



Edisto Island OPEN LAND TRUST

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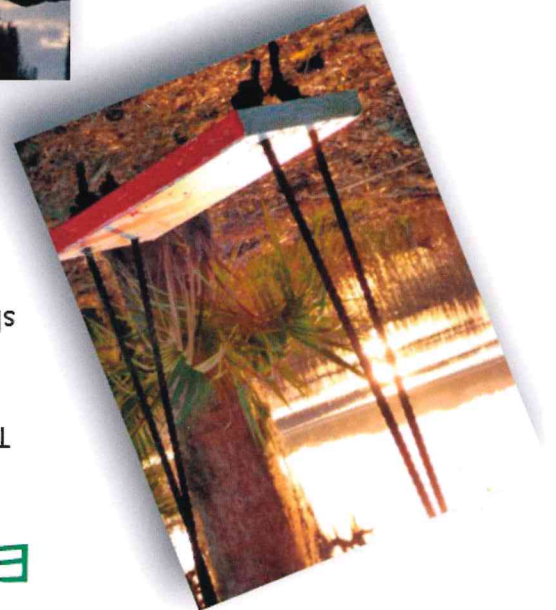
Post Office Box 1
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843-869-9004
www.edisto.org



These stunning photos by Cindi Thomas were taken during a Back to Nature Photo Workshop conducted by Pam Brooks. Visit her website, pamelabrooksphoto.com.

Edisto Captured





Edisto Island OPEN LAND TRUST

For Land's Sake!

Local Students Really "Dig" It Outdoors

"It's a segmented worm!" exclaim three excited second graders. The students dutifully answer their teacher's question about whether the worm has a backbone or not ("No backbone!"), then carefully carry it around to show the rest of their classmates. After everyone has seen the worm, it is released back into the moist, dark soil that had been agitated by the removal of invasive English ivy. The class wonders how many more worms live in the soil, then decides that they shouldn't try to dig the worms up to be counted, as that might upset them. Worms like to be underground.

A discovery like this is made every time Jane Edwards Elementary students visit the Outdoor Classroom, one wooded acre owned by the land trust, located within walking distance of the school. Half of the property is an ephemeral wetland, one of nature's best teaching tools. When students cleared the short nature trail in October, there was no water in the woods. Mouths fell open and spouted questions in January. How deep is it? Why is it wet? How long will the water stay there? Answers will be found this spring, as we observe the wetland's small swimming inhabitants and make note of water levels.

Jane Edwards School was quick to embrace the idea of taking mini-field trips to the Outdoor Classroom. Edisto United, a local youth enrichment program, has stepped up to provide teaching supplies, making it easy for classes to get outside and learn about forests and wetlands. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust sees the Outdoor Classroom as an integral part of our Education and Outreach programs, through which we hope to inspire a love of nature and an understanding of conservation in island

residents. Your support has enabled us to provide these opportunities for our Island children, and we thank you for it. If you would like to contribute to raising a new generation of conservationists, you may designate part or all of your donation to the Education and Outreach fund. Help us to continue to let these kids really "dig" it outdoors!



We Did It Again !!!

Edisto Island Open Land Trust is pleased to announce we have been awarded the coveted honor of re-accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the national Land Trust Alliance. This "official seal of approval" by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission signifies that EIOLT "meets national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever." We first gained accreditation in 2009, and being re-accredited ensures that we continue to meet high standards for excellence.

EIOLT President, Robert E. "BoBo" Lee, Jr., stated, "All of this makes us especially proud! We are thrilled by this achievement that could not have been accomplished without the continued hard work of our staff and through the efforts of our Board of Directors. It is extremely important for us to be recognized by the public as operating in an ethical, legal and technically sound manner."



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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OPEN LAND TRUST**
Post Office Box 1
547 Highway 174, Suite 7G
Edisto Island, SC 29438

Phone: (843) 869-9004
Fax: (843) 869-7820
info@edisto.org
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A Note from the Executive Director

As we experience all the wonderful changes that spring brings, I am very excited to share some important personal news with you! While the leaves and flowers are bursting forth and wildlife is becoming ever more active, many of us are anxiously commencing a bevy of outdoor projects and activities. I am thrilled to tell you that this spring I am witnessing these changes and starting my own projects from my new home on Edisto Island. After commuting from Charleston for the past two years, my wife, Anne, and I have moved to the Island full time and we are so happy to be surrounded by all the natural beauty Edisto has to offer.

