



P.O. Box 1
Edisto Island, SC 29438
info@edisto.org
edisto.org

EDISTO ISLAND
OPEN LAND TRUST

IT'S IN THE MAIL

SAVE THESE DATES

Book to Nature Birding Trek	May 11
Book to Nature Botany Bay Walk	May 18
Jacoby Live Oak Dedication	May 19
Edisto Open Cocktail Party & Auction	June 21
Edisto Open Golf Tournament	June 22
Annual Meeting & Oyster Roast	November 3

Check edisto.org often for event updates!



Guess what !!! Edisto Island Open Land Trust is now on Facebook!

Great News !!!

EIOLT is proud to announce the launch of our new website.

It has a fresh look, with much more information available. Conservation news, upcoming events, program facts and membership information can all be found there.

edisto.org

EDISTO ISLAND
OPEN LAND TRUST

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

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, John Girault. John joins us after spending the past four years as the Executive Director of the Mount Pleasant Land Conservancy, where he was able to help preserve eleven properties totaling over 220 acres, consisting of a mix of urban and rural green spaces. John grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he discovered his love of the outdoors during his first camping trips in the North Carolina mountains. He brings extensive experience in the land conservation arena with a degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, followed by several years working with the US Forest Service in Vermont and Tennessee. John also acquired in-depth knowledge of non-profit management during his time with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra where he served as the Marketing and Development Director from 2001-2006. Additionally, his five years as the Activity Director at Kiawah Island Resort broadened his special event skills that he plans to utilize here at EIOILT to help build upon the success of each of our upcoming events in 2013. John says, "I am thrilled to join the culture of conservation on Edisto with all our members and supporters who have proven their commitment to preserving the island's resources, history and natural beauty." Edisto Island Open Land Trust is excited to introduce our new Executive Director, John Girault, and we invite you to stop by our office any time to meet him.



Great News! Land Conservation Continues

With the difficult economic times and legislative uncertainty throughout 2012, EIOILT and two land owner partners succeeded in conserving two additional properties on Edisto, Ashe Point Farm and the Pine Landing Road/Charleston County Park and Recreation Project. Both of these conservation easements were made possible through our partnership with the Charleston County Greenbelt Program.

ASHE POINT FARM

The Graves Family placed a conservation easement with EIOILT on their one hundred and twenty four (124) acre farm located on Sand Creek and Russell Creek Drive. The Graves family agreed to restrict development to two tracts with four residences on this parcel, which is zoned AG-10. The property contains 84 acres of uplands maritime forest, which provides habitat for a diverse array of migratory and resident birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The salt marsh acreage along Sand Creek and the wooded area both offer a much needed environment for the plant and animal species located there, and extend an existing wildlife habitat corridor. The preservation of a beautiful 124-acre tract has been achieved thanks to the generosity of the Graves family and the hard work of EIOILT. Thank you to all EIOILT members whose support enables our efforts to preserve and protect lands on Edisto to continue.



PINE LANDING ROAD/CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION PROJECT



In partnership with the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) and Charleston County, EIOILT acquired a ten (10) acre parcel of land situated off Pine Landing Road. The tract is located within a five hundred and thirty four-acre parcel previously acquired by the CCPRC as a public, nature-based park for passive recreational use. Our ultimate goal was to protect and preserve the property with a conservation easement while enabling the acreage to form a contiguous part of the nature-based park. EIOILT, working with CCPRC, placed a conservation easement on the 10 acres and will immediately transfer ownership of the parcel to CCPRC, fulfilling the common goal of the partners, which is a 544-acre nature-based park with walking trails, observation blinds, boardwalks, restrooms and other facilities.

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

Mission

to preserve and protect lands, scenic vistas, heritage and conservation resources of Edisto Island for future generations, including education and outreach.

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A SPONSOR MEMBER OF THE

EIOLT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

FOREVER IS A LONG TIME!

Conserving land by acquiring real estate or by completing a new Conservation Easement with a landowner is only the beginning of Edisto Island Open Land Trust's work. Beyond the initial protection of conserved land, EIOLT is committed to ensuring the permanent protection of all lands entrusted in our care. To this end, we have a strong stewardship program designed to protect the conservation values of our lands for the benefit of future generations. Our stewardship program is a year-round program implemented by staff and volunteers to monitor, confirm, document and ensure that the protections described in the conservation easements we hold are upheld forever.

