



EDISTO ISLAND
Open Land Trust

Tidal Tales

TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT LANDS, SCENIC VISTAS, HERITAGE, AND CONSERVATION RESOURCES OF EDISTO ISLAND.

A Conservation Year To Remember

Edisto's greenspace grew last year by 1,027 acres, thanks to Edisto landowners who protected nine of their properties with conservation easements to EIOLT. According to EIOLT Executive Director, Marian Brailsford, "These easements are not isolated tracts - each connects with other conserved lands to expand Edisto's natural land corridors." Six tracts form a new conservation hub on Store Creek, which started with the preservation of Carroll Belser's Sunny Side Plantation property totaling 62 acres.

Adjacent Sunny Side Plantation properties, all along Peters Point Road, include Gale Belser Thompson's 88 acres,

Susalee Norris Sasser's 83 acres, and Eleanor Rice Burns' 55 acres.

Directly opposite Sunny Side across Store Creek the Hastings family protected 140 acres of historic Governor's Bluff Plantation. This heavily-wooded property has almost a mile of creek frontage.



Sunny Side Plantation on Store Creek

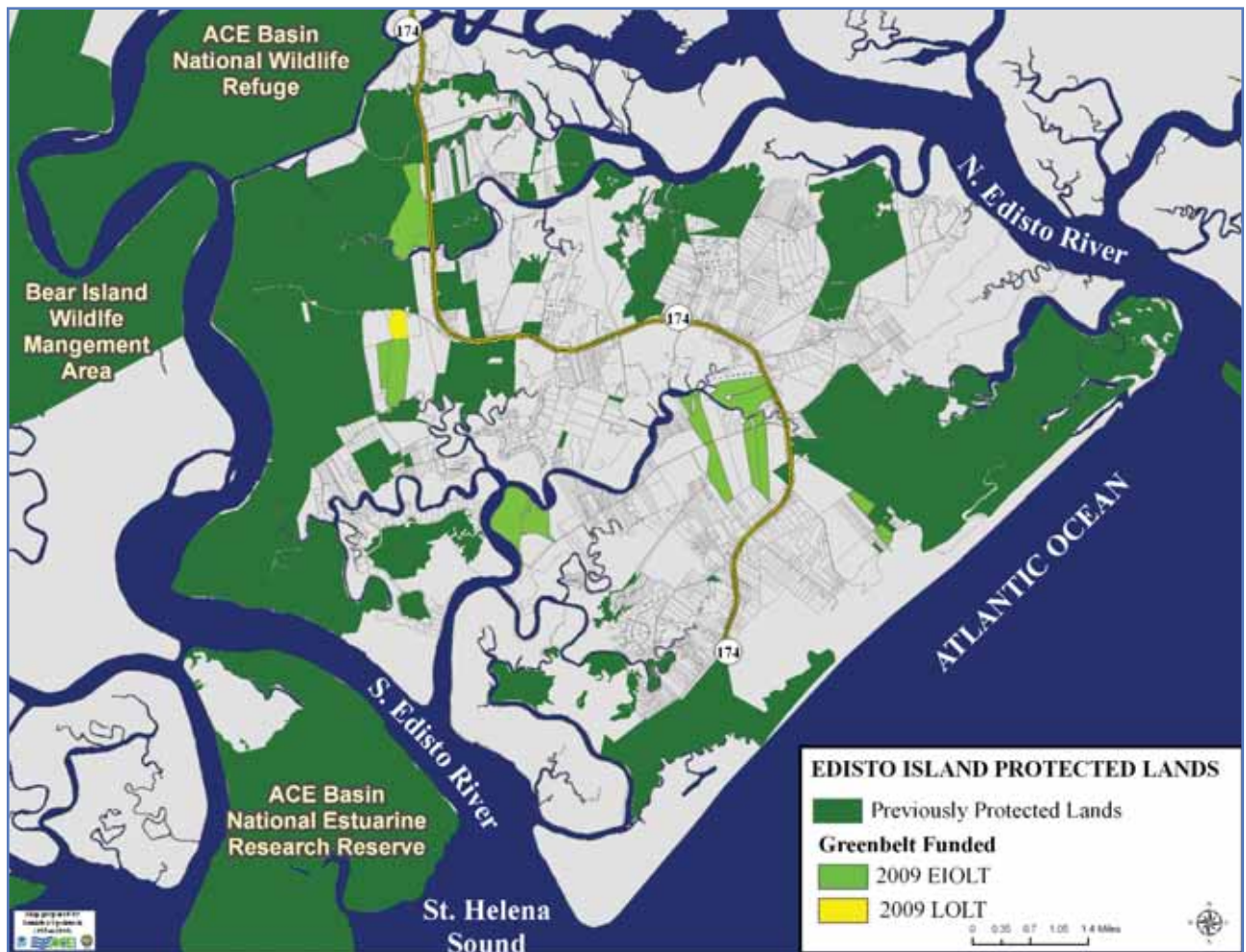
EIOLT Board Member, BoBo Lee said, "Governor's Bluff has a beautiful live oak canopy along both its frontage on Highway 174 and Wescott Road. It's