I am sharing this with you this because as one of the land trust's supporters, you have played an important role in helping to preserve Edisto and the abundance of wildlife habitat and scenic grandeur that makes this island so attractive. Like so many others who call Edisto "home", whether they live here full time, dream of retiring here, or just visit as often as they can, I, too, am hooked! Thank you for saving Edisto and ensuring that it remains a natural destination for so many to enjoy.

I would also like for you to know that the land trust is as strong as ever! In an effort to provide you with a better understanding of our annual financial picture, we are sharing a summary of our 2014 financial report with you on page 7 of this newsletter. And, as you will see below, we are thrilled to add the resources of a new staff member and board member who are both committed to helping us achieve even greater success. Thank you again for all you do!

John Girault

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

Executive Director

John Kirven

John Kirven grew up in Pinewood, South Carolina and prior to retiring to Edisto in 2008, he worked as a systems analyst and head manager at a paper company. John has been VP and CIO of two global companies, and has been responsible for everything from information technology to managing computer driven business processes. He holds an MBA from Georgia Southern University. John and his wife, Sallie searched for the perfect retirement location and settled on Edisto Island. They have three wonderful sons and five delightful grandchildren. The whole family enjoys the Edisto lifestyle, and John is looking forward to giving back to the community. John will be joining our membership committee.



Abi Locatis Prochaska

Edisto Island native Abi Locatis Prochaska joins our team as Land Protection Specialist. She will be carrying out the details of our stewardship program, coordinating education and outreach programs and continuing to work on online communications. Abi holds a degree in Environmental Policy from Warren Wilson College. After college, Abi worked as an environmental educator at a land trust in the Hudson Valley in New York State. Abi and her husband, Bard, are very happy to be back in the warm south and close to family. When not at the land trust, Abi can be found leading project based learning programs for Edisto United, riding her horse or exploring the creeks.



Start Your Summer in Style by Joining EIOLT at These Fantastic Events!

Legacy Live Oak Celebration

EIOLT has planted 147 majestic Legacy Live Oak Trees along Scenic Highway 174 to shade the lovely drive through our island. Each tree was donated in honor of a friend or loved one and will contribute to Edisto's beauty for many years ahead. Come celebrate these iconic oaks on Sunday, May 3, 2015, 2 PM, at Indigo Farms, 2944 Highway 174. Guest speaker Dean Harrigal of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources will dedicate the eight new oaks that were donated this year. Stay after for a reception and to enjoy the shade under the oaks on this beautiful conserved property. We welcome everyone to this fun, free event.



Cocktail Party and Auction

Our "I Love Edisto" Cocktail Party and Auction will be held at the Edisto Beach Civic Center on Friday, June 5th at 6:30PM. The evening features a delicious selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres, a fun casual atmosphere and full open bars. The silent and live auctions will include one-of-a-kind items, vacation packages, art, wine and much more. Charleston television news personality Tom Crawford will once again be our Special Guest Auctioneer. Tickets to the event are \$60 per person and include all food and beverages. The event promises to be even better than previous years, with a new venue and more auction items!



Tomato Open Golf Tournament



This year's tournament at the Plantation Course at Edisto is on Saturday, June 6th. The Tomato Open is played in the popular "Shamble" format. The entry fee is \$150 per person or \$600 per team of four golfers. Individuals and couples are welcome to register and will be paired with other golfers. The entry fee includes breakfast, lunch and on course refreshments. Teams can find the registration form online at www.edisto.org or by contacting the land trust at 843-869-9004.

Awards will be given to the flight winners. Hole in One prizes include a chance for a new car from Rizer Chevrolet, and there will be a Million Dollar shoot out, a \$5,000 Putting Contest and Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin prizes. The golf tournament will begin with registration and breakfast from 7:30 to 8:15 AM, followed by a shotgun start at 8:30 AM. An awards luncheon will follow and raffle prizes will be drawn.

A special thanks to our Title Sponsor of our Auction and Golf Tournament



For more information on any of these events, visit our website, edisto.org, or give us a call at 843-869-9004.

YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION WORK – THANK YOU! ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS IN 2014

We make every effort to ensure all entries are correct, however occasionally errors do occur. Please contact us if you feel a mistake has been made.

