



The Walthour-Moss Foundation
 Post Office Box 978
 Southern Pines, NC 28388

Foundation News

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION



VOLUME SIX *THE MISSION OF THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION* "TO PRESERVE OPEN LAND, TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND TO OFFER A PLACE FOR EQUESTRIAN PURPOSES" DEC. 2010

THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION IS A 501 (C)(3) EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.

The Foundation News is available by email. To be added to the email list please send a message to director@walthour-moss.org.



Photo by Caroline Young

A LETTER FROM FOUNDATION PRESIDENT RICHARD MOORE REGARDING THE MOORE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE US-1 BY-PASS

December 2010

Dear Friends and Neighbors of The Walthour-Moss Foundation,

As part of a state-mandated Moore County transportation plan update, the location for a US 1 Bypass of Southern Pines is once again on the county agenda along with other roadways. This process is described as a 2-3 year process by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in working with the county and representatives from various groups to determine if there is a need for such a roadway and, if so, its alignment.

The purpose of this Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) process is to identify long-term needs for transportation improvements so corridors may be protected until such time as funding is available for right of way purchase and roadway construction.

The Walthour-Moss Foundation Board of Directors has worked to arrange the appointment of Horse Country residents to the various committees that will be an integral part of this effort. This will insure we will have a voice at each level of the discussion and will work to protect the unique resources of The Walthour-Moss Foundation lands and the unique character of our equestrian community.

The review of state policies and standards that facilitate such improvements will be a part of the Foundation's interest in guiding the decisions going forward.

The Walthour-Moss Foundation Board of Directors

- | | |
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☼ Deceased

There are many obstacles to the corridor being through Horse Country, including significant environmental attributes, that must be considered. As a significant open space, the Foundation has long been recognized by many governmental agencies as an important environmental asset for our community and for the state. Unique flora and fauna as well as protected watersheds and wetlands will be obstacles to the roadway. Additionally, the habitats protected on private lands will contribute to the decisions going forward.

The historical and cultural landscape is also important to the larger community and should be valued and defended from encroachment.

Horse Country also represents significant economic base for the local and regional economies that would be negatively impacted should a major roadway disrupt the fabric of the landscape.

The Foundation will communicate often as this process moves forward to make certain our community is informed. If you have thoughts as to issues that would help us as we move forward, please feel free to communicate them to Landon Russell, Executive Director of the Foundation, at 910-695-7811 or via email at director@walthour-moss.org.

Also, there might be occasions when a show of numbers would be helpful. If that occurs, we will, of course, notify everyone via email as to schedule.

The Board has identified several studies and reports which will aid us in our efforts to protect the properties of the Foundation and also the unique character of Horse Country. The costs associated with these efforts are beyond the normal expenditures of the Foundation but are felt necessary to document and lend credence to the importance of protecting these unique resources.

If you have not already given in 2010, I ask you to please send a donation to The Walthour-Moss Foundation, PO Box 978, Southern Pines, NC 28388 to help in these efforts. All contributions are welcome and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

I hope you will join others in our community to help save the rural character of Southern Pines and Horse Country.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Moore
President

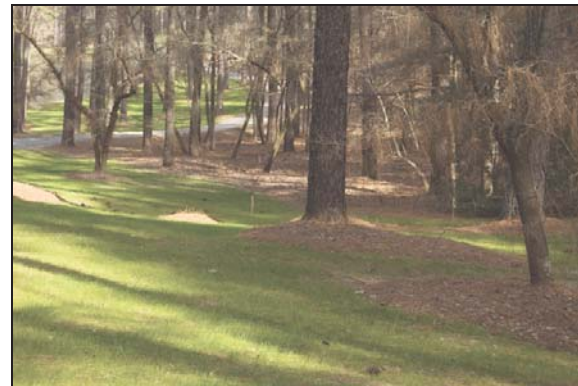


Photo by Caroline Young

BO'S WAY AT OLD DEWBERRY LANE

WMF ACCESS UPDATE

Atkins Exchange

Mrs. Warner Atkins participated in a generous property exchange that helped create Bo's Way. Always a great supporter of The Walthour-Moss Foundation, Veronese again came forward to assist in making this wonderful trail that connects Old Dewberry Road to Youngs Road possible.



ANNUAL WAIVER REMINDER

The Walthour-Moss Foundation continues to annually collect waivers from both our local and out of town users. The waivers are necessary to maintain our insurance and keep our insurance rates down. Please help us in this effort! If you ride or drive or are planning on riding or driving on the Foundation in 2011, please sign and return your waiver as soon as possible. Copies are available at www.walthour-moss.org, the Equestrian Road entrance to the Foundation or by calling (910) 695-7811.

CONTROLLED BURNING PLAN FOR 2011



Photo by Landon Russell

PRESCRIBED FIRE ON THE FOUNDATION, 2010

The longleaf pine ecosystem is fire dependent and prescribed burns are an integral part of The Walthour-Moss Foundation's land management and stewardship plan. Prescribed burns help to protect, maintain and restore the longleaf pine habitat under the Foundation's care.

The Walthour-Moss Foundation's 2011 prescribed burning plan calls for controlled burns on approximately 800 acres of Foundation land. The burns are scheduled to begin in January 2011. The following methods of communication will be used to alert our neighbors on burn days:

- Email
- Facebook
- Bulletins at Equestrian Road & Magnolia Hill

If you would like to be notified by email when the Foundation schedules a prescribed burn, please send your email address to Landon Russell at director@walthour-moss.org.

Should you have further questions about the Foundation's prescribed burning plan, please call the office at 910-695-7811.



