



## A BUSY YEAR FOR FRED

*Tim Rogers, Friends of the Edisto President*

At the State House and on the River, 2016 has been a year of growth and action for Friends of the Edisto.

October 15th will mark FRED's Annual Fall Membership Celebration at Edisto Memorial Gardens in Orangeburg, with great food, music, and enjoying the rich beauty of the North Fork in Autumn. It will be our sixth FRED event of the year on the River, with a seasonal finale coming up November 12 at Bay Creek Park on Edisto Island.

From the headwaters to the Coast, FRED establishes itself as the only advocacy group exclusively representing the entire length of the River. With almost 1,000 members, and growing use of our website and Facebook presence, we are the source of vital information about the River and issues affecting the River.

No more critical issue confronts the Edisto than the implementation of the State Surface Water Withdrawal Act. The impact of this statute and accompanying regulations has unfortunately only just recently become more clearly understood by Edisto River users and partisans. The bottom line is that huge quantities of Edisto River surface water are vulnerable to permanent consumptive appropriation for large scale agricultural users merely for the asking – with no consideration for the effect on the sustainable health and viability of the River.

Legislation designed to mitigate this status quo was introduced last year by FRED Board Member State Representative James Smith of Richland County, and State Senator Chip Campsen of Charleston County, but the legislative initiative met no success, and died at the conclusion of this year's legislative session.

Recently, FRED leadership met with new leadership of the South Carolina Farm Bureau to search for agreement on common sense reforms. Meanwhile, FRED and American Rivers leaders appealed to the federal Environmental Protection Agency to measure the SWWA against compliance standards in the Clean Water Act.

Thanks to the SC Department of Natural Resources for visiting with us at Aiken State Park (Blackwater Festival) and at Givhans State Park (Spirit of the River Festival) to talk with us about these critical issues. The dialog will continue in Orangeburg on October 15 and on Edisto Island November 12.

As the 2017 Legislative Session approaches, we will keep you posted. Ask your friends who love the River to join us! Share your concerns with your State Senator and Representative and thank those who support us!

The Edisto River is our shared legacy. The River belongs to us all. The best we can do to protect our legacy for future generations is to grow FRED now. The best we can do to protect our River is to join together.

Thank you so much for your support!

## Rose Ellen Dicks Price:

November 1, 1952 – September 5, 2016



Photo by: Orangeburg Times & Democrat

The Edisto River and its friends suffered a profound loss with the passing of Rose Ellen on September 5. Working with photographer Larry Price - her husband of nearly 39 years - Rosie was the gifted author of the words accompanying his images in the beautiful "Edisto River: Blackwater Crown Jewel", published by Juggling Board Press. Their book was a labor of love, developed over eight years of intense and focused effort. Talking about its publication with The People-Sentinel newspaper in February of 2015, she said, "It has been a privilege to have a dream, and to have it fulfilled with the love of my life."

Many of us were shocked and saddened to hear of Rose's death last month following a brief illness, and it seems appropriate and necessary to share our sorrow with the larger community of Friends of the Edisto, while expressing our condolences to her family and the countless people she touched with her gentle advocacy and kind wisdom. Rosie was a powerful and tireless champion of the Edisto River, and we were truly blessed to have her with us at many of the FRED events of the past several years. Her absence leaves a void among us that cannot be filled, although we will do our best to carry on, as she would have wanted us to.

In 2013, as news spread across the Edisto Basin and the state of South Carolina that powerful agricultural interests were moving to withdraw significant amounts of water from the South Fork of the Edisto, Rose Price stepped forward to bring her deep knowledge and love of the river to the conversation. Her calm demeanor and enlightened engagement with this issue was a valuable contribution.

Rosie spoke for many of us at that time when she said about the Edisto "It would be a shame to lose a treasure and a jewel like we have here in South Carolina. We are hoping that the work that we have done as a couple will open some eyes, and let people see the true beauty of what is here. The main point in my heart is that we need to realize as South Carolina residents that this river connects us, and that we need to take care of each other, and that the best way to do that is to protect this river."

It was our honor and our joy to have had an opportunity to stand with Rose and Larry Price as they brought the fruit of their many years of effort to such a beautiful culmination with their book, and then built upon that foundation to become an important part of the ongoing efforts to ensure effective stewardship of the Edisto now, and in the future. We thank them for all that they have done, and we remember Rose with deep love and respect.

## 2016 Fall Celebration Marks the Year's Challenges and Successes



Friends of the Edisto will hold its annual gathering on October 15 at Orangeburg's Edisto Memorial Gardens. This is a chance for the organization and its constituency to gather along a beautiful stretch of the River's North Fork to reflect on the year's progress and challenges as an organization, and also to thank the FRED membership for its support over the course of the year.

This applies well to 2016, a year that has seen substantial growth in new memberships and interest in our efforts, both through event attendance and online interest.

