FRESPACE Findings

Spring/Summer 2026

President's Report– Mick Royston
2025 was a banner year for FRESPACE. The organization provided more funding and volunteer work hours for the Edisto Beach State Park than ever before. Let's examine what made this year special and explore what we need to do in the future to continue our success.

FRESPACE's success depends on two things: volunteer manpower and revenue. Our volunteer support continues to increase each year. Throughout 2025, we have enjoyed a robust turnout of volunteers for all our scheduled work sessions. Why? Part of the reason is the energy and enthusiasm of the FRESPACE members who live close enough to the Edisto Beach State Park to contribute their time. Another reason is the leadership of Volunteer Coordinator, Ron Steele, and the work of FRESPACE's Board Staff that communicate with our volunteers through the internet, social media, and local media.



Working together on worthwhile projects builds bonds and friendships, and FRESPACE volunteers share a sense of camaraderie. This year FRESPACE held its first annual Volunteer's Picnic to celebrate a successful work season that was well attended and enjoyed by FRESPACE members and park staff alike. All attending would tell you that FRESPACE volunteerism rocks!

The second key to FRESPACE's success is revenue. Traditionally, FRESPACE memberships have been our primary revenue source. We proudly point out that your membership fees are totally dedicated to park improvement, but over the last two years revenue from individual gifts and institutional grants have become an important part of our total revenue. We have received grants from the Edisto Island Lions Club, the Colleton County ATAX funds, the Edisto Chamber of Commerce Turtle Tide Auction, and others. Much of our success in 2025 depended on the grant monies we received in 2024 and grants received in 2025 will help make this year a successful one, too.



Unfortunately, the Edisto Chamber of Commerce's Turtle Tide Auction, our largest contributor, will not continue next year. Hopefully,

we will be able to rely on personal donations from our members and identify new grant sources in our community to make up any revenue shortfalls. FRESPACE is also planning on increasing its internal fundraising capabilities to include sales, raffles, and events to help increase revenue. We thank you for your support in all these ventures.

Some of the projects in the coming year include:

- Provide funding to lease a four-seat ATV vehicle for EBSP's Sea Turtle Projects.
- Repair or refurbish aquarium stands in the mixing tank area.
- Install a new audio system in the ELC's theater.
- Continue to increase FRESPACE membership, and volunteer work to EBSP.
- Continue trail clearing and landscape maintenance at both EBSP campuses.
- Continue sand fencing installations.

When FRESPACE combines volunteer manpower with internally generated revenue we can be a powerful force for the improvement of the Edisto Beach State Park and the community it serves. We ask for your support as we move forward.

Park Manager's Report – Kyle Bullock

Greetings FRESPACE Members,

This winter has been mild for us compared to recent years. Thankfully, we did not experience adverse effects with the winter system that moved through our area in January. The park has remained at a steady occupancy throughout this season.

Park staff have been busy with projects this winter season. As spring approaches, staff focus will shift towards normal operations in preparation for increase in visitor use as the weather warms up. 250 cubic yards of shell sand were placed on the tornado damaged section of State Cabin Road. In the next couple of months, park staff will repair sections of the trail system surface that were damaged in the tornado and subsequently through the recovery efforts.

Since our last newsletter, we have had some joint projects with FRESPACE members and park staff. One of those projects was installing nearly 1600' of sand fencing along the border of the day-use area. Dune fencing sections were also prepped for the upcoming project workdays this spring.

In staffing, we have a new ranger joining us this year. Gracie Gilreath was promoted from Assistant Park Ranger at Paris Mountain State Park. Please be sure to give her a big welcome.

Thank you, as always, for being a vital part of our park community.

Interpretive Ranger's Report – Samantha "Sam" Foreman

Hi FRESPACE!

As our slow season ends, I look back and think it really isn't slow for us at the ELC. Since the last newsletter, our maintenance staff installed a replacement mixing tank, so we are now back up and running at full capacity with saltwater. This was a FRESPACE funded project, and we truly appreciate your help with this project.

We have focused on revamping some of our programs and adding new programs for this spring and summer season. Some of them have already been piloted, and we are excited to offer them as it warms up. Be on the lookout for Marsh Mania, Crabbing, and other fun programs we offer.

We have some fun events lined up this summer. We are hosting an Earth Day event on April 22, and we will have our Turtle Fest on May 30. Stay tuned for more information regarding those events here at the ELC.

As some of you may know, I will be on maternity leave this spring, so I have been doing a lot of behind-the-scenes prep. In doing so, we are in the process of selecting our summer interns to assist with the ELC and our turtle patrol. Once we have everyone selected, we will introduce our summer helpers.

Hope to see everyone this summer!

Membership – Ann Luckadoo
Currently we have 350 family memberships and 22 corporate sponsors. Please note the expiration date on your hangtag and on this newsletter. The membership is valid until the end of the month stated on your hangtag.

Here are some of the benefits of membership:

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

If you would like to renew your membership or sponsorship, please send your check to FRESPACE, P. O. Box 523, Edisto Island, SC 29438. You can also renew or join our organization on our website through PayPal. Family memberships continue to be $40. per year, and a corporate sponsorship is $100. You can also get a three-year membership for $120. Thanks for your support of FRESPACE and the Edisto Beach State Park.

Volunteer Coordinator – Ron Steele
In fall and winter 2025–2026, FRESPACE members supported state park staff with several projects. Volunteers installed sand fences in the day-use area to protect dunes, contributing over 80 hours. They also helped build the park's Christmas parade float and donated candy for rangers to distribute.



The first 2026 project was prepping more sand fencing for future use. Upcoming spring projects include continued sand fence installation and extensive trail improvements to address erosion and tree root issues.



Communications – Iddy Andrews
We have 8.8 K Followers on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/FRESPACE) and over the last year, we had 7726 visits to our website.

In memory of our long-time member and board membership chairman, Ida Tipton, who passed away on February 9, 2026