

P.O. Box 1
547 Highway 174, Suite 7G
Edisto Island, SC 29438

843.869.9004 (p)
843.869.7820 (f)
info@edisto.org



@edistoislandopenlandtrust

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.

STAFF

John Girault
Executive Director

Melinda Hester
Administrator

Tom Austin
Land Protection Associate

Melinda Hare
Outreach Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sidney A. Gauthreaux, President
C. Randy Snow, Treasurer
Ellen E. Unger, Secretary
Mark T. Crawford, Past President
Thaddeus Daise
Dean W. Habegger
Robert F. Hare
James O. Kempson, Jr.
Burnet R. Maybank, III
I. Jenkins Mikell, Jr.
Janet P. Oakley
Sue H. Thornton
Fisher C. Walter, Jr.
Lindsey L. Young

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage PAID
Charleston, SC
Permit No. 137



Upcoming Events

TURTLE TALK

with Leah Schwartzentreuber,
Turtle Specialist at Edisto Beach State Park
Wednesday, September 25, 2019 1:30pm

SEA ISLAND COTTON

with Tom Austin, Land Protection Specialist
Thursday, October 10, 2019 9:30am

OYSTER ROAST AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 27, 2019 2 PM
Tickets on Sale Now

SEE ALL DETAILS FOR OUR EVENTS AT EDISTO.ORG



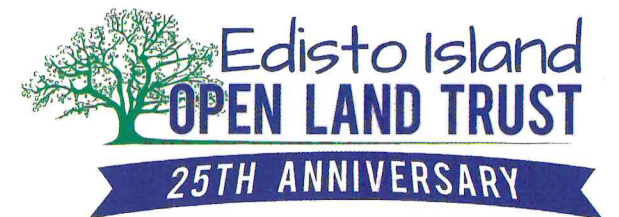
By: Tom Austin, Land Protection Specialist

The Hutchinson House is a landmark and historic icon of Edisto Island. It has drawn the eyes of Edistonians and the innumerable travelers lucky enough to come across it. This was the trunk through which the Hutchinson Family set their roots. Yet, just like the Hutchinsons, their home is anchored to something greater, the land beneath them, both in a physical and a societal sense. The grounds where the home sits are as significant as the building itself. Through the purchase of 404 acres of Shell House Plantation in 1875, Jim Hutchinson secured economic sovereignty for his household and 21 freedmen families. Working that land is how Henry Hutchinson earned his livelihood. Their family lived, died, rejoiced, grieved, prospered, and struggled there, and it is the common ground between all Edistonians.

In our efforts to protect and restore the Hutchinson House, we have not forgotten about the land. Through the help of so many others, we are working to protect and restore this site so the whole community may enjoy it. With our recent purchase of the adjacent nine-acre parcel through funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt Program, we

are working to establish a public park, an historic site, and a community gathering area. We plan to improve the quality of the wildlife habitat in the meadows of the second lot through the introduction of native wildflowers, proper management techniques, and the control of invasive plant species. We want to showcase these efforts through an ADA accessible trail system that is peppered by bird houses, bee motels, and educational signs as it meanders through the 18-acre property. When the restoration of the house nears completion, signs interpreting the history of the site and demonstration gardens will sprout up around it.

Our restoration efforts for the Hutchinson House don't just end at the house. They're holistic at the core. The house is inseparable from the land and so is the history of the Hutchinson Family. Together, they are the Hutchinsons' home. With your help, we're working to secure its future for us all.



MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION FOR MAXIMUM CONSERVATION

At the time Paul and I became full-timers on Edisto in 2015, we were familiar with the successful efforts of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust to preserve the land and culture of this unique island. That summer we became members of the land trust and have continued to increase our involvement with this exceptional organization over the past several years.

Now, our year-end tax-planning and gift strategies make our charitable giving to the Land Trust even easier! One of us has reached the magic age of 70 and ½ when those who have financial assets in a 401(k), 403(b) or IRA or other retirement plan, must take a required minimum distribution – or “RMD – the minimum amount that must be withdrawn from your retirement investments.

Under the current tax law, we are able to authorize our IRA Administrator to transfer our financial contribution directly from our IRA to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. We indicate the size of the gift and the IRA Administrator mails the check to the Land Trust. The dollar amount of the charitable gift is NOT counted as part of our taxable income but does count toward the required minimum distribution. What a win-win for both the Land Trust and the Oakleys!

However, mutual financial benefit is only part of the story. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust is among the most effective and successful land trusts operating across the country. Edisto Island’s unique environment and culture will be preserved for those who come after us. Long-time residents, newcomers, part-timers and visitors have amazing access to our own natural and cultural experts who make the Edisto experience even more meaningful. The bottom line? We receive much, much more from our contributions to the Edisto Open Land than we could ever tally on our tax forms.



Janet and Paul Oakley with Charlie.



EDUCATION OUTREACH IS A KEY STRATEGY

Education Outreach at the Edisto Island Open Land Trust encompasses everything from environmental education for children to programming for the adult lifelong learners. This important part of our mission is coordinated by retired educator, Melinda Hare, with the assistance of a dedicated group of volunteers.

Each year our Young Naturalist program focuses on an environmental theme that highlights different habitats, animals, plants and issues that relate to Edisto Island. Our place-based approach to the larger global environmental topics allows our students to experience and understand their spot in our world.

Environmental Stewardship is our theme for this year with the goal of helping our students become responsible caretakers of Edisto now and for the future. We will be exploring endangered animals, marine mammals, native plants and heritage crops as we take advantage of our beach, marsh and protected farm properties on Edisto.

As important as environmental education is to our younger population, we also strive to engage the other segments of our membership and island residents. Since the inception of our Back To Nature series, we have educated over 1,000 adults in a wide variety of programs related to the habitats, wildlife and heritage of Edisto and beyond. These adult learners play a huge part in our efforts to preserve and protect Edisto through their membership, volunteerism and donations to the land trust.

Whether it is studying the watersheds for our island, the sustainability of our farms and fisheries or learning about the importance of protecting our turtles and shorebirds; Education Outreach on Edisto is for everyone!

Volunteering with these educational efforts is one way to contribute to the EIOLT. Please contact our office for more information to become involved.