THE 2010 BUSHWHACKER CLUB



Photos by Landon Russell

★ THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS! ★

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Christina Bainbridge | Hossien Kamalbake | Sverre Schiotz |
| Janie Boland | Stephen & Kennon Later | Anna & Eric Schneider |
| Joan Bowden | Gary Lergner | Neil Schwartzberg |
| Mike Brooder | Susan & Kris Lindamood | Linda Selbach |
| Marica & Don Bryant | Laura & Nicole Lindamood | Abby Shultis |
| Dan Butler | Ceci, Wade & Crawford Liner | Kayla Smith |
| Bob & Bonnie Caie | Corine Longanbach | Rick & Pat Smith |
| David Carter | Florene Maroncelli | Shellie Sommerson |
| Gigi Cassese | Antonio Martinez | Kathleen & Stephen Sopp |
| Tia Chick | Mike McArthur | Larry & Linda Spence |
| Kellie Cochran | Margie McDougall | Craig Stokes |
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| Lani Hester | Dennis Paules | Carolyn, Byron & Madelyn Wade |
| Liz Holden | John Pavan | Katie Walsh |
| Blaine Holland | Jean Pedrick | Kenna Watson |
| Jean Rae Holmberg | Betsy Rainoff | Peter & Mary Anne Winkelman |
| Doug Jackson | Irene & Landon Russell | Mel Wyatt |
| Kendyl Janis | Cameron & Lincoln Sadler | Caroline & Wade Young |



TRASH DETAIL: MEMBERS OF THE MOORE COUNTY PONY CLUB CLEANED UP GARBAGE ALONG MAY STREET AND FURR ROAD.

An additional thank you to those who of you who clear trails in your own backyards and continually volunteer your time and energy to clear trails on the Foundation. You know who you are and we salute you too!

***Note:** We have worked hard to include all volunteers' names. If we have mistakenly omitted a name, please let us know so that we may have an accurate listing of the 2010 Bushwhacker Club.*



**THE WMF – A HAVEN FOR
LONGLeAF PINE SPECIALISTS**

KERRY BRUST, SANDHILLS ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

The longleaf pine forests and related communities within The Walthour-Moss Foundation are some of the best examples of this endangered ecosystem found on Moore County private lands. Signature avifauna of longleaf pine include red-cockaded woodpeckers, Bachmann’s sparrow, brown-headed nuthatch, and pine warbler. These birds all occur year-round on the Foundation, along with an abundance of migrants during the nesting season. Efforts to restore longleaf pine communities and recover species of interest began in 1973 with the federal listing of red-cockaded woodpeckers, and the decline of other piney woods denizens dependent on these habitats has been a growing conservation concern.

Biological importance of Southern Pines-Pinehurst (SOPI) RCW population

RCW groups found on private lands within Southern Pines-Pinehurst (SOPI) are a ‘Significant Support RCW Population’ to SANDHILLS EAST. The Walthour Moss Foundation (WMF) provides 4,000 acres of largely undisturbed stands of mature longleaf pine for 11 - 14 RCW family groups within SOPI. Proximity to Fort Bragg and Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve make WMF a critical link to central and western SOPI RCW territories. Dependent on habitat quality and demographics, territory (cluster) use by RCW groups will shift across the landscape through years. Groups on WMF have behaved similarly. Several clusters which historically supported RCW are presently vacant or used intermittently for roosting, while several long-

term abandoned territories have since recruited breeding groups. The reasons for territory abandonment by RCW are not always evident. Insufficient or low-quality habitat can adversely influence retention, and observations suggest that the death or dispersal of older, experienced breeders will precipitate group collapse. Adequate replacements are needed to counter losses, and recruits for WMF and SOPI groups have arrived as young disperse from adjacent SOPI and Fort Bragg, and in some cases Sandhills Game Lands.

Summer 2010 wildfire

On 26 July, one of the WMF RCW clusters (SOPI 11) was subjected to a late growing season wildfire following a lightning strike to an RCW cavity tree the previous night.

WMF staff and NC Department of Forest Resources responded quickly and the fire was contained to a relatively small area. Sandhills Ecological Institute (SEI) visited the cluster several hours later and soaked the burning cavity trees.

Longleaf pine is well-adapted to fire, but after the prolonged summer drought the cavity trees were particularly vulnerable to secondary



Photo by Kerry Brust

STEVE ANCHOR OF SEI DOUSES CAVITY WITH WATER



Photo by Kerry Brust

LIGHTNING STRUCK A CAVITY TREE AND SPARKED A WILDFIRE ABOVE KEATINGS HEAD

causes of mortality. Four or five badly scorched cavity trees were lost as a result of pine beetle infestation, and SEI will install additional artificial cavities to mitigate cavity loss. Whether excavated by bird or biologist, newly created cavities provide quality roost and nest

sites. The importance of RCW cavities to the cavity nesting community was a feature article within the WMF April 2009 newsletter.

The behavior of RCW to breed cooperatively provides a significant buffer to local extinction. Cluster SOPI 11 which experienced the wildfire lost the 14 year-old breeder male (not necessarily from wildfire), but there is a 4 year-old helper son to carry on. Despite their biological resiliency, the disruption of natural processes from fire suppression and deforestation warrant continued management of the species. Doing our part as land stewards will ensure that future RCW generations persist within the Foundation and the Sandhills.

For more information about red-cockaded woodpeckers and the longleaf pine ecosystem, please contact Kerry Brust at (910) 695-0872 or kbrust@sandhillsecological.org.



Photo by Landon Russell

THE BUSHWHACKER CLUB PAUSES FOR A PHOTO-OP ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2010