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Sign up for our eNews at edisto.org

Our Mission: To preserve the rural quality of life on Edisto by protecting lands, waterways, scenic vistas, and heritage through conservation and education.

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Save the Date!

OYSTER ROAST & ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, November 11, 2018. 2 pm
Sand Creek Farm. Advance Tickets Required
Tickets on Sale NOW!
Visit www.edisto.org or call the office at 843-869-9004 for tickets.
Sponsorships available! Contact John Girault at john@edisto.org



For Land's Sake

SUMMER 2018

Image Credit: Tom Austin

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF WOOD STORKS THE ARRIVAL OF ROSEATE SPOONBILLS

Edisto Island draws both birds and bird enthusiasts. Over the years, residents and visitors have celebrated the increase of two favorite species: the Wood Stork and the Roseate Spoonbill. Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) were placed on the Endangered Species List in 1984 due to population declines that began in the 1930s. Development and flood control pressures drained wetlands and cleared bottomland and swamp forest, destroying the feeding areas of Wood Storks from South Carolina to Texas and leading to a drastic drop in numbers.

With staunch support from conservationists like you, EIOLT and many other land trusts protected feeding and nesting habitat for these majestic birds, which has led to increased populations. Although nesting Wood Storks in South Carolina were observed as long ago as 1885, the first definite evidence of egg production in the state was not gathered until 1981 from an 11-nest colony in Colleton County. In the summer of 2004, the number of Wood Stork nests in South Carolina reached slightly over 2000. Ten years later, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service reclassified the status of the Wood Stork from endangered to threatened.

The conservation success of Wood Storks has multiple benefits, as protection of habitat has helped other species, most notably the Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*). Since the late 1980s, Roseate Spoonbills have expanded their range northward from Florida, with confirmed breeding in Georgia in 2011. South Carolina observations of these striking pink birds have increased exponentially since 1989, when the maximum observed number was a measly four individuals.

This summer, Roseate Spoonbills are being sighted all along the Carolina coasts. The most astounding count comes from the Yawkey Wildlife Center in Georgetown County, where observers recorded 212 Roseate Spoonbills in a partially drained impoundment on Cat Island. With such high numbers, breeding in South Carolina cannot be far behind. Your continued support for habitat conservation will lead to thriving populations of Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills on Edisto and beyond.

-Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux

Image: An immature Roseate Spoonbill hunts for food.



LEAVING AN EDISTO LEGACY

“My *love for the environs of Edisto* goes back to childhood, so to help preserve and protect our scenic vistas for *more than a lifetime* is what makes a personal and financial commitment to the land trust an easy decision and an important part of what *I leave behind as my own legacy.*”

-Elizabeth Boineau

Elizabeth invites you to join her in leaving a lasting legacy on Edisto through planned giving. If you, too, have already included EIOLT in your will, please let us know so we can include you in the Legacy Circle and thank you during your lifetime.

For more information, please contact John Girault at 843-869-9004 or john@edisto.org



IMPROVING BIRD HABITAT IN THE NECK

Tucked behind a screen of maritime forest, the 300-acre protected Neck Marshland provides important nesting and feeding habitat for Wood Storks, *Ammodramus* Sparrows, Black Rails and other shore birds. However, time and recent storms have taken their toll on the structures used to control tidal flow to two saltwater impoundments, crucial habitat for these threatened and endangered species.

Driven by your passion for birds, EIOLT has received enough funding to upgrade the impoundments' water control structures. With proper management like this, the Neck Marshland will be home to many future generations of birds.



Image Credit: Tom Austin



YOU LOVE EDISTO, AND YOU LET IT SHOW

How do we know you love Edisto? Quick facts from the 2018 I Love Edisto Party and Auction:

Above Left: Check-In volunteers welcome attendees and are invaluable to a smooth event.

- 250 attendees bid on over 100 items provided by 71 donors.
- 29 sponsors donated funds or in-kind goods and services to make the event a success.
- \$10,000 raised for a viewing area with interpretive signage at the Hutchinson House. Work begins this fall.
- \$43,000 raised for land protection, stewardship and environmental education on Edisto.

“This is the best fundraising auction I have ever attended!”

-Bryan Haltermann

Above Right: Alicia Haltermann, Mark Rigatti, Knox Kinlaw, Mary Jane Rigatti and Shay Wilkerson take a break from bidding to pose for a group photo.

Below Left: Janet Oakley indicates her preference for Molly Kempson's Hutchinson House woodcut.

Below Right: Executive Director John Girault thanks staff members Melinda Hester, Melinda Hare, Madisen Gelner, Abi Locatis Prochaska and Tom Austin for their hard work.

Image Credits: Thomas C. Moorer

From Roseate Spoonbill habitat conservation to encouraging Young Naturalists to become citizen scientists, your love for Edisto is seen by everyone. Thank you!