PALMETTO \$5,000 +

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Mrs. Karen Belser

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 Karen Nickless
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 Orlando & Louise Ojeda
 John & Susanne Nash
 Georgianna Graham & Ken Parnell
 Stan & Betty Pauls
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 Fred Peterson
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 Deas M. Richardson
 Harry E. Ricker, Jr.
 Rebecca Risher

Katherine Huger
 William Hutson
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Larry Hutto
 Robert & Edwinna Hutto
 Dennis & Annette Jewers
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 Bert Neirick
 Karen Nickless
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 John & Mary Ellen O'Leary
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 Jim & Peggy Ashley

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 Tom & Trisha Anderson
 Jim & Peggy Ashley

STUDENTS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Joe & Jean Albanese
 Tom & Trisha Anderson
 Jim & Peggy Ashley

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 Tom & Trisha Anderson
 Jim & Peggy Ashley

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 Tom & Trisha Anderson
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2014 HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of W.D. (Otis) Barclay

Henry & Beth Ohlandt

In Memory of Dianne S. Barton

Melvin D. Barton

In Memory of Jack Boineau

Jenks & Alicia Mikell

In Honor of Jeff & Jenny Brulé

Charron Brulé Caparello

In Memory of Jack Burch

Larkin & Nancy Jennings

Jim & Robin Tennyson

In Memory of Hugh Buycck, Jr.

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In Memory of Janice Diane Callahan

Chuck & Laura Callahan

In Memory of Sean Anthony Callahan

Chuck & Laura Callahan

In Memory of Bill & Ethyl Cofer

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In Memory of Ann Coward

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W.B. Kuhlke, Jr.

In Memory of Calvin DeLoach

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Louise Sheehan

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Anonymous

In Memory of Robert A. "Bob" Foster

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In Memory of Abel M. Girault

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In Memory of Ruby Hiott Henderson

Peggy Fender

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Blake & Zan Edmunds

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Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor

In Honor of Jenks Mikell

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In Honor of Wes Nalley's 50th Birthday

Bennett, Weston & Mary Ashton

In Honor of Mr & Mrs. Mack Ouzts

Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor

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In Honor of Dr. Tom A. Vestal

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In Memory of Richard Zimmerman

Mike & Jennifer Schock

Lasting Gifts

Your membership and support of the land trust are extremely appreciated. A long-term gift to the land trust shows dedication beyond words. Our ability to protect our natural assets largely depends on the foresight and generosity of today's visionaries – our supporters – who are willing to consider new ways to make gifts that will have a lasting impact on keeping Edisto Island scenic, natural and rural. If you would like to learn more about bequests in wills or gifts of stock, please contact John Girault at 843-869-9004 or john@edisto.org for more information.



CHARLESTON COUNTY GREENBELT PROGRAM and 2014 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Charleston County Greenbelt Program began in 2007 to provide, in part, grant funds for preserving green space in the County including rural lands and farms. It has been one of our greatest conservation tools. Over the course of the Greenbelt program, EIOLT worked diligently and effectively to leverage just over \$5 million that we were awarded through the program for the purchase of conservation easements on over 2,100 acres of property on Edisto Island. Nearly 3,000 acres are now protected by EIOLT, and in partnership with other agencies, over 50% of the island is protected from the threat of overdevelopment.

EIOLT was fortunate to receive a total of \$293,412 in funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt Program last year that was utilized in combination with your financial support to preserve an additional 123 acres of historic Sunny Side Plantation. It also allowed us to purchase 12.4 acres of property adjacent to our existing Legacy Live Oak Park, for future park expansion and public access to the site. These Greenbelt funds are not reflected in the financial charts below, as they flowed directly through to the individual landowners, but as you can see they have been an instrumental component in our race to preserve the natural integrity of Edisto Island.

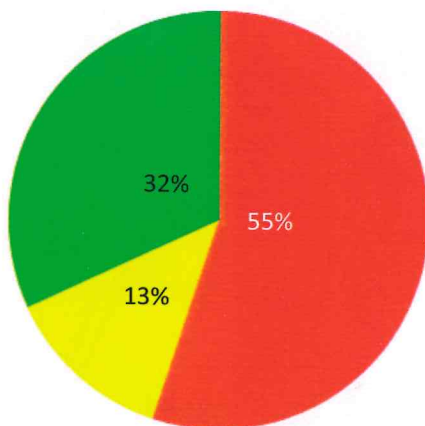
The following charts are intended to help provide some insight into EIOLT's 2014 financial management. The surplus operating revenue was used to increase our restricted Stewardship and Land Acquisition funds, to pay down a conservation loan on acquired property and to build our operational reserves. As always, please feel free to contact our office at 843-869-9004 if you have any questions or comments.

2014 Financial Report

SOURCES

\$325,323

- DONATIONS
\$179,956
- GRANTS
\$41,092
- EVENTS
\$104,275



USES

\$271,475

- CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
\$152,243
- FUNDRAISING
\$38,293
- EVENTS
\$54,100
- OPERATIONS
\$26,839

