



# HILTON HEAD ISLAND LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

## FALL/WINTER 2016



As the new President of the Hilton Head Island Land Trust, I am delighted to welcome you to the inaugural edition of our newsletter. The Hilton Head Island Land Trust has been preserving and protecting critical habitat and significant historical parcels of land on Hilton Head Island for the enjoyment of future generations since 1987. We see the newsletter as an opportunity to keep our members and friends up to date on the Land Trust properties, activities and events, and introduce ourselves to the broader Hilton Head Island community. I have had the privilege of serving with a very committed twelve member volunteer board of directors since 2013. I can assure you of their dedication and tireless efforts. I hope you will join with us to fulfill the Land Trust's goals to protect unique ecosystems

and historic places on Hilton Head Island, and join with us in teaching our children the values of preservation that make our Island community a wonderful place to live in and to care for. Please use the donor form on page 4 of this newsletter for your 2016 contribution. We greatly appreciate your support. *Pennie Grimes, President*

*In this issue of our newsletter, we will highlight Fort Howell, the historic Civil War earthen fort that we protect.*

### Fort Howell History

The fort, named for Gen. Joshua Blackwood Howell, was built in 1864 by the Union Army's 32nd U.S. Colored Infantry to defend the nearby freedmen's village of Mitchelville from potential Confederate raids. The fort has survived to this day as one of the best preserved Civil War era earthen forts in South Carolina. The fort was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011, and an historic marker is located near the entrance to the fort. In 2013, Fort Howell was designated a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site by the National Park Service. Fort Howell is located on Beach City Road.

### Preservation of the Fort

The fort was abandoned after the Civil War, and was largely forgotten until Greenwood Development Company began to develop Palmetto Hall in the early 1990s. The company realized the significance of the fort and had an archaeological study done. In 1991, Greenwood Development deeded Fort Howell to the Hilton Head Island Land Trust to protect it in perpetuity. The Land Trust has recently partnered with the SC Battleground Preservation Trust to enhance our efforts to maintain the fort.

### Recent Enhancements to the Fort Howell Property

The Land Trust has worked to make the fort an educational experience for the community, for local residents and tourists, as well as for school children. With the help of an A-Tax grant from the Town of Hilton Head last year,

