



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

843.869.9004  
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*

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## EIOLT LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!

Check out our new look at [www.edisto.org](http://www.edisto.org)



*We have enclosed a return envelope if you would like to renew your membership or make an additional year end donation.*



Photo: Bob Hare

## For Land's Sake WINTER 2020



## YOUNG NATURALISTS JUMP FOR JOY ON EDISTO BEACH

*Melinda Hare, Outreach Coordinator*

Eight months is a long time. None of us knew that February would be the last time we would see our Young Naturalists for a while. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, our program came to an abrupt halt. I stayed in touch with our students and families and encouraged them to spend as much time as possible outdoors, playing and observing nature close to home.

As schools opened slowly for virtual and in-person learning this fall, I surveyed parents to see who would return to our group when the time was right. Even though we could not get into our local school to recruit new students, there was still enough interest to resume our program safely. After having many conversations with outdoor educators elsewhere and developing new safety protocols, the decision was made to restart our program.

On October 20, a happy group of eight students from kindergarten through eighth grade jumped for joy to be together again! No one complained about mask wearing or social distancing. They were just happy to be outside and learning about nature with their peers.

Using field guides and building on our students' prior knowledge, we found, identified and discussed all kinds of beach flora and fauna. It was even a great day for butterflies! As usual, the time went too quickly and we parted with the promise of another expedition very soon.

Eight months was a long time but we are back and safely learning. So much of our educational mission here at the Land Trust is about connecting kids with nature and providing them with a sense of place on Edisto Island. Young Naturalists may look a bit different as we navigate these uncertain times but we are going to find all the joy in the wild that we can!

Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, best represents my personal philosophy about environmental education. "All children need nature. Not just the ones whose parents appreciate nature. Not only those children of a certain economic class or culture or set of abilities. Every Child." In these uncertain times, let's do this.



# REACCREDITED AGAIN!

After a yearlong renewal process, the Edisto Island Open Land Trust is happy to announce that we have now been accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission for the third time!

The Edisto Island Open Land Trust has renewed its status as part of a network of over 400 accredited land trusts across the nation who are committed to professional excellence and maintaining the public's trust in our conservation work. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance that promotes public trust and ensures permanence in the conservation of open lands by recognizing organizations that meet rigorous quality standards and strive for continuous improvement. Only 30% of the over 1,350 land trusts in the United States have achieved accreditation. Renewing our accreditation shows EIOLT's ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation on Edisto Island and in the surrounding coastal communities. Going through the rigorous accreditation renewal process highlights our weaknesses and strengths, allowing us to refine better our internal policies and conservation strategies so EIOLT can best achieve our mission "to preserve the rural quality of life on Edisto by protecting lands, waterways, scenic vistas, and heritage through conservation and education."

It's thanks to your continued support that the Edisto Island Open Land Trust is able to achieve excellence as an accredited land trust on our mission to protect all that makes Edisto . . . Edisto!



# NOTE FROM JOHN GIRAULT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This has been an extraordinarily challenging year with every single one of us impacted in one way or another. However, I have never been prouder of the support the land trust has been receiving throughout this tumultuous time, and the hard work our small staff and dedicated Board of Directors have continued to maintain through it all. Land stewardship and further land conservation continue to remain at the top of our priority list, followed by our education outreach and the preservation of our shared island heritage. December is an incredibly impactful month for the land trust with over 40 percent of our annual revenue arriving at the end of the year. I hope you are as proud of what we are all achieving together as I am, and that you will consider EIOLT in your year-end giving. We thank you and look forward to getting a closer look at each other in 2021!

# HUTCHINSON HOUSE UPDATE AND GRATITUDE!

If you have not visited the Hutchinson House recently, we strongly urge you to stop by the parking area and celebrate the changes that have happened. The house is stabilized, new siding was added, a new roof was installed, the windows were completely replaced with period glass. The canopy is removed, now that the house is weather tight. It has taken a lot of work in the last three years to get to this point and a lot of passionate donors helping raise the needed funds. We have more to do, including replicating the three-sided porch, the rear addition, the interior restoration, the interpretation of the land and the family, and the list grows. 2021 will mark the beginning of the final fundraising push to get the project completed and open to the public and we hope you will continue to help.

In addition to more than 300 individuals who have donated to this project, we would like to acknowledge the following foundations for getting the project to this point. We received three separate grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, including the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, Cynthia Woods-Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors, and the Johanna Favrot Fund. Funding was given by the 1772 Foundation, Ed and Dorothy Kendall Foundation, Elhapa Foundation, Joanna Foundation, and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

We would not be where we are today without the amazing restoration work and generous support of Artis Construction. Their team spent 61 days over the summer and fall getting this phase completed and saved us thousands of dollars in costs. A big thanks as well to the architectural and design team of Simons Young, John Moore and Hillary King. We are grateful!

# ASIAN LONG-HORNED BEETLES INVADE SC



*A close-up of the invader.*

As you may have heard, the Asian Long-horned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) was discovered in South Carolina this summer. The beetle is native to Southeast Asia. Its larvae feed on the wood of native trees causing their trunks to fall apart and the trees to die. Our native trees lack sufficient defenses to fight these exotic beetles. This can result in the beetles spreading unchecked through the ecosystem and damaging sensitive habitats. The species' potential for widespread ecological damage is alarming. Proper quarantine protocols are being put in place by the USDA to protect our native ecosystems. Landowner support will be the key to eradicating this invasive pest from South Carolina. For more information about the Asian Long-horned Beetle, please head over to our new website at [EDISTO.ORG](http://EDISTO.ORG) to read our full article.

*Left: The Hutchinson House soon after purchase. Right: Weatherized, with temporary steps, November 2020.*

