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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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EDISTO KIDS HIT THE TRAIL AT SUMMER CAMP

Beckett Edwards came back from a week of hiking through the Green River Preserve (GRP) summer camp program with a pretty strong statement, "That was the best week of my life!" Once again, we thank GRP for reducing the cost of the camp, and also, so many of you, our generous donors. Three kids from our Young Naturalist program were able to experience something totally different, four days and nights in the mountains of North Carolina.

Camp GRP fosters skills like perseverance, curiosity, communication, optimism, creativity and GRIT! The kids that went up to the camp this year definitely discovered all of these skills while they pushed themselves in an environment they had never experienced. Hiking in the mountains for the first time came with more pleasure than pain, but these young folks were able to enjoy both during their expedition. There is no doubt that just one week of being immersed in nature will have a lasting impact on these students and hopefully will be one that will help them become better earth stewards and human beings.

A special thanks also goes out to Beezer Molten of Half-Moon Outfitters for donating a ton of great camping gear to these kids, making sure they hit the trail in style and comfort!

Top: Campers get ready to hit the trail at Camp Green River Preserve.

Right: Melinda Hare and students on her final Young Naturalist outing.

FROM VOLUNTEER TO EMPLOYEE TO VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE!

I am beyond fortunate for the abundance of gifts that have come my way since moving to Edisto Island, but the recent retirement of one of our EIOLT staff members has me reflecting on one of the best gifts yet. Melinda Hare began volunteering for our Young Naturalist program over five years ago. A year later, she agreed to come out of retirement to run the program as well as all of our education outreach efforts, and now she has officially passed on that torch so she can spend more time enjoying Edisto.

Melinda's passion to educate children and her love for Edisto's natural beauty shone through as she connected so many kids and adults to the wonders of the woods and waters that surround us every day on Edisto. I knew she was a gift the land trust was only borrowing, but the last four years have gone by far too quickly. She has been an energetic inspiration and her impact will be felt for many years to come. Alas, all is not lost, as Melinda will continue to volunteer for land trust events and programs, which means she really is the gift that keeps on giving!

- John Girault



Save the Date for the Oyster Roast
Sunday, October 31 at 2 PM



Title Sponsor

Because of our great need to catch up and have some fun together, the annual Oyster Roast will be back on October 31 at Sand Creek Farm. Tickets go on sale September 10!



Will you wear the winning witch wardrobe?
Yes, the costume contest is also back. Get ready.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT: TWO NEW EIOLT EASEMENTS

We are happy to announce that we recently accepted the assignment of two conservation easements on Edisto Island from the Nature Conservancy (TNC). Land trusts can accept donations of conservation easements that are held by other organizations. It then becomes that organization's responsibility to make sure the terms of the easement are upheld and the land is protected. The land trust that first receives the easement doesn't have to be the one who protects it forever. Land trusts can transfer conservation easements to another qualified holder if the landowner and new entity both approve.

In the fall of 2020, EIOLT accepted the assignment of the easement on Jehossee Farm, a 485-acre parcel at the headwaters of Russell Creek. It is a property full of wildlife habitat unique to Edisto Island and it also contains a known population site for the federally at-risk Black Rail bird.

We subsequently received another assignment in the spring of 2021 from TNC for the Bailey Island Preserve, a 406-acre wildlife area that was created on Bailey Island when the subdivision was developed in 1997. The property is unique for Edisto Island in that it contains large areas of mature forest that returned to a healthy natural state once agriculture ceased. By accepting easements from another entity, a land trust not only accepts the financial and legal issues of safeguarding additional properties, but also the benefits that come along with the responsibility of stewardship. By taking control of these easements on large areas of important habitat on Edisto Island that are contiguous to other EIOLT easements, we now have a better ability to assist and guide those management efforts. It also helps us to expand those same efforts across multiple adjoining easements by connecting and coordinating adjacent landowners. The door also opens for new education and outreach opportunities and expands the network of these landowners with which EIOLT can connect to promote land conservation and environmental education on Edisto Island.

THE HUTCHINSON HOUSE GROUNDS ARE OPEN!

With the completion of Phase 1 of the restoration of the Hutchinson House and the planning for Phase 2 underway, we would like for visitors to the site to be able to get a closer look at the house and explore some of the grounds. Our staff and volunteers have been working feverishly these last few months to get the necessary infrastructure in place to allow for this. We are happy to announce that there is now limited public access to the property!

However, we're not done yet. These are just the first critical steps of our plan to allow public access to the whole property and we will be expanding and improving upon the work in the future as the restoration of the house continues. There are still interpretive signs to design and install, demonstration gardens to plant, landscaping to do, and a myriad of other things we want to accomplish. So, come on by this summer, mosey around the place, and see the work we've been able to accomplish.

Top: Board Chairman, Bob Hare cuts the ribbon and thanks the Charleston County Greenbelt Program for the funding support!

Bottom: Restoration is only halfway finished, but the new trail allows for closer viewing of the house.



MANY WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join our exciting new donor category!

Consider Monthly Giving

Upon visiting South Carolina in 1791, George Washington is said to have called the people living on the sands near the shores Sandlappers. This word conjures images of the waves gently lapping repetitively onto the banks of our beaches, creeks and rivers. It is a symbol of the continual flow onto our shores and seems fitting to title our generous group of recurring monthly donors, The Sandlappers, which reflects their reliable monthly contributions. This monthly gift can be any amount with which you are comfortable, but it can often allow you to increase your giving from previous years by donating smaller amounts each month over the course of a year. Monthly giving can easily be setup online by clicking the "Donate" button on our website at www.edisto.org.

Charitable Contributions from IRAs

If you are looking for a win-win way to protect Edisto, then utilizing a required minimum distribution (RMD) from retirement accounts might work for you. If you are 70 ½ years old or more, you can donate directly from your IRA to EIOLT and the gift will not be recorded as taxable income, but will count towards your required minimum distribution. Qualified charitable distributions from your IRA are strategically some of the best ways to support the charities that you love, and we are grateful that you consider the Edisto Island Open Land Trust as part of the organizations you are passionate about.

Horizon Circle Update

We announced the naming of our planned giving donor group, the Horizon Circle, at the end of 2019. This group includes anyone who decides to make a planned gift to the land trust by including us in your will, in a life insurance policy or any other estate plans. In order for us to thank you, we simply ask to be notified that you have left EIOLT in your estate plans, and we will be sure to include you in this special group of donors.

Your support will be recognized throughout the year, and you will receive invitations to our Saltmarsh Society picnics and outings. You will receive an invitation to our annual cocktail reception hosted exclusively for Horizon Circle members, when we are able to show our appreciation for your forethought and generosity.

If you have questions or would like to find out more about the many ways you can support the land trust, call or email John Girault at 843-869-9004 or john@edisto.org. Thank you!

