



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

Foundation News

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION



VOLUME SEVEN

JUNE 2011

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"

WMF RECEIVES SOFTWARE GRANT FROM ESRI

We are pleased to announce that The Walthour-Moss Foundation has been chosen to receive a grant from ESRI, the leader in GIS (Geographical Information System) mapping programs, to use ArcGIS. The ArcGIS program integrates with county GIS data to create detailed maps that can be used along with our own data to map items important to the Foundation.

Over the years, the Land Management Committee of the Foundation has relied on a myriad of maps from multiple sources to maintain data records of items such as, for example, where the federally endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker colonies are located, which areas have had prescribed burns, and which areas have been thinned. With the new ArcGIS program all pertinent historical information will be combined and stored for use with one mapping program.

We also plan to add GPS data for locations of the following:

- * twelve new bluebird boxes installed along Firelane 2 and Old Mail Road
- * forty plus other bluebird boxes located throughout the Foundation
- * turpentine pines/box pines
- * rare and endangered plants, such as the yellow pitcher plant
- * Red Cockaded Woodpecker colonies
- * future prescribed burn plans
- * roads and trails
- * access easements

We are in the process of inputting the historical data and should be ready to move forward with the ArcGIS program by the end of the summer.



Photo by Caroline Young

PRESERVING OUR CULTURAL HISTORY BY DOCUMENTING THE TURPENTINE TREES, LIKE THE ONE PICTURED ABOVE, IS ONE OF THE PROJECTS THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THE ARCGIS GRANT.

THE WALTHOUR-MOSS FOUNDATION IS A 501 (C)(3) NON PROFIT CORPORATION.

The Foundation News is available on-line by email.

To be added to the email list log on at director@walthour-moss.org.

From:

The Walthour-Moss Foundation
 Board of Directors

President Emerita
 Virginia Walthour Moss

Dan Butler	Cameron Sadler
David Dillard	Neil Schwartzberg
Jim Granito	L. P. Tate, Jr.
Stephen Later	Virginia Thomasson
Richard Moore	Katie Walsh
Mark Packard	Richard Webb
Dominick Pagnotta	Caroline Young
Dennis Paules	

Executive Director

Landon Russell





Photo by Landon Russell

THE ACCESSES ON OLD DEWBERRY LANE AND OX RIDGE LANE PROVIDE CONNECTIONS TO SEVERAL EXISTING ACCESSES.

WMF ACCESS UPDATE

The Stewardship and Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the thirty-first gift of access for the benefit of The Walthour-Moss Foundation from the Hunting Hills Road Association.

Ox Ridge Lane and Old Dewberry Lane

The Hunting Hills Road Association has granted an equestrian access over Old Dewberry Lane as well as Ox Ridge Lane. These accesses connect to Bo's Way, and accesses given by Lefreda Williams, Dick Cavedo, and Donna and Dick Verrilli making it possible to ride from Connecticut Avenue and Den Road through to Youngs Road at Kathleen Way and then connect to the Foundation lands through the access given by Anne and Dick Webb.



FOUNDATION WELCOMES DENNIS PAULES AS DIRECTOR



Photo by Cindy Paules

We are pleased to welcome Dennis Paules as the newest director of The Walthour-Moss iFoundation.

Dennis has served on the Foundation's Land Management Committee for several years and is very active in cleaning and clearing trails in the North Country.

He and his wife Cindy moved to the Southern Pines area in May of 1999. They live with their daughter Kyley on Deer Path Road where they have a boarding and training facility.

Dennis owns and operates two plastic injection molding facilities in York County, Pennsylvania. He enjoys golf and scuba diving and the whole family enjoys riding and foxhunting.



US HIGHWAY 1 BYPASS UPDATE

The Foundation board of directors continues to keep a watchful eye on the Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) process and the discussion of a potential bypass of U.S. Highway 1 around Southern Pines and Aberdeen.