The Stewardship Program guarantees the conservation values of protected properties are preserved and that conserved properties stay protected through:

- Strong relationships and communication with landowners
- Attentive monitoring of protected properties
- Meticulous documentation of changes to properties using photographs and Geographic Information Systems
- Tracking changes in ownership
- Easement education to new landowners
- Review and approval of requests for permitted activities
- Ongoing maintenance of property records
- Serving as a resource for landowners regarding property management issues
- Correcting violations through voluntary compliance or, if necessary, legal proceedings

To fund the costs of our stewardship obligations, obligations which last forever, we've established a Stewardship Fund. Our goal is to build this fund to a sufficient size that over time we will be able to generate investment income to cover annual stewardship and monitoring expenses. We also recognize that future generations may not hold the same conservation values as our current landowner partners. We therefore have another obligation to build our legal defense capabilities to defend conservation values through litigation if voluntary means fail.

Landowners have been the primary source of the donations used to build the fund, but it is also supplemented by gifts from members including memorial gifts, gifts designated for stewardship and planned or estate gifts. Please consider making a part of your donation to this critical fund.



Although EIOLT is a steward of the easement, the landowner continues to be the steward of the land, responsible for the day-to-day management of the property. We're always happy to advise landowners on aspects of property management or refer them to experts in a specific area. Ultimately, the landowner is responsible for the decisions regarding the property and its use within the scope of the easement.

Protecting Habitat: Why More is Better

When it comes to habitat protection, one always hears that “bigger is better,” but there are sound ecological foundations for protecting large parcels of habitat. The concept of habitat fragmentation, the presence of area-sensitive species, and the field of landscape ecology all come into play when justifying protection of large parcels of habitat.

Habitat Fragmentation

Habitat fragmentation occurs when large parcels of habitat are broken up into small patches through road and rail construction, housing, and commercial developments, and farming. When a large parcel of deciduous woodland is subdivided into smaller patches, the proportion of edge around the smaller woodland parcels increases dramatically. Although edge represents a transition in habitat (e.g., woodland to field) and such transitions may increase the diversity of birds occurring along the edge, the woodland bird species may be negatively impacted because of increased brood parasitism from Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). This grassland-pasture-barnyard species does not build its own nest but lays eggs in the nest of other species, and as contiguous forests are fragmented, woodland species of birds are exposed to cowbird nest parasitism in increasing numbers. More cowbird young are raised at the expense of the young of host species and eventually woodland species numbers decline and some may disappear from the area.

Area-Sensitive Species

An area-sensitive species requires a large parcel of habitat for successful breeding, foraging, and roosting. Raptors and owls require sufficient food to nest successfully and forage over large areas. When habitat parcels fall below the minimum size needed for these combined activities, individuals of such species can no longer occupy the habitat parcel. Habitat fragmentation is a major factor negatively impacting area-sensitive species, and it is largely responsible for the reduction of species diversity in a given type of habitat. Although the acreage of deciduous forest may be equal on two different properties, if the forest is contiguous on one property and greatly fragmented on the other, the property with the non-fragmented forest will have more forest-dwelling area-sensitive species. The same is true for grassland habitats. Small patches of grassland will contain fewer grassland species than large expanses of grassland.

Landscape Ecology

In traditional ecology, one typically studies the factors at work within a habitat parcel of interest, but in the field of landscape ecology, the influences of landscape factors occurring outside the habitat parcel of interest are studied. The smaller the size of the habitat parcel, the greater the impact from factors external to it. For example, small patches of deciduous woodland adjacent to new housing development will certainly suffer from disturbance and the introduction of predators such as stray cats. However, if the deciduous woodland adjacent to a new development is large and extensive, the impact from predators will be limited to a few hundred feet near the boundary of the woodland.

When the South Carolina Heritage Trust Program began in 1976, some of the land protection projects tried to protect a rare plant species in someone’s backyard. Soon it became obvious that the Trust should concentrate on protecting large areas of different habitat types that contain a host of endangered, threatened, and rare species as well as species of concern. Today the citizens of South Carolina are the beneficiaries of the “bigger is better” land protection philosophy, and now local land trusts like the Edisto Island Open Land Trust are following suit.

Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.

Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences, Clemson University
Chair, Development Committee, Edisto Island Open Land Trust



EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

This year promises to showcase many of EIOLT's protected properties during our upcoming events. The "Back to Nature Excursion Series" expansion from a one day event to a year-long sequence of birding walks, a kayak trip, shrimp boat tours, and a bluebird box building class proved to be very successful. Feedback from the participants showed this format is more desirable, with a variety of dates and topics from which to choose. We will kick off this season with a bird walk on May 11, conducted by Dr. Sid Gauthreaux, EIOLT Board member and professor emeritus of ornithology from Clemson University. That event will be followed by a Botany Bay Nature Walk with Dr. Richard Porcher on May 18.

