



JUNE 2008

VOLUME FOUR

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"

**From:**

**The Walthour-Moss Foundation  
Board of Directors**

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Larry Best    | Dominick Pagnotta  |
| Dan Butler    | Rosa Ronalter      |
| Wilbur Carter | Michael Russell    |
| David Dillard | Neil Schwartzberg  |
| Effie Ellis   | L. P. Tate, Jr.    |
| Stephen Later | Virginia Thomasson |
| Richard Moore | Richard Webb       |
| Mark Packard  |                    |

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Virginia Walthour Moss ☼

**Directors Emeriti**

- Tayloe Compton  
 Martin O'Rourke  
 Thomas Ross ☼  
 Rick Smith  
 L.P. Tate  
 Edward Taws, Jr.  
 James Van Camp  
 Henry Wheeler ☼

☼ Deceased



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

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.com](mailto:info@walthour-moss.com).

**VOLUNTEERS SHINE!**

Twenty volunteers gathered at Equestrian Road on May 31 to repair and rebuild the fence along the May Street border of the Foundation. Lead by Jody Murtaugh and Kerrie Hayes, the fearless group pulled nails and rails, sank new posts and replaced boards. They even painted the gates that connect Equestrian Road to Firelane Three. The able bodied crew repaired one and half miles of fence before lunch time! We would like to recognize and thank them for giving their time, energy and enthusiasm to the project!

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Don Bryant     | Lori Heim      |
| Marcia Bryant  | Jim Heim       |
| Janie Carroll  | Stephen Later  |
| Jeff Carroll   | Mike McArthur  |
| Fran Cornatzer | Jody Murtaugh  |
| Ken Cornatzer  | John Pavan     |
| David Dillard  | Nancy Ronalter |
| Cody Hayes     | Rosa Ronalter  |
| Katie Hayes    | Landon Russell |
| Kerrie Hayes   | Vee Sutherland |



THE CREW PAUSES AND POSES FOR A PHOTO OP!  
 LEFT TO RIGHT: JOHN PAVAN, CODY HAYES, KERRIE HAYES, MIKE McARTHUR AND DON BRYANT



JODY MURTAUGH, JIM HEIM, STEPHEN LATER AND MIKE McARTHUR PREPARE TO PLACE A NEW POST



LEFT: FRAN AND KEN CORNATZER WORK THE FENCE  
 RIGHT: MARCIA BRYANT PAINTS THE WMF GATES

**FOUNDATION WELCOMES FOUR NEW DIRECTORS**

**DAN BUTLER**

Dan Butler is a native of the Sandhills and the third generation of his family to make their home in Southern Pines. Dan's business background includes various real estate ventures, a construction company and he holds a NC Unlimited Builders license and real estate broker's license in both NC and SC.



Dan and his bride of 33 years, Carol, reside on a 250 acre farm on Fort Bragg Rd. where they have been recipients of the Land Stewardship Award for their careful preservation of their land's resources. Dan's other hobbies include bird hunting, traveling, and sharing time with his wife and their three children.



**MARK PACKARD**

Mark Packard, a native of Wilson, has been in the banking industry for twenty-five years, with the past seventeen of those spent here in Moore County as a county executive for BB & T. Mark has served on many community boards including serving as past Chairman of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, past Chairman of Moore County United Way, and President of Southern Pines Rotary International. Mark enjoys golf, travel and gardening. He and his wife, Caroline, live in Pinehurst with their son Sam.

**DOMINICK PAGNOTTA**

Dominick Pagnotta has had a lengthy and varied career with IBM Corp and is currently a Business Development Executive for their Software Group. He serves on IBM's Board for Professional Certification. He is a graduate of Marist College with a MS in Math and Information Systems Management, is a member of The British Computing Society, and is a US Merchant Marine Captain. Dominick and his wife Cindy live in Southern Pines horse country.



**ROSA RONALTER**

Rosa Ronalter grew up in Hickory, North Carolina but has lived in the Sandhills since 1983. Rosa has worked in Marketing and Development as well as working within her family's furniture and textile companies; Century Furniture and Valdese Weavers.

Rosa enjoys riding, golf, hiking, reading, and has recently taken up gardening. She and her husband Ralph, and their two children Nancy and John live on a Connecticut Avenue farm with their three horses, two yellow labs and one ancient barn cat.



**ACCESS UPDATE**

In the March issue of the newsletter, we reported on the easement given by Cameron Slade to the Foundation and the opening of Compton Crossing. Since then, Compton Crossing has become a popular gateway to the Foundation for many of the residents living in that area of our community. The gift of that one easement has started a trend- our community granting access easements and giving land access to insure that access to the Foundation is protected for future generations.