wonderful to know it will always look the way it does today." *Story Continued on Page 3...*

BEST of 2009

- **MOST** successful year in 15-year history
- **MOST** land protected - 1,027 new acres
- **IN TOP 5%** of U.S. land trusts awarded accreditation
- **174** Named One of 4 *National Scenic Byways* in SC
- **PARTNER** in 20-year-old ACE Basin Task Force with 195,000+ acres preserved
- **6% INCREASE** in membership support!

THANK YOU!!!



Charleston Greenbelt funding has helped make Edisto Island the conservation model for the SC Lowcountry!

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

MISSION

To preserve and protect lands, scenic vistas, heritage, and conservation resources of Edisto Island for future generations.

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A SPONSOR MEMBER OF THE
LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

New Board Leadership



Alex S. Crawford, Jr.

Alex (Lex) S. Crawford, Jr., was installed as EIOLT's new Board President in January. A member of the Board of Directors for seven years, Lex served as Board Vice President for the last four. He and his family protected their 217-acre Sand Creek Farm property in 2007, and his passion for the conservation of Edisto Island knows no bounds. He succeeds BoBo Lee, EIOLT President for the last four years. Lex said, "Our members, Board and staff want to thank BoBo for his dedicated service to EIOLT and our mission. BoBo has shown us all what it means to be unwavering in your devotion to keeping a special place safe, and we are grateful that he has agreed to stay on the Board and continue this worthy work." ■



Burnet R. Maybank, III

Burnet (Burnie) R. Maybank, III, joined the EIOLT Board late last year and now serves as the Chair of the Land Protection Committee. A tax attorney with the

Nexsen Pruet Law Firm in Columbia and Charleston, Burnie served for many years as SC Tax Commissioner and is recognized for significant contributions to SC's land conservation success. He is the author of numerous local, state, and federal tax incentives for conservation easement donations. Burnie serves as Chair of EIOLT's Land Protection Committee. ■



Bobby R. Creech, Jr.

Bobby R. Creech, Jr., newly elected member of the Board, is a partner in the CPA firm, Webster Rogers, LLP, at the firm's Charleston office. Since 2005 he has served on the SC Board of Accountancy and is currently Chair. He also serves on committees of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, as well as the DNR's Migratory Waterfowl Committee. Bobby will Chair EIOLT's Audit Committee, and serve on the Finance Committee. ■



EIOLT Accreditation Task Force

Land Trust Accreditation

In August EIOLT was accredited by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission - the second land trust in South Carolina and one of 80 nationally. Accreditation signifies that EIOLT meets quality standards for "protecting natural places and working lands forever."

