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Join our e-mail list at www.edisto.org
Join us next year for one or both of these fantastic events!
Cocktail Party and Auction • Friday, June 20, 2014
Plantation Course at Edisto
Tomato Open Golf Tournament • Saturday, June 21, 2014



SAVE THE DATE!



Edisto Island OPEN LAND TRUST

WINTER 2013

For Land's Sake!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to share with you our newsletter with its brand new name, *For Land's Sake!* We selected Beth Smoak's submission from more than 30 creative entries. As a supporting member of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust, you will be receiving *For Land's Sake!* In the spring, summer and fall each year. Our spring edition will feature a new annual report as well as the listing of donors from the previous year.

I have spent the past eight months getting to know this Island and I have truly enjoyed every moment of the experience. We have much to celebrate as we come to the close of this year, and I hope you take pride in the role you have played in our success. Our special events continue to generate needed funds while bringing together many friends of conservation. Most recently, our annual meeting and oyster roast in November was a record breaking event with over 450 members in attendance. In June, we hosted the annual Tomato Open Golf Tournament, accompanied by the Cocktail Party and Auction. Both events were wonderfully successful and I hope you will be sure to join us next year for one or both of these.

Our land protection efforts have also seen some great accomplishments. The 124-acre Ashe Point Farm conservation easement was finalized, preserving another very significant property on Edisto. We have been approved for Charleston County Greenbelt funding to help secure the protection of another iconic property on Edisto, which we hope to announce and celebrate very soon.

As this year ends, we have begun to plan for a busy 2014. **Next year will mark our 20th Anniversary!** This special milestone is significant and we are planning some exciting programs and exclusive invitations for our supporters. As a member of EIOILT, your contribution has allowed us to achieve many conservation projects over the years, and I sincerely hope you know how important you have been in the amazing feat of helping preserve over 50% of this island that we all cherish!

Thank you,
John Girault

EDISTO'S LEGACY

The Edisto Island Open Land Trust has remained dedicated to preserving this island's natural character for nearly 20 years. Our goals to protect even more acres will be accompanied by the extremely important responsibility of stewarding these conservation achievements indefinitely. We would be so grateful if you would consider a special commitment to EIOILT through a gift of stock or by remembering us in your will or estate planning. As you will read on page 3, Liz Smylie has made a decision that is one of the most generous and thoughtful that we have ever received. What Liz has done is inspirational and genuinely indicative of the culture of conservation so many of us have embraced through our connections to Edisto Island. If you are also interested in finding out more about planned giving options, please contact John Girault at our office at 843-869-9004 or at john@edisto.org

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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ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST A HUGE SUCCESS!

We are so sorry if you missed it this year! The weather was nearly perfect, the location at Sunny Side Plantation was truly magnificent, the food and music were outstanding and our members made the day the greatest success to date. Perhaps we should call this the Annual Reunion and Oyster Roast, since so many amazing folks who only get to see each other once or twice a year are able to reconnect at the oyster table. Thank you to everyone for sharing the day with us!



Top left to right: Larry Nunnery, Senator
Chip Campsen, Calvert Huffines

Bottom left to right: Chuck Callahan,
Sid Gauthreaux, Jenks Mikell

Photo by Jeff Dennis - LowcountryOutdoors.com



Thank You to:

Our Sponsor



Carroll Belser and Sid Gauthreaux, Event Hosts
Jamie Westendorff and the Charleston Oyster Machine
Edisto Gumbo Band

All of our wonderful volunteers



A VERY SPECIAL GIFT

As a child, I came to Edisto every summer to visit my mother. In those days Yacht Club Road was a dirt road with only two houses, my mother's and Vera & Vey Kizers'. At the end of the road was the old Yacht Club.

My mother came here as a child, so she was able to share with me the history of Edisto. We would wander up and down the dirt roads, visiting the old homes. She knew the caretakers and owners, so we could walk freely through the houses and the gardens.

It was all fascinating and meaningful to me.

Twenty nine years ago, I bought six acres of heavily wooded property on Oyster Factory Road. I remember the old oyster factory at the end of the road, where the ladies would shuck oysters faster than the eye could see. I would walk close up beside one of the ladies and my reward was a fresh oyster dropped into my mouth!

My property was allotted to Billy Seabrook as a freed slave in 1875. That makes me the second family to own this land and that is of special significance to me because I feel I have a piece of old Edisto. There are old house sites, bottle dumps and even an old still located around the property. In 1949, Ben Wright, Billy Seabrook's grandson, built the house I now live in.

As I watched Edisto grow, I was distressed that this beautiful island was being cleared and so many houses were being built. I guess it was to be expected, as Edisto is so special. But it saddened me. Because of the love I have for my land, I feel a strong need to protect it from both an historical aspect and a conservation perspective.

So I have chosen to leave my 6 acres to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. I love this island and I will know when I am gone that these few acres will always remain relatively close to what it was like when Billy Seabrook lived here.

EIOLT will be the steward of my land when I die. If a time comes that the EIOLT wants to sell my land, the conservation easement that will be placed on it at my death will be in place forever and ever. The purpose of the easement is to "protect the property in its natural, scenic, and open space condition and to allow uses compatible with the conservation of the protected property."

Fifty percent of Edisto Island is now preserved. My 6 acres sounds small, but if more people would protect their small pieces of Edisto, what a difference it would make in preserving Edisto as a rural, natural and unique island.

- Liz Smylie, landowner and land lover

Pictured above are John Girault, Executive Director, and Liz Smylie

Please find enclosed a return envelope if you would like to make an additional tax deductible year end contribution.

