

FRESpace Findings

Spring/Summer 2024

President's Report— Joe Stalvey

Our annual FRESpace meeting is Saturday, April 27 at the ELC. Coffee and pastries are at 8:30 am with a business meeting at 9:00 am. Edisto Watersports & Tackle has offered free kayaking tours from 3:00 – 5:00 pm and a boat tour by reservation from 11:00 – 1:00 pm for \$10 per person and is for FRESpace members only. If you are interested, call (843) 869-0663. You must prepay. Thanks all for your support. Together we make a difference.

Park Manager's Report – Kyle Bullock

It has been a productive winter season. We have remained busy with park guests. Since our last newsletter, we have made personnel changes. Our Park Ranger I, Connor Kokel, left to go to the North Carolina Park service. We have hired Samuel Goodwin to replace Connor. Samuel comes to us from Myrtle Beach State Park where he served in multiple positions.

This past season we've had projects where FRESpace members and park staff worked side by side. Projects included prepping sand fencing sections and installing new sections in our dune lines stretching towards Jeremy's Inlet. Our most recent collaborative project was the installation of a parking lot fence at Coot's Bar & Grill. It is always a pleasure meeting new FRESpace members and getting to know them. Our park guests have been very complimentary of the beach access mat that was funded and installed by our FRESpace volunteers. We hope you continue to volunteer for these projects and come out to meet our staff.

Last year the park service talked with a company to test out "Glamping" tents. Unfortunately, it did not go as successfully as we hoped. It just wasn't sustainable and put a lot on our park staff. As of June

30, the Glamping operation and agreement with the company will be cancelled.

So far, this off-season, park staff have been working on projects to continue to enhance visitor experiences and complete some well needed deferred maintenance. The small day use bathrooms on the hill near Shelter 2 have been gutted. Park staff will create a new look to incorporate an open space in the front and have a larger enclosure to feature all the restroom amenities including a baby changing station. We hope to have this completed by the end of this March. We have also gauged and formulated our plan to fix the rot on our main office. This structure was the original bathhouse built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and completed in 1937. Work should begin after the restroom project and stretch into this summer.

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

Interpretive Ranger's Report – Samantha "Sam" Foreman

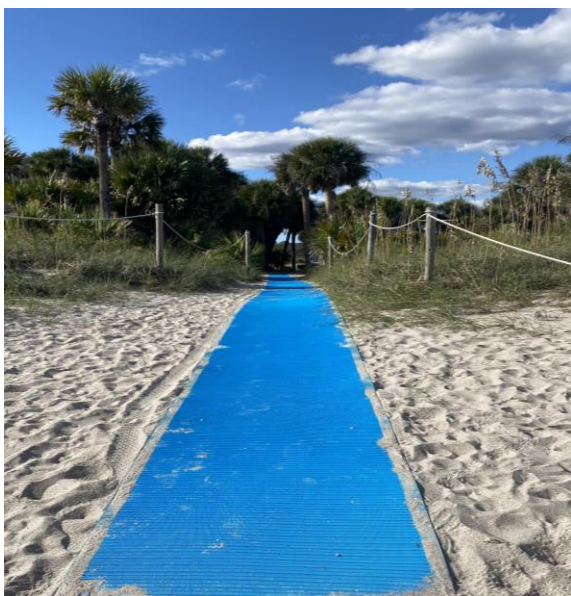
Since the fall newsletter, attendance has slowed a little. We have focused on tweaking some of our programs, completing small projects, and preparing for the upcoming season that is quickly approaching. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we had a busy summer season. For 2023, we saw over 15,000 visitors which is the highest attendance since I've started. I anticipate that will continue to increase as time goes on and visitors continue to learn about the ELC.

We have been collaborating with DNR on outreach family fun events. In September and December, we offered two ACE Family Fun Days, and they were quite successful. The September event included educational booths, food trucks, and DNR's educa-

tional vessel. The December event was smaller in scale and featured some educational booths and fun crafts. This partnership has been great, and we will continue to offer these events. The next ACE Family Fun Day is April 6 from 10 am to 1 pm. We will begin advertising next month so be sure to check the FRESpace website and Facebook, along with SC State Parks. Thank you to FRESpace for being a part of these events.

