



FRESpace Findings

Winter/Spring

2013/2014

President's Report

2013 has certainly been a year of change for us:

- Susan Spell, our long serving Park Manager, left us early in the year to be near an ill family member. This had consumed much of her time over the previous year or so. We will miss her.
- Our new Park Manager, Jon Greider, joined us during the summer. He has been most helpful to us and we look forward to working with him.
- Our Asst. Park Manager, Jimmy "Coach" Thompson, retired late in Dec. He has always been there to help us and we are going to miss "Coach".
- Our new Asst. Park Manager, Brandon Goff, assumed his new duties shortly after the first of 2014.
- Dan McNamee, our Interpretive Ranger over the last several years, left us in the early fall to go to work at the Low Country Institute. Dan was an innovative Manager who did an excellent job in developing and implementing ELC programs which were very positive with our visitors.
- Our new Interpretive Ranger, Ashley Ruis, joined us after the first of the year. She is now busy in developing ELC programs for the upcoming year. One very popular program, the night Turtle Walks, will be repeated this year.
- We continue to provide support to the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) and the Park in significant ways with our financial contributions and our volunteers. Our funding has been offered or provided for the following during this period:
 - Several of the Bache Monument posts have been removed due to the posts rotting in the ground. Jon is working on replacements and is considering cast iron posts and rails. FRESpace has offered to help.
 - Allocated up to \$350 per year for bird seed for our ELC bird sanctuary.
 - Authorized up to \$300 for a replacement for the small tankless water heater under the sink in the ELC aquarium room which currently doesn't function. This is needed because the cold

water is a significant shock to our animals and is a hindrance to our equipment cleaning efforts during maintenance.

- Allocated \$78 for FRESpace to become a non-profit member of the Edisto Chamber of Commerce. The Board feels that the expense is justified based on the additional publicity EBSP and FRESpace will receive from the Chamber's many advertising initiatives.
- The ELC water cooler no longer works. The failure occurred during the recent hard freeze. When the required repair is identified FRESpace is prepared to help defray the costs.
- Authorized up to \$150 to install pickets around the ELC rain barrels. Currently the barrels are unsightly and in a very visible area.

Our Blowhard team recently was in need of additional volunteers. Ida Tipton sent out an email blast from Bill Andrews, our Blowhard Team lead, describing our needs as well as describing what the work entails. Per Bill, we had an excellent response such that we now have five primary teams or individuals and three alternates. The team members are:

Primary – Larry Urbik (new member), John Rogers (new member), Cameron Andrews (new member), Bill & Iddy Andrews and Jane Darby
Alternate – David Taylor, Bob Davis and Laurie Sanders

Thanks to all. This is one of our most visible efforts and it means a lot to FRESpace.



Bill Andrews with Blowhard Golf Cart

DNR has selected the following sites for this year's oyster reef habitat restoration projects:

- Big Bay Creek finishing near the ELC dock
- Steamboat Landing
- St. Pierre Creek
- South Edisto River
- Fishing Creek
- Dawhoo

Please note some of these are in our "neighborhood". This is a great opportunity to participate in a volunteer effort that is very important to the preservation of our healthy oyster population on the coast. Please call me at 869-0056 or email me at sandifeb@bellsouth.net if you are interested. We will advise once the dates are set.

Thanks to all for your support. I look forward to seeing you all at our annual meeting on March 22, 2014 @ 11:30 at the ELC with lunch to follow.
Bob Sandifer

Park Manager's Report

What a wonder place to live! It is hard to imagine how fast the past nine months flew by. It seems like yesterday when I was packing up the moving truck to take on the challenge and begin the next chapter of our lives. Since my short three month tenure as a part time Park Ranger here in 2003, it has always been in my mind to find a way back.

During the ten years that I have worked for South Carolina State Park Service I have had to opportunity to work at most of the state parks. Beginning with my internship with the Resource Management division I completed forest inventory work, invasive species management, and landscape planning throughout the state. I was the Assistant Ranger at Edisto Beach State Park, promoted from there to the Ranger I at Aiken State Park. My next position was the Ranger II at Sesquicentennial State Park, and then promoted to Senior Ranger at Hickory Knob State Park. My first Park Manager position was back at Aiken State Park. From Aiken State Park I was promoted to the Manager of Hamilton Branch State Park on Lake Strom Thurmond. All these positions have given me a wide range of experience to help better Edisto Beach State Park.