The new Accreditation seal on EIOLT printed materials means the land trust has undergone an extensive external review

of its governance, management, and land protection policies, and it certifies EIOLT is operating in an ethical, legal and technically sound manner. Accreditation must be renewed every five years. "This safeguards the stability and longevity of EIOLT, which is important to its stewardship of Edisto's protected lands," said EIOLT board member, Pam Jacobs. ■

September Beach and River Sweep

Edisto Pride recruited 122 volunteers who came out for the 21st annual Beach and River Sweep. Thanks go out to Edisto Water Sports for providing guides

and kayaks, to FRESpace for sponsoring the lunch for volunteers, to Edisto Beach State Park for the use of their picnic shelters, and to the Town of Edisto Beach for their support. ■

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A Year to Remember

The Store Creek conservation hub continued to grow in 2009 to encompass Pinkney Mikell's 184-acre Peters Point Plantation property, which lies across Store Creek from preserved Bailey Island. This land, which has been farmed for 300 years by the same family, contains maritime forest and expansive marshlands with several large hammocks (an area of highland within the marsh).



Raccoon crossing Mikell marsh to hammock

EIOLT President, Lex Crawford, observed, "The Mikell easement preserves a smorgasbord of wildlife habitats, in the vast dry marsh areas as well as in the

woods and fields. Protecting the ecosystem for wildlife is as much a part of our mission as protecting land."

To the north along Shingle Creek, the Newton family eased their 150 acres, a part of historic Frogmore Plantation. This heavily wooded property lies directly across Shingle Creek from protected Brookland Plantation. Craig Aubry of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, who helped with the baseline surveys for all EIOLT's 2009 easements, observed, "This property's maritime forest has some of the largest magnolias and live oaks we've seen in this area, and its freshwater wetlands and saltwater marsh are also outstanding habitats."

Adjoining the Newton property is a 46-acre tract, owned by the Bailey family, which was protected last year by Low Country Open Land Trust.

To the south, the Britton family placed a conservation easement on their 48-acre property, part of historic Jackdaw Hall Plantation. The Britton land has frontage on Frampton Creek and on Botany Bay Road, and it adjoins Botany Bay Plantation and another eased property, the McCollum-Bat-



Pond on Frogmore Plantation

tle tract. "The easement restrictions make this protected land a veritable extension of Botany Bay Plantation Wildlife Management Area," said Brailsford.

Each of the conservation easements closed last year received funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt Bank. In addition to EIOLT's eight new easements, the Crawford family's 217-acre Sand Creek Farm conservation easement, was transferred by TNC to EIOLT in December.

Brailsford said, "Thanks to Edisto's conservation-minded landowners and to the loyal support of our members, the new year finds EIOLT very close to the goal of half of Edisto Island preserved. With the indispensable support of our members we will keep working toward our 'Over the Top' goal." ■

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS FROM JANUARY 2009 TO JANUARY 2010

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Wills M. Keele - Keele Family, LLC
Joseph J. Keenan, Jr.
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Carolyn K. Kerstner

BUSINESS SHARE OUR COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE EDISTO

Corporate Allies (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
Asphalt Plant Products, Inc
Greene, Finney & Horton LLP
Business Partners (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
Edisto Real Estate Company, LLC
Enterprise Bank of South Carolina
Ehrhardt, Wallerboro & Edisto Island
Fairfield Ocean Ridge Property Owners Association
The Huffines Company LLC

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Robert Frank Land Surveying
Business Sponsors (\$500 - \$999)
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Palmetto Moon LLC
Peggy Wiggy
Prudential Kapp Lyons Realty
Village Mortgage - Charleston & Edisto
Yeargin Construction/Island Preferred Painting

