



E-Newsletter  
of the  
Edisto Island  
Preservation Alliance

January 2012

[WWW.PreserveEdisto.org](http://WWW.PreserveEdisto.org)

P.O. Box 157,  
Edisto Island. SC 29438

Litter rears its ugly head again...

**LITTER PICK UP ONCE MORE IN JEOPARDY**

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH FURTHER REDUCES CONTRIBUTION  
FOR 2012 AND THREATENS 100% CUTOFF IN FUTURE

**The history:**

EIPA is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization with no office and no staff. We keep our membership fee low (only \$5.00 for an individual membership, \$10.00 for a family) so that no one will find membership to be a hardship. Even with no staff and limited income, our officers, directors, and volunteers have accepted the responsibility of implementing the Edisto Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan and the Administrative Directorship of Edisto Pride. Last year, when town council unexpectedly abandoned its long-standing policy of funding litter clean-up along the gateway to Edisto Beach and awarded only one-half of the cost as a matching grant, EIPA launched an emergency fund raising drive that raised sufficient funds along with other donations to the Town to match the reduced amount and fund the clean-up contract for another year. We raised approximately \$2,600 in excess of the amount that proved necessary to meet the matching grant for 2011 and have earmarked those funds for the litter clean-up effort in 2012.

**Where we are today:**

We have just received word that the town council has further cut the amount of its grant for 2012 down to \$5,000, and stated that this will be the final year for the Town's participation. The decision and the threat to eliminate funding entirely in future years was passed by a 3 to 2 majority with Mann, Anderson, and Hutto in the majority and Mayor Burley Lyons and Councilwoman Jane Darby voting to continue funding.

When we asked our members to contribute money to the litter clean-up fund in 2011, we assured them that this was a one-time plea and that we were confident that the town, perhaps assisted by the Chamber of Commerce and the business and real estate community, would see that the clean-up contract was adequately funded in the future.

In an effort to help avert another crisis, the EIPA board voted at our regular board meeting on Wednesday afternoon, January 11th. to make a contribution out of our operating fund in a sufficient amount to bring the \$2,600 already on hand from last year's fund raising up to an even \$3,000. We hope that this \$3,000 will put the community well on the way to getting enough participation to fund the contract for another year. However, as we promised our members last year, EIPA will not be heading that fundraising.

One would think that any resort municipality would seek and cherish the benefits that would flow from having the sole highway for arriving and departing visitors designated as a National Scenic Byway. Indeed, the scenic beauty and cultural and historical ambiance of the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway is the first impression made upon a visitor to Edisto Beach and the last impression upon leaving the beach to drive back home. That impression today is a priceless asset to tourism and visitation, but should the avenue be sullied by accumulated trash and garbage, that impression will become overwhelmingly negative. In that event the entire community will suffer but most of all the Town of Edisto Beach and its stakeholders.

*Edisto Island Preservation Alliance*

### **Something to Remember Us By**

We hope you noticed our new logo at the top of your newsletter! It's also now featured on our web at [www.PreserveEdisto.org](http://www.PreserveEdisto.org)

Created by Edisto's own Caroline Matheny we believe it captures the feeling of our mission and the reason we feel so strongly about it. You'll be seeing a lot more of it as time goes on!



### **Preservation Means Jobs in SC**

**On Edisto our primary industry is tourism and preserving our natural resources, culture and way of life contributes directly to bringing people to visit here. But we are not alone. The Conservation Voters of SC, a non-partisan group working to advance a preservation agenda, recently provided the following information:**

“Did you know that 58,000 jobs in this state are tied to fishing and outdoor recreation? Or that South Carolina’s recycling industry made 1,500 new hires last year? Or that a \$5 million investment in our forest industry would generate \$2.5 billion in revenues and 12,000 new jobs?”

Everywhere you turn in South Carolina, our land, water, forests and farms are powering our economy. Truly, conservation is South Carolina’s business. Last year, a number of our Common Agenda priorities passed through either the House or Senate – and when the Governor vetoed funding for the Conservation Bank, both chambers voted overwhelmingly to override.” This year the Common Agenda is targeting recycling, a “fix it first” approach to transportation needs, restoring some of the cuts to forestry, agriculture, outdoor recreation and tourism, preserving the Conservation Bank, and protecting isolated wetlands.

### Driving in the Marsh – Steamboat Landing Road



In a previous newsletter we told you about our efforts to get OCRM/DHEC and Charleston County to stop people from driving their vehicles out into the marsh. At long last – with Charleston County taking the lead there has been some action. They have erected several signs saying stay out of the marsh strategically located where the traffic had been the worst. They have also consulted with DNR and at their suggestion planted wax myrtle shrubs alongside the road protected with a temporary silt fence. Recent high tides call into question whether the plants can survive there but the County has assured us they will replant if necessary and continue to look for solutions. They are on record as seeking a way to protect the marsh.

