

FALL 2010



EDISTO ISLAND
Open Land Trust

Tidal Tales

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

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE...BUILDING ON THE PAST

New Executive Director



George Kimberly

who will be stepping down at year end.

George grew up near Winston-Salem, NC, and has always enjoyed fishing, hunting and outdoor sports. After getting his Bachelor and Law degrees from

Changes are underway at your land trust! George Kimberly joined EIOLT earlier this year as Development Director. In September he will become Executive Director to replace Marian Brailsford,

Wake Forest University, he practiced law in NC for many years. In 2000, he and his wife, Karen, took a 3-year sabbatical managing a fly-fishing guest ranch in Montana. When they returned to Charleston, Karen took a position with Porter Gaud School and George went back to practicing law.

George recently decided to redirect his career to combine his legal skills with his passion for conservation. He has volunteered for various conservation organizations, and started up a nonprofit to assist returning military veterans in their physical and emotional recovery via fly-fishing therapy. In 2009 he received certification in nonprofit management from Duke University.

During the last few months, George has proven to be a great asset to EIOLT. He welcomes ideas and suggestions from EIOLT members' on what they would like to see accomplished. George said, *I am honored to have the opportunity to work with EIOLT members to preserve the farms, natural lands, and cultural heritage of this historic island. My goals are to serve our Board and membership by working to identify key conservation and community outreach initiatives that advance the land trust's mission, to build upon Edisto's standing as a model for community-based conservation, and to strengthen EIOLT's role as a partner in the island's future.* ■

(See *Stepping Into The Wings* - Page 2)

A Decade of Conservation In Newsletter Headlines

With 50% of its land preserved, Edisto Island has earned the distinction of having the highest percentage of protected acreage of any inhabited sea island on SC's coast. These newsletter headlines tell the story of EIOLT's part in this historic progress over the last decade:

Winter, 2001

- First easement - Skidmore Tract, on Steamboat Landing Road

Winter/Spring, 2004

- Mystery Tree Tract (Highway 174) donated
- Legacy Live Oak Memorial Property (Highway 174) purchased

Winter, 2005

- Wescott Road property donated
- Middleton Farm Easement (off Lottie Pope Road) donated

Summer/Fall, 2005

- Cedar Hall Farm Property (Highway 174) purchased
- Toogoodoo Creek Easement (Hagan Road) donated

Fall, 2006

- Manse Road Easement donated
- Two Low Easements (Russell Creek Road) donated

Fall, 2007

Record-Breaking Year - 11 easements (9 donated and 2 purchased via Greenbelt funds)

- Highway 174: Indigo Farms + Creek Farm + Little Britton Farm + Old Schoolhouse Tract
- Russell Creek Road: Mosquito Point + SanRus Tract 3, Tract 4, and Tract 5 + Graham CE + Kraus CE + Melchers CE

Fall, 2008

- Three easements on Highway 174 purchased via Greenbelt funds
- Paradise Shrimp Farm
- Keefe Farm
- Polk Farm



Winter, 2009

Most Acres Preserved - 9 easements purchased via Greenbelt funds

- Peters Point Road: Belser-Sunnyside Plantation + Thompson-Sunnyside + Rice-Sunnyside + Sasser-Sunnyside + Pinkney Mikell-Peters Point Plantation
- Highway 174: Governors Bluff Plantation + Sand Creek Farm
- Botany Bay Road: Britton Family Tracts
- Newton-Frogmore Plantation off Laurel Hill Road

- "Edisto Island National Scenic Byway" designated
- EIOLT awarded national Land Trust Accreditation (2nd in SC and one of 80 in the U.S.)

