



FRESpace Findings

Fall/Winter 2017

President's Report

Once again Edisto and Edisto Beach State Park are dealing with the aftermath of a hurricane; this time it's Irma. Kudos to Jon Greider and his staff for their ongoing recovery efforts.

Irma brought a close to sea turtle nesting season. Our Sea Turtle Specialist, Leah Schwartzentruber and our two interns did a terrific job caring for the turtles and educating the public through nightwalks and nest inventories. This year we had 12,539 babies emerge. The 83% emergence success rate was the highest in 9 years of recorded data.

This year FRESpace is focusing on coordinating more volunteer opportunities. Our members have supported the Park by assisting with the Turtle Fest, installing and removing shore bird fencing, planting sea oats and bitter panicum on the dunes, blowing off the park, selling t-shirts, and clearing hurricane debris from the trails and the beach. We expect more volunteer opportunities will present themselves, particularly as the hurricane recovery efforts continue. Please watch our website, Facebook, and email blasts for those opportunities. Your support will be very helpful and much appreciated.

We have not had as many funding opportunities as in previous years simply because of the focus on hurricane recovery. We have funded bird feeders and feed for the ELC bird sanctuary, a GPS for the turtle project, a water heater for the ELC, turtle cart repairs, replacement pelts for the ELC, rack cards, and membership for FRESpace/EBSP in the Edisto Chamber of Commerce.

Our major fundraising effort was the sale of "I Survived" t-shirts at the Turtle Nightwalks held three days a week June through July. This year we sold a record of 178 shirts and made a profit of \$1,602. Thank you to all who helped sell the shirts and those who bought them.

Through Ann Luckadoo, our Membership Chair, we've put a strong emphasis on local recruitment, plus we are promoting FRESpace at Turtle Walks and other activities in which we participate. The staff at the ELC has been very faithful in promoting FRESpace membership, its contributions, and benefits. The results speak for themselves. Currently we have 256 members, an increase of 115 over this time last year. As a reminder, here are some of the benefits of membership (still only \$25/year!):

- Entry to the State Park (camping not included)
- Boat ramp privileges at the Live Oak Landing
- Use of picnic shelters, tables and grills
- Parking and use of restroom facilities at the beach
- Admission to the Environmental Learning Center (ELC)
- Use of Park trails for hiking and biking
- Membership in an organization that makes a difference in preserving the natural beauty of Edisto Island

We continue to strive to improve our communication to our membership, to Edisto residents, and to those who are visiting or planning to visit the Edisto Beach State Park. Through Iddy Andrews, our Communications Chair, we have broadened our communications activities on several fronts. We currently have 2,775 followers on Facebook and 2,721 "likes." We have redesigned our rack

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

cards and placed them at numerous sites around the community, including the ELC, the Chamber, realty offices, the libraries, the banks, and other businesses. As our membership has grown, we have expanded our email list and send out blasts informing our membership of Park activities and volunteer opportunities. The Chamber has also been very helpful in similar communications. We invite you to check out our frequently updated website at www.frespace.org, to “like” us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/frespace, or to contact us at edistofrespace@gmail.com. Thanks to each of you for your support. Together, we are making a difference.

Bill Andrews, FRESpace President

Park Manager’s Report

Greeting FRESpace Members,

The Park had a very busy year rebuilding the Beachfront Campground. The staff here at the park did a superb job meeting the September 1 re-opening goal. The list seemed never ending at times. Who would have thought “Park Rangers” could accomplish such a feat? They were responsible for running electric, plumbing, cutting hazard trees, repairing restrooms, grading roads, installing fences, planting vegetation... and the list could go on forever.



With help from Mark Powell, Coastal Maintenance Manager, Staff from other Parks, and some great volunteers, the Beachfront Campground opened and the

compliments kept coming. Park staff were out of the construction business and back to doing what we do best. Finally, we could be caught up and work on the other responsibilities we had been putting off for eleven months. It was very short-lived!

Days after the grand re-opening, Hurricane Irma loomed out at sea. Irma was not a direct hit, but still a very damaging storm. Irma flooded the Beachfront Campground that had re-opened for only eight days! The Live Oak Campground had significant tree damage that hit the comfort station and crushed several water and power risers. The majority of sand fence and vegetation that was newly established is gone. Beach erosion was significant, and debris is scattered up and down the beach.