It was clear at the May 26, 2011 CTP meeting that, although there is no current plan to run a bypass through the Foundation, we are a large open space that is very tempting to road planners. We are thus actively working on alternatives in an effort to protect the open lands of the Foundation as well as our community.

The CTP process is in a state of transition and, at some point, there may be a time when a show of numbers is important, and we will certainly spread the word. In the meantime, for more information and minutes from meetings on the Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Study, please visit the NCDOT website at www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/tpb/planning/mooreco.html.



FOUNDATION COMMUNICATIONS

If you would like to receive written or email communications from The Walthour-Moss Foundation, please email your information to Landon Russell: director@walthour-moss.org or logon to our website: walthour-moss.org and complete the form under the contacts tab.

We send information pertaining only to the Foundation and do not share our mailing or email lists.



RAPID GREEN-UP AFTER SPRING BURN



Photo by Landon Russell

MAY 19, 2011, PRESCRIBED BURN DAY



Photo by Landon Russell

MAY 23, 2011, AFTER FOUR DAYS (AND NO RAIN) THE WIREGRASS BEGINS TO SPROUT



Photo by Landon Russell

MAY 31, 2011, TWO WEEKS AFTER THE PRESCRIBED BURN, WIREGRASS IS THRIVING

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

SUSAN CAMPBELL



Photo by Frank Ripp

THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD

joined during the colder months by small flocks of bluebirds from further north. The distinct blue dorsal surface of males makes them unmistakable among familiar songbirds. The females are a slightly duller blue and do not sing the light, musical song that can be heard from males throughout the year.

It is not only the exquisite coloration of these birds but their affinity for man-made housing that endears them to so many. Bluebirds do not mind setting up housekeeping close to humans. In fact, if it had not been for the spread in popularity of erecting boxes for them, they would be a scarce sight in many places. Widespread use of insecticides as well as removal of snags in which they historically have nested caused bluebird populations to plummet in the last century.

Bird boxes constructed specifically for bluebirds are simple, inexpensive affairs but

there are a few important elements to their construction and placement that we now know are necessary for them to be most effective on the landscape. Overheating of the box will occur if it is painted or lacks sufficient ventilation. Given that females are only interested in boxes in open areas, they do tend to be in direct sunlight for a portion of the day. So staining of the outside (in a natural color) and a gap between the walls and the ceiling are critical. Drainage holes in the bottom will allow for moisture to find its way out after a heavy downpour. Also it is very important to use an entrance restrictor plate around the opening (which should be a 1½” diameter hole) to exclude larger birds such as woodpeckers, House Sparrows and European Starlings and to ensure that squirrels do not enlarge the opening for themselves. Squirrels not only will take over a box, if they can find one, but prey on the eggs or young birds. Any bird box should also be mounted on a post, preferable with a baffle to prevent larger mammalian predators from getting to the nest. Baffling also deters climbing snakes, which are not uncommon in our area.



Photo by Frank Ripp

A MALE AND A FEMALE BLUEBIRD

UPDATE ON WMF BLUEBIRD BOXES



Photo by Landon Russell

BLUEBIRD EGGS OBSERVED IN ONE OF THE FOUNDATION'S, BIRD BOXES, APRIL 2011

Adding boxes to the landscape is a great way to increase breeding bird diversity in an area. Although bluebirds are usually the target species, if they do not move in during early spring, several other local species very well may. Chickadees, titmice and nuthatches all take to boxes. Furthermore, these smaller birds are in need of cavity homes just as much as bluebirds are. And, given that these species breed early and only breed once, bluebirds may occupy a vacant house later in the season since they raise up to three sets of young a year.

Some folks do attract bluebirds by feeding fruit, suet or mealworms but as long as open habitat is nearby, they will likely find a nest box eventually. But keep in mind that these birds (and many others) feed on a lot of insects especially during the breeding season, so keeping chemical use to a minimum is tremendously important.

If you have questions or would like more information on the eastern bluebird, please email Susan Campbell: susan@ncaves.com or visit the NC Bluebird Society's website: www.ncbluebird.com.



