



FRESpace Findings

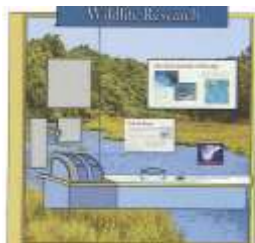
Fall/Winter

2010/2011

President's Report

Your contributions to our funding and volunteer activities continue to provide invaluable support for our State Park and Environmental Learning Center. Needless to say, our contributions are needed more today than at anytime that I can recall due to the intense pressure on our State budget. Your help is greatly appreciated. The following are the highlights since last summer:

- Progress has continued on the Wildlife Research Exhibit upgrade which was funded by a \$13,000 grant from the Town of Edisto Beach. The first three phases have been completed and Phase 4, implementation is underway with completion expected this Spring. The following are two views of the exhibit:



- Funded \$90.00 for one half of the cost to repair the “pull along” blower for the Blowhards’ trail maintenance.



- Provided \$56.00 for the lunch for the volunteers on the Keep America Beautiful/EdistoPride Beach & River Sweep. Normally, this would require a \$100.00 donation but generous contributions reduced our cost.



- Funded \$104.00 for a replacement pH/temp. meter for the use of the animal care staff at the ELC.



- Provided \$235.43 for approximately one half of the repair cost for the turtle patrol golf cart.



- Applied the full \$500.00 provided by a Blackbaud, Inc. “Reward Your Passion” grant to the Park Turtle Nesting Project.

I would also like to thank our Blowhards’ and our other trail maintenance volunteers around the ELC for continuation of the wonderful job they do in the name of FRESpace. We are very proud of them. If you would like to get involved with these activities, please advise. Thanks also to all of our other members that get involved with periodic Park volunteer efforts.

There was an additional grant that I applied for in January in the name of FRESpace as follows:

- Source:
National Environmental Education Foundation, Every Day Grant
- Use Applied For:
Upgrade the Fisheries Exhibit
- Applied For Amount:
\$5,000
- Status:
Acknowledgement that our application has been received.

I will keep you advised.

I want to thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to us continuing all our funding and volunteering activities for the Edisto Beach State Park and the Environmental Learning Center.

If you have questions or suggestions, please give me a call @ (843) 869-0056.

Bob Sandifer, FRESpace President

Park Manager's Report

Hello all!

I'm writing this to you in mid-February while enjoying some very welcomed, warmer temperatures as we begin to thaw out from a record breaking winter. We're getting geared up for what we hope to be another busy year. In 2010, the park saw 306,512 park visits which is a 10% increase in visitation over the previous year.

We begin this year with several staff changes in place. Margaret Arnold, Park Administrator, retired after sixteen years of service. We would like to recognize Margaret for the dedication and commitment she brought to her job. It is due to her excellent work that the park has been recognized on more than one occasion for producing the

most accurate paperwork in the region. Interpretive Ranger Andrea Grabman accepted a position with another agency. Although Andrea was with us for a much shorter time frame, she made several recognizable improvements. They include the introduction of two new programs like the Water Color Classes and Evening Lecture Series, and her diligence of managing both the A-tax project and the Sea Turtle Program. All are important contributions that we will strive to build upon. We wish Andrea all the success and want to congratulate Margaret for joining the many Edistonian's that have come here to do just what she is doing, enjoying retirement.

We currently have a hiring freeze on filling these positions as well as the Senior Ranger position. With this fact and the addition of mandatory furlough days for all other employees we certainly have our hands full picking up the pace in an effort to make sure we continue to provide the level of stewardship and service our guest have become accustomed to.

Our new Governor, Nicki Haley recently appointed Duane Parrish as the new Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. We look forward to seeing what the new leadership has in store as the SC State Park Service strives to improve on our 80% self-sufficient status.

From an Operations stand point, we are excited to report that the renovation of the five older cabins have been completed and put back on line for reservation. This is a project that started back in 2007. In May, new admission rates were implemented for a few coastal region parks that would now charge the same rates as Huntington Beach State Park for admission. The new rates would be **\$5 per adult, \$3.25 per senior / disabled** and **\$3 per youth / student**. In addition, in response to the public, a 7-day pass was implemented for \$30 and a new **Passport PLUS** for \$99. For our campers, we offered once again the "snowbird special" which is a thirty day reservation during January and February of \$10 per night.

Immediately at hand is working with the fabricators on the A-tax project and getting organized for the quickly approaching Loggerhead Sea Turtle Program. As many of you know, the A-tax funded project was acquired under the previous President, Larry Tilby. The \$13,000 dollars in A-tax funds from the town of Edisto Beach was granted for the use of exhibit upgrades and is going towards the “Wildlife Research” exhibit that was in desperate need of renovation. We are currently working closely with the fabricator on the details of the project and are preparing for a trip very soon to see if everything meets specifications and assure implementation is completed as soon as possible. I am so excited to see what’s in store and like many of you, very much ready for the project to be completed. The vacancy of the Interpretive Ranger’s position has brought about the challenge of pulling the very important Loggerhead Sea Turtle Program together for the quickly approaching season. The response by the Turtle Volunteers to help us to begin this process has been remarkable. A big thank you goes out to Bill and Iddy Andrews for stepping up quickly and to Denise Tutas and Wally Herde for their commitment to this program. Andrea made great strides in beginning to build this volunteer base. However, additional support would greatly be appreciated and anyone interested in helping is encouraged to contact Denise at the Center.

