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Friday, June 16



Saturday, June 17

We are seeking Live and Silent Auction items.

Another great way to support EIOLT!

Call or e-mail info@edisto.org if you would like to donate.

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For Land's Sake!

Another Success on Store Creek



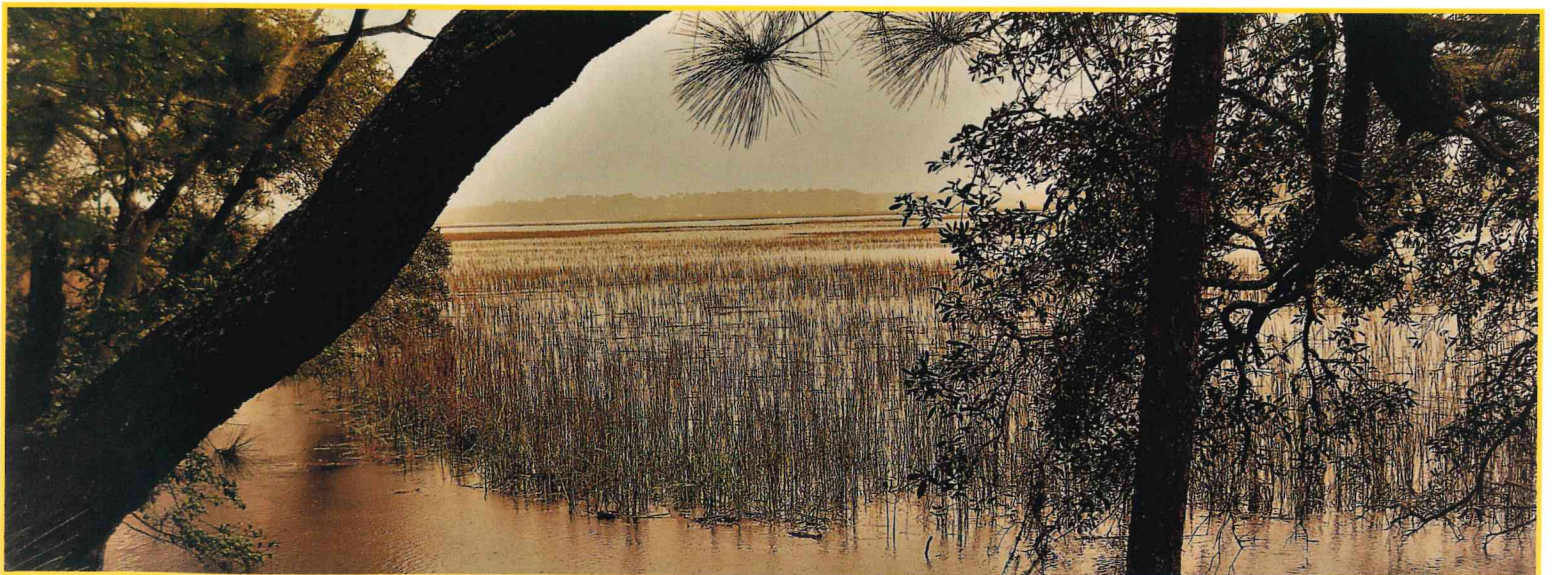
Photo by Cameron Rhodes

Becky Risher became the sole owner of her family property sitting on the banks of Store Creek, where she spent so many years enjoying the beauty of the saltmarsh and the sights and sounds of the forest teeming with wildlife. She knew immediately that it would be up to her to ensure her family's treasured piece of Edisto would be protected forever. Becky worked with the Land Trust to make this goal come true.

EIOLT takes pride in all of our conservation easements, no matter how big or small. They each add important values to the protection of Edisto's lands. But when multiple landowners in a contiguous corridor make the decision to place their properties under easement, whole ecosystems are protected for the benefit of the island's wildlife and future

generations. With this in mind, we are thrilled to highlight our newest conservation easement, generously donated by Becky Risher, on Peters Point Road.

Home to Peters Point Plantation and Sunny Side Plantation, the road now boasts eight different conservation easements held by the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. These properties individually contribute to the protection of Edisto's lands and scenic vistas. Together, as a network, they exponentially improve the conservation values of the area by allowing for critical natural processes, like the prevention of soil erosion and the filtration of runoff into the St. Pierre, Store and Fishing Creeks. The newly added Risher Easement, a ten-acre parcel of upland mixed forest that stretches from the pine stands of Peters Point Road to the salty banks of Store Creek, is just another critical piece of the puzzle. We are most grateful to Becky for her generosity and dedication to making Edisto Island a better place now and far into the future!