Photo by Landon Russell

NORTH MOORE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, MICHAEL LOPEZ, ATTACHES A BLUEBIRD BOX TO A POST ON FIRELANE 2.

If you have ridden in the main Foundation in the past two months you may have noticed several new bluebird boxes. Twelve boxes were installed in May along Firelane 2 and Old Mail Road by North Moore High School senior Michael Lopez. As a part of his senior project, Michael wrote a term paper and gave an oral presentation on birds, conducted interviews and spent several hours on the Foundation installing posts and attaching the new boxes. In addition, he recorded the GPS coordinates of each new box as well as the GPS coordinates of the old blue bird boxes. While inventorying the older boxes, he made notes about which needed repairs and which needed to be replaced.

Over the next year we plan to repair and replace some of our older bird boxes and monitor the nests for bluebirds. If you would like to help with this project, please email Landon Russell: director@walthour-moss.org.



WHAT'S IN BLOOM?



Photo by Katie Walsh

SANDHILLS THISTLE (CIRSIIUM REPANDUM)
BIENNIAL OR POSSIBLY PERENNIAL, 0.5-0.8 M TALL. STEMS ARE LEAFY TO APEX, SPREADING AND SPINY. PURPLE TUBULAR FLOWERS OCCUR IN DENSE HEADS. BLOOMS MAY-JULY.



Photo by Katie Walsh

SWEET PEPPERBUSH (CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA)
SHRUB TO 2.5 M TALL. LEAVES ARE SIMPLE, ALTERNATE, HAIRY BENEATH. FRAGRANT WHITE, STALKED FLOWERS APPEAR IN TERMINAL UNBRANCHED INFLORESCENCES. BLOOMS JUNE-JULY.



Photo by Katie Walsh

PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS (OPUNTIA HUMIFUSA)
LOW, WOODY, PERENNIAL WITH FLESHY, SEGMENTED, PHOTOSYNTHETIC, SPINY, FLATTENED STEMS. LEAVES ARE ALTERNATE AND PROMPTLY DECIDUOUS, FLESHY 3-10 MM LONG. FLOWERS ARE 5-7 CM WIDE, WITH YELLOW PETALS. BLOOMS MAY-JUNE.



Photo by Katie Walsh

GRASS-LEAF ROSELING (CUTHBERTIA GRAMINEA)
PERENNIAL HERB 2-5 DM TALL. LEAVES ARE 0.2-3 DM LONG, 0.3-3 MM WIDE. THE LEAF SHEATHS ARE FRINGED WITH WHITE HAIR. PETALS ARE ROSE, 4-8 MM LONG. BLOOMS MAY-JULY



Photo by Landon Russell

A GROUP OF BUSHWHACKER CLUB MEMBERS POSE FOR A PICTURE AFTER TRAIL CLEARING IN 2010

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!
FALL CLEAN UP DAYS SCHEDULED**

The 2011 fall meetings of the Bushwhacker Club will be held on September 11 and 18 and again on October 2. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up to come out for a half-day or two and help us clear the trails of any debris left by summer storms.

Please plan to bring gloves, hedge trimmers, shears, chainsaws, gators, and bug spray. Coffee and donuts will be provided in the morning and lunch in the afternoon.

Any and all volunteers are welcome!! If you would like to sign up for the Bushwhacker Club for one, two or all three dates, please contact Landon Russell by telephone at 910-695-7811 or via email at director@walthour-moss.org. Additional reminders will be posted on our Facebook page and emailed out in August and September.

Thank you for volunteering!



**Mark Your Calendar!
THE BUSHWHACKER CLUB
Fall Work Days**



Sunday, September 11
Sunday, September 18
Sunday, October 2

2011 FALL BENEFIT RIDES



Sunday, October 16
5th Annual Ride for the Horse
to benefit the
U.S. Equine Rescue League
Moor Meadow

Sunday, October 31
19th Annual Hunter Pace
to benefit the
Moore County Hounds
Hobby Field