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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.

## STAFF

John Girault  
*Executive Director*

Sarah Stroud Clarke  
*Hutchinson House Director*

Tom Austin  
*Director of Land Conservation*

Krystal Parsons  
*Young Naturalist Coordinator  
& Finance Administrator*

Kimberly Flathmann  
*Outreach & Event Coordinator*

Deborah Hargis  
*Donor Database Manager*

Nolly Swan  
*Hutchinson House Community Outreach  
& Event Coordinator*

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# For Land's Sake

## 2025 VOLUME 2

## WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR WAVE 3 OF THE SEPTIC PROGRAM

2024's Wave 2 of the Edisto Island Septic System Improvement Program was a smashing success and a huge step forward in solving our community's water quality issues. However, the work is not yet done. We have a long waiting list of nearly 30 homeowners in need of financial assistance to solve their septic system issues and an ambitious goal of eliminating bacteria pollution impairments from Edisto Island's waterways. EIOLT is hard at work forming partnerships, facilitating research, and writing grants to make Wave 3 of the Program a reality for 2026. We're striving to repair another 45 septic systems in the Edisto Island Watershed in Wave 3, for a total of 100 repairs by the Program. Wave 3's repairs will stop an estimated *one-trillion* fecal coliform bacteria per year from entering our waterways.

EIOLT is applying to the US EPA to help fund the program through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, which will match our funds by 150%; meaning **for every \$1 we raise today, we'll have \$2.50 tomorrow**. This spring, Coastal Community Foundation's Healthy Harbors Fund awarded EIOLT a \$40,000 grant for the continuation of the Septic Program. One of our amazing donors has pledged \$5,000 to the Program, with the challenge for EIOLT to raise another \$5,000 to match it. But to reach our goal and make Wave 3 an even more impactful than the last, we need to go even further.

**EIOLT needs your help to raise another \$33,300 this summer.** Every \$100 pledged today will be magnified by the EPA into \$250 for water quality work in 2026. That work is directly removing pollution from our waterways, keeping our ecosystems clean, preventing beach closures, cleaning up oyster beds, reducing health risks to swimmers and fishermen, and helping community members in need make critical home repairs. Edisto Island is surrounded by Outstanding Resources Waters and lies in the heart of the ACE Basin. We, as a community, rely on our waterways so much for so many things that in turn define us as a people and an Island. Good water quality is a good thing, for everyone. Help us make good things happen on Edisto. Please consider a donation towards our \$33,300 goal for the Septic System Improvement Program. Simply make a note that your gift is designated for the Septic Program, and we will be sure it goes toward this important endeavor.



## OYSTER ROAST: SAVE THE DATE

**EIOLT Annual Oyster Roast. Sunday, November 9th, 2025**

Sand Creek Farm. Advance Tickets Required

Tickets go on sale September 9th at 11am

Tickets: [www.edisto.org](http://www.edisto.org) or call the office at 843-869-9004

Sponsorships now available!

Contact Kimberly at [kim@edisto.org](mailto:kim@edisto.org)



*Clemson University and USC-Beaufort researchers are working with EIOLT to collect water samples across all of Edisto Island's creeks to identify local sources of bacteria pollution. Currently, over 70% of Edisto Island's tidal creeks are polluted with excessive levels of fecal bacteria.*



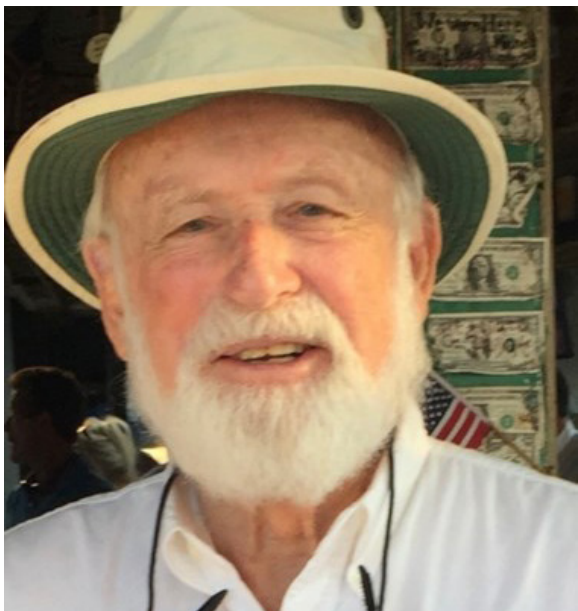
*Scan the QR code and select Septic Assistance Program to donate online.*



# FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER PASSES

We were all so deeply saddened by the passing of one of our founding board members, Lawrence “Sandy” Savage, who left us on June 18, 2025. Sandy was a vital part of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust’s beginnings in 1995, when a small but passionate group gathered to launch what would become a lasting force for conservation on Edisto. At our first “kick-off rally” that spring at Botany Bay Plantation, Sandy stood alongside fellow founders—Jenks Mikell, Jim Rice, Ellen Unger, Jim Kempson, Gordon Locatis, and David Lybrand—to introduce the community to the mission of preserving Edisto’s unique landscapes.

In those early days, before there was an office or a staff, the Trust operated out of the trunk of Jenks’s well-traveled BMW, with board meetings held on back porches and materials stored in a single cardboard box. Sandy brought vision, commitment, and a deep love for Edisto to those formative efforts. His legacy is written into the land we’ve protected and the community we continue to serve. He will be greatly missed.



# WELCOME NEW STAFF: KIM AND NOLLY

Originally from South Carolina, I moved to Edisto about four years ago and quickly fell in love with the Island way of life. As the Outreach and Event Coordinator at EIOLT, I get to share my passion for nature, conservation, and community with others—and I genuinely couldn’t ask for a better gig. At home, life is anything but quiet. I share it with my husband, our three wild-and-wonderful kids, a loyal Black Lab named Shadow, and a small farm’s worth of chickens and rabbits. Most nights, you’ll find me in the yard with my headlamp, a “broom”, and questionable bravery, protecting the animals from whatever raccoon, armored pig, or mysterious “something” is lurking in the shadows. It’s basically National Geographic meets backyard sitcom. I’m passionate about all things outdoors (unless it involves spiders—then I’m out), with a soft spot for alligators, starry skies, and pushing my limits at the gym. If I’m not at a PTO meeting, I’m probably lifting weights or trying to capture the Milky Way on camera before the mosquitoes carry me away.



Please welcome Nolly Swan, to the land trust as our new Hutchinson House Community Outreach and Event Coordinator, a position funded by the Mellon Grant. Nolly is a two-time Clemson graduate, most recently graduating with her Masters of Science in Historic Preservation in May. Nolly first worked at the Hutchinson House in the spring of 2024 when she participated in a Cultural Landscape course using the Hutchinson House as their case study. For her graduate thesis titled, “A Comparative Analysis of Cultural Preservation Focused Land-Use Regulations within the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor of South Carolina,” she analyzed the effectiveness of 3 different land use regulations on 3 islands within the GGCHC of SC including: Edisto Island, St. Helena Island, and Hilton Head Island.” Nolly is uniquely qualified and suited for this position and we are thrilled to have her assistance on the Hutchinson House project!



# YOUNG NATURALISTS TAKE ON GREEN RIVER PRESERVE

This summer, our Young Naturalists attended Green River Preserve camp in the North Carolina mountains for two weeks. They showed up with curiosity, courage, and a sense of adventure as they hiked, paddled, and played their way through an unforgettable time at camp. Whether it was trying something new, conquering fears, or building lasting friendships, these campers made memories that will stay with them for years to come.

Many campers took great pride in overcoming challenges. Rain shared, “I’m really proud I pushed myself to hike seven miles, even though I wasn’t feeling great that day.” Kiersten echoed that determination, saying, “I did major hiking with a heavy backpack and did not stop the whole time.” Journey bravely ventured into new territory, saying, “One thing I did this summer that I’m proud of, is going in the cave and having fun... I did things I thought I’d never do.”

Camp wasn’t just about individual growth—it was also a place where friendships flourished. Dalilah shared that she and her friends “sang along to the songs on the bus,” while Journey recalled “going polar bearing” with a friend. Kiersten cherished making new friends and even created a unique greeting handshake with one of them. Rain and her group took on icy hikes together, saying, “me and my friends polar plunged almost every time we hiked on a water hike.”

Every camper had their own journey, but together they created a community built on resilience, joy, and a love for the natural world. We couldn’t have done this without your support—thank you for helping make these experiences possible. You are truly making a difference in their lives. We are so proud of what our Young Naturalists accomplished and can’t wait to see where their adventures take them next!

