



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

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"

A MOST GENEROUS GIFT FROM ELDRIDGE AND BETTY JOHNSON

Eldridge Johnson grew up loving the Sandhills and open land. As a young boy he would come down from Pennsylvania to bird hunt with his grandfather who had a home in Pinehurst. The hunting was done on a plantation his grandfather owned that is now part of the Hoffman State Forest.

His love for open land led him later to properties in several states as well as North Carolina. One of these properties is now what is known as Moor Meadow and the forest which surrounds that field. In fact the vineyard and the pecan tress located in Moor Meadow were planted by Eldridge.

When he and Betty decided to build in horse country, El thought perhaps they would build out on this substantial acreage. Betty was quite certain that would be too far from the then existing horse country and from town. Betty won the discussion and she and El acquired the land where their farm, Quail Glen, exists today.

As a means to protect the property they were not going to build upon after deciding to move closer to town, El and Betty through a gift/sale transaction transferred the property to The Walthour-Moss Foundation in 1993. This property solidified the Foundation's commitment to the North Country and the properties acquired since that time have built upon the acquisition from the Johnsons.

THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501 (C)(3) CORPORATION

The Foundation News is available on-line by email.
 To be added to the email list log on at info@walthour-moss.org.

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Photo by Landon Russell



Photo Courtesy of Sandra Brown

THE HUNTER TRIALS COURSE AT QUAIL GLEN: PRESERVED FOR THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY BY THE GENEROUS GIFT FROM ELDRIDGE AND BETTY JOHNSON; CONTINUING THEIR LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF PROTECTING OPEN LANDS.

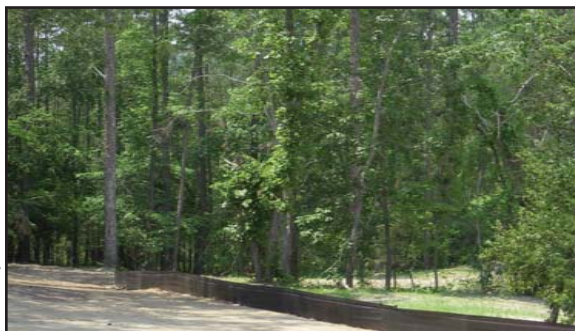
Their Quail Glen Farm was originally part of a larger tract that Ginnie and Pappy Moss had purchased that also included the property known as the Hunter Trial Course. For some 50 years the Hunter Trial property remained an open space used by the community throughout the year to ride upon as well as being the site of the Hunter Trials, held each spring by the Moore County Hounds.

Several years ago Mrs. Moss agreed to sell the 23 acres including the Hunter Trials Course to El and Betty who acquired it so it would always remain open land. They worked diligently to care for the property and also continued the long standing tradition of allowing its use as a place to hack as well as stage the Hunter Trials. The traditions of access to open lands they found in Horse Country were continued under their stewardship of this property.

Some three years ago conversations were held with El and Betty and their family of how this property might be protected for the community. After several discussions they generously agreed at the end of 2008 through a combination of land gift and conservation easement to place the property in the care of The Walthour-Moss Foundation. This gift allows for the community to know the land will be open space always and available for equestrian use.

El and Betty have in the past and continue in the present to appreciate the unique equestrian heritage of horse country and see The Walthour-Moss Foundation as the caretaker of this history. Our entire community owes them our thanks for their generosity.

Photo by Landon Russell



THE WILSON ACCESS GIFT CONNECTS YOUNG'S ROAD ABOVE LAKE BAY TO THE FOUNDATION

ACCESS GRANTED

Since we last reported, three additional access gifts have been finalized, bringing the current total to eleven! Whether the land abuts the Foundation or it is in a surrounding neighborhood, the creation of these equestrian access easements ensures that our equestrian access to the Foundation is protected for future generations.

The connection of the Old Foundation to the North Country is an ongoing and important effort being worked on by the Foundation. Two steps in creating this "land bridge" have occurred on Moss Farm Lane.