The 2012 Tomato Open Golf Tournament and Pre-Tournament Cocktail Party with a live and silent auction was once again a resounding success. We fielded our largest group of golfers ever, with 88 participants. They enjoyed a day of dazzling sunshine, complete with breakfast, lunch, and an after-tournament awards ceremony. The previous evening, the Club Room at Wyndham was filled to capacity with anxious bidders at the auction. Delicious hors d'oeuvres were served by Southern Affairs Catering and the bidding was spirited. Items included a handmade wooden Edisto pirogue by well-known boat builder John Martin, golf packages, fine artwork, mountain trips and much more. This year's event is scheduled for June 21 and 22. We will once again have the cocktail party and auction on Friday evening, followed by the golf tournament on Saturday morning. The Cocktail Party & Auction tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Golf fees are \$150 per person or \$600 per team. Included in team fees is admission to the Friday evening event and breakfast, lunch and on-course refreshments on Saturday. Space is limited for both days' events, and reservations are required.

Bragging rights are definitely ours when it comes to Lowcountry oysters. The 2012 Annual Meeting and Oyster Roast showed once again that the best oysters come from right here. A crowd of over 300 enjoyed the fine fare, provided by the Jamie Westendorff and the Charleston Oyster Machine. We were entertained by our own local band, Edisto Gumbo, while we watched the sun set over Sand Creek. Held at Sand Creek Farm, one of our protected properties, the EIOLT Oyster Roast lived up to its reputation as one of the premiere events of the fall season. November 3 is the date for this year's event, so make sure you mark your calendars now!

Barton	Dickie & Hazel Matheny	Tom & Lynn Morgan	In Memory of Thomas W. Hodge	In Memory of Martha W. Wood	John C. & Alma P. Paty	In Memory of Dorothy Hay Thornton
H. Belser	In Memory of Ashleigh Cutler	Vance & Elizabeth Morris	Schock Family	Dr. & Mrs. Richard C. Hagerly	P. R. Paty	Dr. Sid Gauthreaux & Carroll Belser
	Second Wind of Edisto, LLC	Ann C. Platt	In Memory of Alice Hutson	In Memory of Evelyn Moorer	Robert M. Paty	Barbara G. Holmes
	In Memory of Lynda Corbett Dabbs	John & Sally Sitek	Harry Hutson	Jim & Betsy Young	In Memory of John H. Peurifoy	Mr. & Mrs. R. Walter Hundley
	William A. Dabbs, Jr.	Patsy Sturkey	In Honor of Steven & Pam Jacobs	In Memory of Lillie "Sis" Moredock	Dr. & Mrs. Riddick Ackerman, III	Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
Annett	In Memory of Thelma DeLoach	Harriet Tewkesbury	Raymond & Susan Clark	Teresa Arnold	In Honor of Larry & Dianna Preston	Tom & Nancy Sandel
enny	Terry & Rebecca DeLoach	William & Julian Voigt	In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. John Johnston	Susan B. Berkowitz	Steve & Andrea Lainhart/Lykins Foundation	William B. & Sandra H. Thornton
Bennett	Michelle Maurice	In Memory of Harold L. Grogan	Eddie & Mimi Wernitz	Meilinda Fuller	In Honor of Dr. Jack Rheney	In Honor of Ja Tipton
Edgar	Louise F. Sheehan	Richard & Ann Burnette	In Memory of Frances Winthrop Johnstone	Harry Palmer & Sue Berkowitz	Charlie & Betsy Anderson	Jim & Marian Brailsford
ly Taylor	In Memory of Allen Street Dossert	Susan Garrison	Frances Johnstone Lantz	Larry & Tana Vanderbilt	In Memory of Betty M. Richardson	In Memory of Wallace Trowell
enny	Rick & Cindy Shepard	George & Karen Kimberly	In Memory of Ann Luckey King	In Memory of Sis & Buddy Meredock	Deas M. Richardson	Any U. Trowell
ey	In Honor of Robert & Suzanne Frierson	In Memory of Joseph C. Grogan, Sr.	Bob King	Anonymous	In Honor of Janet Roberts	In Memory of Julie Scruggs Underwood
nelon	Julia Frierson	Richard & Ann Burnette	In Memory of Beverly Glover Lane	In Memory of Robert F. Morris	Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor	Harold & Kay Scruggs
Jr.	In Memory of Scott & Michael Fripp	Susan Garrison	Dr. Sid Gauthreaux & Carroll Belser	Kirby S. Tupper, III	In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Ross	In Honor of Bubba & Ellen Unger
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C. Bost	In Memory of Leon Garber	In Memory of Elizabeth Hane	Frances Johnstone Lantz	Peggy Fender & Family	In Honor of Don & Suzanne Seabrook	In Memory of Oma van Hastracht
ie C. Bost	Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.	Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor	In Memory of Owen Lee	In Honor of Karen Nickless	Steve & Andrea Lainhart/Lykins Foundation	Judge & Mrs. Doyet A. Early, III
1	In Honor of John Girault	In Honor of Paul & Barbara Hardy	Anonymous	National Trust for Historic Preservation	In Memory of Max Douglas Sherill	In Memory of Betty Cocke/Will Wichman
well	Rainmaker Solutions	Cynthia J. Schuster	In Honor of Becky Lock	In Honor of Larry & Elene Nunery	OFFAL Lunch Group	Henry A. Wichman
ie C. Bost	In Memory of Wesley Glick	In Memory of William T. Hayne	Steve & Andrea Lainhart/Lykins Foundation	Wells Fargo - Howard D. Edwards, Jr.	In Memory of Dorothy Clements Smith	In Memory of Carol Brooks Willis
ahan	Larry & Elene Nunery	Eddie & Mimi Wernitz	In Honor of William & Mary Logan	In Memory of Larry E. Nunery, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.	Richard & Ann Burnette
ie Unger	In Memory of Nancy Courtney Godbold	In Memory of David B. Herndon	Mary Logan Foard	Larry & Elene Nunery	In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ron Smith	Susan Garrison
/ Cofer	Nancy Anne Benton	Island Cove Property Owners Association	In Honor of Fred & Virginia Lovelace	In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mack Ourtz	Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor	George & Karen Kimberly
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er Crawford	Edisto Bookstore	Mr. & Mrs. R. Walter Hundley	In Memory of Arthur C. McPherson, Sr.	In Memory of Wallace B. Patrick	Tom Stallworth, Jr.	Henry & Virginia Woodhead
nder Marshall	M. Davis & Sons, Inc.	In Memory of David P. Hewitt	Betty W. McPherson	Roy & Ginger McLaurin	In Honor of Duncan & Marilyn Studlow	Jim & Marian Brailsford
	Friends at M & T Bank	Hewitt Family	In Honor of Ann Mikell	In Honor of Waj. C. Patterson & US Military	Steve & Andrea Lainhart/Lykins Foundation	
			Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor	Eddie & Sue Wooten		

