

For Land's Sake 2024 VOLUME I



MEET THE YOUNG NATURALISTS

Since 2014, the Edisto Island Open Land Trust has supported the Young Naturalist Program which works to steward the next generation of conservationists. This year, we are thrilled to have a record number of 18 Edisto Island students participating in our program. These students gather once a month after school to engage in various nature-based educational activities. During our annual Oyster Roast in October 2023, generous donors, like yourself, contributed nearly \$25,000 to help fund this program and send some of these exceptional students to camp at Green River Preserve in the North Carolina mountains.

Thanks to your donations, seven students have the opportunity to attend this year, the highest number we have ever sent! Green River Preserve is a special place that exposes our Edisto students to the unique beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains with opportunities to swim in lakes, hike the mountains, and encouragement to unplug and connect with nature. The camp's aim is to nurture future leaders and stewards of the land, aligning with the vision of EIOLT. Your invaluable support plays a crucial role in shaping our future generation. Thank you!

A SMALL LOT, WITH A BIG IMPACT, PROTECTED!

We are proud to announce that in April, EIOLT protected another historically significant part of Edisto Island from potentially damaging development. Using EIOLT's own donor funded Land Acquisition Revolving Fund we secured a contract on and purchased a 1.7-acre commercially-zoned lot along Point of Pines Road. This small lot, visible from the National Scenic Byway, sandwiched between historic structures, and containing a portion of the original public highway, is an important piece in the strategic puzzle of protecting Edisto Island. Not only did the purchase protect this land from out-of-character development, EIOLT will utilize the property to enhance our mission and several of our ongoing projects.

This new waterfront property on Store Creek is a boon for all of our environmental education efforts. Our vision is to eventually open this property to the public as a "pocket park" for passive recreation and appropriate waterway access. The existing dock provides our volunteers and partners safe creek access for ongoing water quality research and opens the doors for new fundraising and community outreach events. Our Young Naturalists Program now has a permanent EIOLT owned and protected learning laboratory to explore a marshland habitat with access to a tidal creek. The lot is connected to the history of the Hutchinson House and will allow EIOLT to expand the house's interpretation to a new site. With this new parcel in hand, we also strengthen our ongoing efforts to protect more land along the historic Point of Pines Road. Even though this lot is small, it has a big impact!

This conservation win is possible because of our Land Acquisition Revolving Fund. The "Acquisition Fund" affords EIOLT the opportunity to move quickly to protect important properties when grant funding isn't readily available, allowing us to take down threats now and secure grant funding later to refund the purchase. That was the case with this small lot, which needed fast action, and EIOLT will pursue grant funding to recuperate most of the purchase price. It's not just this lot either; many of our recent conservation successes were possible because of the Acquisition Fund. We're fortunate to have the generosity and support of you, our donors, who've contributed to building the Acquisition Fund. If you want to help us protect more land, and faster, please consider designating an additional gift to the EIOLT Acquisition Fund.



HERE COME YOUR CAMPERS

Marley, a sixth-grade student at Jane Edwards School, has participated in our program for two years. During the past year, she enjoyed discovering how to catch crabs and shrimp while having a great time! She is excited about exploring the mountains of North Carolina at camp and aims to pursue a career as an interior designer by owning her own business in the future.



Dalilah, a fifth-grade student at Jane Edwards School, enjoyed making her own lantern from sticks with fellow young Naturalists this year. She is thrilled about attending camp to further explore the outdoors and aspires to become a nurse in the future.



Rain, a sixth-grade homeschool student from Edisto Island, is eager to join camp for the first time. She's excited about the opportunity to socialize, learn new things, and make new friends. Rain's favorite activities at young naturalist events were crafting lanterns and crabbing. With aspirations of becoming a professional basketball or softball player, she is motivated to pursue her sports dreams.



Kiersten, a sixth-grader from Edisto Island, has a deep affection for camp! After attending last year, she developed a passion for hiking and connecting with nature. Kiersten thoroughly enjoys the Young Naturalist excursions as they allow her to delve into wildlife and environmental conservation. Her dream is to either become a veterinarian to assist animals or pursue a career in medicine to help people as a doctor in the future.



