



FRESpace Findings

Spring/Summer

2012

President's Report

The past eight months have been very good for us. Your membership fees and donations continue to support the needs of the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) and our Park. Our volunteers have continued to serve in an exemplary fashion where needed. Our funding has provided the following during this period:

- Funded \$75.00 for a new salinity meter which is now in service
- Funded \$112.00 for the previously approved pH temperature meter. After approval the old meter resumed functioning. Recently, the old meter failed catastrophically and the replacement was ordered and put in service.



- Funded \$84.48 for two 100' hoses, racks and nozzles which have been installed on the ELC boat walkway and pier head. These are used to wash off sea gull droppings on the railings, etc.



- Allocated \$80 to \$120 for the PalmettoPride Beach/River Sweep in September for a lunch for the volunteers.

Our Blowhard volunteers continue to do an outstanding job of maintaining our three miles of recreational trails. In addition, several of our members are working with Dan McNamee, our new Interpretative Ranger, in our loggerhead turtle programs. Dan also has three summer interns and six student volunteers in these programs. See Dan's report in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact Dan at 843-869-4430 if you would like to get involved with Dan's programs. Other volunteer activities our members participate in are on an "as needed" basis. Again, if you want to be on our call list, give Dan or myself (843-869-0056) a call.



Finally, I want to mention the following near term ELC & Park needs that our Board is prepared to consider either partial or total funding support:

- New tires for the current turtle golf cart or replacement golf cart if feasibly cost wise
- Replacement Bache Monument posts and ropes
- Bird sanctuary behind the ELC
- Spanish Mount deck replacement and erosion repair

Thank you again for your support!

Bob Sandifer, FRESpace President

Park Manager's Report

Due to the high volume of day visitors, campers and turtle nest (the State Park area has exceeded 150 nest), Susan, the Park Manager, has very limited time so she advised Dan McNamee, the new Interpretive Ranger, of the points she wanted to let the members know about to add to his column. We all appreciate the long hours and hard work Susan and all the employees work to keep the Park in top shape and a pleasure to visit. She will return in the next newsletter.

Interpretive Ranger Report

Dear FRESpace members,

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Daniel McNamee, and I am the new Interpretive Ranger at the Environmental Learning Center (formerly the Interpretive Center). I began my relationship with Edisto Beach State Park two summers ago as one of two volunteer interns working under Andrea Grabman. Last year, I managed the Park's turtle program as their Specialist and ran programs at the Environmental Learning Center. Having graduated this year from Eckerd College with a degree in Environmental Studies, I have stepped into the position of Interpretive Ranger. Joining us this year are Turtle Specialist, Krystal Hudson-Martin, and two hard working interns by the names of Leah Schwartztruber and Meredith Larmie. Together, and with Wally Herde's help, we've made the Learning Center a thriving place for children's programs, Night Walks, and volunteer opportunities.

After attending the quarterly board meeting, I must say I'm incredibly impressed with all of the wonderful contributions FRESpace has made to this Learning Center and this Park. The things you have provided in terms of volunteer help and financial backing are invaluable to the operation of the park. At the meeting, I was able to contribute a few items on my "wish list" that were well received amongst the Board. I was also given a few tasks myself to be completed with FRESpace's approval and financial backing.

First, a motion was made to finance new tires for our current Turtle Patrol golf cart. The maintenance of this golf cart is very important to our turtle program. As I research the appropriate all-terrain tires, I'll do my best to balance value

with quality. The golf cart itself is reaching the end of its life, so a motion was passed to begin researching used golf carts in the area in the hopes of replacing it.

The FRESpace Board has asked me to conceptualize a Bird Sanctuary to be placed behind the Environmental Learning Center. While our bird feeders provide endless enjoyment, bird houses, baths, and a few native plants could really enhance diversity. If you enjoy birding, you'll really enjoy the Learning Center's backyard after our Bird Sanctuary is in place. Our turtle specialist, Krystal, is also an avid birder and would love to sit out back with you and tell you about the visitors to our feeders. To provide continual funding for bird seed, we intend to organize an Adopt-a-Bird program to help FRESpace members and others of the birding community to support our Bird Sanctuary.

For your enjoyment, we have a few opportunities this summer to grow closer to the animals of the ACE basin. We are once again doing our Turtle Night Walks program. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the Loggerhead sea turtle, and to hopefully witness a nesting turtle on the beach. In addition, The DNR Learning Vessel, *Discovery*, will offer tours in August.

They will drag a trawl net to reveal the animals which call Big Bay Creek home.