Bryant Access: Marcia and Don Bryant have provided an access on their portion of Moss Farm Lane that connects to the Foundation.

O'Donnell Access: Elizabeth O'Donnell's Moss Farm Lane access connects to the Bryant's to create a link to the Foundation.

Wilson Access: John and Deborah Wilson have given an access that connects the Foundation directly to Youngs Road. This access is located in the Lake Bay area of the Foundation.

CELEBRATION OF LAND AND ACCESS GIFTS

On February 13, the directors of The Walthour-Moss Foundation hosted a celebration at the Weymouth Center to honor those who have given a gift of land or access to The Walthour-Moss Foundation.

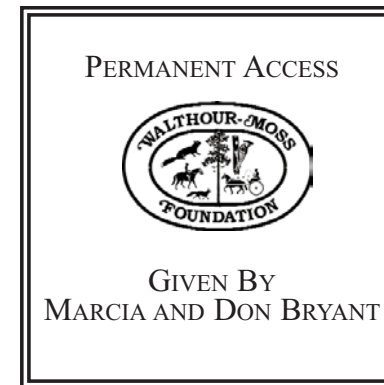
Foundation director Larry Best welcomed the honored guests and spoke on the importance of each gift: "This is a remarkable event that is unprecedented for The Walthour-Moss Foundation. It is an expression of your commitment for protecting an equestrian community that has few equals anywhere. Each of these gifts is critical and each represents a new understanding of how our community recognizes the importance of protecting our equestrian heritage. We have seen that places we might ride in the past disappear and now we are proactively creating the future. This is a great beginning in protecting our community for future generations as one centered on equestrian activities."

Photos by Jeanne Paine



LEFT TO RIGHT: CLAYTON TOBIAS, MONICA SULLIVAN, GARY LERGNER AND JAN VAN FOSSEN

Over the past year the Foundation has received eleven gifts of access and land and many more are underway. Each of these wonderful gifts will be marked with a bronze plaque denoting the name of the donor and year the gift was given.



SAMPLE PLAQUE: EACH ACCESS WILL BE MARKED WITH A BRONZE PLAQUE NAMING THE DONOR

Photos by Jeanne Paine



LEFT: TAYLOE COMPTON AND DON BRYANT
RIGHT: CAMILLA VANCE AND BILL HOLMES

Photos by Jeanne Paine



LEFT: BETTY JOHNSON AND DICK CAVEDO
RIGHT: DICK WEBB AND NEVY CLARK

MAJOR CROSSING REPAIRS



Cow Head Crossing "Before"

Photo by Landon Russell

COW HEAD CROSSING

The crossing located at Cow Head on the 100 foot Mile Away Farm easement has long been wet, muddy and difficult to cross. In December of last year, repairs were made to the crossing to better the footing and make it accessible to both horses and carriages. A layer of large rocks were added first followed by a covering of smaller stone. The repairs allowed for the crossing to remain a flowing water bottom and minimized the impact on the surrounding wetlands.

The hillside leading towards Firleane 2 was stabilized by adding clay and dirt while the other side was stabilized by shaping the dirt to create swales for water run off. A lane was also added to the steeper hillside to better allow carriage access.



Cow Head Crossing "After"

Photo by Landon Russell

BEAVER DAM HEAD CROSSING

In the process of marking a hole for repair on Firelane 3, Jody Murtagh and Kerrie Hayes discovered major erosion at the crossing at Beaver Dam Head. The pipe that ran under the Firelane had rusted out and water was undercutting the trail.

To complete this major repair, Jim Granito and the Knowlbrook Farms crew first removed layer after layer of dirt and clay from atop the rusted out pipe. The bad pipe was replaced with two 36" hard plastic pipes. The new pipes were then stabilized with stakes and layers of stone before being recovered with dirt and clay. The repaired crossing allows for ample amounts of water to pass and the addition of the stone and stabilization of the pipes will keep the need for additional repairs to a minimum.



