



FRESpace Findings

Fall/Winter/Spring

2014/2015

President's Report

2014 was very productive for our organization. FRESpace funding included the following:

- Boardwalks for the Bache Monument Trail (up to \$1000)



- New metal turtle probes (up to \$80/probe for 3 probes)



- Continued funding for bird seed purchases (from \$350 previously approved)
- Annual Edisto Island Chamber of Commerce (\$79)
- Tankless water heater for aquarium room (up to \$300)
- Pickets for the rain barrels rack (up to \$150)
- Funded turtle walk t-shirts (\$604.89). Note FRESpace netted \$1,755 less t-shirt cost.

- New tank for alligator tank (up to \$250). New tank will be equipped such that tank top can be properly secured. Current tank will be used elsewhere.



- Life size decals for the ELC (up to \$1000)
- Turtles information signs for the dock and elsewhere



Our membership increased to 126 thanks to our membership chair, Ida Tipton and Ashley Ruis, the Interpretive Ranger. This is a substantial increase over our numbers only a few years ago.

I also want to thank our Blowhards for their continued excellent work. Bill Andrews has put a strong team in place which continues to impress. Many thanks to all.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your support. You make all our good work possible.

Bob Sandifer, FRESpace President

Interpretative Ranger's Report

FRESpace Members,

WOW, that is all I can say about this year! In 2014 we saw 13,027 people in the Learning Center. Our biggest increase came in the amount of people that attended our programs. We had 6,501 people come to our public programs and we saw 664 students in 2014. One reason for that was due to the amazing staff that we had with us in 2014.

Ashby Gale joined us as our Program Specialist in the Spring of 2014 and he is currently still with us. If you have any questions at all about fossils you find, he's your guy! He would love to chat with you. Sloane

Wiggers joined us again in 2014 as our Sea Turtle Specialist. She spent May through November working with us in the center. Along with her duties as Sea Turtle Specialist Sloane made some wonderful improvements to program and the center. This summer we also had 2 wonderful interns, Laura Woodlee and Rachel Odzer. Both Laura and Rachel were rising Juniors at the University of South Carolina. Laura and Rachel both brought amazing creativity and energy to the Learning Center and to our Sea Turtle Patrol.

In 2014 we really tried to focus on our programs. During the summer we offered anywhere from 4-6 programs a day. Our most attended were our Turtle Night Walks, Sharks, Reptiles, Seining, Touch Tank, What Will A-"Pier" and Survival on the Coast. Our Survival on the Coast, has been our most unique program. It was held twice a month during the summer, then we brought it back in the fall. It was a 2 hour program that covered things from shelter building to fire starting. This year we have brought this idea into a monthly series, with each month focusing on a different topic. So far it has been successful, mostly because of our Program Specialist, Ashby.

Along with our programs we worked hard to improve the Learning Center. There is a new Sea Turtle nesting display in the center that was designed by our Sea Turtle Specialist and Interns. We also have life sized Sea Turtles that were constructed for our back porch, which were painted by the Learning Center Staff. The displays located in the lobby have also received some much needed TLC. In May of 2014 we added a baby American Alligator to our center. He has been great for programs, the kids love him!

I would like to thank FRESpace for everything that they have helped us to accomplish this year! They volunteered to sell Night Walk T-Shirts again this year. This allowed us to raise money for some much needed improvements. There are now signs on both docks explaining what to do if a sea turtle is hooked. We have large turtle information banners on the back porch near our life-size sea turtles. They also helped us purchase new Turtle probes that will last much longer. We will also be able to distribute fliers to anyone camping on the beach front with information about turtle nesting.

It is bittersweet to tell all of you that I will be leaving Edisto Beach State Park in April. I have accepted a position as a Naturalist on a wildlife boat with Allen Marine Tours in Ketchikan, Alaska. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Edisto and it has taught me so much. I'm very thankful that I had the opportunity to live in this beautiful place! Edisto will always have a piece of my heart, but there was no way that I could turn down this once in a lifetime opportunity. Once again, thank you so much for everything that you have done to help me along in my journey here at Edisto!

Once again, thank you so much for all of your help this year! Keep an eye out for our program schedules! Don't forget to like us on FACEBOOK or sign-up for our email list.

Ashley Ruis, Interpretative Ranger



Park Manager's Report

This past year has flown by. I cannot recall if it is because the park experienced record visitation and program attendance, or if it is the great improvements that are taking shape around the park. The "off season" projects have kept park staff and volunteers very busy. Trail improvements, restroom renovations, road work, and exhibit updates are all filling the not so slow winter months. Edisto Island has undeniably been found and I am glad to call this great place home. A huge thanks to the park staff for a job well done. I appreciate the great partnership with FRESpace and look forward to making the park a better place each day.

See you in the park.

Jon Greider, ParkManager



Great American Cleanup March 14, 2015 & Beach Sweep September 19, 2015

Join EdistoPride – and Americans across the nation – for the Great American Cleanup. Register at the Community Center at 9:00 AM sharp on the March 14th to get free cleanup supplies & gloves donated by Keep America Beautiful, and t-shirt donated by a Palmetto Pride community grant.

Saturday, September 20th, 2014 was International Coastal Cleanup day! Here on Edisto we participated with our Annual Beach Sweep. In total we had around 55 people who came out in the rain to help pick up trash. This included the 25 students and chaperones that came from local schools and youth groups to help us on the park.

Join EdistoPride and FRESpace this year on Saturday, **September 19, 2015** for another Beach/River Sweep ending at Edisto Beach State Park. **Call Ida Tipton for more information 843-869-4422**



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!

FRESpace MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
NAME _____

STREET / P.O. BOX _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

E-Mail _____

PHONE _____



Please circle your general area of interest as described below and note any special background, experience, etc. you might have.

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

Resource Management. Assist in environmental studies/projects, to include dune stabilization, oyster reef monitoring, establishing riparian buffers and other landscaped areas and flora and fauna inventories.

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

**IF NOT A MEMBER PLEASE JOIN OR
PASS TO A FRIEND TO JOIN**

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
P O Box 1
Edisto Island, SC 29438