

# 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

VOLUME 10  
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## SOUTHERN PINES RESIDENT PROTECTS HORSE COUNTRY



CLAIRE REID PLACED 17.08 ACRES OF HER BIG SKY FARM IN A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Southern Pines resident Claire Reid granted a conservation easement to The Walthour-Moss Foundation on 17.08 acres of her Big Sky Farm on December 27, 2013. The conservation easement will perpetually protect the outdoor recreational availability of the tract as well as its biological values, open space character, and scenic qualities.

This beautiful expanse of land, which is visible from Connecticut Avenue and Tremont Road, also provides a scenic vista for the general public. Claire purchased her 63<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-acre farm, located on Tremont Place in Southern Pines, in three parcels, and the conservation easement protects a portion of the land that she bought in 2005.

Historically, previous owners have used the field for agriculture and have permitted the equestrian community use of the acreage for riding and equestrian sporting events. Claire continued the tradition under her ownership and wishes to keep it undeveloped and available for outdoor recreational use in perpetuity.

Ecologically, the swath of protected land is beneficial to endangered species known to inhabit the area. The conservation easement will preserve a corridor of connectivity of wildlife habitat between Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve and Fort Bragg.

For our rural lifestyle, Larry Best, chairman of the Foundation's easement committee, perhaps best emphasized the importance of this conservation easement to the local horse community by noting that, "Large open spaces become anchors to the long term future of horse country. Making links creates the fabric to link them. This is a good story of a new generation of land owner understanding the heritage of horse country and writing the next chapter."

The most traditional tool for conserving private land is a conservation easement. It is a legal agreement between a landowner and The Walthour-Moss Foundation that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. The conservation easement generally results in a tax deduction to the landowner in an amount equivalent to the difference in the fair market value before and after the creation of the conservation easement.

When you donate a conservation easement to The Walthour-Moss Foundation, you give up some of the rights associated with the land, and the scope of the rights that you give up depends upon the circumstances of the land and its anticipated uses. For example, a landowner might give up the right to build a house or other structure while retaining the right to grow crops and erect a hay barn. Of course, future owners are always bound by the easement's terms, and The Walthour-Moss Foundation is responsible for making sure the easement's terms are followed. The conservation easement allows landowners to continue to own and use their land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs subject, in all cases, to the permanent restrictions on development and subdivision.

The Walthour-Moss Foundation is proud to be a partner with Claire Reid by stewarding her conservation easement in perpetuity. The partnership fulfills the Foundation's mission: "To preserve open land, to protect and improve wildlife habitat and to offer a place for equestrian purposes."

Claire Reid recently retired from the Oracle Corporation as a Senior Vice President. She is active with the Brandywine Museum and Conservancy, the American Driving Society and the National Sporting Museum and Library. She drives Welsh Ponies and competes at the CDE Intermediate Level with a pair or a four-in-hand. She is a member of the Ladies Coaching Club, the Four-in-hand Club, the Moore County Driving Club and the Aiken Driving Club. She is responsible for an annual Young Drivers Camp at her farm. At the Carolina Horse Park, she is a member of the Board of Directors and is co-organizer of the Pine Tree CDE in the Fall and the Southern Pines CDE in the Spring.

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The Walthour-Moss Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation.

For more information, please contact Landon Russell at **910-695-7811**  
or via email at [director@walthour-moss.org](mailto:director@walthour-moss.org) or logon to our website at  
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**Tuesday, January 14, 6:30pm, Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities**  
**To reserve a seat please call 910-695-7811**