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Upcoming Back to Nature Events Brought to You by



**Greene Finney & Horton**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

Saturday, December 3, 2-4 PM – Natural Holiday Decorations Workshop

Saturday, January 7, 2-3 PM – Shorebird Identification Lecture with Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux

Saturday, February 16, 2-4 PM – Bluebird Box Making and Lecture

March, Date and Time TBD – How to Get Your Garden Started

Full event details can be found at [www.edisto.org](http://www.edisto.org)



# For Land's Sake!

## Young Naturalist Club Continues Success



*Young Naturalist Club at Edisto Beach State Park.*

The second year of the Young Naturalist Club is well underway. Thanks to immense support from members like you, thirteen students from Jane Edwards Elementary School have been exploring Edisto's natural environment through the lenses of the many people and organizations that work to conserve the island and its wildlife. The Young Naturalists have already taken on the roles of wildlife rehabilitators, sea turtle biologists, and ornithologists. Their next adventure will take them to the beach, where they will each be wildlife photographers for the day. Your generosity and dedication affords each of these students a window to their future. Today's Young Naturalists might just be the shark biologists, climate scientists, and beekeepers of tomorrow.

## Greenbelt Funding to Return

Our November elections are bringing many changes on the horizon. One of these changes is of particular interest to Charleston County landowners and everyone who wants to see land conservation balance future growth and development. The Half Cent Sales Tax passed on election day and, will be used to fund the Charleston County Greenbelt Program. As we have seen in the past, Greenbelt funds provide wonderful incentives for property owners interested in protecting their land from future development by offering compensation in exchange for relinquishing some of their development rights. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust currently holds easements on 33 properties on Edisto, 20 of which were obtained through grants from the Charleston County Greenbelt Program. This re-established funding source will open doors to properties that are crucial for protecting Edisto's lands, scenic vistas, and cultural heritage.

Conserving Edisto is not only critical to the people that call the sea island home, but it is also essential for sustaining the island's biodiversity. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources recently announced that a record number of wood storks nested in South Carolina in 2016. Once listed as an Endangered Species, the wood stork was down-listed to a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 2014. Although we can't directly link the species' success to Edisto's vast swaths of protected lands, we are thrilled to report that wood storks and other extraordinary megafauna routinely visit the island's green spaces, utilizing local resources and habitats. And with funding from the Greenbelt Program, we hope to protect more land on Edisto, expanding the very systems that support wood storks, bottlenose dolphins, red drum, and painted buntings.

# 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.

## STAFF

John Girault  
Executive Director

Melinda Hester  
Administrator

Cameron Rhodes  
Program Coordinator

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## A Note from the Executive Director

Resilience should be the word of the year for Edisto. We have not had a storm comparable to Hurricane Matthew deal such a blow to this island in many years, and our friends on Edisto Beach certainly saw the worst of the impact. In the aftermath we discovered just how resilient the people of Edisto are by watching neighbors help each other clear debris so they could access their homes, clean up their property to avoid hazards and share supplies while the power was out. This community really stepped up and supported each other during this challenging time, and that should be no surprise to any of us.

This island was certainly bent, twisted and stretched but we are truly bouncing back! Overcoming such adversity requires a group effort, which is why the land trust made the quick decision to convert our annual oyster roast fundraiser into a benefit for the recovery efforts on Edisto. With the storm damage impacting so many people on the island who do not always have the resources to repair their homes, we selected the Edisto Island Home Mission Team as the local group to receive the proceeds from another spectacular event. At the time of the mailing of this newsletter, the Home Mission Team has already helped repair at least two leaking roofs on the island and they have a growing list of homes in line for more repairs. You can find out more about this very important organization of all volunteers on the next page.

Though our mission does not include home repairs for those in need, we certainly believe in the concept of a whole community, where we can support and collaborate with our neighboring groups for the benefit of our island residents and visitors. The role we have played in the resiliency of Edisto after the storm has only been possible because of your support. We are humbled by our ever growing membership and your passion to preserve and protect this island and our rural way of life.

Wishing you great happiness during our holiday season!

## Volunteer of the Year



John Girault, EIOILT Executive Director, and Jim Wenthe

It's always difficult to single out just one of our amazing volunteers, but we were excited to announce Jim Wenthe was given the honor this year during our annual Oyster Roast in October! He has been extremely generous with his time and his dedication to beautifying Edisto, especially while pitching in to help maintain the grounds of our future Legacy Live Oak Park. Thank you Jim!

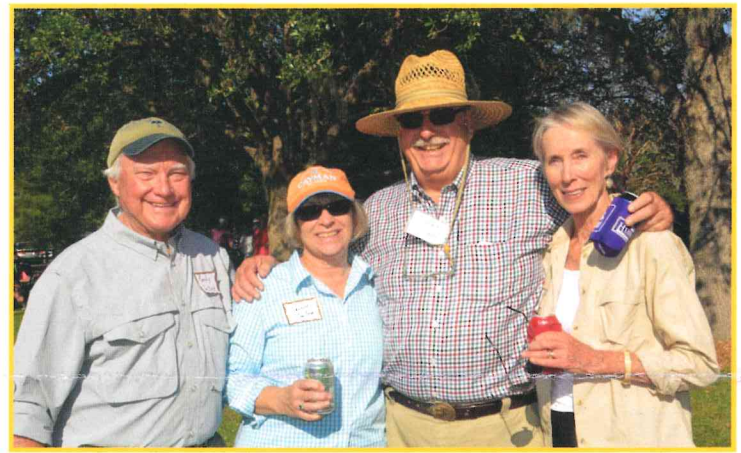
# 2016 Oyster Roast All About Halloween & Hurricane Relief

In an effort to help the island recover from Hurricane Matthew, the land trust chose to donate proceeds from this year's event to another great local organization. **The Edisto Island Home Mission Team** is a diverse ecumenical group committed to Home/Domestic Mission Work right here on Edisto Island. The Mission Team formed fifteen years ago as an attempt to provide a safe living space for our fellow residents of Edisto Island. They provide roofs that do not leak, floors that are safe to walk on, windows that can open and close, and doors that will shut. The work is done by a core local group of about 12 persons who are aided by visiting teams from churches in upstate South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Many are youth groups helping during Spring Break and in the summer. They were able to replace and repair 9 roofs in 2014 and 5 roofs in 2015, which is the greatest single need here on Edisto Island.

They have an application, review and approval process for our fellow Edisto residents to request assistance. To contact the Edisto Island Home Mission Team, send an email to [edistomissionteam@yahoo.com](mailto:edistomissionteam@yahoo.com).



*Children's Costume Contest winners: a gumball machine, a bowl of she crab soup, a DJ, and a golden cupid*



*Randy and Sharon Sallee, Jenks Mikell (EIOLT Board Member), and Alicia Mikell*



*Enjoying oysters and great weather!*



*Costume Contest winners: Mary Thomas, the Bride of Frankenstein; Lost tourists Bard and Abi Prochaska; Zachary Beck, Green Boat Discount Liquors*



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