

■ EDISTO ISLAND

Hwy. 174 designated National Scenic Byway

Designation will preserve the scenic beauty of road to Edisto.

By TOM MASON
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Cutting the ribbon Saturday on the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway will draw dignitaries from state, county and local groups as well as the stakeholders on the islands of Edisto to participate in the transformation of State Scenic Highway 174 into the National Scenic Byway. It is South Carolina's latest among four, the others being the Cherokee Foothills, Savannah River and Ashley River Road NSBs.

"It's a dream come true for the community," said Marion Brailsford, who as executive director of the Edisto Island Open Land Trust spearheaded the three-year effort to make it happen. "It means the rural character and scenic beauty of Edisto is not going to change. It means Byway 174 is going to remain a winding road through a rural area intersperse with marvelous views of the marsh and or moss-draped canopies."

"This is a much sought-after designation with national and international significance," said Tesa Griffin, scenic byways coordinator for SCDOT. "For South Carolina to now have four National Scenic Byways is impressive and exciting."

The short welcoming ceremony will recognize individuals and organizations that made the national designation possible, and give a sneak preview of the community enhancement projects planned for the corridor.

Among the honored guests attending will be Charles Lane, one of the founders of the ACE Basin, Queen Quet, chieftess of the Gul-



Photo by TOM MASON

SCENIC TREASURE. One of the most beautiful sights viewable from the new Edisto Island National Scenic Byway is the Allen AME Church, one of many byway treasures on the National Register of Historic Places.

lah/Geechee Nation, and Edisto's Nick Lindsay, author of "And I'm Glad, An Oral History of Edisto Island."

The first automobile to drive onto the Edisto Island NSB will be driven by Edisto Beach Mayor Burley Lyons, and the convertibles that cruise behind will hold other dignitaries and honored guests. Traffic will be temporarily halted on both sides of the byway when the official ribbon is stretched across the road. As the ribbon is cut, new route signs along the byway will be unveiled. After the ribbon cutting ceremony light refreshments will be served.

The ceremony will be noon Saturday at the Edisto Island Community Center. Residents and friends of Edisto are invited to watch the transformation from S.C. State Highway 174 to Edisto Island National Scenic Byway.

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