



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”

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LAND MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF WILDLIFE HABITAT CONTINUES

During the Fall/Winter of 2004, the Foundation continued to work to improve wildlife habitat and enhance the long leaf pine ecosystem on the main Foundation and in the North Country.

Approximately 70 acres in the North Country—just north of Moor Meadow—were burned in November of 2004. This cool season burn substantially reduced the fuel load on the ground and began the process of under story removal. Subsequent warm season burns will be used in the future to further reduce the scrub oak under story. Elsewhere in the North Country, an area that was (as recently as 15 years ago) an open meadow in the “Firestone Tract One” had become a heavily overgrown pine thicket. Thousands of small trees had grown up in a non-sustainable density.

These thickets were mechanically thinned using a rubber-tired Bobcat this fall. Special care was taken to protect the wiregrass and we should see healthy new growth in the summer of 2005. After the work was accomplished the adjacent trails were re-groomed. The meadow will be maintained in an open state through the use of prescribed fire in coming years. It will become a haven for wildlife and its open quality will enrich the visual landscape. Change is always challenging but this area should progress quickly into a beautiful meadow of wire grass and an open cover of long leaf pine. In another



Firestone meadow in North Country after some mechanical thinning and re-grooming of the existing trail system.

project, an area of 150 acres bordered on the south by Five Fingers, west by Carrol's Branch, north by Horse Pen Head and on the east by Firelane Two, was recently thinned of long leaf pine and the scrub oak under story was removed. The basal area (a measurement of tree density) of the pine had, over time, become substantially greater than desirable for the endangered red cockaded woodpecker and other species of plants and animals. The area was carefully marked to maintain the larger and older trees and remove

the smaller tress. A basal area of approximately 60 (which is an optimal density for a stable ecosystem of long leaf pine) was achieved during this effort. This area will rest until 2006 when a cool season burn will be used to continue the restoration process.



Ridge Road area on the main Foundation following mechanical thinning in early January

SAFETY ON THE TRAILS VERY IMPORTANT!

During both these recent projects a concerted effort was made to identify and re-establish the pre-existing trails. **It is most important to stay on the existing trails—particularly in those areas which have been thinned or burned.** Areas that have been thinned or burned can be very hazardous due to remaining stumps and other debris created by the thinning or by “stump holes” left when stumps literally burn out below ground.

The Land Management Committee is making every effort to keep the Foundation safe and “user-friendly.” Please use care when traversing the areas undergoing management. Your cooperation and support of this effort is very much appreciated.

— THE MOSSES' VISION —
AN HISTORICAL PROSPECTIVE OF HOW THE FOUNDATION CAME TO BE

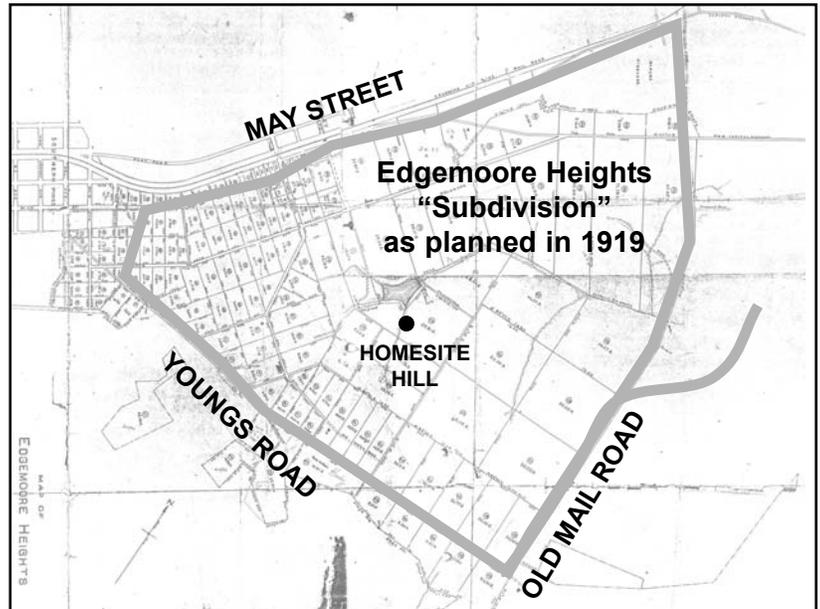
We tend to think of history of the land around us in very short terms—and *land development* as a fairly recent phenomenon. Yet in 1919 *Edgemoore Heights* was recorded in the Moore County Register of Deeds office showing the subdivision of the property of one Henry A Page Jr. You may recognize this area as right in the heart of what is today the main Foundation. The large tract of land to be developed was situated north of Southern Pines (between May Street and Young's Road) and extended to the present day Old Mail Road, including what we now know as Homesite Hill. Another landmark was the lake shown on the map as "Blue Old Mill." This is just below a small pond that appears to be the lake behind Ginnie Moss's home.

Although much of the plan was accomplished in the area near Southern Pines and Manley, most of the outlying area was apparently (and thankfully) never sold in accordance with this plan. Imagine if the 1919 Edgemoore Heights Subdivision had become a reality. What we now know as the main Foundation would never have come into existence.

