

Foundation News



A PUBLICATION OF THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION

TO PRESERVE OPEN LAND, TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND TO OFFER A PLACE FOR EQUESTRIAN PURPOSES

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REMEMBERING ELDRIDGE R. JOHNSON CONSERVATIONIST, PHILANTHROPIST, AND FRIEND

Southern Pines horse country has lost a true friend and philanthropist. Eldridge R. Johnson passed away at his home in Chester County, Pennsylvania on June 30th. "El," as he was known to his family and friends, gave generously to this community. We owe he and his wife, Betty, a debt of gratitude for their gift of the twenty-five acres that make up the Hunter Trials Course as well as for the gift-sale on 209 acres in the North Country. Without that gift-sale, the North Country, as we know it today, would not exist.

In the spring of 2010 Katie Walsh sat down with the Johnsons and spoke to them about their lives, how they came to live in Southern Pines, and their subsequent support of land preservation and The Walthour-Moss Foundation. We thought it a fitting tribute to update and reprint the article that she wrote as it tells a story of two of our wonderful Walthour-Moss Foundation heroes.

Southern Pines residents benefit from the glorious legacy given to them by forward-looking individuals who value the equestrian lifestyle and open land that supports that lifestyle. Betty and Eldridge R. Johnson are two such philanthropists who have enriched this community with their generous donations of land.

In 1926, long before the 1978 creation of The Walthour-Moss Foundation, El, a young lad of six, came to North Carolina with his parents, brother and sister to visit his grandfather at his Pinehurst home, Boxwood Court. Grandfather Johnson also owned 2,000 acres of land around Drowning Creek in what is now Hoffman, NC. He called the property "Plantation A" with the intention of acquiring a "B," "C," and "D."

More than just a dream, the possibility of establishing other plantations was a reality, as Eldridge Reeves Johnson, young El's grandfather, had invented the Victor Talking Machine. It was an improvement over Edison's phonograph that, instead of a cylinder with a penetrating needle, used a double sided needle that lifted the sound from circular grooves in hardened shellac. The shellac records emitted better sound and lasted longer than the cylinder. Grandfather Johnson named the company "Victor" because his invention was "victorious" over Edison's model. Nipper, the black and white dog looking into the Victor phonograph became an icon for the company with the logo "his master's voice."



Photo by Caroline Young

THE JOHNSONS AT THE HUNTER TRIALS COURSE AT QUAIL GLEN

At the time of El's first visit to North Carolina, Grandfather Johnson was a Director of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which was the largest railroad by traffic and revenue in the United States throughout the first two thirds of the twentieth century. Grandfather Johnson had built a railroad spur to the back lawn of his home in Moorestown, NJ. Typically, after Christmas dinner, young El with his family would board a private Pullman car behind his Grandfather's home, go to bed and wake up the next morning in Aberdeen, North Carolina, where a cart and mule would be waiting to take them to Plantation A, a working farm with an improved tenant house.

On these winter vacations with his family in North Carolina, young El learned to love the longleaf pine forests, its meandering streams and thickets rife with quail, squirrel and deer. The farm housed bird dogs and retrievers. El hunted game, transformed box turtles into pets and rode mules, first minis then bigger ones.



EL AND BETTY (SECOND AND FOURTH FROM RIGHT)
WITH FAMILY IN AFRICA

In 1946, after his return from World War II and his service in the 389th Army Infantry in occupied Japan, El told his father of his plan to reside in North Carolina at Plantation A. Fearing such a move was not best for his son, El's father, who inherited the property, sold the 2,000 acres and it eventually became part of the North Carolina Game Lands.

In 1960, he married Betty from Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Both raised dairy cows, and they settled on 300 plus acres between Westchester and Newtown Square in Chester County, Pennsylvania, at the end of the Main Line (the western line of the Pennsylvania Railroad from Philadelphia). At one time, they had forty-two dairy cows with pipeline milkers, and several farms in Maryland cultivating corn, wheat and soybeans. "Farming was the best life you can imagine," Betty says. "We are so lucky to have that life."

