

With Offices in Southern Pines and Fayetteville

SALT
SECOND QUARTER 2008

Works

An Update for Members and Friends



SALT protects Headwaters of the Black River in Harnett County

Clean drinking water is a key objective of the conservation efforts of the Sandhills Area Land Trust. In order to protect drinking water supplies, it is important that we act now to protect land along the creeks, rivers and ponds in the Sandhills region.

Our treasured wetlands and waterways are able to naturally filter and protect our drinking water supply when adequately buffered with protected natural areas. Unfortunately, we have reached a point where we must intervene in what was once a natural process. In North Carolina, more than 3,500 miles of our rivers and streams do not meet State water quality standards, and more than one-third of North Carolina's wetlands no longer function normally.

In recognition of our efforts to secure riparian buffers along the Cape Fear River, South River, South River, Little River and Rockfish Creek in Cumberland and Harnett County, the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund recently awarded SALT a grant to protect approximately 716 acres of riparian buffer along the Black River resulting in 4 miles of water quality protection. The project, known as Headwater Timber, is an integral part of the Sandhills Area Land Trust's comprehensive River Protection Initiative.

The project site of the Headwater Timber tract is considered to be the headwaters of the Black River, whose waters feed into Rhodes Pond,



through Mingo Swamp and, ultimately, into the South River. Headwater Timber forms an integrated ecological network with Rhodes Pond by serving as the natural filtration for the protection and preservation of the water quality of the Pond. Owned by a group of North Carolina conservation buyers, the Headwater Timber tract is located in Harnett County with a small portion in Cumberland County.

The Headwater Timber tract protects more than our drinking water supply - Rhodes Pond is a site of a rare heronry, which includes breeding populations of the little blue heron, a Cumberland County record, and anhinga. The heronry also supports breeding populations of great blue heron and great egret. Rhodes Pond also contains the only Cumberland County record for the cypress-knee sedge and is one of only five historical North Carolina locations for the river frog, not seen in the State since 1975.

To date, SALT has facilitated the protection of Rhodes Pond, a 450-acre historic millpond on the Black River adjacent to the Headwater Timber tract, and protected 4.5 miles of Cape Fear River buffers south of the project area through CWMTF projects known as the River Oaks Preserve (the new SALT-owned preserve) and River Road Hardwoods.



Perritt Accepts New Challenge

It was a bittersweet moment for the staff and Board of Directors of SALT when Richard Perritt announced he would be leaving the position of Executive Director on August 1, 2008. Although everyone knows how much he will be missed, at the same time, we are happy and excited for Richard, knowing his new position, Executive Director of the "North Carolina Farm Center for Innovation and Sustainability" (NCIFS), will bring exciting new challenges.

NCIFS Board Member Sharon Valentine said, "We are really excited that Richard will head up this highly creative endeavor... a center that will bridge academia and research to farmers and landowners. All kinds of exciting things will be going on! Richard is an extremely talented and gifted conservationist who is going to bring direction to an exciting new venture. We are so fortunate to have him!"

In looking back over his six years with SALT, Richard said "Some of the

most gratifying work for me has been the involvement with a lot of diverse population groups around the region in things like conservation based affordable housing. That's something that professionally doesn't happen very often in the conservation field. We established a partnership with the Blue Springs - Hoke County Community Development Corporation (CDC), through which we successfully identified two sites in the watershed near Rock Fish Creek that had the mix of great affordable housing characteristics and strong natural conservation values. A combination of funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and the CDC construction budget enabled us to bring in Randall Arendt, a nationally recognized green design architect planner. With his assistance, we were able to succeed in protecting the most fragile habitat and water stream areas while planning for the construction of a number of affordable housing units.



Looking forward to his new position, Richard said that the "Center will include a sustainable lodge appropriate to meetings and community conversations, sitting in the high meadow of a six thousand acre site, known formerly as Privateer Farms of Cumberland and Bladen Counties.

Landowner's Outreach Event

On May 10th, the Sandhills Area Land Trust sponsored a Landowners Day and Resource Fair, hosted at the home of Dr. and Mrs. William P. (Pete and Mary) McKay, in Derby, NC. Guests enjoyed a beautiful spring day while learning about programs that might assist them in the management and preservation of their

land. Representatives from federal, state, and county agencies were present to share with the guests a variety of land-use and tax-incentive options.