- Turtle Night Walk Program
 - The months of June and July
 - Tuesday and Thursday nights
 - 9pm to 11pm or later
 - \$10 per person
 - Meeting at the Administrative Office Building located on the beach
 - Limited space is available, a reservation is recommended
 - Call the Center to make your reservation
- DNR Learning Vessel, *Discovery*, Tours
 - August 23rd, 24th, 30th, and 31st
 - Two tours each day, 9:30am and 1pm
 - Cost is FREE
 - Meeting location is the Environmental Learning Center
 - Limited space available, will begin taking reservations July 17th
 - Call the Center to make your reservation

The Environmental Learning Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 4pm. It is located off of Palmetto Road, near the Edisto True Value.

For more information, or to register for a Night Walk and/or Discovery tours, you may call the Center at **843-869-4430**.

A schedule of programs may be found at our website, www.southcarolinaparks.com/edistobeach under the Programs and Events tab.

We also have much to offer throughout the rest of the Park. There is a minimal admissions charge of \$5 per adult, \$3 for youths (6-15) and \$3.25 for S.C. Seniors. Visitors can pay the admissions at four locations

- The main entrance on the beach
- The trail access point off of HWY 174
- The Spanish Mount trail head parking lot located across from the Ranger's Station in the Live Oak Campground
- And, the Live Oak Boat Landing area

To pay the admissions fee, look for the green boxes ("Iron Ranger"). Place the fee in the envelopes provided, tear off your tag, punch out the date and display it on your mirror or vehicle dash. If you're on foot or riding a bicycle, keep the tag with you. Thank you very much for your support. Now more than ever your contributions are very important.

I am excited about the possibilities before us. I look forward to meeting, getting to know, and working with everyone to make a difference through our support of the Park, Environmental Learning Center, and ACE Basin.

Sincerely,
Daniel McNamee



From: Keep Edisto Beautiful / EdistoPride

We would like to thank you for co-sponsoring the Keep Edisto Beautiful/EdistoPride Beach/ River Sweep on Edisto Beach. The success of our Beach/River Sweep is the Edisto Beach State Park and FRESpace providing us with the shelter house and the cookout. Our volunteers on Edisto and tourist clear the calendar for this event each year and it wouldn't be a success without everyone's great participation. Working with Edisto Watersports, volunteers, and Edisto Coast Guard we go by water into our creeks and marshes and by foot along the beaches. The involvement is both educational and a sense of pride.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep is South Carolina's largest one-day volunteer cleanup event of its kind. The cleanup, organized by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and [S.C. Department of Natural Resources](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/edistobeach), has taken place annually since 1988 - when Sea Grant first started it. The Sweep takes place in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, coordinated by the [Ocean Conservancy](http://www.oceanconservancy.org).

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR ANNUALLY FOR THE THIRD SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER.

We will see all volunteers and FRESpace on **September 15, 2012 at 9:00 AM** sharp. We will meet at the **first beach** access at 100 Palmetto Blvd beside the Enterprise Pavilion and end at the 1st shelter house in the Edisto Beach State Park for the annual FRESpace THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS COOK-OUT.

Remember volunteers pick up the litter and provide the tallies. The Town of Edisto Beach provides the staff and trucks to pick up bags. FRESpace and Edisto Beach State Park provides the space, grill, and food.

Sincere Thanks for all organizations participating.

Ida Tipton, Secretary
Keep Edisto Beautiful / EdistoPride





FRESpace needs help to update our database. We need to make sure we have you listed in any of the volunteer categories you are willing to help. If you are interested in the following:

Educational - Resource Management - Facility/Grounds Maintenance

Please let us know by:
 email frespacefriends@gmail.com or FRESpace,
 8377 State Cabin Road,
 Edisto Island SC 29438 or call 843-869-0056

If a project arises we will contact you and you can tell us if you are available.

Thank you!

If you would prefer to receive information, minutes, newsletters, etc. by email, please advise.
 (It will help us save on postage and printing)
 Thank You for your support!
 Contact Bob Sandifer 869-0056

Please mail application to:
 FRESpace
 8377 State Cabin Road
 Edisto Island, SC 29438

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 8377 State Cabin Road
 Edisto Island, SC 29438

FRESpace MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NAME _____

STREET / P.O. BOX _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-Mail _____

PHONE _____

Please circle your general area of interest as described below and note any special background, experience, etc. you might have.

Educational. Staff information desk at Interpretive Center, lead tours/programs, assist with school visits/field trips, assist in collection of educational material.

Resource Management. Assist in environmental studies/projects, to include dune stabilization, oyster reef monitoring, establishing riparian buffers and other landscaped areas and flora and fauna inventories.

Facility/Grounds Maintenance. Includes carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, trail, exhibit and aquarium maintenance.

Family Membership Donation \$25) _____

Corporate Membership Donation (\$100) _____

Contribution (Thanks!) \$ _____

TOTAL (Payable to FRESpace) \$ _____