



FRESpace Findings

Spring Summer 2023

It is with a heavy heart that we inform our FRESpace membership of the passing of our president, Bill Andrews. Bill passed away unexpectedly on January 12, 2023, after heart valve replacement surgery. Under Bill's leadership as President of FRESpace, we have continued to support the Edisto Beach State Park monetarily and with volunteer opportunities. He will be missed by everyone involved with FRESpace. We will continue to work hard in his honor to support the Edisto Beach State Park and strive to keep the passion that he exemplified as FRESpace president.

President's Report by Vice President – Joe Stalvey

I have some big shoes to fill as I take on the task of leading the FRESpace Board. Bill Andrews was very passionate about supporting the Edisto Beach State Park. We will continue emphasizing volunteer opportunities, recruiting new members and corporate sponsors, funding projects for the State Park, and communicating information to inform others about FRESpace.

In February, we collaborated with the Edisto Chamber of Commerce, Plot Twist Charters, and Whaley's to host a Business After Hours. Attendees were offered tours of the ELC during this very successful event.



Our annual meeting is Saturday, April 22, at the ELC. We will begin with a coffee and pastry social at 8:30 a.m. with the business meeting to follow at 9:00 a.m. Edisto Watersports and Tackle has again graciously offered free kayaking tours from 10:30 to 12:30 and a boat tour from 11:00 to 1:00. The boat tour is \$10.00 per person and is reserved for FRESpace members only. If you are interested, call for reservations at (843) 869-0663. You must prepay to hold your reservation.

Thanks to all of you for your support. Together we are making a difference.

Membership – Ann Luckadoo

We have 314 family memberships and twenty corporate sponsors. Please note the expiration date on your current hangtag. Family memberships continue to be \$40, and a corporate sponsorship is \$100.

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Our corporate sponsors are Edisto Saltwater Tours, Mueller Electric, Positive Zenergy Massage, All Clear Systems, Swann Associates, Cope Concrete, LLC, Charleston Fossil Adventures, Green Boat Discount Liquors, H. Savage, Higgins Adjusting, Peaceful and Productive, Kennerty Surveying, Home Advantage Realty, Joggle Factory, McConkey's, Edisto Bike Rentals, Edisto Sea Spirits, Walterboro Ford, Wills Agency, Edisto Kennels, and Edisto Watersports and Tackle. We recognize our corporate sponsors on our FRESpace webpage, and each sponsor is recognized on the Corporate Sponsorship display in the ELC. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support of FRESpace.

If you would like to renew your membership or sponsorship, please send to FRESpace, P. O. Box 523, Edisto Island, SC 29438. We really do appreciate your support of FRESpace and the Edisto Beach State Park.

As a reminder, here are some of the benefits of membership:

- Entry to the State Park
- Boat ramp privileges at Live Oak Landing.
- Use of picnic shelters, tables, and grills.
- Parking and restroom facilities
- Admission to the ELC
- Use of Park trails
- Membership in an organization helping preserve Edisto's natural beauty.

Funding – Diane Watson, Treasurer

FRESpace continues to fund a variety of projects. The most significant cost recently

was to share the cost of replacing the Blowhard golf cart that the Blowhard team uses to clear the park trails. We continue to provide bird seed for the ELC bird sanctuary and membership for FRESpace/EBSP in the Edisto Chamber of Commerce. We also provided funding for the Turtle Nightwalk and tie-dye T-shirts. As well as sand fencing at the Park.

Volunteer Coordinator – Ron Steele

Our members have supported the Park by assisting with the Turtle Fest, clearing the trails at the State Park, and installing sand fencing. The goal is to complete three or four projects each spring and again in the fall. Once dates and times for the projects are established the Volunteer Coordinator will solicit volunteers from the FRESpace membership. As more volunteer opportunities arise, we will publicize them through our website, Facebook, and email blasts. Your support will be helpful and appreciated.

ELC Volunteers – Dan Harrell

As the ELC liaison, Dan works with the ELC staff to identify volunteer opportunities and to seek volunteers. Current volunteer opportunities are available. Program assistance volunteers (preferably Master Naturalists) are needed for Beach and Bird walks once a week in the spring. General cleaning volunteers for the ELC building once a month to clean and polish exhibit cases is another opportunity. One of our longtime members, Henry Tindall, is constructing a snake exhibit cabinet for the ELC.

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FRESpace Blowhard Team – Peter Beck

This FRESpace Blowhard team consists of members who regularly maintain the Park trails. These dedicated members are Cameron Andrews, Ted Luckadoo, Larry Urbik, Dan Harrell, and Peter Beck. FRESpace partnered with the Edisto Beach State Park to purchase a new golf cart for the Blowhard team. The old cart quit working in the late summer of 2022 after many years of use. We have just received the cart and thanks to Board member, Dan Harrell, for attaching the blower to the cart. The new cart is named **Bill's Blowhards** in honor of our past president, Bill Andrews, who was a member of the Blowhard team for many years.



FRESpace Communications – Iddy Andrews

We have 6100 Followers on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FRESpace>). As of January 31, 2023, 318 views on our website www.FRESpace.org.