Pete and Mary's farm and longleaf pine plantation showcased beautifully the benefits of a number of land-stewardship practices they, themselves, have put in place – forestry management, wildlife-habitat development, controlled burning, water-resource protection – all practices that provided an opportunity for the guests to see first hand conservation in action. The Land Trust is grateful to the McKay's for their generosity in sharing their home and their experiences with their neighbors, and for their foresight in managing their own land for the future.



Celebration of Land Success Stories of 2007 Annual Meeting – Cypress Bend Vineyards



On April 12th, members and guests joined the SALT Board of Directors and staff in celebrating SALT's land-protection accomplishments for 2007. The event took place at Cypress Bend Vineyards in Wagram, NC, in conjunction with the winery's Spring Fling and Wine Festival.

Executive Director, Richard Perritt, gave an overview of the land-protection accomplishments in 2007, which included 14 new conservation easements and an additional 1,699 acres protected, bringing the total SALT acres protected to 8,500 acres as of December 31, 2007.

SALT President, Karl Legatski, conducted the business meeting

and election of directors. Two new directors were elected and welcomed to the SALT leadership – Dan Andrews of Fuquay-Varina and Dougald Clark of Fayetteville.

In addition to the "business" of the day, attendees enjoyed a tour of the winery, a "taste" of some of Cypress Bend's finest wines, various arts and crafts vendors "hawking" their wares, delicious food, and live music by the Jim Morgan Jazz Group. The annual meeting was a true celebration of the hard work and outstanding accomplishments of the Sandhills Area Land Trust Board of Directors, Staff and Membership in 2007, and the stage was set for even greater achievement in 2008.



One of the highlights of the annual meeting was the presentation of the 2007 outstanding volunteer awards. This year's recipient for Conservation Volunteer of the Year was Jarvis Hudson, Ph.D., recognized for his valuable research contributions in conducting biological inventories in Cumberland County and for his ongoing development of migratory-songbird breeding data derived from his studies of SALT's newly acquired 142-acre Cape Fear River preserve.

The Professional Conservation Volunteer of the Year award went to both Jan Johnson and Pat Wright of Moonlight Communications for their generous donation of time, talent, and resources necessary to produce an outstanding SALT video that presents the story of the land and culture of the Sandhills and Middle Cape Fear River Region. The SALT story is told in a compelling, yet factual, way that captures the heart and essence of why we work everyday to "save the land that you love." During the Annual Meeting, guests were treated to the premier showing of the Moonlight Communications video.



A New Milestone for SALT – First Full-Time Development Director Hired

Regarding her new job at the Sandhills Area Land Trust, Caroline Parsons said, “The challenge we presently face is that of building a broad donor base from across the six counties we serve to support the operating costs of SALT. While non-restricted operating funds are absolutely necessary for essential expenditures, they are unfortunately the most difficult to raise. Paying the rent or a staff salary is just not as



inviting as writing a check to save a beautiful creek or beloved scenic outdoor site.

When we say that we have a \$7,000,000.00 budget, it gives the impression that we must be easily able to cover all of our needs. The truth is, however, the bulk of that amount comes from project grants, which rarely include funding for overhead and operations. So, like most non-profits, we struggle to cover the day-to-day expenses. Given that projects we manage are very staff-work intensive, any reduction in staff means cutting back on projects at a time when the window is closing on land that can be purchased for

conservation. In another ten years, land values may have risen beyond the reach of a non-profit organization.

The good news is, we are fortunate to have all of the necessary ingredients for fundraising success: a membership that is committed to conservation, an outstanding record of achievement, a critical need for the work we do, and an effective plan for building a new support base. I think it is primarily a matter of getting the message out and talking to enough people.

As the new Director for Development for SALT, Caroline Parsons brings extensive work experience in the field of non-profit management, having served as Executive Director of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, and also as Executive Director of the Fayetteville Animal Protection Society. Earlier work experiences include having served in the Carter Administration as Associate Director for Youth, Education and Senior Citizens in the Carter White House Public Liaison office; as an Assistant to the US Ambassador to Sweden; and as a Special Assistant to the President's Commission on World Hunger. In her spare time, she performs in festivals throughout North Carolina with the well known musical quartet, “The Parsons,” which she and her husband, Jon, formed in 1994. Her favorite pastimes include songwriting, canoeing, and camping.