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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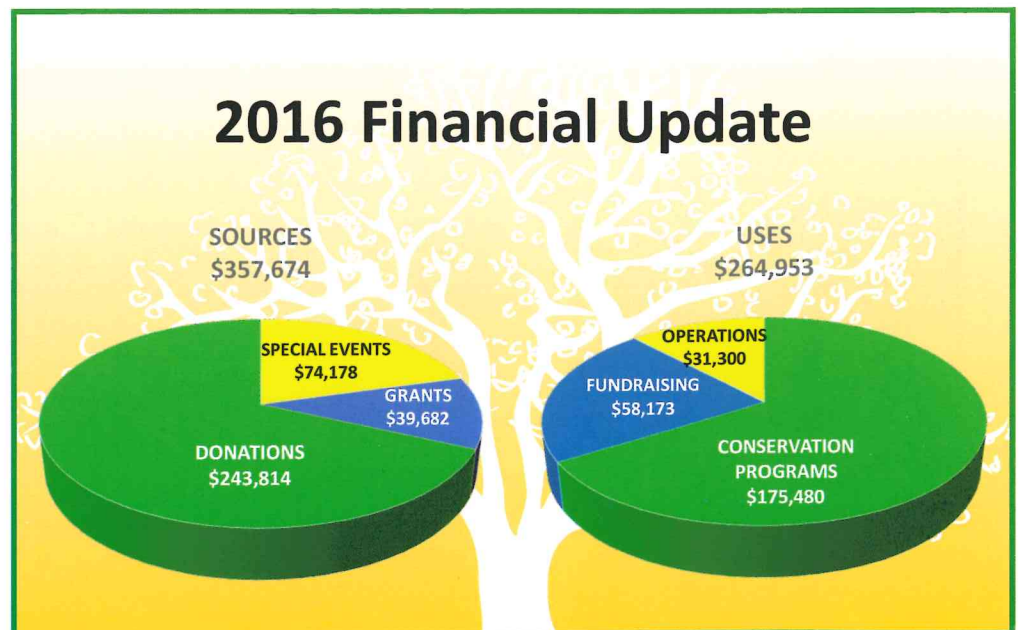
A Note from the Executive Director

We are off and running this year and it's hard to believe April is nearly over! The Land Trust board, staff and volunteers have been hard at work on several exciting land protection projects, planning and organizing our special events, and updating our 5-year strategic planning.

You helped us bring 2016 to an end with two more important parcels protected, including Becky Risher's Peters Point Road property, featured on the cover of this newsletter. As we increase our focus on water quality, it becomes clearer how vital it is to protect waterfront properties like Becky's, which include vegetative buffers to help reduce runoff into our creeks and rivers. We have always included setbacks and buffers for waterside acreage in our easements with landowners, and we now collectively have more than 55,000 feet of marsh frontage and water frontage on tracts with buffer protections. That is over 10 miles of shoreline! We have achieved this fantastic statistic with your assistance. I hope you will enjoy that number as you float on your back in your favorite swimming hole this summer.

I know our strategic planning doesn't sound very exciting, but I am going to share some of the details with you anyway, since we worked so hard on it! We want you to know how seriously we take your support of the land trust and how we organize our efforts to produce results, thanks to you. Here are a few highlights of the plan. We have established six priority areas, each with sets of tactics and objectives to be fulfilled by the staff and board. These priorities run the gambit from identifying and protecting remaining parcels with conservation value on Edisto, to developing a community approach and connection to our island's natural history and heritage. Our board committees and volunteers all play a role in helping us achieve our goals, which we review quarterly and adjust accordingly. That wasn't so bad, was it?

Let me just say thank you again for making a difference by supporting the Edisto Island Open Land Trust and providing the energy we need to continue working to maintain the momentum that just seems to keep building around our conservation work on Edisto.



Thank You, Volunteers!



Saturday, April 1 dawned bright and sunny. A light breeze kept the bugs at bay and the crystal clear azure sky complimented the bright green of the new spring leaves. Forty of our volunteers gathered at Burnie Maybank's Point of Pines Plantation to celebrate another year of hard work and commitment to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. These dedicated folks have enabled us to expand our programs, increase stewardship of protected properties and accomplish projects that would not have been possible without their assistance.