Capers, a fifth-grade student at Jane Edwards Elementary, is eagerly anticipating camp. With a passion for the outdoors, she is excited to learn how to fence. Capers particularly enjoys the young naturalist program, which allows her to explore Edisto, gaining knowledge about nature and the environment. Although undecided about her future career path, she is certain that she wants to make a difference in people's lives.

Lydia, a seventh-grade student, is going back to camp for a second year in a row. While she felt nervous last year, she now has a deep affection for everything related to camp. Her standout moments involved lake swimming and immersing herself in art. Lydia is especially keen on nature-based activities and is looking forward to the upcoming summer. In the future, she dreams of becoming an announcer.

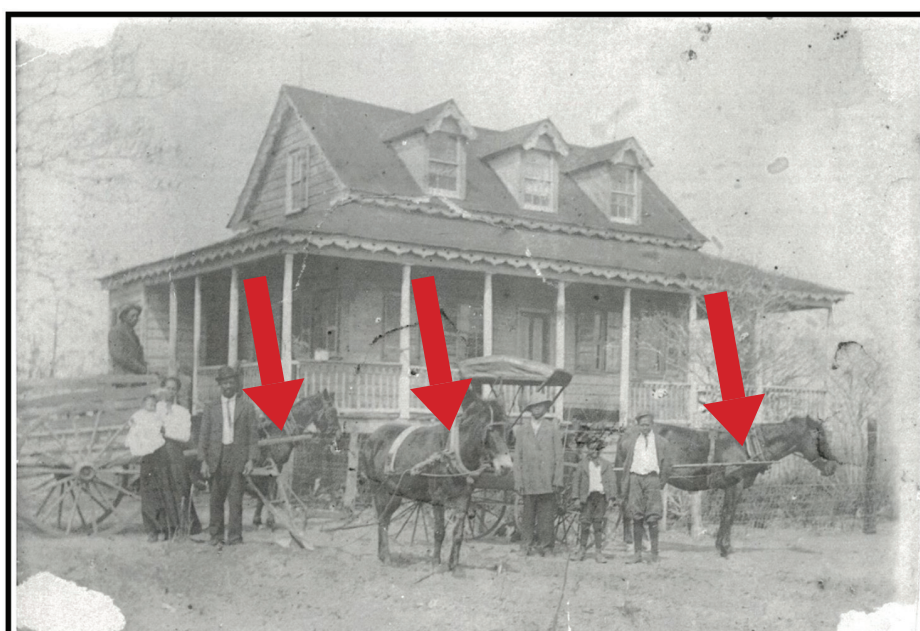
Journey, a fifth-grade student at Jane Edwards Elementary School, is excited about attending camp as she looks forward to meeting new friends. She is particularly enthusiastic about venturing into caves to boost her confidence in trying new experiences. In the future, she aims to pursue a career in culinary arts or acting. Journey has also chosen to take part in the acting class during this year's camp.



HUTCHINSON HOUSE UPDATES

Huss Construction made great progress this spring on the reconstruction of the $\frac{3}{4}$ wrap around porch and rear room as we work to bring the Hutchinson House back to its c. 1885 appearance. The cedar support posts are installed, the porch deck is in place, and for the first time in 100 years, it is possible to stand on the original footprint of the Hutchinson House porches! New brick piers for the rear room are standing and the rear room is framed-in. We also installed new and updated signage in the parking area for visitors; from January 1, 2024-April 15, 2024 we've welcomed 1018 cars through the front gate, and are pleased to provide new information as we work to complete the construction. Please stop by the next time you are nearby to see the ever-changing progress.

The Hutchinson House property is a rich archaeological site and we have recovered many interesting artifacts during construction. One such artifact, a brass horse hame (a part of a late 19th century horse harness), ties directly back to Henry Hutchinson as seen in the c. 1885 historic photograph of the Hutchinson family in front of their home with three horses. The discovery of objects such as this horse hame will help tell the story of the Hutchinson House in future exhibits. Please remember that metal-detecting or any kind of digging on the property is strictly prohibited.