If you would like to help with the fundraising effort, here a few of the things you could do:

- Help us find opportunities to talk to groups of interested citizens about SALT. If you belong to an organization that is looking for a guest speaker, let us know.
- Consider increasing your membership donation this year. If all of our members could add just a few extra dollars, it would make a big difference.
- Perhaps you would be willing to host a small event at your home on behalf of SALT, and invite us to talk to your friends about SALT to give them the opportunity to become members of this terrific organization.
- Consider making a donation in honor of a friend's special occasion such as a birthday.
- Consider turning a one-time contribution into a three-to five-year pledge.
- Sign up to volunteer for an event, a mailing, or assistance with grant research.

There are so many different ways you could help. If you would like to know more, I would love to talk to you and can be reached at 910-426-7979.

Cumberland County SALT Office Has a New Home

The Cumberland County SALT office has found a wonderful new home at 831 Arsenal Avenue. It is located on the first floor of a historic building on the grounds of the Fayetteville Arsenal Park, overlooking the old arsenal site complete with its ghost tower replica and remnant remains of General Sherman's “March to the Sea” through Fayetteville in March 1865. Stop in and see us ... then take a stroll through the park that celebrates history, culture, and land.

Gordon Rose and his family will always have a special place in our hearts for allowing our SALT office staff to be part of The Rose Group family (now McKim & Creed) for the past few years. While we will miss seeing them each day, we are excited to have found such a wonderful new space and thank Charles Morris of Morris Colyer & Associates, for welcoming us into his office. Bobby Bleecker of Bleecker Motors came to our rescue by generously volunteering the manpower and vehicle to move us to our new location. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful friends, and send many, many thanks to each of you!



The garden that grows plants and community



Out of a true community partnership, SALT's vision of preserving former urban farmland in downtown Fayetteville is quickly becoming a reality. With Fayetteville's PWC stepping forward to donate the water hookup and meter, architect Jeff Blake donating his design skills, and start-up funding being provided by the City of Fayetteville Community Development Program, the Waverly E. Broadwell Family Environmental Education Fund, The Conservation Fund, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, and the Lilly Legacy Foundation, we are well on the way to Fayetteville's first community garden. Soon it will be teeming with fresh vegetables, flowers, herbs and fruits... open to all city residents interested in gardening or just looking for an inner-city place of agricultural and floral beauty to visit.

This project, comprised of 4.5 acres owned by the City of Fayetteville in the downtown Old Wilmington Road area,

is truly destined to be one of the “Jewels of the City” and a source of great pride for our community. Looking at the work of project designer Jeff Blake of Hope Mills, one can see that the resulting gardens will delight all ages and build community for years to come.

With such a great start, we are now ready to begin the real work of BUILDING the garden, and **that's where your help is needed!!** The land only becomes a community garden when, as neighbors, we step forward to join hands and make it happen together. **Donations of building materials, fencing, volunteer labor, and money are needed.** If you have an interest in nutritious foods, city beautification, involvement with the young and young-at-heart, and great exercise... join us in this effort and become a part of “**The Garden That Grows Plants And Community.**”

Sandhills Businesses Support SALT Hobby Field Raffle Party

Special thanks go to the following businesses for their donations of food, beverages and door prizes enjoyed at SALT's Save Hobby Field Raffle Jackpot Party! We couldn't have done it without you and thank you very much:

195 American Fusion Cuisine
Bell Tree
Brats European Bistro
Charles Schwab
Chef Warren's
Food Lion Inc.

The Fresh Market
Granny's Old Fashioned Doughnuts
Harris Teeter Supermarket
Healy Wholesale Co. Inc
Moe's Southwest Grill
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Panera Bread
Papa John's Pizza
San Felipe Restaurante Mexicano
Roly Poly
Sweet Basil
WAL-MART Supercenter Store

Wildflowers of the Sandhills Region

For many years, both visitors and local natural history enthusiasts have sought a field guidebook that specifically addressed the diverse and unique flora of the Sandhills Region... but none existed, not even a rudimentary guide. The exciting news is that SALT has a field guidebook in the making!

