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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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Executive Director

Melinda Hester
Administrator

Tom Austin
Land Protection Associate

Melinda Hare
Outreach Coordinator

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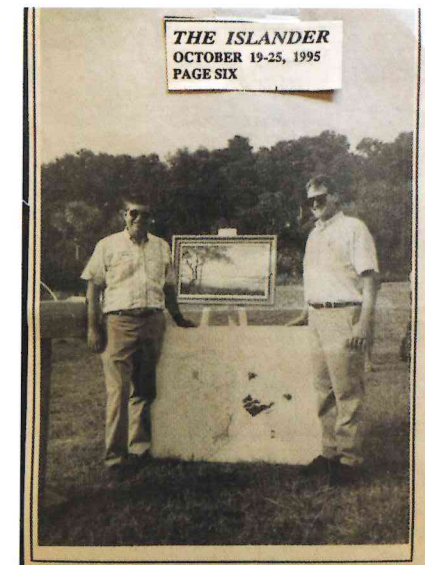
25 YEARS OF KEEPING EDISTO... EDISTO!

We know you love Edisto and you have likely described this magical island as serene, nostalgic, relaxing and unlike anywhere else. It is not by accident that such a treasured natural oasis remains this way after years of population growth and development pressure. There are many reasons why Edisto has remained relatively untouched and we are proud that you have chosen to help play an important part in the effort to keep Edisto. . . Edisto.

In the 1990's, a large scale development project on the South Edisto River threatened the island. If left undefended that project would have set a course that would have changed the landscape of Edisto forever. Islanders instrumental in negotiating the initial efforts to "save Edisto" realized the need for an organized local conservation organization to continue that work.

Isaac Jenkins Mikell, Jr., James Rice, Ellen Unger, Jim Kempson, Gordon Locatis, Sandy Savage, and David Lybrand all pooled their resources to establish

a land trust. The motivation behind their efforts was to give a voice to Edisto residents about the impending development. This year we celebrate these forward thinking individuals, and all of you who believe in protecting Edisto Island.



Jenks Mikell (left) kept the land trust files in the trunk of his car for the first 10 years as he traveled back and forth from Columbia to Edisto and recently commented "**When the first donations came in the mail, I knew we were really in the public trust, and we had to work hard to maintain that trust**". So the hard work began, more people joined in the effort, meetings were held

with landowners, fundraising events took place and special places on the island began to be protected.

Help us celebrate this important milestone at our Oyster Roast and Annual Meeting on October 27. We want to thank you at this anniversary bash, as we acknowledge everyone who played a role ensuring this place remains so special.



Image Credit: Lowcountry Land Trust

Upcoming Events

I LOVE EDISTO PARTY AND AUCTION

Saturday, June 8, 2019 6:30 PM
Tickets are selling out fast! Edisto.org or 843-869-9004

CRABBING 101

Saturday, June 15, 2019 2 PM

OYSTER REEF BUILD

Roxbury Park
Tuesday July 16, 2019 1 PM

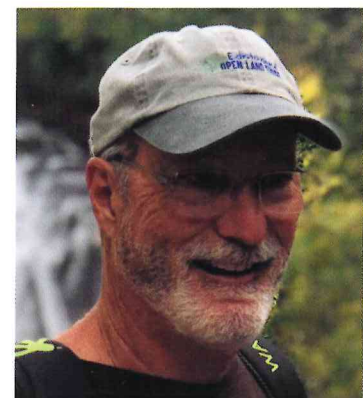
SPECIAL NOTE:

Thank you to everyone who made 2018 a success!
A list of donors for the last calendar year can be found at www.edisto.org

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



A native of Edisto Island, Thad Daise has come home after a career as an executive in the National Education Association. Thad's wife, Betsy, is the current President of the Edisto Island Historic Preservation Society. He sits on our Membership committee and regularly participates in projects taking place with the Hutchinson House. Thad is actively engaged in many community efforts including his work with children at Jane Edwards Elementary School.



We are fortunate to have Bob Hare join our Board of Directors. Bob has retired from a lifetime of teaching to settle here on Edisto. He is a member of our Land Protection committee and consummate volunteer for anything that happens outdoors. "Joining the EIOLT Board has been an exciting and humbling new venture for me! I am thrilled to apply my passion for the conservation and preservation of all that we love and cherish, both land and waterways."

DEEPER CONNECTIONS TO NATURE

Outdoor education by the sea or in the mountains is imperative if we want to help children learn and grow to be good stewards of our earth. For the past several years, some of our Young Naturalist students have been given the opportunity to attend the Green River Preserve Camp on 3,400 beautiful acres in Cedar Mountain, North Carolina.



Deshawn Jenkins and Braden Van Dort (second from left) will be attending camp for the second year. Deshawn feels that camp has allowed him to step outside his comfort zone and participate in a variety of things he might not do here at home.



Camp GRP fosters skills like perseverance, curiosity, communication, optimism, creativity and GRIT! This beautiful mountain setting inspires campers to have a better understanding of themselves, their environment and other people.

Camp owners, Missy and Sandy Schenck, and Carroll Belser joined forces over five years ago to make the Mountains to the Sea Connection a reality.

HUTCHINSON HOUSE PROGRESS CONTINUES



Support continues to build for the Hutchinson House, allowing the completion of a number of critical tasks. Supporters are embracing the plan to celebrate the spirit of place, and create a great opportunity to share the fundamental connections between people and the land.

An initial stabilization project was completed in January by Charleston-based Artis Construction, who donated their services to install interior and exterior support systems. These beams and girders will hold the house in place during the permanent stabilization and restoration efforts.

In March, many supporters celebrated the grand opening of the parking and viewing area with a potluck lunch. Several members of the Hutchinson family attended and expressed their appreciation for the efforts to save this important house and its history.

What's Next? Simons Young + Associates are completing a "conditions assessment for stabilization, cost estimates, sketches and outline for a preservation plan." A final report scheduled for July 2019 will give us enough information to establish an accurate fundraising goal.

More Happening! Activities taking place include archaeological survey work, Sea Island Cotton and the chance for you to sleepover on the property grounds! To find out more, follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