Goal for the next decade: Go "Over the Top" with 60% of Edisto protected from development

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

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Stepping into the Wings

Marian Brailsford will be stepping down after more than seven years as Executive Director, but will continue her work with EIOLT through year-end. She adds *"I look forward to passing the leadership of the Land Trust on to my highly qualified successor. EIOLT's mission is very important to me, and I will support it for as long as I can be of service."*

BoBo Lee, Past President EIOLT Board and current member of the Board had this to say, *"There is no one person on earth who has put as much of her heart and soul into protecting Edisto Island as Marian Brailsford. She got the land trust focused and led EIOLT to become a force in the conservation effort in the Lowcountry. She is admired and respected by her peers and EIOLT is blessed to have had her at our helm. Generations to come will benefit from her dedication and vision of Edisto, and they will get to enjoy Edisto as we have . . . unspoiled and beautiful."*

Lex Crawford, President EIOLT Board of Directors added, *Marian has worked tirelessly during her term as Executive Director, and she has played a huge role in conserving our beloved island, which will result in an Edisto Island that will forever look much the same as today. She really put Edisto on the map and is leaving our organization on sound fi-*

nancial footing! We went from a handful of (protected properties) when she took over, to many easements with several thousand acres preserved. Her service to the Land Trust and Edisto was a love and passion that went way past a job.

Marian would like to convey her gratitude to EIOLT members and fellow-staff.

"You made it possible for me to serve in the most fulfilling work of my life – what a privilege to work with such wonderful people on so many worthy projects! Together, we have achieved something significant and unique . . . but we still have a ways to go on Edisto, and I know EIOLT can count on your on-going support." ■



Marian with Patrick McMillan of ETV's "Expeditions with Patrick McMillan" during the filming of an episode on Edisto

Congress Stalled on Tax Incentives Package

Conservation has slowed down in many parts of the country, and you can help. Background -- In 2006 Congress passed enhanced income tax incentives that made it financially feasible for many landowners to place conservation easements on family land. The incentives, which expired January 1:

- Raised the maximum deduction for a conservation easement donation from **30%** of donor's adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to **50%**;
- Allowed qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to **100%** of their AGI; and

- Increased the number of years for using the deductions from 6 to **16 years.**

There is currently a bill in Congress to extend the higher tax incentives -- **H.R. 1831 (House) and S. 812 (Senate)**, which has the support of a majority in the House and 42 senators. But the bill is stalled. You can help by calling the capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and asking your members of Congress to co-sponsor this bill. If you'd like more information visit www.landtrustalliance.org/policy/taxincentives/federal. ■



Carroll Belser was named EIOLT's Volunteer of the Year at the Legacy Live Oak Dedication on May 16, 2010. Thanks, Carroll, for all you continue to do for Edisto! ■

David Lybrand Retires

David Lybrand, founding board member recently retired after 16 years on EIOLT's Board of Directors. We gratefully acknowledge his service to EIOLT, including his visionary leadership with the Legacy Live Oak program and the Hwy. 174 Litter and Beautification project. ■

2010 Back To Nature Celebration

Fun -- and Learning -- in the Field

Saturday, May 15, 150 people took to Edisto's woods and fields and creeks, as a part of the three-day Back to Nature weekend celebration. Sponsors for the weekend-long celebration were Edisto Sales and Rentals Realty - Matthew K. Kizer, Youmans Gas & Oil Co., Inc., and Dock Side Restaurant.



Dr. Dennis Forsythe with tour group on Butterfly Walk - May, 15, 2010



Equipped with water bottles, cameras, binoculars, and sunscreen, leaders and learners headed out across the island for nature tours on protected lands -- Indigo Farms, Jehossee Farms, Sand Creek Farms, King's roadside market (Keefe Farm) -- and on Edingsville Beach and Big Bay Creek. The experts who donated their time and great talents included Sid Gauthreaux and Carroll Belser (birdwatching), Richard Porcher (beachcombing), Dennis Forsythe (butterfly walks), Jimmy and Marty Bell (shrimp boat cruise), Anne Mattox (coastal gardening), Susan Roberts (nature photography), Keenan Adams (birdwatching), and Ron Davis (creek fishing). ■



Jimmy and Marty Bell take group on ACE Basin boat tour - May, 15, 2010

Kids Learn to Love the Land

On Friday, May 14, wildlife biologist Carroll Belser and Keenan Adams, a biology professor at Clemson University, gave a hands-on presentation about reptiles to students at the Edisto Beach and Jane Edwards elementary schools.