HOMESITE HILL

"Homesite Hill" was an important purchase for Ginnie and Pappy as it was to become the site of their long awaited home. As Ginnie tells it every time they thought they would build a home there was additional land that needed to be purchased to fulfill their dream. The site on Homesite Hill was covered with scrub oak. Pappy removed the oaks and thinned the pines to no closer than 15 feet spacing. Subsequently this property was maintained by bush hogging each year.

This favorite place on the Walthour Moss Foundation never became the site of the home of Pappy and Ginny. Pappy died in 1976. In 1978, Pappy and Ginnie's dream of the Walthour-Moss Foundation became a physical reality when 1739 acres were gifted to the Foundation from Pappy's estate. Nine years later, in 1987, the Homesite Hill property and another tract (together totaling 566 acres) were gifted to the Foundation by Mrs. Moss. This was a continuation of her long standing generosity to the community and her desire to protect open lands. In 2003 Ginny gifted an



additional adjacent tract of 51 acres to the Foundation which lies along Carroll's Branch. Since the initial gift to the Foundation by Ginnie and Pappy in 1978, Mrs. Moss has made six additional gifts over the following 25 years totaling 768 acres.

THE VISION

Pappy and Ginny Moss began buying land north of Southern Pines in the 1930s while much of it was still open. It took vision, hard work and sacrifice. Remember, this was the height of the Great Depression.

Today, nearly 70 years after the Mosses first began acquiring land, the Walthour Moss Foundation is a nationally-significant wildlife area whose mission it is to preserve the unique longleaf pine eco-system and protect many important species of plants and animals.

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) USES 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE YOUR LOCATION IN THE MAIN FOUNDATION

Through the efforts of Captain Chuck Younger and the members of the Southern Pines Fire Department, a GPS-based (global positioning system) locator system will soon be in place in the main Foundation. The purpose of the system is to aid members of the Southern Pines Fire and Rescue Team to locate an injured person within the Foundation.

To accomplish this, the Foundation has been divided into six major sections. These have been identified with GPS “marker posts” which have been put in place by Captain Younger and his team. Each section will ultimately be subdivided into a number of sub-sections identified by letters, e.g. 6-C or 4-D. There are currently 11 marker posts (numbers/letters) in place on the main Foundation. The marker posts have been entered into Moore County’s 911/GPS system.

When notification of an injured person on the Foundation is received by 911, the caller needs to provide the number/letter of the nearest marker. At that point the



Do you know this spot?

Global Position System marker posts will soon be in place to help you (and emergency rescue personnel) locate any position on the main Foundation.

responder from Southern Pines Fire and rescue will be given the GPS coordinates and will be able to go directly to the correct area to provide aid. This information will be invaluable to the county dispatcher and to emergency personnel who, for the most part, are unfamiliar with the Foundation.

The key will be for those using the Foundation to be aware of which section they are in when the incident occurs. To aid in this process, the county mapping agency is preparing maps of the Foundation with the sections and section markers located. These maps should be available soon and will be provided to Foundation users.

Captain Younger reports that to aid in rescues the SPFD has acquired a 4WD Ford Excursion which will be available to transport EMT and other Emergency personnel directly to the site of an accident.

The GPS system is in the early stages of development and will take a bit of time to get up to full speed. In the meantime, we ask for your understanding as we work to get it in place. And, as always, Foundation users should exercise caution and common sense when out in the woods.

THE FUTURE

It’s hoped that a similar system for the North Country will be developed soon in cooperation with the Vass Fire Department (which has responsibility for FIRE AND RESCUE in the North Country area). Stay tuned!

LAND PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Phase Two of the WMF Land Preservation Campaign continues to make good progress. To date, the campaign to secure the purchase of the Burns/Gregson/Johnson tracts has achieved \$1,154,000 or 37% of its \$3,130,000 goal. A number of significant gifts have been received during the initial stage of the campaign—and have provided momentum for the campaign’s ongoing success.

Providing the leadership for this effort have been members of the Ginnie and Pappy Moss Society. To date over 150 individuals, couples and organizations have become Moss Society members. Moss Society membership is conferred on those generous supporters who have committed, through cash or pledge, \$5000 or more for the support of land acquisition and improvement.

Since the inauguration of the Moss Society in 2002, Moss Society members have played a key role in the success of the Firestone acquisition (417 acres) and the current campaign for the Burns/Gregson/Johnson tracts (250 acres). In addition, nearly a quarter of the original charter Moss Society members have chosen to continue their commitment by becoming ***Sustaining Members of the Ginnie and Pappy Moss Society***. *Sustaining Members* are those generous Moss Society members who, having completed their original gift, have chosen to make a renewed Moss Society commitment of \$5000 or more to the Walthour-Moss Foundation. The ongoing support of ***Sustaining Members*** is helping to ensure that the Foundation continues to be a force for the preservation of open land in the Sandhills. We are pleased to recognize our ***Moss Society Sustaining Members*** (and ALL of our generous *Moss Society* supporters) on the enclosed roster.



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