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Yomans Gas & Oil
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AGSouth Farm Credit, ACA
Anderson Well Drilling
Atwood Vacations
Bank of Wallerboro
Bar, Unger, & McIntosh, LLC
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Business Members (\$100 - \$499) Cont'd
Edisto Woods & Waters Realty
& Martin Appraisals & Forestry, Inc.
Flowers Seafood
Griffin, Beach & Co., PA
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Hoover Chrysler-Jeep
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The Old Post Office Restaurant
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Thomas M. Richardson Agency, Inc.
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Business Members (\$100 - \$499) Cont'd
Varessa Kaufmann Photography
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Karen Yeargin Dental

2007-2009 PREMIER CORPORATE SPONSOR (\$10,000+) - Edisto Sales & Rentals Realty, LLC - Matthew K. Kizer, 1405 Palmetto Blvd., Edisto Island SC 29438 - 843-869-2527

WE WRAPPED UP 2009 WITH A BANG!

Oyster Roast/Annual Meeting



Oyster Roast 2009

Bill Varn, President of Enterprise Bank, and Matthew Kizer, President of Edisto Realty MUST have connections with the weatherman because it seems that as long as they continue to sponsor EIOLT's annual meeting and oyster roast, we can count on great weather. On November 15, a large crowd enjoyed great Lowcountry cuisine,

live music by "Edisto Gumbo," and the hospitality of hosts, Anne and Lex Crawford, owners of Sand Creek Farm. In her annual address to members, Marian Brailsford thanked the Crawfords for placing their scenic waterfront farm under conservation easement with EIOLT. ■

ACE Basin 20th Anniversary Celebration

More than 300 easement donors and honored guests gathered at Willtown Bluff Plantation on November 22, to celebrate the monumental success of the ACE Basin Project. Charles Lane, Chair of the ACE Basin Task Force, said that in 1989 the project's founders set a 20-year goal to preserve 100,000 acres in the ACE Basin. Instead, he said, this coalition of private landowners, land trusts, and state and federal conserva-

tion agencies have preserved almost 200,000 acres – twice the goal in that time! This "conservation on a grand scale" Lane attributed to the passion of the landowners. The keynote speaker at the celebration, Matthew Connelley, retired Executive Vice President of Ducks Unlimited, said that the ACE Basin Task Force is a wonderful model for how other parts of America can collaborate to preserve the lands they love. ■



DNR's John Frampton speaks at ACE Basin Celebration

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SPECIAL PARTNERS

Charleston County Greenbelt Bank

helped protect 20 Edisto properties in last 3 years

The Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

many years of mentoring and operations support + a special grant in 2009 in honor of EIOLT's accreditation

Edisto Sales & Rentals Realty

Premier Corporate Partner for past three years, the highest level of business support

U. S. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

for last two years provided funding for land stewardship + expert assistance with baseline surveys

Sunshine Foundation

many years of loyal support to offset costs of land protection

The Nature Conservancy

transferred Sand Creek Farm conservation easement to EIOLT's stewardship

Town of Edisto Beach ATAX Committee

for over ten years has provided funding for twice-weekly litter pick-up along Edisto Island National Scenic Byway

PalmettoPride S.C. Anti-Litter Organization

many years of funding EdistoPride activities and in '08 and '09 provided grants for Back to Nature educational events

South Carolina Dept. of Transportation

partnered in winning the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway designation and future partners in implementing the Corridor Management Plan

ACE Basin Task Force

partners in saving Edisto and 197,000 acres in the ACE

2010 Events

FORE! TOMATO OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT JUNE 25



The third Tomato Open Golf Tournament will be held Friday, June 25, at the beautiful Plantation Course at Edisto. It will have a Captain's Choice

format and four-person teams, with many contests and prizes, similar to the 2009 event which included a hole-in-one contest, closest-to-the-pin contests, a longest-putt contest, raffle, Mulligan prizes and other prizes, as well as breakfast, lunch and cocktails. For more information contact Leland Vaughn at the Plantation Course, (843) 869-1111. Or call EIOLT at (843) 869-9004.