Said Belser, "Our children are the future. Taking care of the natural world will soon be in their hands. It is essential that we expose them to nature and provide them with the knowledge and tools they will need to make good decisions concerning the island's wildlife and habitat." ■

At the annual Back to Nature school programs, Keenan Adams shows students from Jane Edwards School what an alligator looks like up close.

Legacy Live Oak Dedication

On Sunday, May 16, the seventh annual Legacy Live Oak Dedication was held at Indigo Farms. The keynote speaker was Dr. Sid Gauthreaux, retired Clemson University professor and now full-time resident of Edisto and an EIOLT board member. Sid said, "*Scientists now understand how critically important large-scale conservation is to*



the preservation of this coastal ecosystem and the survival of the diverse species that flourish here." He observed that EIOLT's greatest success lies in its creation of unsegmented wildlife corridors, which has been accomplished by getting easements on tracts that connected with already conserved areas on Edisto. The program also featured the formal dedication of the live oaks planted in 2010 to honor special individuals who have created a legacy of caring for the irreplaceable natural beauty of Edisto Island. ■

Members gather at Dedication to honor those for whom Legacy Live Oaks were planted in 2010.

You can see more photos of Back to Nature, as well as a bird list, at www.edisto.org. For a complete list of those honored by the 110 Legacy Live Oaks planted along the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway, visit our website, www.edisto.org/legacyliveoaks.

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 PoPigs Bo-Bo-Q / Southern Affairs Catering
 RVB Investments, LLC
 Sass Herin and Associates
 Sea Cow Eatery
 Signature Kitchens and Baths of Charleston, Inc.

Business Members (\$100 - \$499) Cont'd
 Susan Roberts Photos
 The Links at Stono Ferry
 The Myrtle Beach National Co.
 The Thrifty Fish
 The Waterfront Restaurant
 Vanessa Kautimann Photography
 Walter Construction Company
 Whaley's
 Yeargin Construction / Island Preferred Painting

FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS

Charleston County Greenbelt
 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Edward and Dorothy Kendall Foundation
 Town of Edisto Beach
 Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
 Walmart Stores, Inc.
 Land Trust Alliance
 Wherry Family Foundation
 Lowcountry Relief Endowment of Coastal Community Foundation
 Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
 South Carolina Conservation Bank
 Sunshine Foundation

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS FROM FEB 2010 TO AUG 2010

In Memory of June Alton
 Margaret Hill and Betty Taylor
 In Memory of Shirley D. Barker
 Adina Allen and Dr. T. E. Barker
 In Honor of Marian Downs Bralstord
 Ida Tipton
 In Memory of Faith Britton
 Jane McCollum
 In honor of Jeffrey and Jennifer Brule
 Mrs. Charron Caparelo
 In Memory of Maggie Campbell
 Fred Palm and Laura Campbell

In Memory of Ethyl and Bill Colfer
 Dr. and Mrs. William A. Colfer
 In Memory of Helen M. Cop
 Margaret Hill
 In Memory of Lynda Corbett Dabbs
 Bill Dabbs
 In Memory of Dr. Perry Deloach
 Dr. and Mrs. Riddick Ackerman, III
 In honor of Mike and Paula Demoret
 Phyllis and Gary West
 In Memory of Eula Downs
 Paul and Barbara Frigg

In Memory of Robert "Bobby" Fontaine
 Lynn Holey
 Matthew Kizer and The Staff of Edisto Realty
 In Memory of James O. "Pete" Gordon
 Judy Gordon
 In Memory of Mary Ella Hackett
 Cynthia B. Heyward
 The Hewitt Family
 In Memory of Nancy Herrin
 First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethan and Friends