Park Manager's Report

Greetings FRESpace Members,

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It doesn't seem we have an "off season" anymore. The campground and cabins have maintained an average winter occupancy of over 75%. The staff has been steadily working with projects around the park getting ready for the impending warmer weather.

Since our last newsletter, we have had some personnel changes. Our Assistant Park Manager, Kirby Rodriguez, was promoted to Park Manager at Santee State Park. To replace her, we hired Matthew Coleman. As you may remember, Matthew served as the Ranger I here previously and was promoted to Poinsett State Park. We are happy to have him return. We have also hired Adrienne Bagwell as the park's new Senior Ranger. She also served at Edisto as assistant ranger over 4 years ago. Since that time, she had served at Santee and Huntington Beach State Park.

Nathan Greene, who served with the park for over 30 years, retired from service this past December. Nathan was a dedicated employee who always kept the park's and customer's best interest in mind in everything he did. He will be impossible to replace, but we know he is ready to enjoy the retirement he has earned.

A big thanks once again goes to the volunteers from FRESpace. This past season we've had projects where members and park staff worked side by side. Not only did they accomplish a lot together, they were able to mingle and get to know one another. Our staff raves about the opportunity to work alongside our FRESpace members. Be on the look for some upcoming opportunities this spring involving some fun projects.

Recently the park service put out a request for “Glamping” style tents. Essentially this is a canvas tent built up on a wooden deck. Mississippi State Parks, as well as others, have added these to their inventory and had great success and positive feedback from their customers. Our park was chosen to receive 5 glamping tents. These will be placed along Big Bay Trail between the ELC and Live Oak boat landing. Materials have arrived, and we are awaiting a final date from the company installing these new amenities.

Our park team was saddened to hear of the passing of FRESpace president, Bill Andrews. Mr. Andrews was a great man, husband, father, grandfather, and everything in between. In my experience working with friend’s groups at various state parks, Bill was one of a kind. I will miss our conversations and his insight. He, just like all FRESpace members, loved Edisto and Edisto Beach State Park. Our condolences go out to Iddy and their wonderful family. As always, thank y’all for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you out in the park, as well as out in our great community here in Edisto Beach!

Kyle Bullock, Park Manager

Interpretive Ranger’s Report

Hey FRESpace!

It has slowed down giving us a break from the busy season, but a lot has happened since the last newsletter. We have had staff changes and exhibit updates.

In October, our animal care specialist, Pat, left after 6 years of working that position. She moved to Georgia to be closer to family. We hired Calee Denman to fill that position.

She graduated from University of South Carolina with a Bachelor’s in Marine Science with a concentration in Biological Oceanography. She’s been a wonderful addition and has a can-do attitude. We all work well together except when they talk about their alma maters! Calee and Thomas come from rival schools (USC and Clemson) so sometimes I have to separate them. Stop in and say hi the next time you are at the park.

Another change is our movie theater upgrade. It is finally done! It features a TV display and buttons to select the video you want. There are currently 4 videos that can be selected with the possibility to add more. This was done using the funds donated by the Albenesius family.

Our water quality exhibit is in fabrication mode and is slated to be installed late March. It will have interactive components involving water quality, why it’s important, and how you can help our waterways. It will feature real data directly from our fishing dock on Big Bay Creek. This will be a great addition to the ELC. With that new exhibit, we will have to move our snakes to a different location. Thanks to Dan Harrell and Henry Tindall, we will have our snakes moved to a better location with a new stand before the water quality exhibit is complete. Be on the lookout for these exciting additions. See you around the park!

Sam Pettit, Interpretive Ranger

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FRESPACE – PROXY Information

The nominating committee recommends the following for election to the Board of Directors to fill the positions whose terms expire in 2023.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Replaces</u>
Iddy Andrews	2 years	Self
Peter Beck	2 years	Self
Mike Cubelo	2 years	Self
Ann Luckadoo	2 years	Self
Lisa Van Dort	2 years	Self
Diane Watson	2 years	Self

*****IMPORTANT*****

IF YOU WILL NOT ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR CHOICE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS EITHER BY INDIVIDUAL NAMES OR BY DESIGNATING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO VOTE YOUR PROXY TO edistofrespace@gmail.com NO LATER THAN APRIL 15.

FRESPACE ANNUAL MEETING
April 22, 2023 at State Park
 Environmental Learning Center



8:30 a.m.	Coffee, Juice, and Pastries
9:00 a.m.	Members’ Annual Meeting
9:30 a.m.	Board of Directors’ Quarterly Meeting
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	River Cruise \$10 (FRESPACE members only)
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Kayaking – No Charge

Compliments of Edisto Watersports, 3731 Docksite Rd. For reservations, call Edisto Watersports (843) 869-0663. Reservations for the River Cruise must be guaranteed by making a payment when making the reservation. Tell them you’re with FRESPACE.

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Please check the membership expiration date on the top of your mailing address label on the front.

Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL (circle one)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

I prefer to receive my newsletter via email _____

Family Membership Donation (\$40) _____

Corporate Sponsorship Donation (\$100) _____

Contribution (Thanks!) _____

TOTAL (Payable to FRESpace) _____

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

Please mail application to:

FRESpace

P.O. 523

Edisto Island, SC 29438

FRESpace

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