



# FRESpace Findings

Spring Summer 2019

## President's Report

The past year has been a year of transition for the Park. We've welcomed Kyle Bullock as the Park Manager and Assistant Park Manager Kaley Foley. Both have hit the ground running and are bringing new ideas and building on the strong foundation laid by the previous administration. With hurricane recovery behind us, they are focusing on upgrades to facilities and adding programs

We are continuing our emphasis on FRESpace volunteerism. This past year we supported the Park in planting vegetation to protect the dunes, installing shorebird fencing, and assisting with the Turtle Fest. The Blowhards continue efforts in keeping the Park trails well maintained. We've identified a variety of projects needing volunteer support. A list of accomplishments and potential volunteer opportunities appears on the back of the enclosed proxy sheet. Watch our website, Facebook, and emails for notice of when volunteer activities are scheduled.

Loggerhead sea turtles laid 109 nests producing 8,451 hatchlings in our mile and half of beach. While this is lower than the past three years, it is not inconsistent with the cyclical nature of nesting volume, so we are looking forward to returning to larger numbers this coming season. The hatch success rate (74%) and the percentage of false crawls (50%) are both in line with previous years. "I Survived the Turtle Nightwalk" T-shirt sales generated \$773 to benefit the EBSP Turtle Project. We will sell Nightwalk shirts of a different color this coming season. Volunteers to assist in the sales are welcome and can enjoy the benefit of participating in the nightwalk.

FRESpace again funded a variety of projects, and we have more planned or underway. The most significant include sharing the cost of replacing the turtle

cart, replacing the Blowhards blower, funding the upgrade of the ELC's alligator exhibit, and supporting the upgrade of trail signage and maps.



*Business After Hours at the ELC*

We continue to focus on recruiting local members and renewing previous members. In February we collaborated with the Edisto Chamber of Commerce and McConkey's Jungle Shack to host a Business After Hours. The event was well attended and acquainted locals with FRESpace and all the Park and ELC have to offer. As of March 1, we had 390 members, an increase of 97 from the previous year and 217 from the year before! We've also increased our number of corporate sponsors from four to nine. They are listed later in this newsletter and deserve your support. As a reminder, here are some of the benefits of membership (still only \$25/year!):

- Free entry to the State 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](http://www.frespace.org); email: [edistofrespace@gmail.com](mailto:edistofrespace@gmail.com); like us on Facebook

- Parking and use of restroom facilities at the beach
- Free admission to the Environmental Learning Center (ELC)
- Use of Park trails for hiking and biking
- Membership in an organization making a difference in preserving Edisto's natural beauty

The annual Turtle Fest will be held on a Saturday late Spring. This is a great event for children and adults and, as in previous years, the Park plans to have activities that entertain and educate about sea turtle biology. Representatives from the South Carolina Aquarium typically bring a variety of turtles to see and touch. This enjoyable event also provides volunteer opportunities for FRESpace members. Watch our website for the actual date and list of activities.

Communications to our FRESpace membership and those visiting or planning to visit the Edisto Beach State Park remain a major focus. We frequently update our website and supplement that communication with emails and Facebook. We currently have 3,769 Facebook followers. Please check out our website at [www.frespace.org](http://www.frespace.org), "like" us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/frespace](https://www.facebook.com/frespace), or contact us at [edistofrespace@gmail.com](mailto:edistofrespace@gmail.com).

Our annual meeting for the FRESpace membership will be held Saturday, April 27 at the Environmental Learning Center. We will begin with coffee and donuts at 8:30 a.m. and a business meeting to follow at 9:00 a.m. Once again, Edisto Watersports & Tackle has graciously offered a free kayaking trip or a boat ride through the creeks for \$10 per person. All events are open to FRESpace members and will leave from EWT. The river cruise will leave at 1:00 p.m., and the kayaking at 2:30 p.m. Please make your reservations following the information on the proxy page.

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

*Bill Andrews, FRESpace President*

### **Park Manager's Report**

It has been a busy winter season. The weather has been mostly cooperative, and the campground and

cabins have been steadily occupied. Since our last newsletter we have added a new addition to the Edisto team. Jonathan Rexrode was promoted from Keowee-Toxaway State Park as our Senior Ranger. He has hit the ground running and is doing a great job leading our ranger staff. We hope to fill our vacant Ranger I position soon.



*Left to Right – Kaley Foley and Kyle Bullock*

We have been working on numerous projects such as remodeling the day-use restroom facility. This has been done completely in-house. All that is left is the installation of the partition doors, sliding windows, exterior wood, and paint. We have also been remodeling the south wing of the CCC bathhouse for a retail operation. Our new store will be called the "Camp Exchange." The name is inspired by the name the CCC base camps referred to their stores. It is unique and fits well with our tradition and has also been completed in-house. The counters, gables, and beverage cart are complete. When you visit the park, swing by and see the work the staff has done on these facilities. The talent we have on our team is truly amazing!

On Friday, March 15, Volvo will return for a volunteer work day. They will conduct a beach sweep and help us spread pine straw in the day-use area berms. If you have free time on that day, swing by and join in. This is our second year with Volvo volunteering. It is a great initiative that Volvo has reached out, and they truly appreciate Edisto.

A big thanks to FRESpace for funding the replacement of the trail intersections signs. They have arrived

and look great. We added a number system to the signs so our users can reference their location easier on the maps. We will purchase the lumber to replace and install the signs within the next month. Be on the lookout for a volunteer opportunity to assist staff with installation.

As always, thank y'all for your continued support of the park. We look forward to seeing you out in our great community and the park.