In Memory of Robert "Bobby" Fontaine
 Ann Mikell
 In Memory of Laurin Johnson
 Cynthia B. Heyward
 In Memory of Dr. Thad Kelly
 Carolyn Turner Kelly
 In Memory of E. Clifton Kinder
 Gay Gardeners Garden Club
 Doris and David Lybrand
 E. Horry Parker
 In honor of David Lybrand
 Dr. Roslyn D. Taylor

In Memory of Sybil Davis Mack
 Sarah and Gary Cuccio and Beverly Oswald
 In Memory of Robert W. McCully, Sr.
 Matthew Kizer and The Staff of Edisto Realty
 In Memory of Alice H. McCurdy
 Matthew Kizer and The Staff of Edisto Realty
 In Memory of Jessica and Darren McMullen
 Michael and Patricia McMullen
 In Memory of Lloyd and "Binky" Mitchell
 Mike, Dicky, Dwight and Mary
 In Memory of Robert F. Morris
 Kirby S. Tupper, III

In Memory of Jennifer Thomas and Peggy Fender
 Peggy K. Fender
 In Memory of Charlie Porter
 Matthew Kizer and The Staff of Edisto Realty
 In Memory of Carol Sashett
 Cynthia B. Heyward
 In Memory of B. J. Summer
 Peggy Fender
 In Memory of Linn Tompkins
 Doris and David Lybrand
 In Memory of Wallace Trowell
 Amy U. Trovelli

2010 Tomato Open Golf Tournament

When we think of tomatoes and greens we usually have a knife and fork in hand, not a golf club. On June 25 baskets of tomatoes garnished each tee box on the greens at the Plantation Golf Course for EIOLT's annual Tomato Open Golf Tournament, an annual fundraiser celebrating Edisto's rich farming history.

The tournament was a rousing success, with 60 players competing in teams and taking their chances at hole-in-one prizes that included a Scout boat and Honda Accord. After tournament play and catered lunch, there was a raffle prize drawing and a live auction for prizes that included exotic vacation trips and a helicopter tour of Edisto Island.



Golfers putting around tomato baskets on the green

Post-tournament activities included a putting contest that ended with one golfer attempting a putt to win \$5000.00, and

a "Million Dollar Shootout" where five golfers competed for a chance to hole a shot and win one million dollars. Although unsuccessful in their attempts to win the "green", in keeping with the celebratory spirit of the Tomato Open cheers of encouragement were thrown at the competitors, in lieu of "rotten tomatoes".



Archie Caldwell attempting the Million Dollar Shot

Lead sponsors for this year's event were: Barr, Unger and McIntosh, LLC; Edisto Beach Pavilion; Edisto Real Estate Company; Piggly Wiggly Carolina Company; SeaRay Scout of Charleston, and Stokes Honda North. Twenty-one local businesses were hole sponsors, helping to make this year's Tomato Open the most successful yet. Proceeds from the Tomato Open go toward helping to preserve Edisto's historic farms and natural lands.

"Seeds" have already been planted for next year's Tomato Open, and details will follow as soon as the plans "ripen." ■

Scenic Byway Update

Have you noticed the new Edisto Island National Scenic Byway sign? It's nestled in wax myrtles on the side of the road as you approach the Dawhoo River Bridge coming onto Edisto Island. After months of working on the design, EIPA (Edisto Island Preservation Alliance) has installed the gateway sign in its new home! Funds for the sign were donated by Jane Edwards School, which was awarded a Palmetto Pride grant for the purpose of enhancing the scenic view shed and encouraging the public to keep the corridor litter-free. Other news along the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway -- work begins soon on replacing the bridges over Sand Creek, Russell Creek, and Store Creek, and EIOLT was recently awarded special recognition by the Governor's SC Scenic Highway Committee for its leadership in attaining the national designation for Highway 174. ■



Gateway sign at the entrance to the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway

EIOLT and EIPA are busy exploring potential funding for Corridor Management Plan projects and the preservation of buffer lands along the byway.