### Edisto Island National Scenic Byway Sign to Be Repainted

Anyone who has visited Edisto lately knows that the original paint job on the welcome sign for the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway did not hold up well. We have tried cleaning it with bleach, but what it needs is to be repainted. Thanks to a Keep America Beautiful grant through Edisto Pride - an application authored by Marian Brailsford of our Board – repainting of the sign has been funded and we will be able to accomplish this prior to prime tourist season. John Fisher, chair of the EINSB committee is spearheading the effort to obtain bids and overseeing the work. In addition to repainting the sign a short message will be added to the rear of the sign for visitors leaving the island and some minor reworking of the plantings around the sign will take place. We’re all very proud of the Scenic Byway and this sign is our chance to make every visitor aware of the significance of the road and why we want it kept litter free.

## Your New Officers and Board

We like you to know your friends and neighbors who are working to preserve and protect the island you love:

### 2012 Officers and Board of Directors (Board Term Expirations)

		Term on Board Expires as of Annual Meeting
James M. Brailsford, III	Chair	2012
Gretchen Smith	Vice-Chair	2012
E.M. "Bud" Skidmore	Secretary	2012
Robert "Bob" Sandifer	Treasurer	2013
Marian D. Brailsford		2013
Lloyd Bray		2013
David Cannon		2013
John Fisher		2013
Archie Johnston		2013
Burley Lyons		2012
Linda Manus		2012
Sandra Marshburn		2012
Francine Morrison		2013
John Roberts		2012
Nancy Salas		2013

Note: Officers' terms are for one year

## 1<sup>st</sup> Printing of 10,000 Edisto Island National Scenic Byways Brochures: Almost Gone!

The Board approved reprinting the National Scenic Byway brochures as demand from the Interstate welcome centers and local distribution points like the Edisto Environmental Learning Center have consumed the first printing underwritten by the original grant through EIOLT.



We believe attracting the right type of tourism – people who value our rural character, natural resources, birds and wildlife – can sustain our economy without ruining what makes Edisto unique.

### EIPA Assists Edisto Pride and Keep America Beautiful



Edisto Pride has been important to the effort to keep Edisto green and clean. Recently the Board of EIPA voted to assume the responsibility of being the not-for-profit sponsor of Edisto Pride. It only made sense since virtually everyone who supports EIPA is already supporting Edisto Pride in one way or another and recognizes the important role they play in keeping Edisto a place we can be proud of. Recently Edisto Pride sponsored a clean up along Peters Point Road. While mainly residents of the road were involved EIPA Secretary Bud Skidmore showed up to lend our support.

### Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life



Shortly after learning Charleston County with EIPA's support had been awarded a \$600,000 grant to extend the bike paths from Colleton County (Palmetto Rd) to Botany Bay Road EIPA was asked to assist with the Cystic Fibrosis Cycle for Life event. While many of us were concerned about encouraging biking before the new paths were in place the Board decided the chance to engage the biking community was simply too important not to participate. The event would happen with or without us and this would give us the opportunity to discuss what steps can be taken to improve safety. Volunteers manned a refreshment stand at Edisto Produce (next to Geechie Boy Market) and

spent an enjoyable afternoon meeting the organizers and the bikers. We learned a lot and they raised a ton of money.

### Helping the Edisto Food Pantry at the Christmas Parade



This year instead of having our own float in the Town of Edisto Beach Christmas parade several of us helped the Baptist Church and the Edisto Food Pantry collect food for those in need. This is Bess Watson's truck with lights and tinsel and appropriate signage. Several members of the Church rolled grocery carts along the parade route to take donations from the crowd. They collected a lot of food and with the challenging economy they sure needed it!



### Short Section of Botany Bay Road to be Paved

We recently learned that Charleston County will soon be paving the first portion of Botany Bay road from Highway 174 to the Allen AME Church. Many of us expressed concern about this as Botany Bay Road is one of Edisto's most scenic and the road serves as the entrance for the Botany Bay WMA.

Charleston county has assured us they have no intention of paving beyond the Church. They responded: *"The portion of the road in question has been requested to be upgraded for many years by many people, primarily members of the church. As is the case with all of our unimproved roads, it has taken many years for it to move up the list to receive funding for the work."* EIPA's concerns related primarily to the potential impact on the scenic nature of the road, the potential for storm water run-off into the marsh, and impacts to significant trees. The county has assured us they will work to minimize the environmental effects as they go forward.

## Do We Need to Pave All Rural Roads?

obviously not...

More and more people are becoming aware of the impact of paving both on the environment and on the scenic nature of rural areas. While people moving to the country may be used to paved roads those of us who have lived here for a while realize a well maintained rural road can not only be safe and passable but have distinct advantages over a paved road. The most obvious advantage is slower traffic.

