



# FRESpace Findings

Fall/Winter 2023

## President's Report— Joe Stalvey

Our annual FRESpace meeting was held in April and was very well attended. Food Lion provided the food for the social time before the meeting. Many thanks to Food Lion for their generosity. The boat tour provided by Edisto Watersports and Tackle was sold out. Thanks to Lindsey and Dillard Young for providing this activity for our FRESpace members. They have been very supportive sponsors of FRESpace for many years.

The board would like to welcome our new board member, Mick Royston. He has been a FRESpace member for several years as well as a dependable volunteer at the State Park. Welcome to the board! We look forward to working with Mick.

FRESpace and the Edisto Beach State Park coordinated efforts to provide popcorn for the movies at Bay Creek Park. This project will continue into the fall. Thanks to the Edisto Beach State Park personnel for volunteering your time and efforts to pop and serve the popcorn for these events.

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

## Membership – Ann Luckadoo

Currently, we have 355 family memberships and 27 corporate sponsors. Please note the expiration date on your current hangtag and on this newsletter. Family memberships continue to be \$40, and corporate sponsorships are \$100.

Our corporate sponsors are Edisto Saltwater Tours LLC, Positive Zenenergy Massage, All Clear Systems, Swann Associates, Slo-Boat Construction, Cope Concrete, LLC, Charleston Fossil Adventures, Green Boat Discount Liquors, Higgins Adjusting, Peaceful and Productive, LLC, Edisto Beach Vacation Rentals, LLC, Carolina One Real Estate, Kennerty Surveying Inc., G. & P. Constructors, The Joggle Factory, LLC., McConkey's Jungle Shack, Edisto Bike Rentals, Pressley's At The Marina, Ecological Associates, Inc., Edisto Essentials, Ace Basin Lock and Key, Walterboro Ford, The Wills Agency, With These Hands Gallery, Edisto Kennels, and Edisto Watersports and Tackle. We recognize our corporate sponsors on our FRESpace webpage, and each sponsor is recognized on the Corporate Sponsor 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 your check 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 at the beach.
- Admission to the ELC.
- Use of Park trails for hiking and biking.
- Membership in an organization helping preserve Edisto's natural beauty.

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## **Funding – Dianne Watson - Treasurer**

FRESpace continues to fund a variety of projects. The most significant expenditures were purchasing a beach mat to be located at the restroom area of the beach and two beach wheelchairs for the Park. We also provided “Night Walk” t-shirts to be sold at the State Park to benefit FRESpace and the turtle project. We continue to provide bird seed for the ELC bird sanctuary and membership for FRESpace in the Edisto Chamber of Commerce.

## **Volunteer Opportunities -Ron Steele and Dan Harrell**

No outdoor volunteer projects have been offered to our membership this summer due to oppressive heat and high humidity. Hopefully, with cooler temperatures, we will offer activities soon at the Park and Environmental Learning Center.

## **Blowhard Team – Peter Beck**

The Blowhards have had a great year with the purchase of a new cart. This team consists of five FRESpace members who keep the trails at the State Park clear of debris and report any problems to the Park Rangers. The team clears trails on a rotating basis. Our thanks to Dan Harrell, who has kept the cart running smoothly.

## **Communications – Iddy Andrews**

We have 6600 Followers on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FRESpace>). As of August 31, 2023, they have been 1668 views on our website [www.FRESpace.org](http://www.FRESpace.org)

## **Park Manager’s Report**

Greetings FRESpace Members,  
It seems like yesterday we were bracing for the spring/summer season to start. Just like a snap

of the fingers, it’s gone, and we are heading towards fall. The park had a busy summer season. Cabins and campgrounds were at capacity throughout the season. As the new norm, our day-use filled up every weekend as folks came out to enjoy the beach and all the park has to offer.

Since our last newsletter, we have had some personnel changes. Alven Fludd, Park Technician, retired this past May. We re-classified that position as a Maintenance Ranger. James “Jay” Taylor was hired to the position in July. Jay previously worked at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site and brings a wealth of knowledge with him to this new position. He has been a very welcome addition to the park staff.

The park had a scare by Hurricane Idalia. The staff did a great job updating guests about the storm track and prepping for potential impacts. Before the storm’s arrival, our beachfront campground was cleared of all guests, so we were able to turn off utilities and storm prep the facilities. The beachfront campground and day-use did experience flooding from the tidal surge. Luckily, there was no damage and the water receded. Park staff worked quickly and re-opened the park by mid-afternoon the day after the storm.

A big thanks goes out to FRESpace for funding the ADA beach access mat and the addition of two ADA beach wheelchairs. The access mat will go from the day-use restroom sidewalk through the first beach access. The chairs will replace the older ones that have become non-repairable. These items are paramount in allowing the park to ensure access for everyone. As a reminder, be on the lookout for volunteer opportunities coming up this fall and winter. We have fun projects coming up providing an opportunity for you to work alongside our park staff. Be sure to check your email, the

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FRESpace Face Book page, and the website for details.

As always, thank y'all for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you in the park, as well as in our great community here at Edisto Beach.

*Kyle Bullock, Park Manager*

### **Interpretive Ranger's Report**

Hey FRESpace!

It has been a busy season here at the ELC and a lot has happened. This has been our busiest year since I started in 2018. That means the word is getting out about how awesome the ELC is.

Since the last newsletter, the new water quality exhibit has been installed. It has mixed media components to reach visitors of all ages and looks wonderful. It fits in perfectly with the surrounding exhibits and seems like it has been there forever. I highly suggest that you stop in when you can to see the finished product. If you haven't seen our new video presentation in the media room, be sure to check it out. We continue to make improvements and updates to our exhibits so be on the lookout for new, exciting additions.



In April, our animal care specialist, Calee, left for a full-time aquarist position in Florida. We were sad to see her go but happy for her new adventures. In July, our new animal care specialist, Sarah, started with us. She grew up in Georgia and received her degree in Ocean Sci-

ence at University of Georgia. She brings animal care and aquarist experience from a local nature center and the Georgia Aquarium. We are happy to have her as part of our team. Be sure to stop in and say hi the next time you visit.

This summer we had four interns to assist us at the ELC and with the sea turtle season. They were great additions, and we appreciate their help in the peak of our season when we were short staffed. Fun fact: all our interns were all familiar with Edisto! Our ELC interns were South Carolina residents and went to Clemson and USC, respectively. Our sea turtle interns, Elaine and Lilli, were from Virginia and North Carolina. They are getting their degrees from Old Dominion University and UNC-Wilmington, respectively. As they continue with their careers, I know they will do great things.

Speaking of turtles, they kept us busy this year. We ended this season with 304 nests and 281 false crawls. That wasn't as busy as last season but busier than expected. We had roughly 90 nests with 70 or so still waiting to hatch prior to Tropical Storm Idalia. We have found about 30 or so and have had some successfully hatchings!



Hope to see you around in the park and at the ELC!

Samantha "Sam" Pettit, Interpreter

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