



FRESpace Findings

Spring/Summer 2017

President's Report

Hurricane Matthew was not kind to Edisto Beach, nor the Park. We congratulate the Park Staff for the work they are doing to bring the facilities back on line. As the trees are cleared from the trails, the beachfront campground reopened, and the beach re-nourished, we expect opportunities for FRESpace volunteers to assist in the restoration activities. We will email you when those activities are scheduled.

Plans are underway to tweak the design of the sea turtle Nightwalk shirts for the coming turtle season. Volunteers to assist in the sales are always welcome and will also get to participate in the Nightwalk.

As members of the Edisto Chamber of Commerce, FRESpace partnered with McConkey's and Edisto United to hold a Business After Hours at the Environmental Learning Center in January. The event was well attended, generated memberships, and acquainted Chamber members with the benefits of FRESpace membership and the offerings of the ELC. Some of the benefits of membership (still only \$25/year!) are:



- Entry to State Park (camping not included)
- Boat ramp privileges at Live Oak Landing
- Use of picnic shelters, tables and grills
- Parking and use of restroom facilities

- Use of Park trails for hiking and biking
- Membership in an organization making a difference in preserving the natural beauty of Edisto Island

We are making an effort to recruit new local members in addition to renewing previous members. Currently, we have 173 members, a substantial increase over prior years. We have worked with the Chamber to expand our listing in the Edisto Beach Island Guide and are in the process of redesigning our brochure for display racks at the Park and around town.

The annual Turtle Fest will be held late Spring. This great event will feature activities that entertain and educate about sea turtles. Representatives from the SC Aquarium will bring a variety of turtles to see and touch. Watch our website for the date and volunteer opportunities.

A collaborative effort with Park personnel and FRESpace volunteers is anticipated to rebuild the Spanish Mount shell mound at a site not threatened by creek erosion. Another volunteer opportunity will be offered through the SCORE (South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement) to place recycled oyster shells along edges of marsh. Watch our website and emails for notice of these events.

Our annual meeting is April 22 at the ELC. We will have coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. with the annual meeting following at 9:00 a.m. Lindsey Young of Edisto Watersports has graciously offered free kayaking or a boat ride for \$10 per person. These take place at the Edisto Watersports dock at 11:00 a.m.

Website: www.frespace.org; email: edistofrespace@gmail.com; like us on Facebook

We thank you for your support. Stop by the ELC and check out the upgraded displays to which FRESpace contributed. Together, we are making a difference.

Bill Andrews, FRESpace President

Park Manager's Report

Greeting FRESpace Members!

During the typical "off" season, the park and staff usually recover from the nine month "peak" season. Most years we are completing preventative maintenance projects and upgrading park facilities. This year has been very different. The hurricane season has staff working to get cabins, campgrounds, and trails safe for our guests. The effects of Hurricane Matthew rendered the park closed for 41 days.



Park staff from other regions assisted with the cleanup and recovery efforts shortly after the storm. The trail system did not have structural damage to the boardwalks or bridges, but the debris and hazard trees throughout the trails have made the cleanup process very dangerous. The beachfront campground sustained the most damage to infrastructure and campsites from the storm surge. Plans for external assistance are being finalized, and we hope to have the campground opened by September 1, 2017. These areas of the Park are dangerous, and we urge visitors to obey the closure signs.

During January, the park hosted another archaeological dig at the Spanish Mound. The archeologists found numerous pieces of pottery and

another carved bone hair pin. Once the study is complete, the park will have the artifacts on display at the ELC. The seawall protecting the mound survived Matthew but was weakened structurally. The January neap tides caused extensive damage. The wall will be removed in the near future and replaced with natural oyster reefs. SCDNR will assist with the installation of the new structures.

Beach nourishment is underway in the Town of Edisto Beach, and the crews are working their way to the Park. We hope that by late February construction at the park will be complete. The beach has lost a significant amount of sand since the last nourishment in 2006. We will seek volunteers to assist with installing sand fence and planting vegetation along the beach in March.

I want to thank the board for all their hard work hosting the Business After Hours at the ELC in January. The event was a huge success, and many of the guests did not realize the park had this type of facility. I am hopeful that the networking will help spread the word of FRESpace and the ELC.

Edisto Beach State Park is on the road to recovery. In some areas you would never know we had any damage. I cannot thank the staff and volunteers enough for their hard work! I have a strong feeling that in the future, we will look back and see all the great opportunities for improvements that Matthew presented us.

I wish Ashby the best of luck down his new path! We appreciate all he has done the past three years for the ELC and programs. His fossil walks and survival programs will certainly be missed. Good Luck!

See you in the Park,
Jon Greider, Park Manager

Interpretive Ranger's Report

Greetings
FRESpace
members!
This fall and
winter have
been seasons
of change
here. We
were
fortunate to



survive Hurricane Matthew as the Learning Center sustained no damage. And thankfully, our Sea Turtle Specialist, Leah Schwartzenruber, was able to complete monitoring of our remaining turtle nests before the storm swept them away!