The Beachfront Campground got very lucky that the flooding only damaged all the sixty-seven power pedestals, lift station control panel, and six main breakers. The electrical supplies are onsite and being installed. We are very hopeful to have the Beachfront Campground back opened in the very near future.



Presently the future of the Live Oak Campground is unclear. Tree and debris removal is out to bid, and we are very optimistic for a contract. If all goes well, the plan is to get the Live Oak Campground opened by 2018.

At this time, the staff at the park is doing what they do best, persevering! Irma was a real kick in the pants to the staff and residents of the Island. I have no doubt that the Island and Park will make a full recovery and be back better than before! I cannot thank the staff enough for all their hard work during both hurricane recoveries.

Jon Greider, Park Manager

Interpretive Ranger's Report



I am Laura Zuraw, the new Interpretive Ranger at Edisto Beach State Park. I grew up in Charleston, SC, and graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in biology with a concentration in ecology. I enjoy sharing my passion of the outdoors, which led me to a career in environmental education. I have worked as a naturalist at YMCA Camp Carter in Fort Worth, TX, Camp Wesley Woods in Townsend, TN, and most recently, Barrier Island Environmental Education Program in Seabrook Island, SC.

Elise Wingo also recently joined our staff as a program specialist. She is a Clemson graduate and worked at Paris Mountain and Kings Mountain State Parks. Elise loves leading our Ravenous Reptile program where she feeds our snakes, turtles, and baby alligator.

This summer, sea turtle programs attracted many visitors to Edisto Beach State Park. In June, we celebrated our Annual Turtle Fest to raise awareness for the threatened loggerhead sea turtles that

nest on our beach. There were some of the same popular activities from previous years like crawling through a TED (Turtle Exclusion Device) and mock morning patrols and nest inventories. We added a few new turtle-themed crafts. There was a great turnout that matched last year's numbers with around 300 people in attendance!

Our sea turtle night walks in June and July filled quickly and had the highest success rate to date with 83% of our walks seeing a sea turtle. This includes two-night walks that were cancelled due to threatening weather. Nest inventory programs have also been a huge hit among visitors hoping to see a hatchling.

A total of 153 nests were laid on our mile and a half of beach this turtle season. Leah Schwartzenruber, sea turtle specialist, along with sea turtle interns Amanda Csipak and Annie Gentry, and our wonderful volunteers worked hard making these sea turtle programs possible while aiding in conservation efforts for the loggerheads. If you are interested in learning more about the sea turtle activity this summer, take a look at Leah's blog, ebspturtle-talk.com.

This summer at the ELC, we had a flurry of activity at the bird feeders. Painted buntings could be spotted daily. The baby alligator and other resident animals are doing great thanks to the hard work of our animal care specialist, Pat Grant. We also have some new animals on exhibit including a red-breasted sunfish and a southern toad. Stop by the center at 12:00 p.m. to join us for "What's on the Menu?", our daily feeding program. Turnip, the diamondback terrapin, always puts on a show!

Be sure to check out our fall programs. With the weather starting to cool off we will be adding hikes through our maritime forest as well as beach walks. You can pick up a program schedule at Edisto Beach State Park or look on our website under programs and events. *Come out and Play!*
Laura Zuraw, Interpretive Ranger

Save the Date: Beach Sweep – October 21, 2017; 9:00 a.m. at beach access #1

APPLICATION

Membership in FRESpace entitles you to access the entire grounds of Edisto Beach State Park including the ELC and Live Oak Boat Landing. **If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, contact us at edistofrespace@gmail.com. This saves on postage and printing. Thank you for your support!**

MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

NAME _____

STREET / P.O. BOX _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-Mail _____

PHONE _____

Yes____No____ **Please send my newsletter via email**
We are a 501c3 non-profit organization.

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

To volunteer, please circle your general area of interest.

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

Resource Management. Assist in environmental studies/projects.

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

Family Membership Donation (\$25) _____

Corporate Membership Donation (\$100) _____

Contribution (Thanks!) _____

TOTAL (Payable to FRESpace) _____

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

FRESpace

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