The annual event will feature a special keynote address from South Carolina Representative James Smith, who will discuss the status of the State Water Withdrawal Act (SWWA). New for this year, our Fall Silent Auction will feature paddle trips, paddleboard lessons, a weekend stay at the Edisto River tree houses, fishing trips, copies of the much lauded "Edisto River: Blackwater Crown Jewel" photography book, and other special river items.

The event is intended to be a party as well! The day will bring live bluegrass music from the Randy Lucas Trio (a bluegrass "supergroup" from Columbia) and the fantastic Palmetto Blue out of Batesburg-Leesville; BBQ and fixins; wildlife demonstrations from the Savannah River Ecology Lab; kids' activities, including a bounce house and face-painting; and vendors and exhibitors. We have taken care to plan so that there will be something fun for all members of the family at any given time of the day.

Not to mention the scenery: the festival will be nestled along a stretch of the river sought after by paddlers known as the "North Fork Edisto Blueway," which curls along beside among Edisto Memorial Garden's roses and azaleas. Vistas from the gardens overlook one of the Edisto River's Tupelo-Cypress wetlands.

As with all FRED events, our Fall Celebration is free to members, and there is a new event membership special of \$10 to join FRED for a year (normally \$25). Of course, anyone is welcomed and encouraged to join us to simply enjoy the festivities for \$10 as well (but you really might as well join for the same price, right?).

So, please spread the word to anyone you might know who would be interested in FRED's cause or in learning more. And be sure to check out our silent auction items currently up for bid online! We look forward to seeing you on the banks of the Edisto on October 15!

There is an online SILENT AUCTION for two weeks leading up to this year's Fall Membership Celebration

You can view a gallery of the items at this link -

[https://www.facebook.com/pa/Friends.Of.the.Edisto/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1195493577138257](https://www.facebook.com/pa/Friends.Of.the.Edisto/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1195493577138257)

Below are the items up for auction:

- 2 day / 1 night Canoe / Treehouse Adventure for 2 from Carolina Heritage Outfitters (boats included) <http://www.canoesc.com/photogallery.html> Starting Bid: \$250
- SC State Parks guided Paddle Trip from SC State Parks to Goodale State Park (includes boats) Starting Bid: \$70
- SC State Parks guided Paddle Trip on the creeks around Charles Towne Landing - State Historic Site (includes boats) Starting Bid: \$70
- California Republic 2 person stand-up paddleboarding lesson for Summer 2017 Starting Bid: \$40
- Signed copy of Edisto River: Black Water Crown Jewel (1 available) Starting Bid: \$50
- Unsigned copy of Edisto River: Black Water Crown Jewel (4 available) Starting Bid: \$25
- Lowcountry River Rats - Kayak Tour for 4 from Edisto Beach (boats included) The tour starts from Edisto Beach and ends at Edisto Beach. This will be a 4 hour tour of St. Helena Sound and tidal creeks along the Edisto River. Starting Bid: \$150
- Two-person half-day (6 a.m.-12 p.m.) guided fishing trip or guided ride. Branchville area of the Edisto River. Starting Bid: \$100
- Edisto River Adventures full-day paddle trip for 2 Starting Bid: \$120

## New FRED Anti-Litter initiative: "Adopt A Landing"

FRED is joining forces with Palmetto Pride to begin a new "Adopt A Landing" initiative for Edisto River boat landings.

In cooperation with local governments and other volunteer groups, FRED members will commit to regular litter pick-ups at designated boat landings. We'll post signage from FRED urging users to be responsible in disposing of litter and trash at these public access points.

FRED's commitment to working to help keep the Edisto clean of litter and trash began early after FRED's formation. "Stewardship Day" was inaugurated as an annual assault on litter and trash along the banks of the Edisto. In recent years, FRED Board member Howard Bridgman has spearheaded Stewardship Day, headquartered at Colleton State Park, which continues to build an impressive collection of huge amounts of garbage and trash removed from the Riverside each year.

Stewardship Day will continue to be a FRED tradition, and now will be augmented by year-round efforts centered on Edisto boat landings.

The Edisto River is the longest undammed blackwater river in North America. Many a fisherman and paddler loves to tread its waters, and boat landings dot its banks from the headwaters to the coast. So FRED will expand its Adopt A Landing initiative as long as it can recruit volunteers.

There's plenty of work to be done, but this should be a priority for FRED, and with the help and encouragement of Palmetto Pride and other conservation resources, FRED intends to take responsibility and commit to clearing litter and trash from these important public access points on the banks of our iconic Edisto.

Watch for news on our Facebook page and on our website for Adopt A Landing designations. Want to help? Contact us at [www.EdistoFriends.org](http://www.EdistoFriends.org) and tell us where and when you can volunteer!

### Thanks to our Sponsors!

We couldn't do what we do without our generous sponsors. Thanks to these businesses for supporting FRED and the Edisto River!

*The Oaks - Okonite Company - BNC Business Networks - Bamberg County Public Works - First Citizens Bank - Steve Summers - Busbee Trucking*

Want to become a sponsor? Contact us for more information!

### Join Friends of the Edisto!

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

<http://www.edistofriends.org/join-donate>

Membership levels:

- 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