



Edisto River Currents

News and information from Friends of the Edisto (FRED) -- Spring 2008

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8K for H2O Update

This year's 8K for H2O race, organized by the Master of Environmental Studies Student Association from the College of Charleston, was a huge success. Held on Folly Beach on Saturday February 23rd, participants gathered by the hundreds to kick off the annual event on a blustery but clear day at the beach. FRED was the proud beneficiary of the fundraising event which generated several thousand dollars for FRED's program work in support of the Edisto. An exclusive appearance by Freddie the Fish (FRED's official mascot) was a lively addition to the day's events. The FRED board has elected that the funds be used as an operating budget for several programs, including; a new restoration initiative that is underway, collaboration in the Edisto Stewardship day and future river festivals. Says David Lansbury, of FRED's Board "We're glad to have a partnership with the College of Charleston and the greater Charleston community, The Edisto is an important river for them, and they [Charleston residents] play an important role in the river's well-being."

Who is FRED?

Friends of the Edisto (FRED) is a nonprofit organization established in 1998 to facilitate conservation of natural and cultural resources and advocate sustainable development within the Edisto River Basin of South Carolina.

Virginia Whitewater Women - an annual fixture on the Edisto

Boaters come from far and wide to enjoy the Edisto River and a regular visitor includes the Whitewater Women's Canoe Club affiliated with Virginia Tech. This group is very active: they canoe once a week except in the winter months and that's when they often head south to seek warmer waters. They've taken many trips to South Carolina on the Edisto or its Forks. Says Elizabeth Richey of the group... "Our first trip was in 1995, staying at Jerry Varne's Broxton Bridge Plantation. He and Charlie Sweat gave valuable information and maps. We love this river! We have paddled the South Fork from Claude's Landing onto the main stem down as far as Givhans Ferry State Park with a side trip up Four Hole Swamp. This year we added a couple of sections of the North Fork to our list - Carson's Park to Slab Landing and Baughman's Landing to Glover Street Landing. This river is so well maintained. You must work hard to keep it passable and do a tremendous job. Access points are easy to find and spaced to give a reasonable length trip for us senior citizens. We have a few women in their late 40's but the majority is in the Social Security set." FRED hopes these ladies will continue visits to the Edisto for many years to come!



Stewardship Day, Annual Edisto River Cleanup is set for May 17, 2008

On Saturday, May 17th, volunteers are needed to join us for the annual spring sweep of the Edisto. Colleton State Park is headquarters for dispersing volunteers on the lower river. The usual plan is to start at Colleton State Park at 9:00 AM, clean litter and trash from the river and landings, then meet back at Colleton SP for a cookout around 2:00 PM. Howard Bridgman is lead organizer for the cleanup on the lower Edisto between Dorchester and Colleton counties. For more information and to offer help and volunteers, contact Howard at ... hsb0255@bellsouth.net

Stewardship Day is for the whole Edisto River system. More leaders are needed to organize river cleanups on other sections of the Edisto. If you organize a river cleanup FRED will be glad to recognize your event on our website and in email news distribution. Simply choose your favorite river segment, a boat landing, or some other public access site along the Edisto River system. Recruit your friends, family, scout group, church, or civic group to help with your cleanup. Set your own date and time. Then go to it. Be a part of our effort to clean litter from the Edisto River Basin. Contact Bill Marshall at marshallb@dnr.sc.gov if you want FRED to share information with others about your Stewardship Day river cleanup. To see the many places where you can get to the river, check out our list of access sites and the map at ... http://www.edistofriends.org/edisto_access.htm

Edisto Restoration Initiative – Planning Stage Commences

The first stage of FRED's collaborative, Edisto Basin-wide restoration effort is underway. This effort, called the Edisto Restoration Initiative is designed to identify sites along the river and its tributaries where FRED can locate assistance for landowners to 'improve' their properties in ways that help restore water quality and ecosystem function. The premise is that landowners with agricultural or timber interests may be engaging in practices that degrade the quality of the Edisto, perhaps unknowingly. By identifying cooperative landowners, FRED can help match the landowner with Federal or State grant programs to assist landowners with the cost of improving their property in a way that reduces negative impacts to the Edisto river. Projects could range from excluding livestock from streams to replanting riverbanks to stabilizing eroded river banks or even improving stormwater systems. All projects would be entirely voluntary.

On-The-Board – Ongoing/Upcoming issues and decisions of the FRED Board

CAMO Coalition – FRED Board will be hearing from a representative of CAMO, a sportsmen based conservation alliance. The Board will be deciding whether to join and/or support CAMO.

Membership Drive – Betty Stone is currently heading a strong and successful membership drive commissioned by the FRED board.

Officer Elections -- Our board is currently soliciting nominations for Board Officers; Secretary, and President. We are actively seeking new potential nominees from communities in the Greater Edisto region.

"Current Conditions" – We are interested in posting river-related information: fishing reports, updated water levels fish advisories etc., on our website. Please contact the FRED Board with suggestions for additional information that we could include.

Friends of the Edisto, Inc. is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

Contributions to Friends of the Edisto are tax deductible.

FRED Board of Directors: Norm Brunswig of Ridgeville, Michael Dyer of Summerville, Alan Flemming of Charleston, Nicole Hughes of Orangeburg, David R. Hutto of Orangeburg, Ann Jennings of Columbia, David Lansbury of Charleston, Bill Marshall of West Columbia, Charles Nightingale of Rowesville, Dave Odom of North, Philip C. Rand of Orangeburg, Tim Rogers of Columbia, David C. Sojourner of St. George, and Betty Stone of Orangeburg

