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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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Upcoming Events!

HOW TO IDENTIFY BIRDS

Presented by
Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux
Saturday, January 12, 2019
2:00 PM
Free – Reservations Required

BLUEBIRD BOX MAKING AND LECTURE

Presented by
Carroll Belser
Saturday February 23, 2019
2:00 PM
Free – Reservations Required

Reservations for events: email info@edisto.org or call 843-869-9004



For Land's Sake Winter 2018

CRITICAL FUNDING RETURNS

You have been a big part of the conservation success stories we have celebrated each year. We all want to ensure Edisto remains the natural oasis that drew us here in the first place. Therefore, it is with great excitement that we update you with the news about one of the most important conservation tools utilized to protect Edisto from over development. The Charleston County Greenbelt program is starting back up in the New Year!

Landowners and all who want to make sure land protection balances future growth and development in this region have reason to be happy. The Half Cent Sales Tax program will start funding land conservation projects in Spring 2019. 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. Over 50% of the properties protected by the Edisto Island Open Land Trust were completed thanks to grants from the Charleston County Greenbelt Program.

Carroll Belser, conservation easement landowner says, ***“Although we wanted to protect our portion of Sunny Side Plantation from the threat of future subdivision and potential development, we could not have done so without Greenbelt Funding.”***

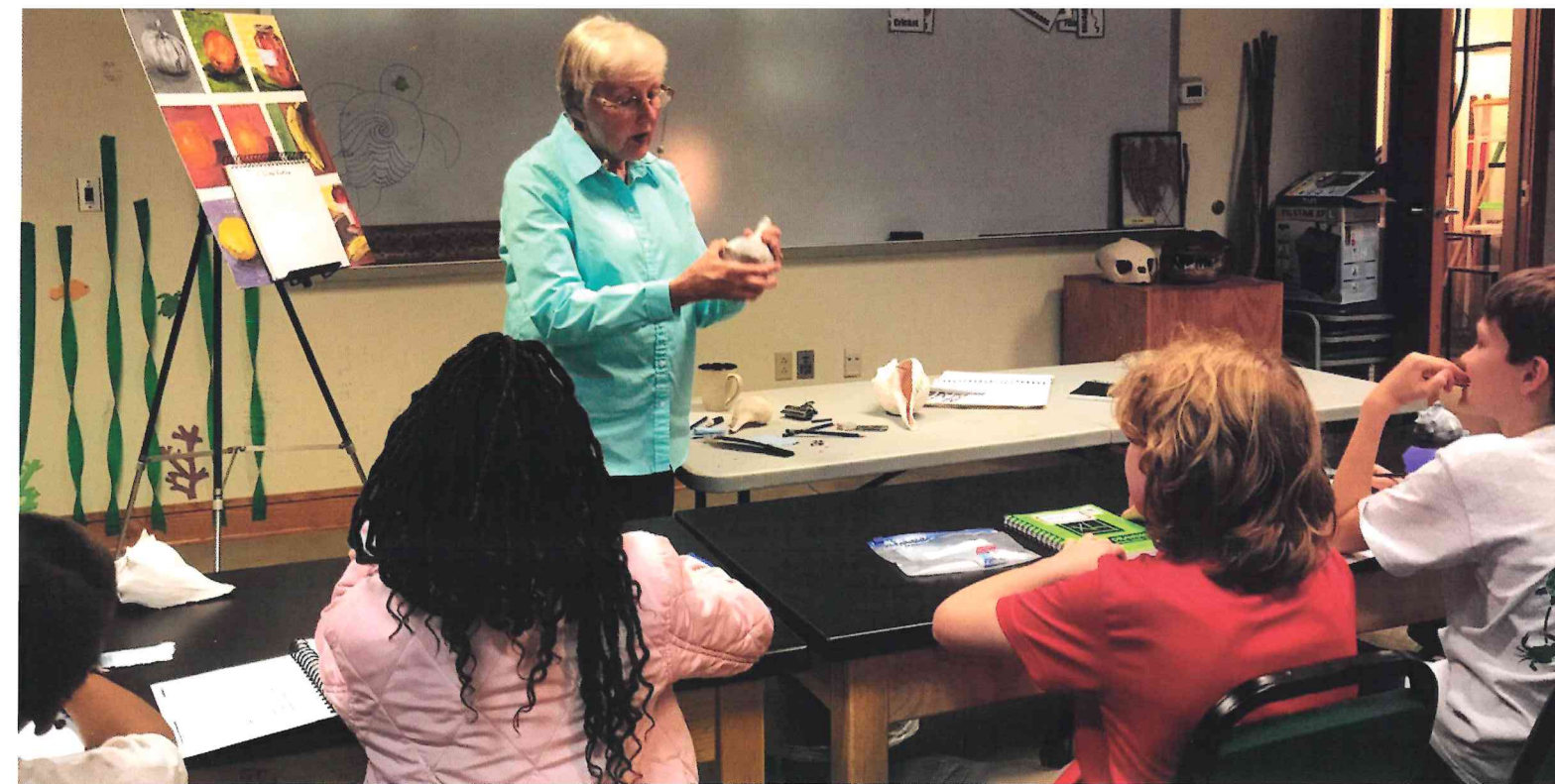
Conserving Edisto is not only critical to the people that call the sea island home, but it is also essential for sustaining the island’s biodiversity. Leveraging Greenbelt funding will help to protect and care for important wildlife habitat—home to summer resident birds like the Painted Bunting and Ruby-throated Hummingbird and visitors like the Roseate Spoonbill, seen more and more each year. They rely on these lands to thrive, year after year.