In the next issue of the Foundation newsletter we will report on these important access points and how their varying locations provide benefits to all of our community.



VOLUNTEER VEE SUTHERLAND NAILS BOARDS ALONG THE MAY STREET FENCE LINE

**DIRECTORS EMERITI NAMED**

The Directors of The Walthour-Moss Foundation recently elected four Board Members to the position of Director Emeriti. They are Tayloe Compton, Rick Smith, Ted Taws and Jim Van Camp. These distinguished directors have loyally served The Foundation for many years. Their dedication to The Walthour-Moss Foundation is to be commended.

In honor of their election as Director Emeriti, each were presented with plaques honoring their outstanding service as a Director of The Walthour-Moss Foundation.

**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.

## THE RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM

Submitted by Susan L. Miller  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Sandhills region of North Carolina is home to the one of the largest remaining populations of the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*); a federally listed endangered species endemic to open, mature and old growth pine ecosystems in the southeastern United States.

The North Carolina Sandhills red-cockaded woodpecker population has been designated as one of the primary core recovery populations necessary to satisfy recovery criteria as described by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2003 Recovery Plan. This primary core population is unique in that it contains many red-cockaded clusters on private lands. Clusters are defined as the aggregate of cavity trees previously and currently used and defended by a group of red-cockaded woodpeckers. Currently, there are approximately 15,500 red-cockaded woodpeckers living in 6,200 known active clusters across eleven states. This is less than 3 percent of estimated abundance at the time of European settlement. Red-cockaded woodpeckers were given federal protection with the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973.

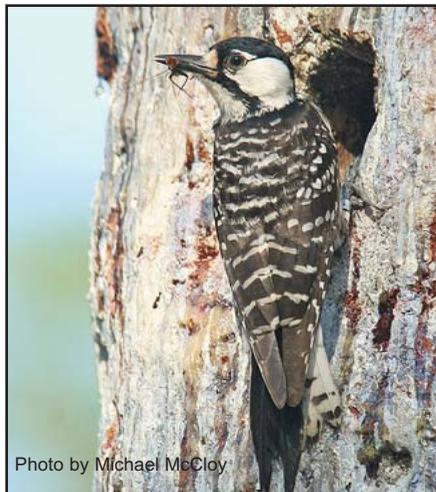


Photo by Michael McCloy

THE RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER AT HOME IN THE SANDHILLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Recognizing that red-cockaded woodpecker groups on private lands could play a valuable role in recovery of the North Carolina Sandhills red-cockaded woodpecker population, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched a new program in 1995, called Safe Harbor which was designed to promote red-cockaded woodpecker habitat maintenance and restoration on private lands. This innovative program was developed to encourage voluntary conservation of red-cockaded woodpeckers by offering private landowners regulatory relief, i.e., a "safe harbor" in exchange for protection and management of red-cockaded woodpecker habitat.

Safe harbor is a conservation program designed to halt and reverse the decline of rare species' populations by protecting existing habitat, or by improving or restoring their potential habitat. This is accomplished by minimizing or removing regulatory disincentives that have previously prevented or at least discouraged landowners from implementing habitat management actions beneficial to such species.

Safe harbor agreements are voluntary agreements under which a landowner agrees to carry out specified habitat improvements to benefit a listed species. In return, the Service authorizes the landowner to alter or remove the habitat improvements in the future and to take listed species incidental to doing so; i.e., the program authorizes the future incidental take of listed species not currently occupying the property, but likely to as a result of the improvements. Therefore, the program encourages habitat maintenance, improvement, and restoration of currently occupied habitat, i.e., the "baseline", and unoccupied potential habitat.

Since the Program was initiated in 1995, more than 100 participants have enrolled over 51,000 acres of land in the North Carolina Sandhills Safe Harbor Program including The Walthour-Moss Foundation which provides habitat for 14 groups of red-cockaded woodpeckers.