Burnie went all out in his food preparation and everyone was treated to ribs, chicken, homemade veggies and more. The afternoon was topped off with a "Thank You Volunteers!" cake and ice cream. Although it was hard to beat the fun we had with last year's game of Musical Chairs, the group played a rousing contest of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey"! With a record-setting time of 12 seconds, Jim Wenthe took the championship, along with the prize of an "Over the Hill" vest and a sombrero, which he proudly wore home.

All nonprofits rely heavily on volunteers to assist with the operations of their organizations. Without this devoted troop, the Edisto Island Open Land Trust would not have been able to achieve the level of success we all enjoy today. To all of our volunteers, thanks for giving our organization the most precious thing you will ever own – your time and talent.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with the land trust, please email info@edisto.org, call 843-869-9004 or stop by our office at 547 highway 174!



Board member Jenks Mikell welcomes members



Parking Volunteers at I Love Edisto Cocktail Party

© Cameron Rhodes



Saltmarsh Society

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Mike & Jennifer Schock

In Honor of Mark & Tucker Crawford

Alex & Sarah Marshall

In Memory of Mary Crawford

Dana & Virginia Beach

George & Patricia Bellows

Costa & Angie Chakeris

Rod & Barbara Connell

Harold, Jane & Molly Davis

Dr. & Mrs. Hugh Dubose

John & Anne Girault

Melinda Hester

Mr. & Mrs. R. Walter Hundley

Jim & Denise Kempson

Charles & Bradford Marshall

Mr. & Mrs. Antony M. Merck

Rod & Laura Moseley

Park & Margaret Smith

John Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.

In Memory of Billy & Lynda Dabbs

William Dabbs

In Honor of Bill Davies

Charlie & Mahalie Moore

In Memory of Ed Deal

Buck & Jean Griffin

In Memory of Carol Deye

Shannon Deye

In Memory of James Dossett

Rick & Cindy Shepard

In Memory of Martha Bost Drum

Jim & Denise Kempson

In Honor of Ron & Sandy Farrell

Joel & Jessica Farrell

In Honor of Suzanne Fields

Charles & Betty Watson

In Memory of Joel P. Ford

Tag Johnson

In Memory of Rev. & Mrs. David A. Fort

William A. Fort

In Honor of Kurt & Sandy Gieschen

Charles & Betty Watson

In Honor of John Girault

Dana Moorer

In Memory of Polly Gramling

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Benton, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.

In Memory of G.H. Guess, Jr.

Alison Guess Still

In Memory of David P. Hewitt

The Hewitt Family

In Honor of Margaret Hill

Ann Mikell

In Honor of Tim & Cheryl Irwin-Francis

Drs. Bill Cockett & Sharon Stafford

In Memory of Albert L. James, Jr.

Mike & Jennifer Schock

In Memory of Edward Micah Jenkins, Jr.

Ellen Jenkins Harrell

In Memory of Fred Inman

Jim & Denise Kempson

In Honor of Kathy Kenny

Charles & Betty Watson

In Honor of Sean Knapp & Michelle Wagner

Charles & Betty Watson

In Honor of Trevor & Andrea Knapp

Charles & Betty Watson

In Memory of Margie Johnson

Mike & Jennifer Schock

In Memory of Mary Johnstone Lantz

Fran Lantz

In Memory of Frances Dubose Lindsey

Jim & Marian Brailsford

In Honor of Becky Lock

Steve & Andrea Lainhart

In Memory of Luke

Joseph Owens

In Memory of David Lybrand

Jim & Marian Brailsford

Roy & Ginger McLaurin

In Honor of Alison Burch Lynch

Jim & Robin Tennyson

In Memory of Katherine Rhett Maybank

John & Anne Girault

Elliot & Terrell Harrigan

Mr. & Mrs. R. Walter Hundley

Jim & Denise Kempson

Dr. & Mrs. J.T. Richards

Don & Susan Shirley

In Honor of Cindy McGady

Charles & Betty Watson

In Memory of Burnet Maybank, Jr.

John & Anne Girault

Jim & Denise Kempson

Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.

In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. John Mealing

Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor

In Honor of Ann Mikell

Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor

In Memory of Cecile Minnick

Kena Minnick

In Memory of Keith Minnick

Kena Minnick

In Honor of Doc & Kim Moredock

Dan & Eve Stacey

In Honor of Will Moredock & Maryam Noderi

Dan & Eve Stacey

In Memory of Robert F. Morris

Kirby S. Tupper, III

In Memory of Marsha Oates

Mike & Jennifer Schock

In Honor of Mrs & Mrs. Mack Ouzts

Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor

In Memory of John H. & Paige Peurifoy

Dr. & Mrs. Riddick Ackerman, III

In Memory of George D. Phinney

John & Anne Girault

Jim & Denise Kempson

Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.

