



FRESpace Findings

Spring/Summer 2018

President's Report

The Park staff has devoted many resources over the past half year to recovery from Hurricane Irma. The beachfront campground was open for only five weeks after Hurricane Matthew repairs before an Irma-spawned tornado tore up Live Oak campground and knocked down many trees over the trails. The Park staff is to be congratulated for their hard work to bring all facilities back on line, but much work remains to be done. The Bache Monument trail remains closed due to debris which will not be removed until eaglets fledge their nest along that trail. Although the dunes held up remarkably well, sand fencing needs to be erected and sea oats and bitter panicum replanted to protect them. These activities will provide opportunities for FRESpace volunteers.

FRESpace supports the Park in other ways. The Blowhards continue their efforts to keep the Park trails well maintained. Volunteers installed and then removed fencing to protect shorebirds during their nesting season. Volunteers also planted 1,500 sea oats and bitter panicum plants, although as noted above, many of these need to be replanted. Watch our website, Facebook, and emails for notices of when these activities are scheduled.

Loggerhead sea turtles laid 153 nests producing 12,539 hatchlings on the Park beach. The 83% emergence success rate was among the highest on the eastern seaboard. At the Turtle Nightwalks, "I Survived" T-shirt sales generated a record \$1,602 to benefit the Park. We are tweaking the design of the shirts for the coming turtle season. Volunteers to assist in the sales are welcome and will enjoy the benefit of participating in the nightwalk.

This year we funded the following projects that have been completed, are ongoing, or in the planning or implementation stages:

- Hot water heater for the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) classroom/lab
- Repairs to the turtle golf cart and the Blowhards' cart and blower
- Turtle-friendly red filter flashlights for turtle nightwalks
- Bird seed for the ELC bird sanctuary
- Membership for FRESpace in the Edisto Chamber of Commerce
- Replenishment of FRESpace rack cards and purchase of FRESpace car decals
- New, enlarged alligator exhibit
- New land turtle exhibit

We continue our focus to recruit new members in addition to renewing previous members. We redesigned our rack card and placed them in numerous local businesses. We have purchased FRESpace decals and are distributing them to members. As of March 1, we had 293 members, a 69% increase over the 173 we had at this time last year! The Chamber expanded our listing in their Edisto Beach Island Guide to include both the Edisto Beach State Park and FRESpace and enumerate the benefits of FRESpace membership. Please support our corporate sponsors: Charleston Fossil Adventures, Edisto Watersports & Tackle, The Edistonian, and Edisto Landscapes. Here are some of the benefits of membership (still only \$25/year!):

- Free entry to Park (camping not included)
- Free boat ramp privileges at the Live Oak Landing
- Free use of picnic shelters, tables and grills

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

- Parking and use of restroom facilities
- Free admission to ELC
- Use of Park trails for hiking and biking
- Membership in an organization that makes a difference in preserving Edisto's beauty

The annual Turtle Fest will be held on a Saturday in the late spring. This is a great event for children and adults and will include activities to entertain and educate about sea turtles. It will also provide volunteer opportunities. Watch our website for the actual date.

We view communications as a crucial benefit of FRESpace membership. We have upgraded our website and continue to supplement that communication with emails and Facebook. Please check out our website at www.frespace.org, "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/frespace, or contact us at edistofrespace@gmail.com.

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 21 at the ELC. We will begin with coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. and the business meeting to follow at 9:00 a.m. Lindsey Young of Edisto Watersports & Tackle has graciously offered free kayaking, free escorted bike rides through the State Park, or a boat ride for \$10 per person for members. Please see newsletter insert for details and be sure to vote your proxy if you will be unable to attend.

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,

When did the peak season begin in February? With the gorgeous weather and increased traffic on the Island, it appears as if spring has sprung several weeks early. We are excited to have two full campgrounds again. The recovery has been long, and we are glad to see the spike in visitation. The Park has a few storm related projects to finish up. The largest project will be removing and re-

placing the cabin dock. This project has been on the list for a while and is finally getting some attention. It is currently in the design and permit phase, and we are anticipating having the new dock in place this fall.

Second, we are hoping to plant the dunes again this year. We are planning to have the project completed before the summer months. A healthy dune system is the first line of defense from erosion and provides habitat for numerous wildlife. FRESpace volunteers were essential in completing this project last June, and I look forward to working with you again this spring.

We still have one short trail to reopen. The Bache Monument Trail remains closed due to storm damage and an active eagle nest. This is the Park's only eagle nest, and trail work has been delayed until the eaglets fledge. I hope we will be able to begin trail work by late May and reopen in June.



If you have not visited the Learning Center in the past few months, it is time to revisit! Laura, Brenden, and Pat have done a tremendous job and have been very busy preparing new programs for the spring and summer months. When visiting you will notice exhibit upgrades and might even find new creatures to explore.

