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Preserving Edisto



For Land's Sake!

A Conservation Strategy for Edisto



For twenty-one years, EIOLT has concentrated on protecting the scenic views and grand live oaks lining the National Scenic Byway 174 Corridor, along with working farms and fragile marsh land on our beautiful sea island. This focus has successfully helped preserve the beauty and rural character of Edisto that residents and visitors love. Now, we are directing greater attention to protect the lifeblood of Edisto Island – our creeks and surrounding saltmarshes.

Edisto's creeks and saltmarshes teem with blue crabs, shrimp, flounder and mullet, all staples of local cuisine. Many island residents rely on these creeks to provide their families with a source of protein. The marshes are nurseries for fish favored by sport and commercial fishermen. Hammock islands are known as "biodiversity hotspots" and are home to plants, birds and insects that prefer these islands to any other habitat. Intact marshland prevents bank erosion and buffers homes and agricultural fields from flooding damage.

Conserving high ground adjacent to creeks and marshes is key to maintaining these healthy, vibrant community resources. EIOLT is reaching out to owners whose properties front Russell, Store and Sand Creeks, as well as those that border Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area. Our work together with these owners will prevent over development that could have a negative impact on water or wildlife, while allowing land owners to continue enjoying private use of their property. Newly protected properties will link to other protected properties, creating unbroken wildlife habitat corridors along the creeks and around Botany Bay.

A Powerful Conservation Tool

Many landowners who were previously unable to place their land under conservation easements due to financial concerns will now be able to join us in our mission. In December of 2015, Congress made permanent the **Federal Conservation Easement Tax Incentive**, which allows modest-income landowners to receive greater credit for donating a very valuable conservation easement on their property. The incentive raises the deduction the donor can take, extends the carry-forward period for them to take the tax deduction and even allows qualifying farmers to deduct up to 100% of their income! This enhanced federal tax incentive, combined with local support for conservation, will assist us in protecting Edisto's important ecological resources.

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 Note from the Executive Director

Get back to nature with us! The land trust has been fulfilling our commitment to help keep you connected, and to re-connect others to the natural history of Edisto. Our newly formed Education Outreach committee has been hard at work developing a program calendar with at least one nature based lecture or outing each month, which are typically free of charge. In addition, the committee has been helping oversee the Young Naturalist Club, an exciting after school program we have designed for our local elementary school children (see more highlights about this program on page 10).

Participation in our Back to Nature program this year has been lively. Many of you remember that we used to host a one-day event that included a multitude of guided outdoor walks and excursions. This new format spreads all those wonderful opportunities over the course of the year and allows you to participate in more than just one outing. In addition to offering attendees access to privately and rarely seen protected properties, another goal of this program has been to offer our seasonal visitors to Edisto a chance to participate. Introducing these individuals and families to the positive impact of all the conservation work that has been achieved on Edisto will help raise awareness of the land trust's continued need for support. It also helps to connect people to many of the protected natural features on the island.

So, don't miss out on these exciting activities, be sure to sign up for our e-news on our website, follow us on Facebook or check our upcoming events calendar at edisto.org. I look forward seeing you outside soon!



New Board Member Lindsey Young

We welcome Lindsey Young as the newest member of our Board of Directors. Lindsey has lived on Edisto since 1988. She has been the owner of Edisto Watersports & Tackle since 1994 and recently opened the Coffee Shop @ Edisto. She received a Master of Education Degree from Clemson University and is married to Dillard Young and they have two sons, Trey and Cal. Lindsey is a Master Naturalist who enjoys the outdoors and educating visitors and residents about the beauty surrounding us. She has joined our board because she wants to help keep Edisto as pristine as possible and to protect the plants, animals and people who call it home. If you are lucky, you will find yourself out paddling Big Bay Creek with Lindsey one day!

Back to Nature Events



Winter Bird Feeding Lecture

In January we hosted a Winter Bird Feeding lecture at the Edisto Beach State Park Interpretive Center. EIOLT board member and Ornithologist Dr. Sid Gauthreaux described how to attract specific bird species to your feeders with different types of seed. A packed house learned the basics of feeding hummingbirds and orioles during the winter.

