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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
- Kathy Miller
Membership and Events Coordinator

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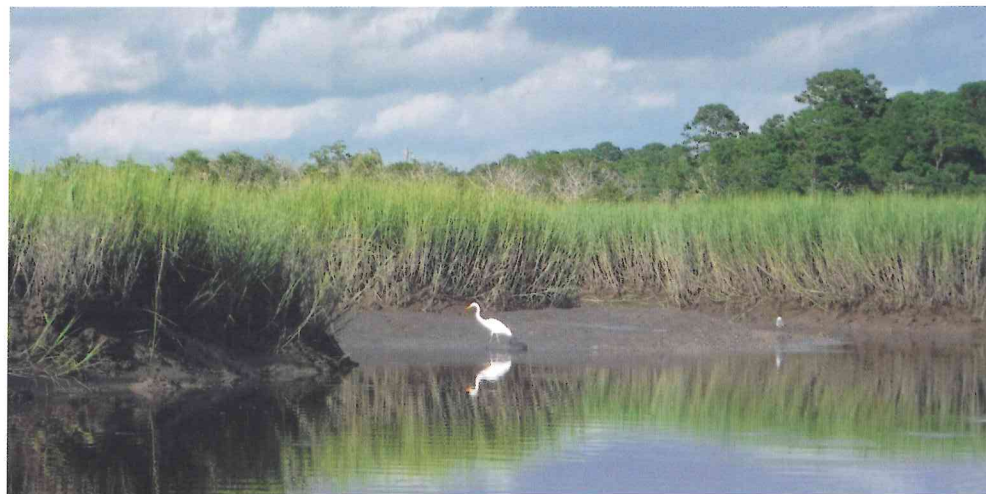
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ONLINE ONLY AUCTION...NO PROBLEM!

We had to make a difficult decision and it turned out beautifully because of you! Hard working volunteers and staff, amazing item donations and generous business sponsors provided the backdrop for incredible bidders to show us how much you love Edisto. Over 3 days the event raised \$100,000 to help us protect what we love. Thank you, thank you!

Oyster Roast 2020?

We sure hope we get to see you later this winter, but we will all have to stand by together in the hope that we will gather safely again soon!



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For Land's Sake
SUMMER 2020
Edisto Island
OPEN LAND TRUST

OUTREACH RUNS ON VOLUNTEER POWER

Melinda Hare, Outreach Coordinator

What have you missed most in the past few months? Right at the top of my list are the laughter, excitement and camaraderie of our Young Naturalists and the volunteers who work with our program. These volunteers have enriched the lives of our students with their love for the environment and the knowledge and enthusiasm they bring to each adventure.

Without this caring group of adults, our Young Naturalist program would not have been able to flourish and grow as it has. We miss these mentors and look forward to the time we can be together again, sharing our love of nature and all things Edisto!

The Land Trust has always been fortunate to have a wonderful community of volunteers who have helped us make our events and ongoing programs successful. We hope to see all of you soon and encourage you to volunteer with us in the future when we are able to gather safely and enjoy each other's company in person.



Top: Mike Davis, retired Geologist, shares his love for found objects outdoors.



Above: Karen Beshears, retired environmental educator, brings so much nature knowledge to each outing.

Volunteer picnic 2019 celebrating with our amazing volunteers!

CEDAR HALL FARM'S JOURNEY TO PROTECTION

Tom Austin, Land Protection Specialist



Sitting prominently along National Scenic Byway 174 on the corner of Cedar Hall Road and positioned on the turn between King's Farm Market and the EZ-mart, North Star Farm, once part of Cedar Hall Farm, is a site seen daily by many of us as we make our way about the Island. This 23.66 acre parcel, filled by fields fringed with fence and ancient oaks, is permanently protected by a conservation easement with the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. However, its habitat was not always so secure nor its future so assured.

Cedar Hall Farm was originally just a field flowing out from the avenue of oaks along Kings Highway and down the edge of unpaved Cedar Hall Road. As it was farmed for decades on end, the oaks grew and the owners

changed, but those fields stayed pretty much the same. With the new millennium, things began to change.

The property was sold in 2002. With that change of hands came a change of plans. Farming was to be no more and instead a multi-lot mobile home park was proposed. EIOLT knew the loss of such a visible and scenic roadside and the destruction of productive agricultural land was imminent. We decided to do something to stop it. EIOLT was able to secure funding from the Lowcountry Conservation Loan Fund and purchased the property in 2005.

The land was saved, but what would be done with the farm we obtained? The goal was not to own the property in perpetuity but to find a conservation buyer whose goals for the parcel aligned with our own mission. We began looking for someone who would work with us to preserve the scenic character and agricultural capacity of the land, while protecting its wildlife habitat. The hope was to find such a buyer within two years, sell them the lot under the protections of a conservation easement, and pay back the loan. Simple, right?

Twelve years later, we had finally found our like-minded buyers, Steven and Karen Rhodes. With their help, the subdivision and development of Cedar Hall Farm was thwarted, wildlife habitat was conserved, and the aesthetic viewshed of the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway protected. Instead of a trailer park thrown out along the curve, we now see horses roaming below the shade trees along that same centuries old field.

North Star Farm is one of many conservation success stories here on Edisto Island. It's also a fine example of how each conservation prospect we approach is as unique as this island and each parcel takes its own special finesse to protect. Yet, where there's a will, there's a way and with your help we have been able to do great things for the environment and our community across Edisto Island.

THINGS ARE HEATING UP

Wonderful changes are about to take place! If you are following our work to restore the Hutchinson House, then you are about to witness an exciting transformation over the next 2 months. Artis Construction has just begun permanent stabilization and initial restoration of the house, thanks to the support of so many of you, and to a recent grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

By the end of September, a team of skilled artisans from Artis Construction will have stabilized every brick pier, repaired floor and wall joists, restored the dormers and all exterior siding and replaced the roof to weatherize the house. This will make the house sound and safe and put us well on our way to saving this historic heritage site.

This is extremely exciting, the final phase is yet to come, which will include repairing the chimneys, restoring the interior of the structure and replacing the original wrap around porch, among other details needed to finish this epic restoration project. The last step will be opening the house and grounds to visitors. For now, please share in the excitement of this summer activity and stop by the house to watch the transformation from the parking area.



MONTHLY GIVING TO PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE



Bob and Melinda getting into the Party on Your Porch spirit earlier this summer.

Have you ever considered spreading your annual gift out over the entire year? Monthly giving allows you to make a greater impact on Edisto through sustaining and growing your support over time. Your gift means protecting more of the island's natural treasures, preserving our shared heritage, and providing engaging and creative outreach opportunities for children and adults on the island. It is a simple way to make a big impact, and you can do it online through our website donation page at www.edisto.org. We appreciate you!

"Our desire to become Saltmarsh members and still continue to give to other conservation and environmental non-profits led us to the Land Trust monthly giving program. It's a great way to increase your level of donation to keep Edisto . . . Edisto!"

-Bob and Melinda Hare