Beaver Dam Head Crossing "Before"



Beaver Dam Head Crossing "After"

Photos by Landon Russell

GINNIE'S RIDGE TRAIL REPAIR



Ginnie's Ridge Trail with repairs

Those who have ridden a horse or driven a carriage along the Ginnie's Ridge road know that there are several steep hills on the trail. With a steep grade, water flow is a constant issue. On the both sides of Ross Crossing, swales have been added and the road banked to divert run off and lessen erosion. However, while working on the trail, the Knowlbrook Farms crew discovered a natural spring on the western hillside. The water from the spring adds to making the trail muddy and slippery. To divert the water, a variation on a French drain was created by digging a trench, lining it with landscape material and covering it with gravel. This method should keep the trail stabilized and dryer by diverting the water down to Ross Crossing.

SANDHILL SEEPS

Many of you will recognize the landscape that exemplifies the Sandhill Seep. These interesting areas are a by product of an underlying layer of clay holding groundwater near the surface where it intercepts a topography change normally near a stream. Sandhill Seeps, although often near a stream, are disconnected from the nearby stream unlike a pocosion which is adjacent to the stream. The elevation change varies from about ten feet to more than twenty feet and is

covered with a large number of interesting herbaceous plants. These areas are of interest because they are where many unique plants are found including several that are either rare or endangered.

The Seep supports the vegetation due to the availability of water from the groundwater held by the clay. The nearby area above the seep may be very dry and have only wiregrass and other xeric plant species while within a matter of feet the ground becomes quite lush. Like much of the Sandhills landscape the availability of moisture determines the vegetation present.

There are many examples of these on The Walthour-Moss Foundation. One that is close at hand to many who spend time on the Foundation is the one located along the south side of Horse Pen Head. The trail that parallels Horse Pen Head lies in much of its length between the Sandhill Seep and Horse Pen Head. There are many others however throughout the Foundation.

Next time you take your favorite ride, drive or walk on the Foundation see if you find one of these interesting features.



SANDHILL SEEP VEGETATION: THE CINNAMON FERN

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GINNIE AND PAPPY MOSS SOCIETY ANNUAL GIVING**

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Joan Wheeler
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The Walthour-Moss Foundation is grateful to all of our contributors. We have worked hard to ensure the accuracy of our current listing. However, if your name is listed incorrectly or was not listed, we sincerely apologize and ask you to *please* bring it to our attention.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS: A KEYSTONE SPECIES OF SOUTHEASTERN PINE FORESTS

SUBMITTED BY KERRY BRUST
 SANDHILLS ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE



Photo by David Kilpatrick

Red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*), a federally endangered species endemic to the Southeastern United States, are one of eight species of woodpeckers that occur in the region. Significant numbers of red-cockaded woodpeckers (about 600 family groups) reside on public and private lands within the North Carolina Sandhills making it the second largest population in existence. Red-cockadeds excavate cavities in mature, live pines for roosting and nesting, a characteristic unique to this woodpecker species. It is also a



Photos by Landon Russell

CAVITY WORK: MATTHEW KING PROVISIONS AN ARTIFICIAL CAVITY FOR THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS

non-migratory, cooperative breeder that lives in highly social and territorial family groups year round, requiring extensive pine forest habitats. Cooperative breeding is unusual, observed in approximately 3% (250) of bird species worldwide.

Family groups consist of a single breeding pair and up to five related helpers that assist with incubation, feeding nestlings, cavity excavation and territorial defense. Helper males typically inherit territories after the breeding male dies or can no longer defend his status within the group. To aid in retention of helpers and address cavity limitation, researchers developed techniques to supply suitable cavities via artificial cavity augmentation. Trained biologists either drill a chamber almost identical to a natural excavation, or insert a pre-cut box (akin to a blue bird nest box) with a chain saw. A valuable cavity is thereby created in only a few hours, compared to what can take the birds one to several years to complete.