Bluebird Nest Box Building

On a beautiful February afternoon at historic Sunny Side Plantation we had a great group come out to build their own bluebird nest boxes with local naturalist Carroll Belser. Carroll also gave a presentation about bluebird behavior and what you can do to attract them to your yard.

Plant Ecology Walk

Our March outing featured a special guest, Joel Gramling, Associate Professor of Plant Ecology and Curator of The Citadel Herbarium, for a nature walk in the Bailey Island Preserve. Joel shared his wealth of knowledge of plant identification, ecological interactions and how to read the landscape of our maritime forests and wetlands.

Nature Photography

The April workshop was for those new to nature photography, whether you use a cell phone, point and shoot or digital single lens reflex camera. The focus was on non-technical practical tips for getting good outdoor shots. Bill Johnston, a Certified Master Naturalist who works on the island as a natural resources technician for SCDNR at Botany Bay, led the workshop.

Heirs' Property Workshop

Also in April, the land trust collaborated with the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation to offer a free seminar for Edisto and surrounding area residents who live on heirs' property and want to learn about obtaining clear title to their land. In addition, information was provided about a new sustainable forestry program for African Americans.



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Lana & Anne Sims
Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.
In Memory of David Glass
Nancy Newton
In Memory of George and Gladys Gould
Gerald Haram & Barbara Gould
In Memory of Nancie Johnson Green
Marie Bost, Jerome & Jon Kizer
In Memory of Martha Gage Howell
Guess
Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor
In Memory of Ralph "Tad" Hendricks
Mr. & Mrs. R. Walter Hundley

In Memory of Jennie Lee Satterfield
Hendrix
Jim & Marian Brailsford
In Memory of David P. Hewitt
The Hewitt Family
In Honor of Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor
Janet Roberts
In Honor of Craig Hurst
Mildred S. Johnson
In Memory of Harry Hutson
Les & Gina Lesslie
Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
Clyde & Carlin Timmons
In Memory of Dr. Thomas A. Hutto
Mr. & Mrs. R. Walter Hundley
In Memory of Steve Hyatt
Marie Bost, Jerome & Jon Kizer
In Memory of Marguerite Kiper Jarvis
Rick and Cindy Shepard
In Memory of Edward Micah Jenkins, Jr.
Ellen Jenkins Harrell
In Memory of Larkin Jennings
William & Sally Abele
Asalone Family
Blease Family
Jean Burch
Sara Anne Collins