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## RAPID GREEN-UP AFTER A PRESCRIBED BURN

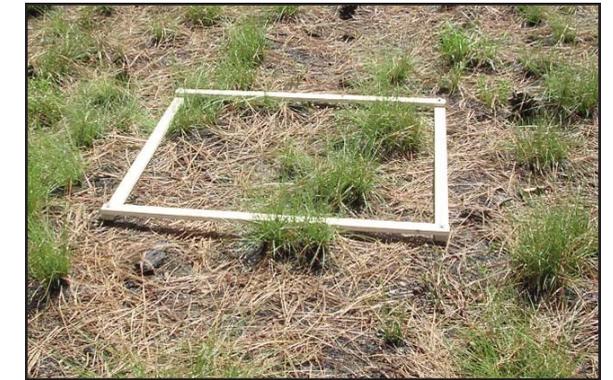


Submitted by Dr. Charles Webb, PhD  
Registered Forester

Scientific evidence and managerial experience strongly support regular prescribed fire as a tool for perpetuating longleaf pine and the many plants and animals that are dependent upon a healthy longleaf pine ecosystem. Nevertheless, it is always a shock to ride through your favorite longleaf stand within the first few days after a prescribed burn. Photographs taken recently on The Foundation provide graphic evidence of how rapidly the ecosystem recovers with a beautiful spring green.



A clump of wiregrass started sending up new shoots within six days after the burn



Two weeks later, the same clump and others demonstrate strong growth. Soon they will produce seed, which are necessary for regeneration of the species and food for various bird species. The frame is one square meter.



Three-and-a-half weeks after the burn, fresh wiregrass re-growth presents a pleasing panorama as well as habitat for numerous insects, which the red-cockaded woodpecker and other bird species devour.

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Each spring biologists monitor groups of red-cockaded woodpeckers across the landscape to track population trends. By banding the red-cockaded woodpeckers in the Safe Harbor clusters, biologists can track movement and survival of individuals or groups of birds over time. This data helps to determine the status of baseline clusters identified in a Safe Harbor agreement as well as document any new "safe harbor" groups.

Safe harbor works because it does not punish but rewards, is voluntary not mandatory, ensures flexibility not rigidity, provides assurances not uncertainty and promotes pro-active conservation not re-active habitat destruction. It is a common sense strategy that is directly benefiting conservation of red-cockaded woodpeckers not only on enrolled private lands but also on adjacent state and federal lands who are involved with private land Safe Harbor participants in a variety of additional red-cockaded woodpecker conservation and recovery projects and initiatives.

For more information about the Safe Harbor Program, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office located in Southern Pines at (910) 695-3323.



Photo by Susan L. Miller

OPEN PINE SAVANNAH, HOME OF THE RED- COCKADED WOODPECKER

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Height growth of young longleaf seedlings is actually enhanced by fire. Longleaf seedlings in the "grass stage" are frequently infected with "brown-spot disease", which keeps the seedlings in the grass stage, sometimes for many years. Fire burns off the infected needles,

and fresh new needles give the energy to break out of the grass stage and initiate height growth.



In some cases, a flare-up will scorch the crowns of trees in the overstory; branch tips in the tops green-up quickly, although more difficult to see from the ground. A large majority of the scorched trees in the overstory recover quickly, but those that do not recover will provide habitat for a variety of woodpeckers and other cavity-nesters. Furthermore, openings created in the canopy will contribute to the mosaic of habitats in the forest.

**CALL FOR TRAIL CLEARERS AND BUSHWHACKERS**

Jody Murtaugh, Volunteer Coordinator of The Walthour-Moss Foundation is looking for a few good women and men to take part in the fall trail clearing program. This annual event will take place over two days in September. We encourage you to sign up to come out for a day and help us clear the trails of any debris left by summer storms.

The Foundation will be divided into several sections to be tackled by bushwhacking crews. Both crew leaders and crew members are needed for this important event.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves, hedge trimmers, shears, chainsaws, gators, enthusiasm and good humor.

Lunch and lots of gratitude will be provided. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Landon Russell at the Foundation office either by telephone at 910-695-7811 or email administrator@walthour-moss.org. We will also send email reminders for the project over the summer.

**A note on Foundation maintenance:**

The Walthour-Moss Foundation relies on volunteers to do much of the needed maintenance and upkeep work. Projects such as trail clearing, hole filling, fence repair and other small projects are all done by volunteers. Only projects that require heavy machinery or extensive work are contracted out.

**VOLUNTEER CLUB**

If you missed the fun of volunteering for the May Street fence repairing and rebuilding day, not to worry! The next Walthour-Moss Foundation volunteer day is just around the corner. The next scheduled volunteer project will take place in the Fall and requires many hands!

We are also in search of a name for our volunteer group- whether it be the Trail Blazers or Eager Beavers or something you suggest. We need a name!

If you have a suggestion to name this group, please send an email to Landon Russell at administrator@walthour-moss.org or call the office at 910-695-7811!



JEFF AND JANIE CARROLL PREPARE TO REPLACE BOARDS