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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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For Land's Sake  
2022 VOLUME II

**THE GATEWAY TO EDISTO, PROTECTED**

When you cross the windswept marshes of the Dawhoo River and crest the McKinley Washington, Jr. Bridge, what's the first thing you see? A great sea of needle rush and a wall of green maritime forest stretching far into the horizon, a vast expanse of natural ecosystems broken only by creek channels and a smattering of rooftops. This Gateway to Edisto Island is your last sight as you leave and the first thing you see coming back. It's a special and irreplaceable part of Edisto Island and our National Scenic Byway. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust is happy to report that we were able to purchase the most prominent parcel to the gateway in June in order to preserve this one-of-a-kind view, forever.

With funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt Program, EIOLT was able to purchase the parcel on the east side of the bridge, which leads from Rosa Scott Road well out into the marshes of the Dawhoo River. It is the first thing you see on the left as you exit the bridge. This seven acres of marshland and three acres of upland will be protected from development and managed to improve the conservation value, the appearance from the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway, and the public benefit it provides. EIOLT is also investigating if we can provide meaningful public access to the property, so long as safe access from the highway can be assured.

This new property is one of many small acquisitions EIOLT is making as part of a larger, rekindled initiative to preserve the viewshed of the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway. For example, we recently added three one-acre parcels to our Legacy Live Oak Memorial Park on

Little Edisto Island, thanks to funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt Program and several generous donors to our Acquisition Fund in 2021. We are pursuing the purchase of a 1.25 acre lot near King's Market that will provide a buffer from development for three contiguous conservation easements. As the only thoroughfare for the Island, the National Scenic Byway is integral to the character of Edisto Island and how we, as Edistonians, present ourselves to the rest of the world and the impression we give to those who visit. By keeping the rural and scenic qualities of our Byway intact, such as through strategic acquisitions, we can make it clear to residents, visitors and our neighbors exactly what Edisto Island is and what we want it to be. In the long run, this consistent appearance helps us thwart irresponsible development, mitigate development pressure on undeveloped property, and maintain conservation zoning restrictions put in place by Charleston and Colleton Counties.



The view from Whooping Island.

**ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST**  
November 6, 2022. 2 PM  
Sand Creek Farm  
Tickets on sale September 15!

Title Sponsor



# Edisto, we have a septic problem!

Wastewater treatment on Edisto Island is primarily achieved through on-site wastewater treatment systems, also known as septic systems, or septic tanks. These septic systems require routine maintenance and repairs in order to function properly. The Edisto Island Open Land Trust has recognized that some of our island residents may not be able to afford the costs of routine maintenance. We applied for funding from a new grant, the Healthy Harbors Fund, through the Coastal Community Foundation. We were awarded a grant this year, and now we are seeking residents who could benefit from this new Septic Assistance Program.

## NEW SEPTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The program was established to offer free septic system inspections and pump outs, as well as the possibility of a replacement system. Residents who could use the help simply need to complete the online form found on our website at [www.edisto.org](http://www.edisto.org), or call the land trust office at 843-869-9004.

Please help us spread the word about this new program!

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The waterways on and around Edisto Island are affected by pollution from a variety of sources. There are currently 25 locations in the area that are listed as impaired for one or more pollutants, including fecal coliform bacteria (11), enterococcus bacteria (4), turbidity (10), dissolved oxygen (1), ammonia (1), and copper (1).

The primary pollutant of concern across these sub-watersheds is bacteria (measured by the levels of enterococcus and fecal coliform), that can result from both natural (e.g. wildlife) and human-influenced (e.g., pets, septic systems) sources. High levels of bacteria in local waterways have resulted in the closure of shellfish beds, which is a major impediment to local traditions and way of life, as well as an economic hardship.

A properly maintained and properly functioning septic system should not transmit bacteria to receiving water bodies. DHEC recommends inspecting septic systems every 2 years. Many of the septic systems on Edisto are aging, and may be located in areas where conditions aren't optimal for infiltration and pollution reduction.

This program is the beginning of a larger project to help clean up our waterways that many people do not even realize are impaired. In the coming months, you will hear about the completion of the Edisto Island Watershed-Based Plan. This is a community driven plan addressing water quality that is spread across Edisto Island and Edisto Beach. Keep an eye out for the release of the full report and the next steps needed to begin to remedy the problems.

## LET'S CELEBRATE TURTLES!

What a banner year for sea turtle species survival! Up and down the east coast there has been a wonderful tally of nesting loggerheads in 2022, and we could not be more thrilled. On Edisto beaches alone, there are 1,151 nests! This is a record year across the state. North Myrtle Beach has one nest of the critically endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle.

In addition to this great news is news of another type of loggerhead turtle, the artsy kind. The Edisto Chamber of Commerce hatched the Turtle Tide Art Project, which is designed to benefit local businesses, artists, and non-profit organizations, as well as support conservation efforts and increase knowledge of loggerhead turtles. There are a total of 10 painted turtles on display around Edisto Beach and Island, and the land trust has one of our very own. Thanks to the generosity of talented local artist and EIOLT supporter, Louise Britton, we have a gorgeous painted sea turtle titled "Hope is Not Enough" on display at the Hutchinson House grounds.



The even better news is that all 10 of the painted turtles will be auctioned off on October 15th at the Chambers Fall Festival event on Edisto Beach. Please help us spread the word about the auction and mark your calendars for this fun event. Yay turtles and art!

## GREEN RIVER PRESERVE CAMP UPDATE



It would not be a great summer for the land trust if we were not able to take some children from the island up to the North Carolina mountains for an amazing week's experience at Green River Preserve Camp. We are excited to share that we just did it again, thanks to donations from the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance, the Godwin Pate Circle of the Edisto Methodist Church, and the over 30 donors who gave to our Education Outreach goal during the auction.



Our outstanding volunteers, Bob and Melinda Hare, drove Malik and Tripp up and back for what we know will be an experience these two young men will build upon as they grow up surrounded by all of our coastal natural wonders. Here are two quotes from the boys after Bob and Melinda picked them up after their exciting week at camp.

"The most important lessons I learned were to respect nature because it is very delicate."  
- Malik (top photo)

"My biggest challenge was overcoming a claustrophobic fear of caves but I Did It!"  
- Tripp (bottom photo, on left)