- In Memory of Larkin Jennings
John & Judith Cooter
Elliot Davis Decosimo, LLC
Jim & Martha Fayssoux
Fry Family
Andy & Harriet Goldsmith
Al & Helen Hagood
Island Cove Property Owners
J.B. Watts Co. Insurance
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McAninch Family
Mr. & Mrs. Doug McDaniel
Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
Harry & Barbara Mims
Mr. & Mrs. Ben K. Norwood, Jr.
Jim & Chris Parsons
Settimio Family
J. Hamilton Stewart, III
Carroll & Barbara Stone
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin G. Team
Harry & Jo Ussery
- In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jerrell Jernigan
Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Skidmore
- In Memory of Mary, Sarah, & Francis Johnstone
Frances Johnstone Lantz
- In Honor of Sid & Susan Joseph
Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Skidmore
- In Memory of Cdr. Edward F. Korngrens, Jr.
Marie Bost, Jerome & Jon Kizer
- In Honor of William & Mary Logan
Christopher & Mary Foard
- In Memory of Maydean Lovelady
Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor
- In Memory of David L. Lybrand
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Andrews
David & Denise Blauch
Harry & Bettis Bryant
George & Margaret Bullwinkel
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph D. Carson
Blan & Tracy Cope & Family
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Lydia Darby
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis A. Darling
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James & Chris Walsh
Cam & Elizabeth Wertz
Spence & Sara Nell Wise
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Jim & Robin Tennyson
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Grant & Sonya Goodman
John & Beulah Marvin
Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
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Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Skidmore
- In Memory of Dr. Edward E. McCollum
Mrs Jane McCollum
- In Memory of Wyman McDaniel
Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
- In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. John Mealing
Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor
- In Honor of Mrs. W.T. Mikell
Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor
- In Memory of J.B. Miller
Jean G. Miller
- In Memory of Della Moore
Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.
- In Honor of Rupert Moredock
Dan & Eve Stacey
- In Honor of Will Moredock
Dan & Eve Stacey
- In Memory of Robert F. Morris
Kirby S. Tupper, III
- In Memory of Philip E. Myers
Marilyn Myers
- In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Mack Ouzts
Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor
- In Honor of Mark & Sara June Owens
Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Skidmore
- In Memory of Louise Padgett
Robert & Beverly Sandifer
- In Honor of Sarah Parrish
Herbert Neirick
- In Honor of Liz Philpot
Anonymous
- In Memory of Reverend Clementa Pinckney
Edisto Island Preservation Alliance
- In Memory of Carla Maria van Hintum Pittelli
Michael Pittelli
- In Memory of Dr. Daniel T. Pope
John D. McLeod
- In Memory of William J. "Bill" Pritchard, VI
Jim & Denise Kempson
Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
- In Honor of Chip & Nan Pusey
Mary C. Thor
- In Memory of Cathy Ravenel
Mr. & Mrs. I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
- In Honor of Terry Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. John David Griffith
- In Memory of Dan Ritter
Grant & Sonya Goodman
- In Memory of Mrs. Sam Roberts
Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor
- In Memory of David Louis Rush
Jim & Libby Rush
- In Honor of Mike & Nancy Salas
Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Skidmore
- In Memory of Kenny Segars
Mike & Jennifer Schock
- In Honor of Harry & Margaret Shealy
Dr. Thomas Swift
- In Memory of George Simmons
Marie T. Dorn
Zan Edmunds
- In Memory of Earl & Leila Belle Skidmore
Jim & Lee Wenthe
- In Honor of Gray Snead
Mr. & Mrs. James K. Brooks
- In Memory of Bob Sternberger
Mike & Jennifer Schock
- In Memory of Edwin Belser "Ned" Swan
Anonymous
- In Memory of Betty Jean Tyson
Marie Bost, Jerome & Jon Kizer
- In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. John Johnston
- In Memory of Gladys Craven Walker
Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.
- In Memory of Roy Walker
David & Kristin Gile
- In Memory of Richard & Edith Belser Wearn
Frederick Wearn
- In Memory of Windell Wilkins
Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.
- In Honor of Dr. David Wolf
Dr. & Mrs. John Johnston
- In Memory of Stella Zbikowski
Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.

*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.*



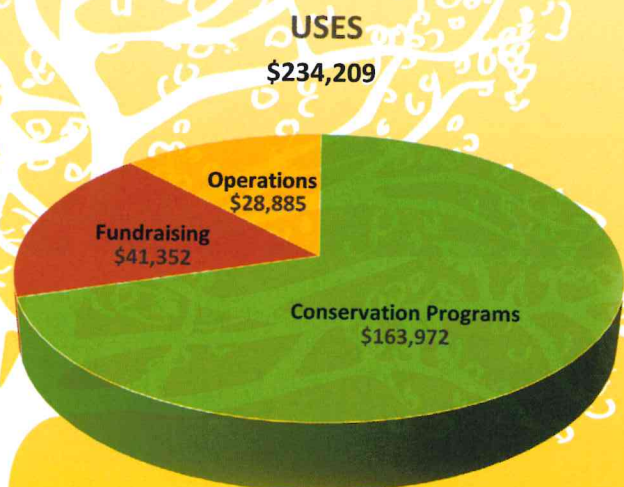
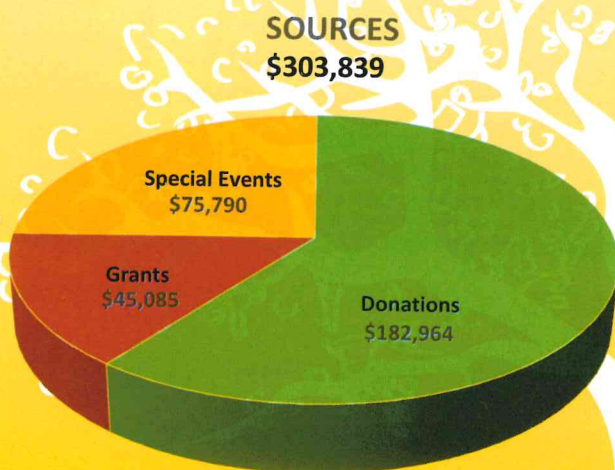
Share Our Story