WHAT DO WE DO?

Edisto Island Open Land Trust is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting with direct land transactions – primarily the purchase or acceptance of donations of land or conservation easements. EIOLT works cooperatively with landowners to protect and conserve land for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic or productive value. As thousands of acres of open space are lost to development annually, the public is turning more and more frequently to land trusts, which are filling a need to protect and steward open lands in perpetuity. Today EIOLT and other conservation partners have protected in excess of 20,000 acres of land on Edisto Island.

EIOLT uses a variety of tools to help landowners safeguard their land. The most commonly used protection methods are purchasing or accepting donations of conservation easements and property. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and EIOLT that permanently restricts certain aspects of land use in order to protect the conservation values of the property. Landowners may either donate or sell a conservation easement. When a landowner places a conservation easement on his land, he maintains ownership and use of the property and can sell it or pass it on to heirs. The land is subject to certain restrictions agreed upon by the landowner and EIOLT. For example, a landowner might agree to limit development on his property to a certain number of residences. An easement may apply to all or a portion of the property, and need not require public access.

Future landowners are bound by these restrictions as well, and EIOLT is responsible for monitoring the property and upholding the terms of the easement. Conservation easements have become one of the most commonly used land conservation tools in the country. Currently, local and regional land trusts hold more than 11,600 conservation easements, protecting more than five million acres of land.

Land can be given to EIOLT as an outright donation, and can be an effective conservation strategy for one who does not wish to pass land on to heirs; owns highly appreciated property; no longer uses the land they own; wishes to reduce estate tax burdens; or are no longer willing or able to manage and care for the property. By donating land to EIOLT, an owner may realize substantial income tax and estate tax benefits while avoiding capital gains taxes that may have resulted from the sale of the property.

A landowner may want to protect his land permanently but be unable or unwilling to relinquish that property without receiving financial compensation. In this case, the landowner may choose to sell the land to EIOLT. The property may be sold at fair market value or a price below fair market value, which is referred to as a bargain sale.

These are some, but not all, of the methods in which a landowner may protect his property. Please visit our website, edisto.org, or contact our office at 843.869.9004 to discuss the ways in which EIOLT can assist you in safeguarding your land for all generations to come.



WHAT IS AN “ACCREDITED” LAND TRUST?



Edisto Island Open Land Trust received the seal of accreditation in 2009 from the Land Trust Alliance, the national organization, representing over 1,700 land trusts. Accredited land trusts meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. These land trusts demonstrate their commitment to excellence by adopting *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust, and meeting the accreditation requirements drawn from them. Currently, there are only 201 accredited land trusts in the entire nation, which places EIOLT in esteemed company.

Nonprofit organizations, including land trusts, are increasingly called on to demonstrate their accountability to the public. Accredited land trusts have voluntarily submitted their organizations to an external, independent review of their practices. As a result, accreditation provides the public with the assurance that the land trust displaying the accreditation seal meets established standards for organizational quality and permanent land conservation.

Land trusts help conserve land that is essential to our health and well-being. When land trusts agree to protect land for the benefit of f

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	Bubba & Mary Ann Foy	
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