DESIGNATION ACCOMPLISHED

Six years of anticipation ended on October 16 when the US Secretary of Transportation named Edisto's Highway 174 the fourth National Scenic Byway in the State. The new Edisto Island National Scenic Byway joins Ashley River Road Scenic Byway, Cherokee Foothills Scenic Byway, and Savannah River Scenic Byway.

Now that the effort toward this historic milestone, led by EIOLT, has been successful, the work of implementing the community's vision for the corridor has passed to the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance. ■

RIBBON CUTTING FOR BYWAY - FEB. 20

The official opening of the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway took place at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, February 20, at 12 Noon, at the Edisto Island Community Center. Residents and friends of Edisto and honored guests from Edisto, Charleston and Colleton Counties, and state government were on hand to welcome the fourth National Scenic Byway in South Carolina. Traffic was temporarily halted as the ribbon stretched across the road was cut and the roadside "American's Byways" route signs unveiled.



Route sign
Edisto Island National Scenic Byway

BACK TO NATURE CELEBRATION – MAY 15 AND 16

Preserving Edisto's natural treasures will be the focus on Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16, during EIOLT's 5th Annual Back to Nature Celebration. Board members, Sid Gauthreaux and Pam Jacobs, are this year's Co-Chairs for the weekend event.

DAY 1: Saturday, May 15, will feature outings on EIOLT-conserved lands, with such renowned naturalists and experts as Dr. Patrick McMillan, Dr. Richard Porcher, Dr. Dennis Forsythe, our own Dr. Sid Gauthreaux, and more. This annual event provides rare opportunities for members and the public to see up close the beauty and fascinating flora and fauna on these private lands. There's more good news with the announcement of additional EIOLT nature excursions later this year - the objective being to help more and more people understand the benefits of living close to nature year-round. For event details and dates of future excursions, watch your mailbox or visit www.edisto.org.



Back to Nature 2009

DAY 2: On Sunday, May 16, EIOLT will host its annual Legacy Live Oak Dedication at 3 p.m. at Indigo Farms. Open to EIOLT members and the public, the program will dedicate the live oaks recently planted to honor special individuals who have created a legacy of caring for the irreplaceable natural beauty of Edisto Island. ■

NEW LEGACY LIVE OAK HONOREES

In honor of Judith B. Holford
Tom & Sandra Banks

In memory of Florence Y. Cole
David & Rebecca Williams - Bryson & Dawson

In memory of Florence Ellis McDaniel
R. S. & Marjorie Nickel

Special donation of ten live oaks
Gwendolyn Fox Prestidge

In memory of Marjorie McDaniel Brailsford
R. S. & Marjorie Nickel

In memory of Malcolm & Mot Little
Joel & Greta Little

In memory of Eula Jernigan Downs
James & Marian Brailsford

In memory of Edward and Gwenne Myerson
Joel & Greta Little

In memory of E. Clifton Kinder
Mr. & Mrs. James O. Kempson

109 Legacy Live Oaks have been planted to-date along the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway. For a complete list of honorees, visit our website, www.edisto.org/legacyliveoaks.

WANTED: Event Sponsors! Call 843-869-9004 for info on the many sponsorship options and benefits.

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EDISTO ISLAND
Open Land Trust 

GIVE a gift to the EIOLT Property Fund And help keep Edisto scenic, rural, and peaceful



WE NEED
YOUR HELP
MORE THAN EVER
TO GO
"OVER THE TOP."
More than half of
Edisto preserved
forever!

Please use enclosed remittance envelope to make a gift.

Save These Dates!

- March 20
Great American Clean Up
- May 15
Back to Nature - Excursions
- May 16
Back to Nature – Legacy Live
Oak Dedication
- June 25
Tomato Open Golf
Tournament
- September 18
Beach/River Sweep Clean Up
- November 14
Oyster Roast and
Annual Meeting

Volunteers needed! For event details or to volunteer, contact EIOLT at (843) 869-9004, eiolt@bellsouth.net