We all know the many reasons we are supporters of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. It may be because we want to leave a beautiful unspoiled barrier island as it is for generations to come. It may be to provide a habitat for the many types of flora and fauna that abound. It may be to recognize that we can personally make a difference on this planet, albeit in a small way. There are almost as many reasons as we have members.

But what about our friends and neighbors who are not represented here? What can we do to “share the story”? Do they know about what is being done by EIOLT to help preserve Edisto? Do they know that we need contributions to continue to promote conservation and to monitor protected lands? Are they familiar with the many programs offered, such as the Back to Nature Series, and the Young Naturalist Program? Do they know that without financial support, we cannot fulfill our mission to help protect the vistas along Scenic Byway 174, ensure the best water quality along our beautiful stretches of marsh and meandering creeks, and preserve property surrounding historic houses and working farms that all contribute to the Edisto’s distinctive quality of life?

We are so very grateful that you know about our work and we appreciate your continued support. Let’s all work together to be sure more names are on the list. When the conversation turns to conservation, let’s be sure to recognize that it’s only through our collective efforts that we can continue this important mission.

2015 Financial Report



Young Naturalist Club Field Notes

The members of our Young Naturalist Club visited Botany Bay Plantation for their January class. Despite a cold, windy day, we made plaster casts of deer tracks and learned all about the habits of white tailed deer. Bess Kellett, volunteer coordinator for Botany Bay, graciously showed everyone her collection of skulls, bones, feathers and other finds. We even met a corn snake!

In February, the Club learned about creek creatures at the Edisto Beach State Park Interpretive Center. Ranger Ashby took us out to the dock to do a plankton tow. It was so windy we almost blew away! We brought our catch back to the classroom and studied the plankton under microscopes. Interpreter Rosa taught us about several species of local crabs. We got to shake hands with a horseshoe crab and to hold hermit crabs!

Signs of spring were everywhere when we returned to Botany Bay in March. Bluebirds and chickadees had built nests in boxes. No eggs yet, though. We saw woodpeckers pecking for insects and egrets hunting for fish. Everything was covered in pollen, even spider webs, and many trees had brand new leaves.



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

Legacy Live Oak Dedication



We have planted over 150 Legacy Live Oaks along Scenic Byway 174, all donated by supporters in honor or memory of friends and loved ones. Join us on Sunday, May 15 at 2 PM under the oaks at Indigo Farms, 2944 Highway 174, for a short ceremony dedicating recently planted Legacy Live Oaks. A reception with light refreshments will follow. We welcome everyone to this fun, free event.



Cocktail Party and Auction

The “I Love Edisto” Cocktail Party & Auction will be held on Friday, June 17 at 6:30 PM at the Edisto Beach Civic Center. 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 run the live auction as our Special Guest Auctioneer. Tickets are \$75 per guest, with a limited number of VIP tickets at \$125 per guest. Visit ww.edisto.org for ticket information.

Tomato Open Golf Tournament

The Tomato Open Golf Tournament at the Plantation Course at Edisto is on Saturday, June 18th. The Tomato Open will be played in the Captain’s Choice 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 at www.edisto.org or call the land trust office at 843-869-9004.



There will be plenty of contests and raffle prizes, including a chance to win a new car from Rizer Chevrolet by making a hole-in-one! The golf tournament begins with registration and breakfast from 7:30 to 8:15 AM, followed by an 8:30 AM start. Awards to flight winners will be presented at the luncheon following the tournament.

Special Thanks to our Title Sponsor of our Auction and Golf Tournament

