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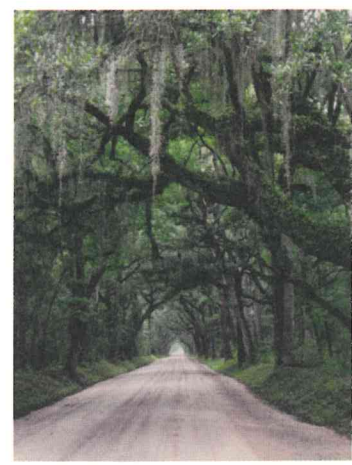
# IT'S IN THE MAIL

## Upcoming Events

**2 Tomato Open:** Friday, June 22 - Cocktail Party  
Live Auction; Saturday, June 23 - tournament play

**Annual Oyster Roast and Members Meeting:** Mark  
calendars now for this special fall event scheduled  
Sunday, November 11 at 3 PM at Sand Creek Farm.  
Tickets are \$25.00 for EIOLT members and \$40.00 for  
non-members and may be purchased by contacting  
EIOLT. The 2011 Oyster Roast was attended by over  
1,000 people, the largest crowd in the event's history.

**Back to Nature Excursion Series:** The series will  
begin in the fall. Visit our website, www.edisto.org,  
or contact EIOLT for details.



## HELP US GO GREEN!!

*If you would like to receive future editions of Tidal Tales electronically, please send us an email message at eioilt@bellsouth.net. We do not share your email address with other organizations.*



**EDISTO ISLAND**  
Open Land Trust

# Tidal Tales

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

## A MESSAGE FROM CHUCK CALLAHAN, PRESIDENT, EIOLT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Charles E. "Chuck" Callahan was installed as the President of the EIOLT Board of Directors on January 1, 2012.*

I became a member of the Board of Directors in 2006. I have served in a number of roles including Treasurer, and on the Development, Finance and Executive Committees. Since 2006, I have witnessed the remarkable growth of the organization, both in terms of its membership and organizational structure. Our membership is very strong and has steadfastly supported our work, even during the uncertain economic times of the past few years. EIOLT has protected 42 properties on Edisto and working in collaboration with other conservation groups, more than 16,000 acres have been preserved on the island. EIOLT was among the first land trusts to be nationally accredited, and today is one of only four accredited land trusts in South Carolina. EIOLT has grown to become a

key figure in conservation efforts in the Lowcountry.

I am enthusiastic about the future of the organization and the conservation movement on Edisto. Over the past few months, the Board and staff have been engaged in a comprehensive strategic planning initiative. The culmination of these efforts is a new five-year strategic plan that identifies key priorities in the areas of land protection, outreach and education, membership development and funding for long-term stewardship of protected lands. We have recently welcomed four new Board members who add expertise in the areas of marketing, wildlife biology, forestry and business management. Two of the newly added Board members are owners of conserved properties and will add the valuable perspective of landowner partners.

Although the strategic priorities and long-range goals of EIOLT will evolve over time, EIOLT's core mission will not

change. Our work will continue to focus on protecting the lands, scenic vistas, heritage and conservation resources of Edisto for future generations.

I look forward to serving in my new role as Board President and hope to have the opportunity to connect personally with many of you over the course of my term. On behalf of the Board and staff, we thank you for your support of EIOLT and Edisto. ■



*EIOLT Board President, Chuck Callahan*

## EIOLT Welcomes New Board Members

EIOLT is pleased to announce that Larry Nunnery, Meg Hoyle, Randy Snow and Roy Smoak were elected to the Board of Directors in February, 2012.

Larry Nunnery and his wife, Eilene, are Edisto residents and long-time supporters of EIOLT. Larry has extensive business management and marketing experience. Meg Hoyle is a certified wildlife biologist, Executive Director of Learning Through Loggheads and owner of Botany Bay Ecotours. Meg has assisted with EIOLT's annual monitoring visits to protected lands and her knowledge of the island and its natural environment is extensive. Randy Snow is a dedicated conservationist and recently purchased an EIOLT conserved property. Randy brings valuable business and finance expertise to the Board and he has a strong interest in preserving Edisto's natural landscape. Roy Smoak is an Edisto native with vast knowledge of the island and its residents. Roy and his wife, Beth, are EIOLT assessment leaders and operate Little Britton Tree



# EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

## MISSION

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles E. "Chuck" Callahan  
President

Robert E. Lee, Jr.  
Vice President

Fisher C. Walter, Jr.  
Secretary

Mark T. Crawford  
Treasurer

Alex S. Crawford, Jr.  
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Larry F. Nunnery, Jr.

Willard L. "Roy" Smoak

Charles R. "Randy" Snow

Sue H. Thornton

Ellen E. Unger

## STAFF

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Executive Director

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Office Manager

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## Expanded Back to Nature Excursion Series - More Outings and More of Edisto

The popular Back to Nature event has been expanded in 2012 to a series of nature excursions to be held throughout the year. In the past, the Back to Nature event took place on a single weekend in May. The new format is designed to allow participants to enjoy more outings and experience Edisto in all its seasons.

The revised Back to Nature Excursion Series has already proven to be very popular. The first installments, "Winter Bird Watching" and "Early Spring Bird Watching", took place on February 11 and March 10, respectively. Both outings quickly filled to capacity. Excursion leaders, Dr. Sid Gauthreaux and Carroll Belser, guided the tours on conserved lands and over 45 different species of birds were identified by the groups during each of the outings.

On March 24 a seminar on "Blue Bird Box Building" was held at historic Sunnyside Plantation. Carroll Belser led the group with a discussion about the rapidly declining habitat for the Eastern Blue Bird. Materials for constructing nesting boxes were provided and attendees then constructed their own boxes.