Both loved to shoot, ride horses, fox hunt, and farm. The rural lifestyle bound them together and eventually brought them to North Carolina. Diana and Bill Goff, friends from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, convinced them to come to Southern Pines for the Moore County Hounds Hunter Trials in March of 1968. El had fox hunted with hunts all over the northeastern United States as well as in England, Scotland and Wales, but he had never forgotten his boyhood at Plantation A. With the assistance of professional horseman Dick Atkinson, El and Betty transported their horses and six children to Southern Pines for a visit. They stayed with Lloyd Tate during the first visit and at Tremont Farm and Young's Cottage on subsequent trips.

In 1968, the Johnsons looked at land owned by Pappy Moss that was, at that time, at the very end of Young's Road. When Pappy first showed El the property, El said that he would like to "think about it," and about a month later, he called Pappy and agreed to buy the forty-five acres that hosted a small frame hunt box on Young's Road. They named the farm Quail Glen for the bounteous covey that nested in thickets



THE JOHNSON FAMILY COMPETES IN THE FAMILY CLASS
AT THE DEVON HORSE SHOW

along the creek on their property. Unfortunately, in the 1970s, a disease, ulcerative enteritis, eventually decimated the quail in the entire area.

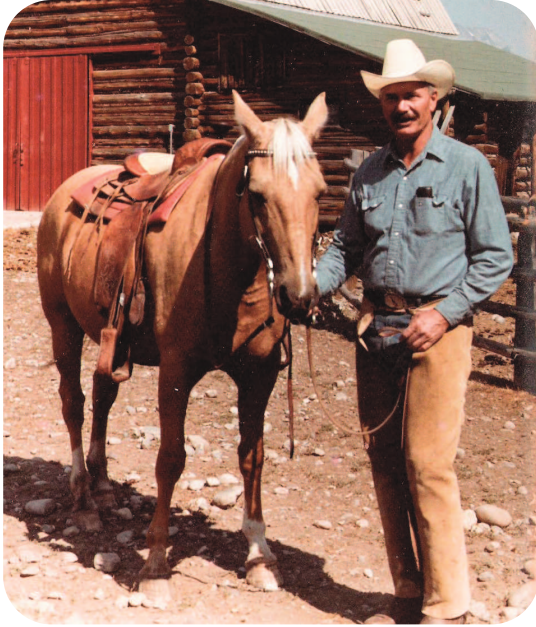
The Johnson family, particularly the parents and the two girls, loved the Southern Pines equestrian lifestyle. The children spent vacations in North Carolina riding their ponies unrestricted around the town and enjoying the camaraderie of their friends on neighboring farms owned by the Mortons, the Huberths, and the Goffs.

Land bought from Pappy Moss came with covenants that allowed unrestricted use for fox hunting by the Moore County Hounds. Such privileges were agreeable to the Johnsons. When in Southern Pines, the parents and willing children fox hunted early mornings, attended hunt breakfasts often in Ginnie Moss' kitchen after hunting, met at adjacent farms for cocktails, and enjoyed dinner parties at neighboring farms.

The sporting life suited them so much that in the late 1970s the Johnsons bought an additional 359 acres of land between Furr Road and Lake Bay Road. An aging peach orchard occupied a portion of the property on what is now Moor Meadow. El established a vineyard of local Muscadine grapes and planted rows of pecan trees in addition to the orchard. He personally hunted the remainder of the acreage and allowed fox hunting by the Moore County Hounds.

In the back of his mind, El said he envisioned acquiring and enjoying a large acreage like Plantation A, the idyllic farm of his childhood. But the family stayed at Quail Glen and farmed and hunted the 359 acres that they called The Vineyards.

Pappy Moss died in 1976, leaving a bequest of 1,739 acres of land in Southern Pines to a charitable trust, which was the predecessor to The Walthour-Moss Foundation, that he and



ELDRIDGE WITH A WESTERN PAL

Ginnie first established in 1974 as a vessel for land preservation. With the consummation of this bequest in 1978, The Walthour-Moss Foundation became a reality. The stated mission was, and remains, “to preserve open land, to protect and improve wildlife habitat, and to offer a place for equestrian purposes.”