*Kyle Bullock, Park Manager*

## Interpretive Ranger's Report

It's been a surprisingly eventful off-season here at ELC. We had to release our fish stock due to the threat of Hurricane Florence. Thankfully, there wasn't a large impact to our little island! Since September, we've been spreading the word about the need to fill our fish tanks. We've been pretty successful, but we're still working on it. Now the weather is warmer and the busy season approaches, I'm sure we can finish filling our tanks.



*My, how Marsh has grown!*

We're also currently working on filling our touch tank with cool critters. Some volunteer help with attending the touch tank during busy times may be needed. Stay tuned for more information.

We have new programs that are now offered here at ELC. Brendan, our program specialist, created some fan favorites that include Crabbing 101, Cast Netting in the Lowcountry, and Off the Hook fishing. These programs have been a hit in the off-season, so we look forward to the busy season. We also have a Tie Dye program where you can use your own white shirt or an

EBSP shirt. Be sure to call for more information or come to the ELC.

There's been more involvement of the EBSP park staff with the community to increase awareness of EBSP and ELC. Some of you may have seen Kyle, Kaley, and me at town events, and we look forward to participating in more civic events. As I approach my one-year mark, I really enjoy working on this little island and appreciate how everyone has welcomed me. See you around!

*Sam Pettit, Interpretive Ranger*



*Pat teaching children about alligators at the ELC*

In Memorial – We are sad to inform our members that Don Tipton passed away May 2, 2018. Don and Damaris Cardisco were responsible for establishing FRESpace in 2002, and Don was the first vice president and the second president of the organization. He was involved in FRESpace for years and a member the rest of his life. His wife, Ida, was the membership chair a number of years.

Check our website at [www.frespace.org](http://www.frespace.org), and “like” us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/frespace](https://www.facebook.com/frespace)

Our gratitude to our corporate sponsors: **Charleston Fossil Adventures, Edisto Kennels, Edisto Saltwater Tours, Edisto Watersports and Tackle, Kenerty Surveying Inc., Lowcountry River Rats, McConkey's Jungle Shack, Mueller Electric, and The Edistonian.**

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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 2019.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Replaces</u>
Iddy Andrews	2 years	Self
Peter Beck	2 years	Self
Dave Blauch	2 years	Self
Ann Luckadoo	2 years	Self
Lisa Van Dort	2 years	Bob Sandifer

### \*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*

FOR FRESpace TO HAVE A QUORUM AND CONDUCT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ATTENDANCE BY 20% OF THE MEMBERSHIP IN PERSON OR BY PROXY IS REQUIRED. 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](mailto:edistofrespace@gmail.com) NO LATER THAN APRIL 20.

### FRESpace ANNUAL MEETING April 27, 2019 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
- 1:00–3:00 p.m. River Cruise \$10 (**FRESpace members only**)
- 2:30-4:30 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](mailto:edistofrespace@gmail.com)

# FRESpace Accomplishments - 2018

- Supported EBSP Loggerhead Sea Turtle project which this year saw 109 nests laid
- Increased FRESpace membership to 390 This is the largest membership in the history of FRESpace, and our renewal rate continues to be strong.
- Provided volunteer support for the Turtle Fest held in conjunction with EBSP staff to entertain and educate about sea turtles
- Through our group dubbed the Blowhards, regularly cleared debris from and blew off the Park trails.
- Generated \$773 in revenue through the sale of Turtle Nightwalk T-shirts to help fund turtle-related projects. The nightwalks were held three nights per week June through July.
- Through those sales and membership contributions, funded the following projects:
  - Replaced the blower on the Blowhards' cart
  - With the State Park, shared the costs of replacing the Turtle Cart
  - Purchased turtle-friendly red filter flashlights for turtle nightwalks
  - Funded bird seed for the ELC bird sanctuary
  - Renewed membership for FRESpace/EBSP in the Edisto Chamber of Commerce
  - Purchased "I Survived" T-shirts for sale at the Nightwalks
  - Purchased FRESpace logoed decals for the "Skip the Straw" program
  - Funded the purchase of T-shirts for the ELC's tie-dyed programs
- Continued to develop our communication to our membership and those planning to visit the Edisto Beach State Park through our semi-annual newsletter, our website at [www.frespace.org](http://www.frespace.org), and our Facebook account. We currently have 3,769 followers on Facebook.
- Implemented a means of voting by email to increase voter participation and help assure quorum.
- Expanded the placement of rack cards at local businesses.
- Distributed FRESpace decals to new members and at local events to increase awareness.
- Continued working with the Chamber to increase our local visibility through the Chamber's Edisto Island Guide, which is published each spring.
- Collaborated with the Chamber, McConkey's, and the Park to hold a Business After Hours to increase local awareness of FRESpace and all the Park has to offer.
- Helped install and then remove fencing to protect shorebirds during the nesting season.
- Assisted in the planting of sea oats and bitter panicum plants to protect our dunes from erosion.

## Looking Ahead

- Continue emphasis on increasing membership through local recruiting.
- Increase volunteerism. Some of the opportunities we foresee, in addition to those traditionally supported, include:
  - Additional work clearing the edges of the trails from branches and smaller limbs.
  - Construction work for ELC enhancement projects.
  - Installing new signage along the Park trails.
  - Installing new fencing around the Bache Monument.
  - Planting more sea oats and other native vegetation on the dunes.
  - Participating in a SCORE (South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement) project to place recycled oyster shells along the area of the original shell mound.

*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 (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Sponsorship Donation (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution (Thanks!) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL (Payable to FRESpace) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please mail application to:**

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

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8377 State Cabin Road  
Edisto Island, SC 29438**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
*FRESpace ANNUAL MEETING – April 27*  
*Refreshments 8:30 a.m.: Meeting 9:00 a.m.*

Website: [www.frespace.org](http://www.frespace.org); email: [edistofrespace@gmail.com](mailto:edistofrespace@gmail.com); like us on Facebook