Blue bird nesting boxes under construction

Captain Jimmy Bell led his acclaimed "Shrimp Boat Adventures" on April 21. Each of the boat tours were filled to capacity when they departed from the Edisto Marina. Captain Jimmy demonstrated traditional shrimping techniques while exploring the remote backwaters of Edisto.



Winter bird watching on Edisto



Capt. Jimmy Bell's shrimp boat tour ready for departure



A kayak view of Store Creek



EIOLT Board member, Meg Hoyle, led "A Kayak Tour of Protected Properties Along Store Creek" on May 12. EIOLT has partnered with several landowners to preserve significant portions of Peters Point Plantation, Sunnyside Plantation and Governor's Bluff Plantation, all with extensive frontage on Store Creek. Fifteen kayakers began their journey at Peters Point Plantation, stopped for a picnic lunch at Sunnyside Plantation, and then enjoyed a streamside tour of the Governor's Bluff property. Painted buntings, bottlenose dolphin and marsh wrens were all spotted before the trip concluded near the Serpentarium.

Corporate sponsors for the 2012 Back to Nature Excursion Series are The Huffines Company, LLC and Piggy Wiggly Carolina Company.

## Senator Campsen and Representative Scott Visit Edisto

On March 13 State Senator Chip Campsen and U.S. Representative Tim Scott visited the ACE Basin and Edisto as part of a tour of newly drawn legislative districts. The pair will now represent Edisto and traveled the region by boat, making frequent stops to conduct “Town Hall” meetings with area residents and local leaders. After a meeting at the Edisto Marina, Sen. Campsen and Rep. Scott’s Chief of Staff Joe McKeown, made a special visit to Sand Creek Farm. Sand Creek Farm is an EIOLT conserved property and is a compelling example of how the cooperative efforts of conservation organizations like the Nature Conservancy, EIOLT, the Charleston County Greenbelt Program and the South Carolina Conservation Bank have resulted in the protection of significant habitat on the island.

Sen. Campsen’s interest in conservation is rooted in his lifelong love of the outdoors. He has worked in support of the South Carolina Conservation Bank and other important policy initiatives. Rep. Scott was a member of the Charleston County Council before being elected to Congress and participated in reviewing numerous Greenbelt funding requests for conservation projects. Both leaders were interested to hear from EIOLT representatives and other conservation leaders about important policy objectives that affect land conservation in the Lowcountry, including federal and state tax laws and the availability of grant funding for the purchase of conservation easements.

Approximately 40 EIOLT supporters and representatives from area conservation partner organizations attended the event. In addition to EIOLT Board members and staff, representatives from SCDNR, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Lowcountry Open Land Trust were also in attendance.



Sen. Chip Campsen visits Sand Creek Farm

## EIOLT to Host First Conservation Exchange

Providing opportunities for young people to connect with the natural world and learn about conservation will help to prepare the next generation of conservation leaders. EIOLT is pleased to announce an exciting new program for teenagers, the Conservation Exchange, that will begin this summer.

EIOLT has partnered with Lake Forest Open Lands, a land trust located in Lake Forest, Illinois, to bring a group of young people to Edisto from June 23-25 to participate in activities and service projects designed to teach them about conservation in a rural, sea island environment. In the summer of 2013, EIOLT will sponsor an exchange of young people from our area to travel to Lake Forest to learn about conservation in a suburban setting.

Activities planned for this summer’s exchange include presentations on Edisto history, birding excursions, service projects at Botany Bay Wildlife Refuge and on EIOLT conserved properties, a kayaking adventure and a boat tour of the ACE Basin. A group of local teenagers will also participate in the exchange this year.

The concept of the Conservation Exchange Program grew from a meeting of conservation organizations hosted by the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation. The Foundation has been a stalwart supporter of conservation in the Lowcountry and the Midwest. The Foundation’s support and leadership have helped shape the landscape of conservation in both regions and have advanced the growth and success of many organizations, including EIOLT.

EIOLT is beginning to raise funds now to support the Conservation Exchange Program next summer and for years to come. You can make a special donation toward this significant new effort by contributing to EIOLT’s “Outreach and Education Fund”.

## 5th Annual Tomato Open Golf Tournament and Live Auction

The 2012 Tomato Open Golf Tournament will be held at the Plantation Course at Edisto, June 22-23. The event will begin with a pre-tournament cocktail party and live auction on Friday, June 22 at 7 PM in the Club Room at the Plantation Course. Tournament play will be held the following morning. Both events are open to the public and you do not have to be registered in the golf tournament to attend the cocktail party. Space is limited, however, and advance reservations are required.

The Tomato Open, named in recognition of Edisto’s tomato growing heritage, is one of Edisto’s most popular annual events. Golfers will compete in four-person teams in a “Shamble” format. Couples and individual players are welcome and will be paired with others to form a team.

Two time defending champions in the “A Flight”, the “Hackin Dogs”, will attempt to defend their title, as will the 2011 “B Flight” winner of the EIOLT sponsored “The Green Keepers”. Hole-in-one prizes will include a new boat provided by Hall Marine and a lease on a new house provided by Stokes Honda North. Other on course contests will include the “Piggly Wiggly Challenge” in which golfers can compete for a special prize on one of the par 3 holes.

Last year’s inaugural pre-tournament cocktail party and auction was attended by more than 100 people. Cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres will again be served and auction items will include a trip to Acapulco, a handmade boat crafted by award-winning builder John Martin, a Charleston harbor yacht cruise for eight, fishing and hunting trips, and more.

Admission to the cocktail party and auction is \$20.00 per person. Entry for the golf tournament is \$125.00 per person or \$500.00 per team.



2011 Tomato Open participant