Fisher & Cindy Walter

In Memory of Betty Lou Lemacks Picquet

Trish Hellard

Wheelhouse Media

In Memory of Carla Maria Pitelli

Michael Pitelli

In Honor of Larry & Beverly Pollock

Charles & Betty Watson

In Honor of Larry & Diane Preston

Steve & Andrea Lainhart

In Honor of Janet Roberts

Margaret Hill & Betty Taylor

In Memory of Dr. Kenneth Rosefield

Tag Johnson

In Honor of Don & Suzanne Seabrook

Steve & Andrea Lainhart

In Memory of Beth Smoak

Swinton & Lynn Anderson

Anonymous

Anson Construction Co.

The Babb Family

The Chinnes Family

David & Linda Cohen

Edisto Art Guild

Dr. Sid Gauthreaux & Carroll Belser

Mr. & Mrs. William P. Gee

John & Anne Girault

Karl & Georgia Gruber

Trish Hellard

Richard Hendry

Melinda Hester

Tom Hutto & Barbara Neale

Anne H. Judy

Jim & Denise Kempson

Ginny King

Tom & Frances LaRoche

Retha & Julie Limehouse

Mr. & Mrs. Antony M. Merck

John & Eliza Messersmith

Benny & Jean Michael

Dee Moseley

Marshall & Sadie Murdaugh

Henry & Beth Ohlandt

Marcia Paulling

Paul & Julie Peeples

Ralph Peeples

Stephen & Helen Peeples

Mary Person

Ralph & Mary Pulaski

Dr. Daniel & Penny Smoak Rosner

Tommy & Nancy Sandel

Sanders Brothers Construction Co.

Alan B. Sayer

Francie Segal

Rosemary Short

Ned & Teddy Shuler

Jimmy & Peggy Sires

Patrick & Guerry Sistare

Bud & Ann Skidmore

Robert & Ann Smoak

Howard & Kaye Speaks

Stevens Towing Co.

Sarah G. Sturm

Carroll & Judy Suggs

Jim Townsend

Suzanne Tuten

Will & Dorcas Tuten

Virginia Volousky

Mr. & Mrs. H. Wayne Unger, Jr.

Buddy & Mary Wheless

Bobby & Jean Willis

Henry & Virginia Woodhead

In Honor of Stanley Steele

Victoria Steele

In Memory of Agnes Louise M. Street

Jim & Marian Brailsford

In Honor of Duke & Marilyn Sudlow

Steve & Andrea Lainhart

In Memory of Marguerite Boyd Taylor

Tag Johnson

In Honor of Jim & Robin Tennyson

Jean Burch

In Honor of Jim Wenthe

Lee Wenthe

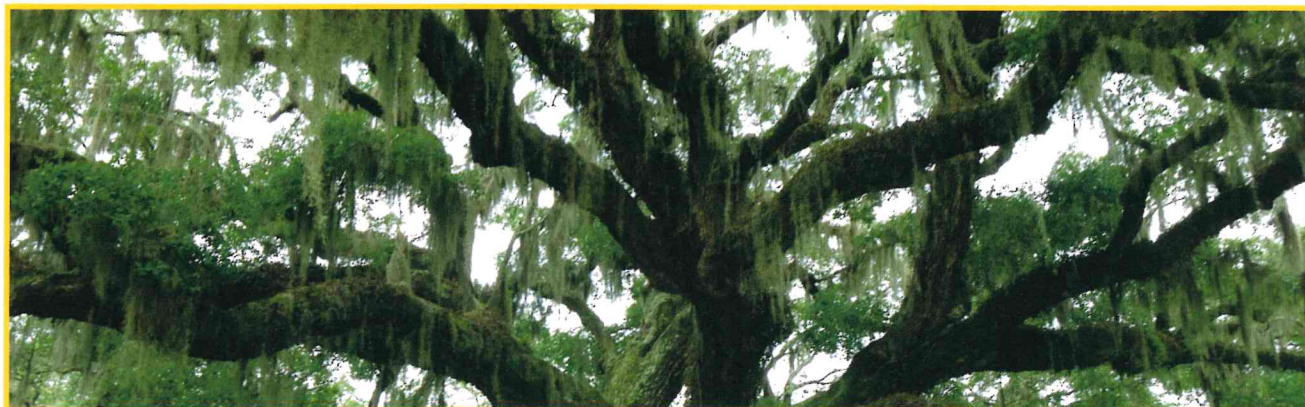
In Memory of Dr. Charles O. Williams

Nancy C. Williams

In Honor of June H. Williams

Ann W. Wedaman

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.



