



# EDISTO BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION *WE CARE!!*

Spring/Summer 2011

[www.ebpoa.org](http://www.ebpoa.org)  
Established in 1985



Annual Meeting

**Board of Directors:**

David Cannon, President  
John Morgan, Vice President  
Patsy Cannon, Secretary  
Larry Tilby, Treasurer  
Mickey Blancett  
Charles Boozer  
Emily Craig  
Archie Johnston  
Beth Johnston  
Lois Morgan  
Greg Smith  
Bob Sandifer  
Sjannah Sanders  
Linda Tilby  
Mickey Van Metre  
Roger Whaley

**Committees:**

Property Tax Committee:

Roger Whaley, Chair  
David Cannon  
John Morgan

Town Council Oversight:

Linda Tilby, Chair  
Mickey Blancett  
Emily Craig

State Legislation Committee:

David Cannon, Chair  
John Morgan  
Roger Whaley

Membership Services Committee:

Archie Johnston, Chair  
Emily Craig  
Beth Johnston

John & Lois Morgan

Newsletter and Email Committee:

Cheryl Van Metre, Chair  
Beverly Sandifer

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

To incorporate property owners in Edisto Beach, South Carolina in order to function adequately, properly and in a timely manner on any and all matters in which we have a similar or common interest. To protect our beach and its environs, its residents and people from excessive population density, over-development and commercialization. To have legal representation on a retainer basis so that our Association will be able to act in unison on any question that may be controversial, illegal or potentially damaging to our way of life. To have an organization which will have representatives at each and every meeting of our municipal government and in this regard to have proper input into the activities of our town council, its boards and committees.



*Another glorious sunrise on Edisto Beach*

**President's Report**

One of the most critical issues your association addressed in 2010 was the inflated property tax bills issued by Colleton County. The county based the 2010 assessments on the 2006 values. As we all know, the values in 2010 were much lower than 2006 due to the economic recession. As a result, the inflated values caused most tax bills to increase to the maximum 15 % tax cap. The total increase in taxes to Colleton County from the 15% increase was in the \$2.3 million range.

Your Association wrote to 2,400 property owners in the Edisto portion of Colleton County and urged everyone to appeal their assessment. Our package included

comparable sales figures for 2009 and a three page list of suggestions for reducing assessments.

Appeals are still being settled, but some tax bills have come down as much as \$1,000. It cost EBPOA in terms of postage and legal advice, but we got our money's worth.

Other issues, which are still ongoing, are:

- The passage of the bills to eliminate "Point of Sale Reassessment" upon an assessable transfer of interest. The Senate bill is S.647 and it has passed two committee votes with something like a 15 to 5 margin in the Finance Committee. The House bill is H.3713, which has also passed two committee votes. You are urged to contact your legislators in favor of these bills. Point of Sale will affect every property owner eventually as you sell, bequeath or gift your property. The municipalities and realtors are well represented at these meetings; the legislators need to hear from the ones who are paying the taxes, the homeowners.
- Trash collection along Highway 174 has become an issue, with the Town Council refusing to pay more than \$7,500 of the \$15,000 cost and that on a matching basis. There is money in the Hospitality Fund for this purpose provided by a 2% tax on restaurant meals. Because of the importance of maintaining the image of Edisto Beach to the tourist and rental trade, and to our own self image and self respect, many of the local businesses, associations and individuals are contributing to the trash collection effort. EBPOA will make a one time contribution and will work toward securing payment for this cleanup from the appropriate source in the future. I'd like your input on this approach.
- The Lobbyist fund, which pays for our efforts before the Legislature, legal advice and legislative oversight, is about depleted. We need contributions to support this work, as those benefitting from our property taxes are constantly at work to undo the legislation of Act 388 which we worked so hard to achieve in 2005 and 2006. Act 388 has reduced our property tax substantially as well as limited increases in our taxes. Make checks payable to EBPOA Lobbyist Fund.

I have enjoyed your emails and letters with encouragement and helpful advice in this eventful year. Let's continue to work together to preserve our beloved beach.

David Cannon, President

### Note from the Treasurer

The most important factors in EBPOA's financial year were that more funds were spent for legal advice and research, and in keeping our membership informed of the resistance to the property tax increases on the local level, and Point of Sale legislation on the State level.

Larry Tilby, Treasurer



*President Cannon & Treasurer Tilby hard at work*

### State Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee has good news to report! Both Senate and House bills eliminating Point of Sale reassessment have advanced in the legislature. Point of Sale provisions of Act 388 have caused property values to double or more for tax purposes when a transfer of ownership through sale, gift or bequest to other than a spouse occurs. This provision was slipped into the otherwise beneficial bill in the dead of night to benefit counties and municipalities at the expense of homeowners.

Senate bill S.647 and House bill H.3713 now go to the floors of the respective houses for final vote. It could make a difference in the outcome of the votes if you would write to your legislators in support of these bills. The presence of a large number of supporters in the galleries of the chambers makes a difference, too. Your Association was represented at the Senate Finance Committee meeting by Suzette Wilson, Lois and John Morgan and myself. EBPOA will be represented at the final votes; I hope you will join us.

David Cannon



*Sand fencing volunteers helping to preserve our beach*

**Committee for Town of Edisto Beach Oversight**

This committee will endeavor to keep the membership informed about activities and issues of the town as well as recommending to the Board appropriate responses when needed. The specific charge to this committee is to monitor and report to the Board and Membership:

- Proposed millage changes
- Changes in Town services or charges
- Town Council meeting agendas

To accomplish our charge a committee member or another interested property owner will attend the Town Council and Planning Commission work sessions as well as the meetings each month. We encourage property owners to routinely review the Town of Edisto Beach website (<http://townofedistobeach.com>) which includes the Town Council agendas and minutes for the meetings in addition to agendas and minutes for all the Commissions and Committees.

Linda Tilby, Chair



*Annual Meeting & BBQ 2010*



**Join us in preserving our family beach – we are your eyes and ears – help us help you.**

We must be vigilant in monitoring the actions of our Town officials. Our commitment to you is that we will identify problems at the earliest possible date and take action for the benefit of our membership. For example, we must identify potential zoning changes which are threats to our community environment at the Planning Commission level rather than at the Town Council level. This also applies to Colleton County.

Bob Sandifer



*Protect and Preserve*

**News from the Membership Committee**

As this is being written, our 2011 membership numbers already exceed those for 2010. Since we usually receive additional memberships throughout the year, we expect a good increase in our membership this year.

Despite increasing costs with postage, legal expenses, etc. your board has maintained the current dues over the last several years. Annual dues are \$30.00. This rate applies to a family or a single individual. This \$30.00 rate applies whether you are able to attend the annual meeting and BBQ or not. There has been some confusion as to this policy but the annual meeting BBQ and social hour are complimentary for those able to attend. This has been our practice for years and is in place primarily to encourage attendance and to foster additional memberships. So please submit your \$30.00 dues whether you are able to attend the annual meeting or not. These dues are the means by which we carry out our mission. Archie Johnston, Chair

**\*JOIN US\***

Please complete, cut off and mail with your check to:  
**EBPOA**  
**PO Box 147**  
**Edisto Island, SC 29438**

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: (Please provide your email address)  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Family Membership DUES</b> .....	\$	30.00
Donation to Lobbyist Fund.....		_____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$	_____

*Unspoiled beaches with a family atmosphere –  
that is what Edisto Beach is about!*



Edisto Island Property Owners Association  
P.O. Box 147  
Edisto Island, SC 29438