Cavity trees are aggregated on a small portion of a group's home range. The grouping of cavity trees that a particular red-cockaded woodpecker family group uses for roosting and nesting on the landscape is termed



RIGHT: AMERICAN KESTRELS NESTING IN SNAG



Photo by Lori Blanc

SECONDARY CAVITY USERS: EASTERN SCREECH OWL YOUNG IN WOODPECKER CAVITY.

a cluster. In 2008, Sandhills Ecological Institute (SEI) documented 13 active clusters within, or in part of, The Walthour-Moss Foundation; these 13 clusters in turn supported 11 family groups during the nesting season. Two family groups are relatively new on the landscape, established in the last 3 years by a combination of prescribed fire and the installation of artificial cavities.

The ecological value of red-cockaded woodpecker cavities persist for decades after cavities become enlarged or are no longer suitable to red-cockaded woodpeckers. In fact, these cavities have been utilized



Photo by David Kilpatrick

ABOVE: COMMON FLICKERS NESTING IN AN ABANDONED RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER CAVITY.

by 37 species of birds, mammals, insects and herps. Bird species in particular which rely on the red-cockaded woodpecker's role as primary excavator for nest sites are termed secondary cavity nesting species. These include American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), common flicker (*Colaptes auriculatus*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Eastern bluebird (*Sialis sialis*) and wood duck (*Aix sponsa*). Dead cavity trees or snags provide nesting sites and shelter for species such as red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), Eastern screech owl (*Otus asio*) and fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*).

Be sure to appreciate red-cockaded woodpeckers the next time you encounter them on horseback or on a hike, and consider all which this "keystone" species does to significantly enhance the diversity of our longleaf pine forests.

Contact Kerry Brust at the Sandhills Ecological Institute at (910) 695-0872 for additional information about red-cockaded woodpeckers and the longleaf pine ecosystem.



Photo by Lori Blanc

BABIES' FIRST PHOTO: AMERICAN KESTREL NESTLINGS IN WOODPECKER CAVITY

ANNUAL WAIVER PROGRAM REMINDER

The Walthour-Moss Foundation continues to 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. We thank those of you who have returned your waiver and ask everyone to please help us in this effort. If you ride or drive or are planning on riding or driving on the Foundation, please sign and return your waiver as soon as possible. A copy of the waiver is available at www.walthour-moss.org, the Equestrian Road entrance to the Foundation or by calling the Foundation office (910) 695-7811.

COMPANION ANIMAL CLINIC CANINE FAIR AND RUN FUNDRAISER



On Saturday, May 2, the Companion Animal Clinic of the Sandhills will host the Canine Country Fair and Annual Dog Run fundraiser to benefit the Spay and Neuter Veterinary Clinic of the Sandhills. The Fair will be held at Sunninghill Farm on Youngs Road.

The day will kick off at 9am with the annual 5k and 10k Run with your Dog through The Walthour-Moss Foundation. Walkers are also welcome and all dogs must be leashed.

The Fair starts at 10am and will include Terrier Races, a Costume Class, Best Trick, Biggest/Smallest Dog and Games. There will also be demonstrations of Agility, Obedience, Utility, Retrieving, Sheep Dog Herding, and Police Dog Skills.

For more information, please log on to www.companionanimalclinic.org.

CALLING ALL BUSHWHACKERS: VOLUNTEER DAY: MAY 9!

Volunteer coordinator, Jody Murtagh, has called a meeting of the Bushwhacker Club for a general work day on Saturday May 9, 2009. Bring your work gloves, good humor and enthusiasm for a morning of work on the Foundation. Projects scheduled include fence removal, fence repair, and field clearing. The work day will last from approximately 9am-1pm and lunch will be provided.

To volunteer, please contact Landon Russell at 910-695-7811.

WE WANT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

If you would like to receive communication from The Walthour-Moss Foundation via email, please send your email address to administrator@walthour-moss.org. Emails are regularly sent out by the Foundation to let our community know about important events going on in the Foundation such as prescribed burning and pinestraw removal.

Additionally, if you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send an email and we will add you to our electronic newsletter list.

Please know that we will not share your information with any other groups, organizations or businesses. Your email will be used for WMF correspondence only.