A Lasting Gift



Kay Forbes-Smith and Will Smith

Will Smith and Kay Forbes-Smith fell in love with Edisto over 25 years ago when they first vacationed here. They were struck by the unspoiled beauty, and decided that even though they lived in far-off Indiana, this is where they would buy their vacation home.

Kay says, “We never thought we would live here full time, but Edisto has a way of drawing you in. I always had a tear in my eye when we would cross the big bridge on our way back home to Indiana.”

They retired here full time five years ago and began to wonder what they could do to help preserve the island’s natural splendor. They attended Land Trust functions, and make annual donations, but wanted to do more. When they were updating their living trust, they decided to include the Edisto Open Land Trust as one of their beneficiaries. Their lawyer advised they could name a flat dollar amount or decide on a share of their assets, which is what they decided to do.

Will says, “It couldn’t have been easier, and it’s nice to know that after we are gone our gift will continue to help the Land Trust’s important work.”

Create Your Own Legacy

You may also name Edisto Island Open Land Trust as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. A bequest can be a specific sum, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate after expenses and gifts to loved ones. Bequests can include cash, securities, real estate, houses, and personal property. If you have already named the Land Trust in your estate, or would like more information about how to do so, please contact Executive Director, John Girault, at 843-869-9004 or john@edisto.org.

Young Naturalist Club Field Notes



A group of happy students dressed in colorful clothes came running around the bend of the freshwater pond, dip nets extended; proudly yelling out that they had caught a fish. Although one of the rules of the day requested that running along the water's edge be kept to a minimum, the kids just couldn't contain their genuine glee, the utter excitement only derived from interactions with wild things. Experiences like this are the sort generated during the Edisto Island Open Land Trust's Young Naturalist Club, a monthly environmental learning program that introduces kids to Edisto's local wildlife and habitats and encourages a conservation ethic among the island's youth. This year's Young Naturalist Club has been exploring the many careers that are available to those with a naturalist background and education. In just the last few months, the Young Naturalists have been wildlife rehabilitators, turtle biologists, ornithologists, wildlife photographers, and shark scientists.

In February, when this group of excited kids came running around the bend, they were in the middle of a Naturalist Club program at Sand Creek Farm, a protected property sandwiched between Russell Creek and Sand Creek. Captain Barry Fontaine, a local fishing guide and respected waterman, gave a cast netting demonstration and worked with each student on technique. The Young Naturalists spun, used their teeth, got a little muddy, and eventually tossed some truly impressive casts. Once they started to master the skill, they teamed up to patrol the shoreline, using dip nets to scoop organisms from earthy swaths of algae. The freshwater ponds at Sand Creek Farm host a multitude of species, including nymphs, smallmouth bass, snails, egrets, wood storks, mud minnows, and turtles. The Young Naturalists certainly didn't catch anything trophy sized that day. You won't see any giant bass hanging on the walls of their homes. However, they did manage to skim the surface of Edisto's incredibly valuable freshwater environments. The children discovered that on a small sea island interwoven with salt creeks, freshwater systems are critical for bird, fish, and mammalian species. We all share a need for clean and accessible water sources. Thanks to you this program is able to help educate and prepare the next generation of conservationists!



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

Legacy Live Oak Dedication



This program, which began in 2003, has vastly improved the view shed on Highway 174 and provided over 150 beautiful live oak trees to the landscape. Friends and family donated them to honor and remember loved ones. We will meet under the oaks at Indigo Farms, 2944 Highway 174, on Sunday, May 7 at 2 PM to dedicate the trees given in the past year and celebrate the many trees planted in previous years. Afterwards, please join us for a reception with light refreshments. This event is open to the public and we hope you all will join us. We are excited to have Greg Johnsman of Geechie Boy Grits fame as our keynote speaker.



Cocktail Party and Auction

The "I Love Edisto" Cocktail Party & Auction will be held on Friday, June 16 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 17. 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. 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