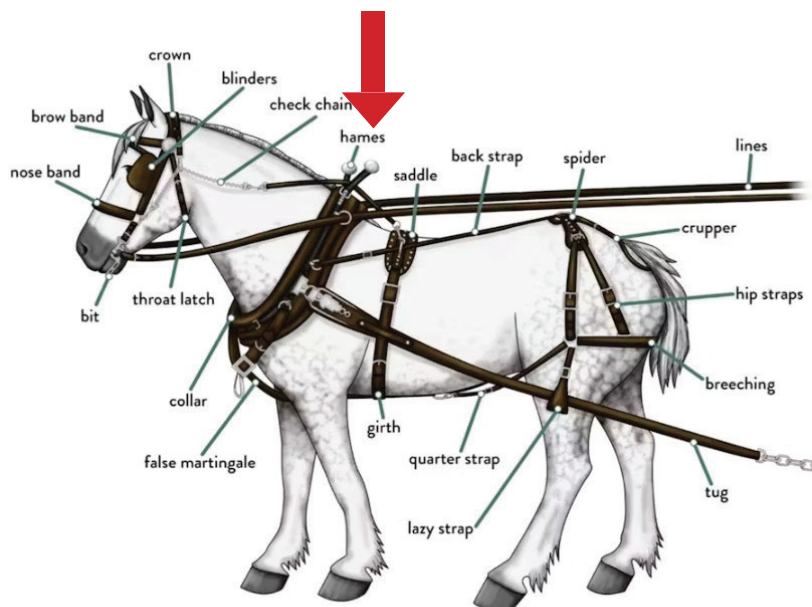


Left: The earliest known photograph of the Hutchinson House, c. 1900 with the Hutchinson family and three horses in front of their home. Arrows point to the horse harnesses. Courtesy of the Hutchinson Family Photograph Collection.

Bottom Left: Brass Horse Hame recovered archaeologically from the Hutchinson House in January 2024.

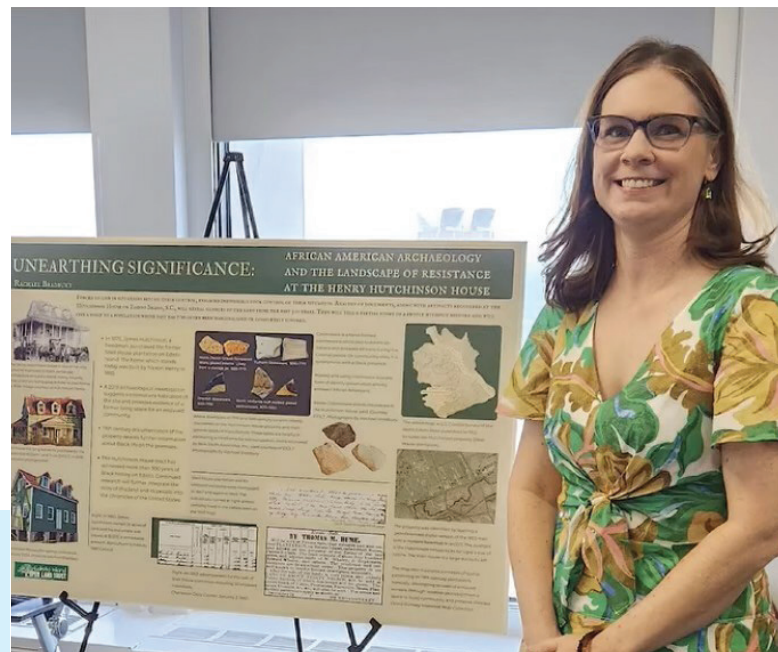
Bottom Right: Diagram of an 19th century horse harness. Arrows point to the horse hames.

Do you love history? Please consider a gift to the Hutchinson House: <https://edisto.org/help-save-the-hutchinson-house/>



HUTCHINSON HOUSE GRADUATE STUDENTS

One of the goals of our Hutchinson House Director is to involve graduate-level students in the preservation work of the Hutchinson House. Rachael Bradbury is graduating this spring with a Masters of Heritage Preservation from Georgia State University and her Capstone project was researching the chain of title before James “Jim” Hutchinson purchased the 404 acres previously constituting the Shell House plantation, analyzing archaeological artifacts recovered from the Hutchinson House project, and producing a series of interpretive panels that would explain to visitors different aspects of the properties historic past. Here you can see one of Rachael’s posters from her project. Congratulations to Rachael on earning her Masters Degree!



Right: Newly minted Masters of Heritage Preservation graduate student Rachael Bradbury with one of her Capstone posters on the Hutchinson House archaeology.