The Walthour-Moss Foundation became an anchor that secured the continuance of Southern Pines horse country and a magnet for other generous donations of land for similar purposes. Over the next several years, Ginnie Moss gave 151 more acres to The Walthour-Moss Foundation, bringing the total to 1890 acres. In 1985, the Foundation purchased the Maxwell Forest land, 315 acres west of Furr Road and north of Young’s Road, in what became known as the North Country.

The Johnsons spent the majority of their time farming in Pennsylvania where they raised crops like corn and hay, along with chickens and fallow deer. Winter vacations were spent in North Carolina. Finding it increasingly difficult to manage two farms, in the early 1990s, the Johnsons subdivided The Vineyards with the intention to preserve large parcels of land and to provide generous riding easements and equestrian access.

Aware of the importance of the location of the Johnson land to the growing equestrian community along Lake Bay and Furr Roads, The Walthour-Moss Foundation approached the Johnsons about a possible purchase of acreage for community use. El and Betty sold the remaining 209 acres to The Walthour-Moss Foundation at less than half the value of the land (in what is called in philanthropic terms a “gift-sale”). This momentous purchase marked the beginning of The Walthour-Moss Foundation campaign to preserve a



BETTY HUNTING WITH THE MOORE COUNTY HOUNDS

significant portion of the North Country for the community. The Johnsons’ gift-sale not only brought The Foundation holdings to 2,980 acres, its great consequence was that it stimulated others to donate land or money to purchase North Country land for preservation. Without the Johnson tract, The Walthour-Moss Foundation may have remained primarily within its early Young’s Road boundaries.

When asked about their philanthropic motivation, Betty Johnson remembers the gracious way people have treated her. “Everybody shared access to their land and enjoyed people coming through. They respected the land, and practiced common courtesies such as walking horses past barns and outbuildings, and leaving family dogs at home.” Betty wants others to enjoy the freedom to ride over expansive stretches of forest and through neighboring farms and to enjoy the equestrian lifestyle that she and El so appreciate.

In keeping with this philosophy, for many years the Johnsons graciously permitted the Moore County Hounds to host their annual Hunter Trials on their property near Old Mail Road. In 2008, the Johnsons generously donated ten acres of the Hunter Trial Fields at Quail Glen to The Walthour-Moss Foundation and donated a conservation easement on the remaining fifteen acres. In 2013, the Johnsons donated the remaining fifteen acres to the Foundation. These gifts ensure that the Hunter Trials Field will be preserved in perpetuity.

Betty and Eldridge Johnson are role models and heroes for conservation and land preservation in our community. They enjoyed the riches of our rural lifestyle and gave back to the community so that future generations can also share in the joy of the sporting life.

Blossoms from the few remaining peach trees still brighten the spring landscape around Moor Meadow. You can gather sweet grapes from the remnants of the Johnson Muscadine vineyard in the fall, pluck a pecan right off the tree, or hack through the woods from Old Mail Road to Yadkin Road through the Hunter Trial Field. The next time you do, please stop for a moment and remember our friend Eldridge Johnson and his generosity and love of this community.

WMF FUN DOG SHOW A HOWLING SUCCESS!



BEST IN SHOW!

BUNNY, ALICE AND MARSHALL GLASS

Over sixty canines and their proud owners turned out to strut their stuff at the second annual Walthour-Moss Foundation Fun Dog Show on Saturday, June 11. The Fun Dog Show raised almost \$5,000.00 in support of the Foundation's mission to preserve open land, to protect and improve wildlife habitat and to provide a place for equestrian purposes.

Oliver Ellis took home the first blue ribbon of the day with a win in the Best Coiffed class. Not one hair was out of place! The Look Alike contest was very entertaining with pooches and owners dressed in matching garb. It was a hard choice for volunteer judge Carol Dowd, but Teensy and Debra D'Angelo came out on top with their matching pumpkin-inspired outfits. Second place went to Dori and Dottie Greenleaf, both bedecked in purple. Dori also nabbed top honors in the Best Trick class for the second year in a row with her display of many impressive tricks.

The Cutest Dog class had the most entries and was split into two sections. Aggie Cohen's Ruby bested a field of nineteen cute canines to take the blue ribbon in section A and Wendy Beaver's Rodeo took top honors in section B out of a field of eighteen.

Twenty-two wagging dogs entered the ring for the inaugural Waggiest Tail competition. Ben, owned and shown by Gerald Movelle, won with his steady Labrador wag.