Last, I want to again thank the staff, volunteers, and FRESpace for their hard work this year. This effort was not overlooked! The Edisto Beach State Park received the Directors Award this past January which is the highest award given at the Managers Conference! I am very proud to be a member of your team and community!

See You in the Park,
Jon Greider, Park Manager

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Interpretive Ranger's Report

Hi FRESpace Members!

Thankfully, the Environmental Learning Center suffered minimal damage from Hurricane Irma. There was a good amount of debris and down tree limbs, but none of the buildings were harmed. With the anticipation of the storm causing a power outage, we released all our aquarium fish and invertebrates. The tanks are now re-stocked with new animals including a flounder, red drum, and oyster toadfish.

This fall we said a sad goodbye to Elise Wingo, program specialist, who returned to Paris Mountain State Park. Brendan Westley joined our team as the new program specialist in November. Brendan is from Milford, Pennsylvania, and graduated with a degree in Outdoor Recreation from East Stroudsburg University. He has previously worked at Dead Horse Point State Park in Southern Utah and for Oakland County Parks in Michigan. Keep a lookout for his program "Fish of Edisto" on the calendar. He is excited to share his knowledge about fish and fishing.

Albert, the "baby" alligator measuring over 2.5 ft long, became too big for his tank. He was given to Alligator Adventure where they have the proper facilities to keep him for the remainder of his life. Alligator Adventure gave us a smaller baby alligator in Albert's place. You can see our new baby alligator, Marsh (named after the salt marsh), on exhibit at the Learning Center. Thanks to FRESpace funding, we are in the process of building a new alligator enclosure that will provide more room for Marsh as he grows. Baby alligators grow about a foot per year.

The new year kicked off with freezing temperatures. Despite the winter chill, the annual "First Day Hike" drew a crowd of 17 people. We walked on the beach to the inlet and back and found an as-

sortment of shells and fossils. Just a few days later, the Environmental Learning Center was covered in blanket of snow. It was a sight to see - snow on the beach and fishing pier! A special thank you to FRESpace for funding a hot water heater for the classroom last fall. The hot water supply was greatly appreciated during the cold temperatures this winter.



This fall and winter a diversity of wildlife was spotted from our fishing pier. Bald eagles were seen soaring in the sky and perched in the trees of the maritime forest. Dolphins were another common sight as they hunted for food in the shallow waters of Big Bay Creek.

There will be a variety of programs this spring and summer. Edisto Beach State Park will hold an Easter-egg hunt at the beach picnic area at 10 a.m. on March 31. For more information about this and other programs, look on our state Park website under programs and events or pick up a program schedule at the Park. *Come out and Play!*
Laura Zuraw, Interpretive Ranger

Check our website at www.frespace.org, and "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/frespace
Save the Dates: Annual Meeting – April 21; 9:00 a.m. at the ELC; Great American Cleanup – March 25; 9:00 a.m. at the Edisto Island Community Center

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.

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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 2943**

**FRESpace
8377 State Cabin Road
Edisto Island, SC 29438**

FRESpace – PROXY Information

The nominating committee recommends the following persons for election to the Board of Directors to fill the positions of Directors whose terms expire in 2018.

| <u>Nominee</u> | <u>Term</u> | <u>Replaces</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Bill Andrews | 2 years | Self |
| Sid Gauthreaux | 2 years | Self |
| Bob Hare | 2 years | Self |
| John McInerney | 2 years | Self |
| Krystal Parsons | 2 years | Self |

Please be prepared to vote on the nominees at the annual meeting. FOR FRESpace TO HAVE A QUORUM AND CONDUCT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ATTENDANCE BY 20% OF THE MEMBERSHIP IN PERSON OR BY PROXY IS REQUIRED. PROXIES MUST BE FILED IN WRITING WITH THE SECRETARY PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

(cut here)

IMPORTANT

If you do not plan to attend the annual meeting, please sign the following proxy and return it to: FRESpace, 8377 State Cabin Road, Edisto Island, SC 29438 or sign, scan, and email as an attachment to edistofrespace@gmail.com. This is necessary so that we meet quorum requirements. Thank you.

The undersigned appoints the FRESpace Board of Directors or _____ (named individual), as his or her proxy for the Annual Meeting to be held on April 21, 2018.

Dated _____, 2018 _____
(signature)

FRESpace ANNUAL MEETING April 21, 2018 at State Park Environmental Learning Center

- 8:30 a.m.** Coffee and Donuts
- 9:00 a.m.** Members' Annual Meeting
- 9:30 a.m.** Board of Directors' Quarterly Meeting
- 11:00 a.m.** Guided Bike Ride – 12 miles (free) and River Cruise (\$10 per FRESpace member)
- 12:30 p.m.** Kayaking

Compliments of Edisto Watersports, 3731 Docksite Rd. **For reservations** call (843) 869-0663 and tell them you're with FRESpace or email edistofrespace@gmail.com