When a road is paved people immediately go faster. Its not uncommon to see cars and trucks going 45 or 50 or even faster on Edisto's secondary roads that are paved. You rarely find anyone trying to do that on an unpaved road. Unpaved roads allow rain to be absorbed slowly, paved roads simply move the water and pollutants to the sides which on Edisto usually means into the marsh.

At our last Board meeting the EIPA Board discussed this and passed the following resolution to be forwarded to Charleston and Colleton Counties:



### Resolution:

WHEREAS, the primary industry on Edisto Island and Edisto Beach is tourism, which provides jobs and income to our residents; and

WHEREAS, tourists visit Edisto to enjoy its rural, natural settings; and

WHEREAS, the scenic, historic, unpaved roads on Edisto provide an essential element of the rural ambience that our visitors are seeking, as reminders of the island's history, and as a fitting access to the scenery and birds and wildlife that can be seen along these rural roadways; and

WHEREAS, the paving of our rural roads with non-pervious surfaces such as asphalt directly increases storm water runoff into our ditches, marshes, and creeks, degrading our water quality and endangering our recreational and commercial shellfish harvesting and fishing, shrimping, and crabbing; and

WHEREAS, the paving of rural roads results in more traffic and an increase in vehicular speeds, increasing the incidents of collisions involving vehicles, animals, cyclists, and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, a transition to paved roadways serves to make Edisto appear more like the urban and suburban communities from which our visitors have travelled and defeats our efforts to preserve our rural heritage; and

WHEREAS, our dirt, shell sand, and gravel roads can be properly improved and maintained without pavement so that they are nevertheless secure, drivable, and safe in all seasons for our residents and visitors alike. Now Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance urges all agencies having appropriate jurisdiction, including the State of South Carolina, the County of Charleston, the Town of Edisto Beach, and the County of Colleton, to provide the maximum possible attention to the improvement and maintenance of the rural roads of Edisto, but using only gravel, shell sand, and other pervious surfaces including new, modern pervious paving materials, but avoiding asphalt and other impervious paving materials wherever possible.

This resolution adopted by unanimous vote of the board of directors of the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance at its regular meeting on January 11, 2012.

E.M. Skidmore  
Secretary

James M. Brailsford, III  
Chairman

  
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[GROWFOODCAROLINA.COM](http://GROWFOODCAROLINA.COM)

### It's a Tradition to Eat Well on Edisto

Folks come to Edisto for the local seafood, fruits and vegetables. It just isn't much of a visit without going by King's Market, Geechie Boy Mill, or George and Pinks and pairing what you get there with shrimps, oysters, and fresh fish from Flowers Seafood or Edisto Seafood.

From its beginning EIPA has felt sustaining our local agricultural and seafood industry is critical to the future of our island. We have made significant efforts to promote all of these (see our Scenic Byway brochure) as well as our locally owned and operated restaurants – unusual in a day and age where chains tend to dominate the industry.

Well, the rest of the world is catching on and we want to report three nearby efforts in that regard.

1) Charleston County under their Planning Department has formed an Agriculture committee to find ways for the county to help what little remains of our local agricultural industry. EIPA is represented on that committee. So far they've been working with the Dept. of Agriculture, SCDOT, and Clemson University in an effort to improve signage for local farms that sell directly to the public and for markets like those on Edisto. If you have ever tried to find the Charleston Tea Plantation you know just how important that is! They have also helped provide information to clarify requirements for agricultural assessments on property and promoted efforts like **Lowcountry Local First**.

2) Lowcountry Local First is targeting local farmers to help provide information, promotion and an exciting recent addition - an agricultural internship program in cooperation with the Clemson Extension Center on Savannah Highway. The Agricultural Committee has also been providing encouragement and helping with communications as the SC Coastal Conservation League gears up **GrowFood Carolina**.

3) **GrowFood Carolina's** mission is to help link local farmers to local and regional markets by providing adequate infrastructure and coordination so that fresh produce can move seamlessly from local farmers' land to consumers' hands. It is an effort to assist local farmers by providing warehousing, distribution, sales and administration, and marketing/community outreach. They are working to overcome such problems as liability insurance and the need that large retail operations have for quantities a single grower may not be able to meet. They are already having some success helping local farmers place crops with companies like Piggly Wiggly Carolina. Here on Edisto we know the Pig's corporate folks support it because David at our local store certainly tries to sell local products when he can get them.

As these initiatives grow expect EIPA to look for opportunities for Edisto...

That's all for now, we hope you have enjoyed this quarter E-Newsletter  
Remember to stay in touch by checking in at [WWW.PRESERVEEDISTO.ORG](http://WWW.PRESERVEEDISTO.ORG)