But we have also experienced changes in the faces of the center, both animal and human. In August we wished Rosa, our Program Specialist, farewell and good luck in her middle school science teaching position, and we welcomed Patricia Grant onto the team as our new Animal Care Specialist. Look in the aquariums and you'll see new fish, stingrays, and other ocean critters. To avoid harming our aquatic species during the hurricane's power outage, we released all of our animals that relied on dissolved oxygen.

Never fear, however, all of your old reptile friends are still alive and well! Our alligator is now over two feet long, the corn snake twins are quickly outgrowing their titles of "juvenile," the yellow rat snake is molting into his adult colors, and the scarlet king snake is peacefully slumbering away in hibernation until warmer weather returns. Our box and mud turtles are also doing well, and of course who could forget "Turnip" the terrapin? And then one new member has joined the reptile crew: a juvenile

terrapin who we've affectionately nicknamed "Rudy," short for Rutabaga.

Thanks to funding from FRESpace, we now have two large posters mounted behind our fossil and loggerhead sea turtle displays in the lobby. These are excellent additions to the center, and provide more information about the specimens in an attractive manner. We are also in the process of adding new animal pelts to the Discovery Table for visitors to interact with and touch.

Last, it brings me great sorrow to announce that I am leaving our wonderful park and Learning Center in March. But this sorrow is one feeling among the many positive emotions, including the excitement and appreciation that began with what was supposed to be only a seasonal summer job. That "3-month stay" turned into a 3-year job! Working at the park rekindled my passion for fossils and encouraged me to follow my lifelong dream of pursuing paleontology as a career path. I sincerely want to thank *everyone* I've worked alongside these past three years. It has been a blessing to learn from and experience our natural world with each and every one of you! And as always, *Come Out and Play!*

Best wishes,
Ashby "Ranger Ash" Gale, Interpretive Ranger

Check our website at www.frespace.org, and "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/frespace
Save the Date: Great American Cleanup – March 25, 2017; 9:00 a.m. at the Edisto Island Community Center

Please check the membership expiration date on the top of your mailing address label on the front of this newsletter. If your membership has expired, we hope you will renew.

FRESpace – PROXY Information

The nominating committee recommends the following persons for election to the Board of Directors to fill the positions of Directors whose terms expire in 2017.

| <u>Nominee</u> | <u>Term</u> | <u>Replaces</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Iddy Andrews | 2 years | Self |
| Dave Blauch | 2 years | Self |
| Ann Luckadoo | 2 years | Self |
| Bob Sandifer | 2 years | Self |
| Lindsey Young | 2 years | Self |

Please be prepared to vote on the nominees at the annual meeting. FOR FRESpace TO HAVE A QUORUM AND CONDUCT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ATTENDANCE BY 20% OF THE MEMBERSHIP IN PERSON OR BY PROXY IS REQUIRED. PROXIES MUST BE FILED IN WRITING WITH THE SECRETARY PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

(cut here)

IMPORTANT

If you do not plan to attend the annual meeting, please sign the following proxy and return it to: FRESpace, 8377 State Cabin Road, Edisto Island, SC 29438 or sign, scan, and email as an attachment to edistofrespace@gmail.com. This is necessary so that we meet quorum requirements. Thank you.

The undersigned appoints the FRESpace Board of Directors or _____ (named individual), as his or her proxy for the Annual Meeting to be held on April 22, 2017.

Dated _____, 2017 _____
(signature)

FRESpace ANNUAL MEETING April 22, 2017 at State Park Environmental Learning Center

- 8:30 a.m. Coffee and Donuts**
- 9:00 a.m. Members' Annual Meeting**
- 9:30 a.m. Board of Directors' Quarterly Meeting**
- 11:00 a.m. Kayaking (free) and River Cruise (\$10 per person) compliments of Edisto Watersports, 3731 Docksite Rd. For reservations call 843-869-0663 and tell them you're with FRESpace or email edistofrespace@gmail.com**



APPLICATION

Membership in FRESpace entitles you to access the entire grounds of Edisto Beach State Park with the exception of the campsites. Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

NAME _____

STREET/P.O. BOX _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail _____

PHONE _____

I prefer to receive my newsletter via email _____

Watch your email for volunteer opportunities!

Family Membership Donation (\$25) _____

Corporate Sponsorship Donation (\$100) _____

Contribution (Thanks!) _____

TOTAL (Payable to FRESpace) _____

We are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Please mail application to:

FRESpace

8377 State Cabin Road

Edisto Island, SC 29438

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
FRESpace ANNUAL MEETING – April 22
8:30 a.m.
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Website: www.frespace.org; email: edistofrespace@gmail.com