Over the past nine months the park and FRESpace have made great advances to help improve the park and the benefits of the members. It is my goal to keep these types of improvements occurring, and have ideas on how FRESpace and the park can collaborate in the future.

The Park Manager position at Edisto Beach State Park has always been one of those career goals and dream jobs for me and my family. So you can only imagine how excited we are to be living the dream! I want to thank the park staff and the friends group for the warm welcome!



Jon Greider, Park Manager

Meet the New Interpretive Ranger

My name is Ashley Ruis and I am the new Interpretive Ranger here at the Environmental Learning Center. I started in Mid- December, and am loving it so far. I graduated from Coastal Carolina University in 2012 with a degree in Marine Science and a minor in Biology. I started my relationship with South Carolina State Parks while I was a senior at Coastal. I worked as an intern in the Nature Center at Myrtle Beach State Park. After graduation I spent the summer of 2012 and 2013 working as the Seasonal Naturalist at Myrtle Beach State Park. Here I presented programs, worked in the Nature Center, and spent at least 80 hours each summer volunteering with their Sea Turtle program.

In between my summers I worked at two different environmental education centers. First was an amazing program on the Outer Banks of North Carolina teaching field trips on the island. After the summer of 2013 I moved to Tybee Island, GA to teach at a 4-H center and be closer to my family. I am grateful for both of these experiences for the invaluable teaching experience I gained from both.

I have a huge passion for sharing my love of the ocean and conservation with people. I am very excited for the opportunity to continue this here at Edisto Beach State Park. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you. There will be plenty of opportunities for us to work together I am sure. You are always welcome to come by and enjoy the center, or just to say hello.

Our hours are 9-4 and we are open Tuesday through Saturday.

Keep an eye out for our program schedule which will be released soon. Also a date for the Turtle Fest will be announced soon. We will need plenty of volunteers for this, and I will be sending out information on this soon. And of course we can't forget about our Turtle Walks coming up this summer.

Thank you so much for the support that you provide, both financial and volunteer hours. I want each of you to know that a lot of the things that we do here, couldn't be done without your support.



Sincerely, Ashley Ruis

Great American Cleanup March 22, 2014

Everyone wants to live, work, and play in a clean and green community . . . and it's up to everyone to make it possible and improve the overall quality of life for us all.

This year FRESpace is holding it's annual meeting after the GAC. Come join our partner and enjoy their activities after a day of cleanup! Application follows this article.

Join EdistoPride, FRESpace, Lyons Club Environmental Committee, and the Wyndham Green Team, and others for the Great American Cleanup. You can participate in the 2014 Great American which is March 22, 2014, by registering at the Community Center at 9:00 AM sharp located on hwy. 174 to get free cleanup supplies & gloves donated by Keep America Beautiful, and t-shirt donated by a Palmetto Pride community grant. We invite you to participate in the GAC. DON'T FORGET stop by 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM to register yourself, your group or by emailing edistopride@aol.com or calling 843-869-4422.

APPLICATION IF YOU HAVE NOT JOINED FRESpace

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

FRESpace MEMBERSHIP OR 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) _____

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Please mail application to:

**FRESpace
8377 State Cabin Road
Edisto Island, SC 29438**



AGENDA



- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Join EdistoPride Community Center Hwy 174 for GAC**
- 11:30 a.m. Members' Meeting**
- 12:00 Lunch – RSVP when you return Proxy by mail or email**

ACTIVITIES

1:30 p.m. - -3:30 p.m. ACE Basin River Cruise*

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Kayaking Excursion**

***Frespace Members \$15 (\$25 discount)**

****No charge for Frespace Members (\$40 discount)**

**Please call 843-869-0663 for RESERVATIONS; let them know you're with FRESpace!
These activities start at Edisto Watersports 3731 Docksite Rd**

- 1:30 - ??? Walk to the Spanish Mount after the meeting (self-guided trip)**
- 1:30 - ??? Shelling Scavenger Hunt -members may compete with one another to see who can find the most variety of seashells by walking to Jeremy Inlet**

**FRESpace Findings
8377 State Cabin Road
Edisto Island SC 29438**

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**GET READY MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
FRESpace ANNUAL MEETING – MARCH 22, 2014
RESERVE YOUR PULL PORK LUNCHEON
MAIL YOUR PROXY CARD – JOIN AN ACTIVITY**

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