Another event coming soon is the 20th celebration of the Environmental Learning Center on May 4th! Can you believe it has been open for 20 years already? Be on the lookout for more information. As we move into the busy season, we will have our annual Turtle Fest event in June. Details are also in progress.

In addition to our fun upcoming events, we will have some new additions to the ELC. We added updates to our microscope exhibit to change the lens and lighting. This will help with the function and viewability of the specimen slides. We will also add a macroscope so visitors can have an up-close view of larger specimens. Last, we are in the process of ordering microscope slides and slide turntables for each scope. This is to protect the slides and specimens on display. All these updates are possible from a grant FRESpace received. Thank you to FRESpace for supporting enhancement projects. As opportunities pop up, there will be updates. Hope to see you around the park and at the ELC!



Treasurer – Dianne Watson

FRESpace continues to fund a variety of projects. The most significant expenditures were purchasing a beach mat located at the restroom area to the beach, a beach wheelchair for the State Park, Nightwalk t-shirts, sand fencing, and a microscope for the ELC. We continue to provide funds for bird seed for the ELC bird sanctuary, membership for FRESpace/EBSP in the Edisto Chamber of Commerce and popcorn/bags for Movies in the Park.



Membership – Ann Luckadoo

Currently, we have 339 family memberships and 27 corporate sponsors. Please note the expiration date on your current hangtag. Family memberships continue to be \$40, and corporate sponsorships are \$100.

Our corporate sponsors are Edisto Saltwater Tours LLC, Positive Zenergy 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, Kennerly 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 Ken-

nels, 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.

Here are some of the benefits of membership:

- Entry to the State Park
- Boat ramp at Live Oak Landing.
- Use of picnic shelters, tables, & grills.
- Parking & restroom facilities
- Admission to the ELC.
- Use of Park trails for hiking and biking.
- Membership in an organization helping preserve Edisto's natural beauty

Volunteer Opportunities -Ron Steele

Over this winter, Frespace members have participated in six projects within Edisto Beach State Park. The first project was a trail cleanup on Spanish Mount, Big Bay and Bache Monument trails. Also, during this project, some landscape maintenance was performed around the Environmental Learning Center.

The balance of the projects involved the preparation and installation of sand fence. The sand fence installed down the beach from the campground encourages the development of sand dunes by trapping blowing sand and protecting the beach from erosion during excessive high tides. A sand fence was also installed at the southwest end of the park to protect the dunes near Coots from erosion caused by foot traffic.

As spring progresses there will be several more volunteer opportunities. Should you have any questions regarding volunteer opportunities contact Ron Steele, by email frespaceprojects@gmail.com.

ELC Volunteer Coordinator – Dan Harrell

We work with the ELC staff to identify volunteer opportunities at the ELC. Volunteer opportunities currently available are program assistance (preferably Master Naturalists) for beach and bird walks once a week in the spring, and cleaning volunteers once a month to polish exhibit cases. Volunteers are needed to clear an area next to the ELC and planting

flowers and bushes. The plantings along with bird feeders should attract more birds to this area.



Blowhard Team – Peter Beck

The Blowhards are the crew that keeps the Edisto State Park Nature Trails free of debris. Every two weeks one Blowhard drives the golf cart with a commercial blower mounted on the back over the 6.5 mileage of trails. The current list of Blowhards are Cameron Andrews, Ted Luckadoo, Larry Urbick, Peter Beck, Dan Harrell, and alternates Mimi McCole and Michael Cubelo. Dan is our resident mechanic that keeps the cart running smoothly, and Peter sets the schedule. If anyone is interested, please contact Peter Beck at (517) 398-5506.

Communications – Iddy Andrews

We have 7000 Followers on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FRESpace>). As of January 1, 2024, there 5380 views of the FRESpace website www.FRESpace.org .

Don't forget to check the mailing label on the back of this newsletter to determine when your membership is scheduled to expire. It takes us several weeks to process the memberships and get the up-to-date hang tags back to you.