With over thirty entries, the Best Rescue class was also split into two sections. Andrea and Dick Moore's Snow won the blue ribbon in section A and Pippa and Dennis Paules won section B. Lily Granito and her dog dad, Jim, took home top honors in the Father and Dog class.



**LOOK ALIKE CLASS: FIRST PLACE TO TEENSY AND DEBRA D'ANGELO
SECOND PLACE TO DORI AND DOTTIE GREENLEAF**

The Best in Show award went to Bunny, owned by Alice and Marshall Glass and shown by Marshall. Tempe Brown's Daisy sweet rescue dog, Daisy, was Reserve Best in Show. The number of votes raised for each dog determined the Best in Show award. Thank you to everyone who supported the event with their Best in Show donations.

A big woof and hearty thanks to our sponsors who helped make the day a huge success! Cared for Canine and Cat donated the first place gift bags full of dog treats and supplies. Moore Equine Feed and Supply donated gift bags for the second place winners. Driveway Dogs sponsored the Best Coiffed class. Jesse Coyle from Webb and Coyle PLLC and Denise Krauza from Beautopia Hair, Face and Body Spa donated prizes and doggie bags of biscuits for each competitor. Janie Boland donated prizes. Effie Ellis kindly donated the ice cream at the concession stand as well as the ice cream prizes for the Junior Handler class winners. Innovate Real Estate and Cindy Pagnotta provided bottled water, coffee, and delicious Granny's donuts for both the exhibitors and spectators.

Caring Hearts for Canines, a local dog rescue run by Jenn Chopping, brought several rescue dogs to the show who were looking for forever homes. By the end of the show she received two applications for adoption! Companion Animal Clinic board member, Betsy Best, was on hand with information about the local low cost spay/neuter clinic.

Our thanks to volunteer judge, Carol Dowd. She did a PAWSitively amazing job picking winners from such a wide array of furry, friendly, and fabulous canines. Thank you to Gary Lergner, who volunteered to be the announcer

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PRIZE DONORS



Janie Boland
Cared for Canine and Cat, LLC
Jesse Coyle at Webb & Coyle PLLC
Dave's Dirty Dogs
Driveway Dogs Mobile Grooming

Effie Ellis
Denise Krauza at Beautopia
Hair, Face & Body Spa
Moore Equine Feed & Supply
Cindy Pagnotta & Innovate Real Estate



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Carol Dowd
Effie Ellis
Alice Glass
Leslie Griewe
William Griewe
Stephen Later
Gary Lergner
Susan Lindamood
Laura Lindamood

Antonio Martinez
Diane McKay
Andrea and Dick Moore
Dennis Paules
Marcie Quist
Sassy Riley
Leigh Allen and Neil Schwartzberg
Katie Walsh



BEST RESCUE CLASS, SECTION A



BEST RESCUE CLASS, SECTION B



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DOLLY AND NANCY HOWE, ATHENA COHEN, CUTEST CLASS, SECTION B, AND JOE EMERSON



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

Best in Show Bunny, Alice and Marshall Glass

Best Coiffed

1. Oliver, Effie Ellis
2. Twiggie, Sylvie Chartrand
3. Betsy Ross, Pam Wagner
4. Holly, Tempe Brown
5. Athena, David Cohen
6. Rodeo, Wendy Beaver

Look Alike

1. Teensy, Debra D'Angelo
2. Dori, Dottie Greenleaf
3. Dolly, Nancy Howe
4. Gus, Abby Mann
5. Twiggy, Sylvie Chartrand
6. Daisy, Cynthia Shear

Cutest, Section A

1. Ruby, Aggie Cohen
2. Bacco, John Pellizzari
3. Murphy, Page Nesser
4. Marley, Lindee Castle
5. Max, Gordon Talk
6. Rox-Z, Madyson Park-Gnriss

Cutest, Section B

1. Rodeo, Wendy Beaver
2. Master Blackwell, Janie Boland
3. Sophie, Chrissie Doubleday
4. Vivian, Jesse Morgan Lienhard
5. Cooper, Mason Lenahan
6. Athena, David Cohen

