Edisto, always "home" to her, and resumed her enthusiastic involvement in the community and the volunteer work she enjoys. Melinda is excited to be involved in protecting the land and waterways of Edisto.



EIOLT C Manager Melinda Hester stops to take a break at the 2011 Oyster Roast.

# 2011 EVENTS IN REVIEW



*Back to Nature birding excursion.*

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2011 EVENT CORPORATE SPONSORS:

### Back to Nature Weekend

Piggly Wiggly Carolina Company  
The Huffines Company, LLC  
Dockside Restaurant  
Youmans Gas & Oil Co. Inc.

### Tomato Open

Piggly Wiggly Carolina Company  
The Huffines Company, LLC  
Edisto Real Estate Company  
Youmans Gas & Oil Co. Inc.  
Stokes Honda North

### Oyster Roast and Annual Members Meeting

The Huffines Company, LLC

EIOLT's 2011 events schedule began with the 6th Annual Back to Nature Weekend. Friday, May 13 EIOLT sponsored educational programs in the local Edisto schools. The sessions were organized by EIOLT member and easement donor, Carroll Belser. Carroll was assisted by Clemson University Professor Dr. Merle Shepard and EIOLT Board Member I Heyward. The theme of this year's school programs was "Insects Common to Edisto".

On Saturday, May 14, naturalist-led nature excursions open to the public were conducted on preserved lands throughout the island. Outings included birding, butterfly walks, nature hikes, shrimp boat tours, fishing seminars and a kayak trip to Interlude Beach.

EIOLT also jointly sponsored an oyster bed restoration project with SCDNR. Approximately 20 volunteers worked to restore oyster beds in Big Bay Creek near the Live Oak boat landing. The restored beds not only provide valuable habitat for the oysters, they also prevent stream bank erosion. Volunteers filled mesh bags with oyster shells from area SCDNR collection sites and travelled by boat to selected locations in the creek to re-construct the oyster beds.

On Sunday, May 15, the Annual Legacy Live Oak Dedication and Conservation Celebration ceremony was held at Indigo Farms. To date, EIOLT has planted 116 live oak trees purchased in honor and memory of loved ones. Dr. Patrick McMillan, professor of Botany at Clemson University and host of SCETV's popular "Expeditions" series, delivered an inspiring keynote address. Dr. McMillan's remarks included interesting facts about the biodiversity of the ACE Basin that rivals the Amazon rainforest. Dr. McMillan emphasized the important role that Edisto's natural habitat plays in supporting plant and animal species unique to the ACE Basin.



*Dr. Patrick McMillan gives the keynote address at the Legacy Live Oak dedication ceremony.*

The 4th Annual Tomato Open Golf Tournament took place on June 24-25. This year's festivities began with a pre-tournament cocktail party and live auction at the Plantation Course at Edisto. Over 100 people attended this new addition to the Tomato Open event. Auction items included a beautiful handcrafted boat built and donated by master builder John Martin of Cottageville, as well as golf and fishing trips, artwork and jewelry donated by local merchants and artisans.



*The bidding begins at the Tomato Open Live Auction.*

Sixty golfers comprising 15 teams competed in tournament play on Saturday, May 15 at the Plantation Course at Edisto. The winning team in the "A" flight was defending champion, "Hackin' Dogs". "B" flight winners were the EIOLT sponsored team, "The Green-Keepers".



*2011 Tomato Open "A" Flight winners, the "Hackin' Dogs".*



Nearly 400 members and supporters attended The Annual Oyster Roast and Members Meeting held on November 20, the highest attendance in the event's history. The Oyster Roast has become a much anticipated fall tradition on the island. The event was held at Sand Creek Farm, an EIOLT protected property, and was hosted by owners Anne and Lex Crawford. Jamie Westendorff and The Charleston Oyster Machine catered the outing and musical entertainment was provided by local favorite Edisto Gumbo Band.



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Sand Mattress