We would love to hear from landowners interested in finding out more about the Greenbelt Program and the financial incentives it offers. These folks would voluntarily relinquish some of the rights to their land such as the number of times a property can be divided, while retaining other rights, like timber, farming and recreational use. Please contact our office by calling 843-869-9004 or by email at info@edisto.org.

LARGEST OYSTER ROAST IN HISTORY!



This year's crowd was the largest ever, with over 600 attendees who came out to celebrate all the conservation work we have achieved together on Edisto.



YOUNG NATURALISTS EXPERIENCE NATURE AND ART

Do creativity and science go together? Of course they do! Along with these two elements of our Young Naturalist program, your support helps us infuse imagination, teamwork, writing and respect for the environment.

If we, as adults, teach environmental education correctly, one of the main benefits of being outside is that children come away with a greater sense of responsibility for the living parts of our environment. Each time our Young Naturalists go on an expedition, we try to encourage them to see, hear, touch and smell the natural environment.

Because of your contributions we were able to invite art teacher and nature journalist, Marie Nichols, to teach us how to put all this into context through nature journaling. This activity required that we pay much closer attention to our environment. It made us slow down and truly observe what we saw. Under Marie's instruction, our students got an exciting afternoon of art, science and writing in a relaxed environment while building some powerful observation skills.

Your generosity allows us to provide these enriching experiences with local and outside experts. The purchase of quality art supplies was crucial to implementing this new part of our program. Every student was thrilled to have this opportunity and to have their own tools for drawing.

Beckett Edwards is a fourth grade student in our program. He is already a great lover of the outdoors and has some

pretty keen observation skills. We recently had a chat about what he enjoyed most about the nature journaling session. *"I loved going out on the dock and testing out the new things we learned in the classroom"*. Beckett talked about using shading and cross-hatching and working to use these in future journal drawings. When asked why nature journaling matters, Beckett said, ***"This will help me to remember what we have done in our field studies and sharpen my observation skills. You know...all of this just helps me be a better Young Naturalist!"*** Well said, young man.

Thanks to you, the Young Naturalist program is making a difference.



The "Heads or Tails" raffle was a big hit and raised over \$1,200!



Anne Girault and Miranda Dobbins did a stellar job selling raffle tickets and EIOLT board member Sue Thornton showed her appreciation by purchasing lots of tickets.



The weather was just perfect at gorgeous Sand Creek Farm! Janet Oakley, Gretchen Smith, Betsy Daise and Paul Oakley all took advantage of the new VIP ticket option this year.



Edisto Gumbo set the mood just right with their amazing talent! Everett Smith, Jim Hayes and Chuck Bayless kept the great tunes coming.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING AN ADDITIONAL YEAR-END GIFT!

THE LAND, WATER AND THE ISLAND'S HISTORY MAKE THIS AN AMAZING PLACE—AND YET IT'S ALL SO FRAGILE.