



Edisto Island OPEN LAND TRUST

For Land's Sake!

Cocktail Party and Golf Tourney Raise Important Funds for Conservation



The I Love Edisto Cocktail Party & Auction was attended by over 250 generous and lively supporters from Edisto, Charleston and surrounding communities. Crowd pleasing live and silent auction items and experiences were donated by amazing local individuals and businesses. "The generosity of this community and all those who donated items to our event is truly overwhelming and incredibly appreciated" said John Girault, Executive Director for EIOLT.

A delicious selection of heavy hors d'oeuvres by Southern Affairs Catering wowed the gathering, and Charleston television news personality and guest auctioneer Tom Crawford worked his magic to raise over \$50,000 to protect Edisto's natural integrity. An additional \$8,000 was raised for EIOLT's Education and Outreach program, which connects local children and families with nature.

The morning of the Tomato Open Golf Tournament dawned clear, bright and, fortunately, not too hot. The event kicked off

with a Million Dollar Shot, and although the golfer selected didn't make the hole-in-one, the excitement it generated led to good times all day long at the Plantation Course. 23 teams enjoyed a fun round of golf while they were served cold beverages by the always energetic "cart girls".

Winning teams: **1st Flight** – Team Rizer, Harrison, Mitchell and Smith; **2nd Flight** – Team Cox, Nettles, Ketchman and Bushey; **3rd Flight** – Team Fishback, Turberville, Turberville and Wamer.

Tremendous community support made for two truly successful events. Special thanks to our lead sponsors: BI-LO, Rizer Chevrolet, First Citizens, The Huffines Company, Atwood Vacations, Enterprise Bank, Edisto Real Estate, East Bay Financial Services, Jim Kempson - Carolina One Real Estate, Nelson Printing, Edisto Realty, Southern Affairs Catering, Po Pigs BBQ and the Plantation Course.

Visit our Facebook page to see photos of these events.



EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST

Mission

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

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A Note from the Executive Director

For you nature enthusiasts and outdoor aficionados, spring and summer are a time to pull out your gear and go fishing on a creek where you first learned to cast your rod, catch a glimpse of migratory shore birds resting on our shorelines, or try to find that elusive gobbler during turkey season. No matter how you enjoy yourself outdoors, I know you appreciate the many protected places we have to explore in our natural world and the diversity of habitat that allows wildlife to exist and thrive. But there is still much more to be done and we continue to work diligently to maintain a steady pace to protect even more of Edisto Island which is so important to humans and nature.

Most of the stories in this summer edition of our newsletter are about the excitement and activity surrounding several special events we hosted this spring and summer. These featured events are critical elements of fundraising for the land trust that will help us increase the number of acres protected on Edisto. It took a lot of support to make each event successful, and we cannot be more grateful to the attendees, committee members, volunteers, sponsors and board members who proved how generous our donors can be when it comes to protecting beautiful Edisto Island!

John Girault

Creekside Cookout

On one of our more tumultuous spring weather weekends in April, a devoted group of land trust supporters braved the cool rain and gusty wind to navigate a scenic drive through rural Edisto out to EIOLT Board member Burnie Maybank's marsh front property at Point of Pines Plantation. This hardy group of lead donors and special guests was invited out for some tasty home cooking by Burnie and to celebrate and thank them for their support and dedication to the land trust.



This event was held to set the stage for the creation of a new donor group named the Saltmarsh Society that will be celebrated each year at a gathering much like this special cookout. We wish to express our appreciation for those donors who make annual contributions of at least \$1,000 to our conservation efforts.



Our next gathering for our lead donors will have a hard time matching the delicious fare from Burnie's special Cuban Cooker, the beautiful view of Ocella Creek and the adventurous experience of an outdoor event on such a wild weather weekend.

Photos by Mary Thomas



Saltmarsh Society

EDISTO ISLAND OPEN LAND TRUST



Welcoming Charter Members

“I am protecting the open land of Edisto for my children and grandchildren.”

“We want to make a difference we can see.”

“I’m investing in the future of this fragile sea island.”

“I want to save this place I love by strengthening land conservation on Edisto.”

Comments such as these tell why concerned citizens are coming together for the cause of conservation by joining the Land Trust’s new Saltmarsh Society. We’re protecting the scenic vistas, working farms, and pristine waters that make Edisto a place of peace and tranquility.

The Saltmarsh Society is a community of charitable people who make annual cash contributions of at least \$1,000 to the Edisto Island Open Land Trust. In addition to the intrinsic rewards of supporting preservation and education, Saltmarsh Society membership will include social gatherings and unique opportunities to explore issues threatening Edisto’s land, air, and water. These leading donors will witness first-hand the conservation work being carried out by the Land Trust, and their generosity will be recognized in our publications.

The concept was enthusiastically endorsed at the Creekside Cookout (see opposite page). Participants chose the name “Saltmarsh Society” to evoke images of Edisto’s distinctive natural beauty, where tides govern the estuaries at the intersection of land and sea. Our lush green marsh brims with plant and animal communities that make it one of the most productive – and vulnerable – ecosystems on earth. The soothing and sensitive marsh in and around Edisto is an everyday reminder of the need to conserve this precious sea island at the gateway to the ACE Basin.

I invite you to join me as a charter member of the Saltmarsh Society by contributing at one of the top annual membership levels this summer. Our board and staff will consult with charter members soon to confirm plans and introduce the first Saltmarsh Society activity. For more information, please visit edisto.org or contact Executive Director John Girault at 843-869-9004 or john@edisto.org.

Doug MacIntyre

EIOLT board member Doug MacIntyre and Executive Director John Girault are certified South Carolina Master Naturalists, promoting stewardship for our natural resources through science-based education, outreach, and services.



Please find enclosed a return envelope if you would like to join the Saltmarsh Society or make an additional contribution.



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Photos by Mary Thomas



Sand Creek Farm

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Oyster Roast

Save the Date!!!