Our ADA trail system continues to be one of the more scenic and well maintained systems in the state. Many thanks go out to the infamous “Blowhards” (Laurie Sanders, Bill and Iddy Andrews, Bob Davis, and David Taylor), who continue to dedicate their efforts to maintaining this impressive system. Without their help, it would be impossible to offer the same level of quality. The group celebrated some new members this past year and the regretted the loss one of their longtime member, Jane Darby. Jane was a member of the group from its inception and contributed many hours to this cause. Thank you Jane! Laurie Sanders has taken on the lead role with the group and is doing an excellent job.

A new volunteer crew has been formed that is maintaining the trails at the ELCenter. Thanks to Dave Blauch and Reed Horner for taking on this task.

Under our current President Bob Sandifer, FRESpace was successful in acquiring a \$500 Blackbaud grant to be used for the sea turtle program. The Blackbaud funds recently paid for repairs to the turtle patrol golf cart which is considered to be its most valuable piece of equipment. FRESpace also funded the repairs for the Blowhards trail equipment.

FRESpace continues to be one of the biggest supporters and volunteer bases for the park. Many thanks go out to the Board Members for their continued support and efforts. The group is small, finding new members a struggle most of the time and their Board Members, serve over and over again. However, the impact is big! The staff of Edisto Beach State Park wants to thank you for all that we see that you do and all that we don’t. I’m sure that we don’t know many hours go into what you do but it is greatly appreciated.

The current Board is as follows:

Bob Sandifer, Pres.
Beverly Sandifer, VP
Maxine Campbell, Sec.
Jane Darby, Treas.
Bev Abrams
Bob Davis
Libba Johnson
Laurie Sanders
Lindsey Young

There are some exciting projects we hope to get underway this year and encourage all that are interested to contact the president of FRESpace, Bob Sandifer. Some projects need a lot of assistance while others require only a little.

Projects That Need Help:

- **ADA access in the Day Use Area-underway**
- **Waterline Replacement to the Education Dock**
- **Exhibit repairs-underway**
- **Construction of Bird Sanctuary**
- **Center-grounds work day**
- **Shorebird nesting area protection**
- **Sea Turtle project**
 - **Inventory, walks, patrols**
 - **Turtle fest**
- **Erosion stabilization-implementation of oyster reefs**
- **Assisting with school programs**
- **Visitor contact at the Center**
- **Grounds maintenance and upkeep**
- **Party planners (Christmas party, turtle fest, spring/fall cookout)**
 - **Those interested in helping should contact the park (869-2756)**
- **Finding marine animals for restocking aquariums-(contact the Center @ 869-4430)**

Edisto Beach State Park is a very special place to many of its visitors, for many different reasons. It is our continued goal to preserve and protect these valuable resources for future generations to come. It is through volunteer efforts from wonderful groups like FRESpace, our Campground Host program, individual volunteer efforts and our recent partnership with the Boy Scouts of America that help us strive to achieve this goal. I am a true believer that with change always come opportunity!

We are excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead and look forward to continuing our partnership that allows us to provide sustainability to the resources and offer support and economic value to the local community.

“Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress. Working together
is success”

Henry Ford

Sincerely,

Susan Spell
Park Manager



To: FRESpace Board & Edisto Beach State Park

From: Keep Edisto Beautiful / EdistoPride

We would like to thank you for co-sponsoring the Keep Edisto Beautiful/EdistoPride Beach/River Sweep on Edisto Beach. The success of our Beach/River Sweep is the Edisto Beach State Park and FRESpace providing us with the shelter house and the cookout. Our volunteers on Edisto and tourist clear the calendar for this event each year and it wouldn't be a success without everyone's great participation.

Working with Edisto Watersports, volunteers, and Edisto Coast Guard we go by water into our creeks and marshes and by foot along the beaches. The involvement is both educational and a sense of pride.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep is South Carolina's largest one-day volunteer cleanup event of its kind. The cleanup, organized by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and [S.C. Department of Natural Resources](#), has taken place annually since 1988 - when Sea Grant first started it. The Sweep takes place in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, coordinated by the [Ocean Conservancy](#).

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR
CALENDAR ANNUALLY FOR THE
THIRD SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER.**

We will see all volunteers and FRESpace on **September 17, 2011 at 9:00 AM** sharp. We will meet at the **first beach** access at 100 Palmetto Blvd beside the Enterprise Pavilion and end at the 1st shelter house in the Edisto Beach State Park for the annual FRESpace THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS COOK-OUT.



Remember volunteers pick up the litter and provide the tallies. The Town of Edisto Beach provides the staff and trucks to pick up bags. FRESpace, Edisto Beach State Park, The Edisto Beach Fire Department provides the space, grill, and food.

Sincere Thanks for all organizations participating.

Ida Tipton, Secretary
Keep Edisto Beautiful / EdistoPride

**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
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