Best Trick

1. Dori, Dottie Greenleaf
2. Pepper, Kris Martinez
3. Ben, Gerald Movelle
4. Killer, Mary Cody
5. Bailey, David Carter
6. Bacco, John Pellizzari

Waggiest Tail

1. Ben, Gerald Movelle
2. Kelly, Jen Martinez
3. Pippa, Dennis Paules
4. Cupcake, Sheila Pellizzari
5. Murphy, Abby Mann
6. Foxy, Linda Emerson

Best Rescue, Section A

1. Snow, Andrea Moore
2. Homer, Denise Krauza
3. Sammy, Pat Cameron

4. Joe, Linda Emerson
5. Lily, Jim Granito
6. Carmella, Joan Harper

Best Rescue, Section B

1. Pippa, Dennis Paules
2. Cooper, Mason Lenahan
3. Barney, Mary and William Cook
4. Max, Gordon Talk
5. Sophie, Jody McCain
6. Meena, Whitney Nilsen

Junior Handlers

- Patty, William Cook
Tom Sawyer, Ginnie Elkins
Izzy, Brynn Garrett
Cooper, Mason Lenahan
Vivian, Jesse Morgan Lienhard
Bongo, Grayson Logan
Baxter, Cecilia Mag
Ears, Paeton Park-Gnriss
Rox-Z, Madyson Park-Gnriss
Maple, Kenzie Park-Gnriss
Cupcake, John Pellizzari
Sophie, Michael Robertson
Max, Gordon Talk

Father and Dog

1. Lily, Jim Granito
2. Sophie, Peter Doubleday
3. Athena, David Cohen
4. Cooper, Brian Lenahan
5. Wilson, Stephen Later
6. Maisey, Dennis Paules



Reserve Best In Show Daisy, Tempe Brown



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: RESERVE BEST IN SHOW, DAISY AND TEMPE BROWN, BEN AND GERALD MOVELLE, AND MUFF TATE'S PIPPA

Continued from Page 4

for the show, and to Diane McKay, for capturing the excitement and fun of the day with her photographs. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to our volunteers: Effie Ellis, Alice Glass, Leslie Griewe, William Griewe, Stephen Later, Susan Lindamood, Laura Lindamood, Antonio Martinez, Andrea and Dick Moore, Dennis Paules, Marcie Quist, Sassy Riley, Leigh Allen and Neil Schwartzberg, and Katie Walsh. We couldn't do it without you!



THE WMF FUN DOG SHOW A HOWLING SUCCESS!



TWIGGY AND SYLVIE CHARTRAND



KILLER AND MARY CODY



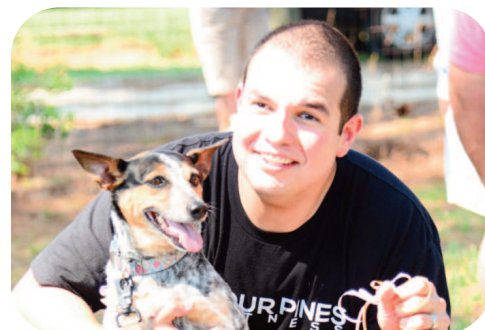
MARLEY CASTLE



VANNA AND MICHAEL ROBERTSON



BARNEY, MARY AND WILLIAM COOK



PEPPER AND KRIS MARTINEZ



KETTLERDRUM AND HARPER LOGAN



SOPHIE DOUBLEDAY



BEST COIFFED CLASS



RUBY COHEN, WINNER, CUTEST DOG



BACCO AND JOHN PELLIZZARI



PETER DOUBLEDAY, GARY LERGNER AND BRIAN LENEHAN



CUTEST CLASS, SECTION A



COOPER LENEHAN



BEST TRICK CLASS



The Walthour-Moss Foundation
Post Office Box 1794
Southern Pines, NC 28388

The Walthour-Moss Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

For more information, please contact Landon Russell at 910-695-7811
or via email at director@walthour-moss.org or logon to our website at
www.walthour-moss.org.

Please Volunteer!

The Bushwhacker Club
will meet to clean and clear trails on
the following days:

SATURDAY, September 17

SUNDAY, September 25

SUNDAY, October 9

To volunteer:

email: director@walthour-moss.org or call: 910-695-7811