



# Edisto Currents

## Happy Holidays!



### A NEW YEAR!

*Tim Rogers, Friends of the Edisto President*

As the Holiday Season embraces the Edisto, her Friends look back and give thanks, and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

For me, the future brings opportunities to continue to build FRED, to double our membership and our financial strength, to develop more effective techniques to advocate sound practices and sensitive public policies to conserve the precious resources of the Edisto Basin, to expand innovative programs to enable FRED to more effectively serve our constituency.

Each of us should seek ways to increase our individual contributions. Can you increase your financial support? Can you recruit new memberships? Can you develop relationships with opinion leaders who will make critical decisions that will determine the future of our precious River?

Recently, FRED joined with Palmetto Pride to inaugurate "Adopt a Landing" programs to combat litter and beautify public access points along the Riverside. We'll need volunteers to maintain and expand "Adopt a Landing." Can you help?

May 2017 be a year FRED grows stronger and more relevant for the sake of the beautiful River which is our legacy. If each of us does our part, it can happen!

From all the FRED family, Happy Holidays!

### The FRED Appeal

*by Norman Brunswig, Friends of the Edisto Vice President*

In October 1996 The Edisto River Basin Project Report was published, laying out a broadly accepted plan for the sustainable use of the Edisto River's watershed and the protection of the River itself. Portions of fourteen South Carolina counties totaling roughly 1.5 million acres which drain into the Edisto were analyzed to produce this pioneering road map for our rivers conservation future.

To promote the 168 recommendations in the Project Report and be the conservation watch dog of the river, Friends of the Edisto (FRED) was formed. FRED's mission is to protect the Edisto's full range of ecological functions and values and its availability for healthy human recreation and water supply. No other conservation organization,

public or private, is so totally focused on the well-being of the Edisto River.

Through the early years, FRED promoted better and broader understanding of the Edisto through activities on and near the river and publication of its newsletter and more recently its website. From time to time FRED opposed activities which it believed would be harmful to the Edisto, winning some and losing some.

Today the Edisto faces threats of greater magnitude than ever before. Huge unregulated irrigation water withdrawals by mega-farms threaten to reduce the Edisto's flow so much that not enough water will remain to sustain the river and the critical forested wetlands which embrace it. FRED must be prepared to meet this frightening challenge head-on, and to do so it must increase its operating funds.

Like all not-for-profit organizations, FRED depends for financial support on charitable gifts from those who believe in its mission and goals. FRED's mission is to protect the full range of ecological functions and values of the Edisto River ecosystem; its primary goal today is to change the South Carolina law which allows huge farms to withdraw so much water for irrigation that the river and its magnificent bordering swamps are irreparably damaged, and the peoples enjoyment of them is diminished.

If you find FRED's mission and primary goal personally compelling, please make the most generous gift you can to Friends of the Edisto. Your gift will make a real difference.

### FRED Photo Competition expanding in 2017

The FRED Photo Competition, which we conducted in the spring of 2016, was quite a success. We had many strong entries, and winners were selected in all three categories, along with our overall Grand Prize winner. Building on this year's success, we're in the process of planning something bigger and even better for 2017.

Full details (and rules) will be coming soon, but the big news is that we're going to be accepting photos throughout the year next year, and then we'll be presenting the 2017 FRED Photo Awards at the annual Membership Celebration, which will be held in Orangeburg during the month of October.

The FRED Facebook page will be sharing complete details, starting in January, when we will invite our members to share their images of winter, the holidays, and the New Year in, on, and around our

beloved Edisto River. Whether you're shooting with your phone, a simple "point and shoot" digital, or a fancy DSLR, we know that our friends are making amazing images, and we want to see them!

As you make your way through the Holiday Season and into the New Year, keep your cameras handy and your eyes open for that special moment that captures the season on the Edisto River. We'll have more details on the competition – and how you can enter your images – coming soon.



### Join Friends of the Edisto!

**DONATIONS TO FRED BEFORE DECEMBER 31ST ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE FOR 2016!**

Visit our website (<http://www.edistofriends.org/join-donate>) to donate today. FRED is a 501(c)3 non profit organization.

### Membership levels:

Visit our website (<http://www.edistofriends.org/join-donate>) to join today.

**New members' annual dues are only \$10!**

Basic (\$25)	Supporter (\$250)
Family (\$50)	Steward (\$500)
Donor (\$100)	Sponsor (\$1,000)

### Questions or Comments?

We love feedback! Whether you love or hate what we're doing, we want to hear about it. Email us at [info@edistofriends.org](mailto:info@edistofriends.org) or call us at the office: 803-251-7441.

Our physical mailing address is PO Box 5151, Columbia, SC 29250.

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Contact email: [info@edistofriends.org](mailto:info@edistofriends.org)



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