In January 2008, the Cumberland Community Foundation awarded SALT a \$25,000 grant for the publication of the **Wildflowers of the Sandhills Region**. This field guidebook will be a comprehensive in-depth documentation of the wildflowers and native flora of the Sandhills Region of the Carolinas and Georgia.

The author, Bruce Sorrie, botanist with the NC Natural Heritage Program and one of the nation's foremost authorities on the Sandhills Region and the Coastal Plain Ecosystem, anticipates the project will take two years to complete. The publication will feature the special endemics unique to this region, local rarities, and common species. Documentation of this understudied region is urgently needed as the Sandhills are under widespread threat due to unchecked urban and suburban sprawl and loss of the globally rare longleaf pine ecosystem.



Wildflower Book grant award – left to right: Bruce Sorrie, Karl Legatski, Candace Williams accept Foundation check

High School students "Sweep" Big Cross Creek

On September 29, 2007, SALT's Hands to Lands Program joined forces with over 100 students from three local high schools in Fayetteville – Jack Britt JROTC, the Fayetteville Academy, and Douglas Byrd High School – to "sweep" clean the waters of Big Cross Creek. The cleanup effort was the final part of a designated three-year/three-part cleanup of the major tributary that flows through the center of historic downtown Fayetteville.



Big Sweep – Garbage Along the Way

Visit SALT's Website to enjoy this newsletter in full color and get information on the latest update of our Calendar of Events at:
www.sandhillslandtrust.org

ATTENTION ALL SALTWorks READERS WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES!

In order to receive timely SALT announcements, reminders or updates of scheduled events and projects, time or date changes of field/canoe trips, and more, we need your correct e-mail address. It will be kept solely in our database and not shared with any other organization. Just e-mail SALT at bmonkman@sandhillslandtrust.org, agreeing to be on our e-mail "hot line" – then look forward to hearing from us!

Thank You for Your Support

Due to the generous support of our donors, SALT has been able to continue to pursue its mission to protect the natural open space, farmland, and waterways of the Sandhills. The names of our donors to date (January – June 2008) are listed below. If your name is not listed and should be, we apologize and hope you will let us know.

FRIENDS BASIC MEMBERSHIP \$30-\$99

Richard and Ann Anclin
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LONGLEAF PINE LEGACY \$5,000-\$9,999

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Fayetteville Observer
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Max Wicker



The Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) is a nonprofit organization formed in 1991. Using a range of voluntary land conservation techniques such as conservation easements, SALT is working to protect the natural areas, farmland, and open space of the Sandhills and the surrounding region. SALT is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

OFFICERS

President	Karl Legatski	Fayetteville
Vice President	Tom Gallagher	Southern Pines
Secretary	Arlene Shachnow	Southern Pines
Treasurer	Jacqueline Westbrook	Southern Pines

BOARD MEMBERS

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Dougald Clark	Fayetteville
Tim Dwyer	Southern Pines
Harry Huberth	Southern Pines
Pete McKay	Derby
Nancy Moore	Southern Pines
Arlene Shachnow	Southern Pines
Hunter Stovall	Southern Pines

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Development Director	Caroline Parsons
Volunteer Coordinator	Sidney Post
Assistant Land Steward	Valerie Alzner
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Volunteer Newsletter Editor – Caroline Parsons
Graphic and Layout Design – Juan & Susan Llanos
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READY FOR A SALT CANOE TRIP? SO ARE WE! JOIN US JUNE 28th!!

SUMMER IS HERE! Help us welcome her as we explore some of the fascinating local waterways right here in our Sandhills region.

This year's canoe paddle will be on historic Rhodes Pond. We will begin our trip at the boat launch at the main entrance of the pond. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 28, and contact the SALT office to reserve your space. As always, we will provide everything you need for the trip...including a delicious gourmet picnic lunch!

Don't forget your insect repellent, a hat, sunscreen, and bottled water! We'll supply the rest. Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet. The total cost – including canoe, equipment, and lunch – is \$25.00/person.

To sign up call 910-483-9028 (the Cumberland County SALT office) or 910-695-4323 (the Southern Pines SALT office).