The Hutchinson House also worked with the Clemson Masters of Historic Preservation program centered out of the Cigar Factory in Charleston. Dr. Luke Pecoraro and his Cultural and Historic Landscape Preservation class used the Hutchinson House as a learning laboratory to produce a phase one Cultural Landscape Report or CLR. The class visited the Hutchinson House, mapped in a baseline GIS map with a transit, took Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) readings, and did extensive historical background work to prepare a document for EIOLT. This class is composed of first-year students and we hope to see more of them in the future.

Below: Clemson Cultural and Historic Landscape Preservation class. Dr. Luke Pecoraro (back) with graduate students from left to right: Hannah Truman, Nolly Swan, Claire Jackson, Jessica Ridder, Jocelyn Patterson, and Shawnya Peterson. Pictured on the newly constructed front porch of the Hutchinson House.



CLEANING UP OUR WATERWAYS & HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

Thanks to grant funding, EIOLT has embarked upon a three-year Septic System Improvement Program that represents a continued community-driven effort to address water quality impairments on Edisto Island and Edisto Beach. Particularly concerning is the bacteria pollution we believe is originating from failing septic systems. The program was created in response to the conclusions made in the 2022 Edisto Island Watershed-Based Plan, a report approved by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) which indicated that failing or poorly functioning septic systems are one of the most probable sources of bacterial pollution in the Edisto Island Watershed. EIOLT and our partners are providing financial assistance to qualifying applicants for septic system repairs and supplying educational resources to residents of the Edisto Island Watershed about how to properly maintain their septic systems.

So far, we have completed 17 system inspections, replaced five drain-fields, installed four drain-field pumps, and replaced nine septic systems. We are so pleased to provide a program that simultaneously helps our community members in need and betters the health of our creeks and rivers; helping everyone who loves and enjoys Edisto Island. We hosted our first Septic Improvement workshop in March and over 55 residents came out to learn about the program. Our neighbors asked great questions, picked up applications for their friends and family, and enjoyed fellowship while learning about the program.

As the spring wind swiftly pushes 2024 along, Edisto Island prepares to return once more to its bustling summer season. This means more traffic, more people, more flushes, and more rain. Few streets on the beach utilize sewer lines and, in fact, nearly all lots on the Island use a septic system. We know that every visitor doesn't necessarily respect the wishes of their rental flush policy. When a system is impaired by objects they are not designed to handle, it is bad news for the health of septic tanks and drain-fields. We want to challenge you all to tell a friend, especially a friend with a rental property, to follow the information recommended about how to maintain their septic systems.

Follow the Edisto Island Open Land Trust on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date with the program. Visit <https://edisto.org/water-quality> to learn more about the efforts to preserve water quality in the Edisto Island Watershed.



MANY WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This Fall we commence a year-long celebration of our 30th Anniversary, beginning with our annual Oyster Roast on November 10th. As the preparations and planning get underway, we are also looking out 30 years from now, and focusing on what it will take to ensure EIOLT remains healthy and strong in order to maintain all the hard work you and so many others have dedicated to keeping our treasured Edisto from losing our rural and natural character. You are already here with us, so we thank you for your support, and we hope you will consider leaving an even greater legacy by considering additional ways you can make a lasting impact.

Join the Horizon Circle

Become a part of our planned giving donor group, the **Horizon Circle**, by including the land trust in your will, in a life insurance policy or any other estate plans. We have a wonderful platform (Freewill) you can even use to create your own will right on our website, or by scanning the QR code below. You may have already included the land trust in your will, and 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.

We celebrate your support at our annual cocktail reception hosted exclusively for **Horizon Circle** members, when we show our appreciation for your forethought and generosity.



Scan the QR Code to create your own will with FreeWill!

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. We would love for you consider the EIOLT as a recipient of any of your unneeded distribution dollars. This will qualify as a qualified charitable distribution and means any gifts from your IRA to the EIOLT are not taxed and also reduce the amount of your RMD that is then subject to taxation. It's a great way to support our organization and avoid some possible additional tax costs as well! 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.

Become a Sandlapper

Consider Monthly Giving – the generous group named *The Sandlappers* represents a growing number of donors who contribute smaller amounts monthly and often allows you to increase your overall giving potential 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, and selecting monthly when you make your donation.

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!



Please use the enclosed envelope if you would like to make an additional donation.



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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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SAVE THE DATE

Annual Oyster Roast

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Sand Creek Farm

Tickets on Sale in September!