Tickets On Sale For Oyster Roast November 14

JOIN US AND HELP SAVE THE "PEARL" OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

Sunday, November 14 at 2:00 PM at the Crawford family's Sand Creek Farms, 3101 Highway 174, the 2010 Oyster Roast & Annual Meeting will be the biggest and best yet! This year we will honor a gentleman and an organization long associated with EIOLT's annual oyster roast:

Mr. William H. "Bill" Varn, President of Enterprise Bank and long-time EIOLT supporter.



Bill Varn, and some of the Enterprise Bank 'family' at 2007 Oyster Roast.

For seven consecutive years, Enterprise Bank, has been the key sponsor of EIOLT's Oyster Roast/Annual Meeting. Since 2004, when this partnership began, both EIOLT and Enterprise Bank have grown significantly. Enterprise Bank was founded in 1920

by Bill Varn's father, and now, thanks to Bill's long-time visionary leadership, it has grown to six locations, including on Edisto Island. He attributes the bank's success to its community involvement and personalized service. Enterprise Bank has demonstrated its commitment to the Edisto community and to protecting what makes Edisto special via its support of EIOLT. Another example of community involvement, in the little town of Smoaks (Colleton County) the bank was instrumental in attracting a manufacturing facility that has for the past 50 years provided jobs for local people. The partnership between Enterprise Bank and EIOLT proves that a focus on doing good work in a community can pay big dividends. ■



LEFT: Jamie Westendorff, long-time caterer for EIOLT's annual Oyster Roast, is seen here with EIOLT members at 2008 event. He will be back in full swing on November 14 with delectable Low-country treats. ■



RIGHT: The Edisto Gumbo Band, seen here at 2009 event, will once again perform pro-bono on November 14! ■



Get a Head Start on Your Christmas shopping!

It's really not too early to think about the approaching holiday season. Here's an idea: To simplify your gift giving, EIOLT is offering special rates on gift memberships for your family and friends.

- Single gift for \$50**
- 2 gifts for \$80**
- 3 gifts for \$125**

Each gift recipient will receive a Christmas card (or Holiday card) acknowledgement of your gift. If your gift recipients are not already EIOLT members, they will receive full membership benefits year-round. These membership benefits include a subscription to *Tidal Tales* newsletter, e-news updates, discounted tickets to special events, and more.

Buy your EIOLT gift memberships today, then kick back, relax and enjoy the fellowship of the season. Send your check in the enclosed remittance envelope with names and addresses of recipients, or to charge your gift memberships call our office (843-869-9004).


It's a gift that lasts all year long! It's tax deductible! Best of all, it saves land on Edisto!

WANTED: 2011 Event Sponsors! Call 843-869-9004 for info on the many sponsorship options and benefits.

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www.edisto.org

EDISTO ISLAND
Open Land Trust 

IT'S IN THE MAIL

Shell out for conservation
Get your tickets to 2010 Oyster
Roast & Annual Members Meeting!



Sunday, November 14 **2:00 PM**
Tickets for members - \$25* - others \$40

*Bring your friends – anyone who comes with an EIOLT member gets discounted ticket price
Mail your check or Call 843-869-9004 to charge tickets



Help us go
Green!

***Send us your current
email address!****

Save trees
Save postage \$\$\$
Get breaking conservation news when it happens

***Want to receive your Tidal
Tales Newsletters
via email instead of US Mail?***

*Email your request to eiolt@bellsouth.net
* We do not share email addresses with other organizations*

Events are being planned for 2011 – stay tuned for updates via email or on our website.

EIOLT, P.O. Box 1, Edisto, SC 29438 • (843) 869-9004 • www.edisto.org