

With Offices in Southern Pines and Fayetteville

SALT

FIRST QUARTER 2009

Works

An Update for Members and Friends



Naked Creek Farm Protected in Richmond County

The mission of the Sandhills Area Land Trust is to protect and preserve our valuable working lands – both forest and agricultural. In December 2008, SALT completed the protection of a 332-acre farm through a donated conservation easement. The farm, owned by Allen and Rhonda Hogan of Derby, NC, is the third conserved tract in SALT's Naked Creek Protection Initiative in Richmond County. This farm, in conjunction with the previously protected 54-acre tract owned by Greg and Tammy Lyne and the 79-acre tract owned by Pete and Mary McKay, form a significant protection effort along this valuable waterway. Naked Creek, ranked as the only outstanding rated water source in the Sandhills, is part of the Drowning Creek Watershed, which is the water supply for southern Moore County and a high-priority protection area for SALT.

The Hogan farm conservation easement is a working lands easement whereby the intent of the protection effort is to keep the land in operation in perpetuity ensuring a revenue stream for the present landowner and future generations. The land is currently being farmed in high-quality coastal Bermuda hay production with a working forest



A ponds on the property

management component in its field buffer areas and along Naked Creek. Another significant attribute of the project is that it abuts the Sandhills Gameland and is home to relic red-cockaded woodpecker cavity trees nestled among a stand of old growth longleaf pine used today as a foraging area for the woodpeckers. In addition, protection of the farm furthers the long-range plans of the N.C. Sandhills Conservation Partnership, a collaboration among various federal, state and non-profit conservation groups such as SALT for the purpose of conserving the vanishing longleaf pine ecosystem and recovering the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker in the North Carolina Sandhills.

SALT would like to thank the Hogan family for their stewardship of their farm and looks forward to a wonderful working relationship in the years to come.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker plaque on longleaf pine



Coastal Bermuda Hayfields

from the Executive Director . . .



Dan Bell,
SALT Executive Director

It seems that we are hearing quite a bit about “change” lately. Ironically, the theme of change is one that the Sandhills Area Land Trust and our conservation partners have used often over the past several years. In the past decade we have noticed and talked about significant changes across our landscape—our population, our land use, our farms, our forests, our waterways and our open space. A recent study estimated that North Carolina loses 325 acres of farms and forest every day, and we will lose another two million acres by 2027, when our population is expected to grow by 30 percent.

Meticulously, over the past seventeen years, the work of the Sandhills Area Land Trust has focused on protecting the natural beauty and healthy environment that we all appreciate. We have permanently protected nearly 9000 acres, held countless landowner and community outreach events, and worked with partners to protect sources of clean water and quality wildlife habitat.

“Your investment in SALT ensures a conservation legacy that will last forever, long after the economy has rebounded and we are faced with the population and land-use changes that we know are coming. Investing in conservation . . . makes good economic sense.”

The past year was another successful year for SALT, with several noteworthy accomplishments. We:

- Protected more than 500 acres through conservation easements on Naked Creek and the Cape Fear River;
- Signed a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Army to support conservation of thousands of acres around the Deep River in the next five years;
- Partnered with the Town of Southern Pines to facilitate conservation projects on Drowning Creek to ensure quality drinking water for southern Moore County;
- Continued work to develop public recreational access to SALT’s Cape Fear River holdings and open the region’s first community garden in Fayetteville; and
- Improved the professionalism of SALT by hiring a full-time Director of Development and new Executive Director.

SALT already has a host of fantastic projects underway for 2009 which will more than double the amount of land SALT protected this past year—and we need your help. Despite the economic situation, it is important to remember that conservation simply cannot wait. When an opportunity to protect land presents itself and it is not taken, that opportunity may never come along again. Your investment in SALT ensures a conservation legacy that will last forever, long after the economy has rebounded and we are faced with the population and land-use changes that we know are coming.

Investing in conservation also makes good economic sense. Protecting farms and forests protects local jobs—such as those in sawmills or farm equipment dealerships—and promotes the local economy. Securing clean drinking water is an investment in our public health and ultimately reduces the treatment costs before water flows out of your faucet. Permanently protecting floodplains from development reduces the expense and damage from flooding or other natural disasters, and preserves a unique recreational amenity that draws visitors to our area.

Although times are tough for all of us, we hope you choose to continue supporting the great work of the Sandhills Area Land Trust. SALT needs to be poised to capitalize on that one-time opportunity to protect land when the chance presents itself—otherwise we all lose as our quality of life, our natural heritage and our open space are diminished.

Dan Bell
SALT Executive Director



Fayetteville Community Garden Prepares to Open

After three years of planning, SALT is pleased to announce that the Fayetteville Community Garden, located in downtown Fayetteville off Old Wilmington Road, is being prepared to open in time for spring/summer gardening!

On February 28th and again March 21st, interested gardeners will have the opportunity to gather together to hear about the garden, register for their garden plots, and begin to build the leadership that will make the garden sustainable for years to come. Phase One is underway and will involve the installation of the irrigation system and the garden road, which is slated for completion in late April in time for planting. Phase Two will follow with the construction of a 42' garden pavilion and four potting sheds located within the major garden areas.

We welcome volunteer workers and donations of building materials, plant material (fruit trees, shrubs, ornamental plants, etc), garden tools, hoses, and the like . . . and, of course, **MONEY!!!**

There is something for everyone in a garden . . . consider what contribution you would like to make.

For further garden information, contact the SALT—Fayetteville office at 483-9028.



Garden architect Jeff Blake with a model of the Community Pavilion.

2009 Clean Water Management Trust Fund Projects

One of the major funding tools used by SALT to conserve land is the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. This fund, established by the General Assembly in 1996 and available to local governments, state agencies and conservation non-profits, provides funding for projects that specifically address the protection of water quality. SALT has an impressive track record with awards from this fund resulting in the protection of many miles of riparian buffers along waterways within the Sandhills and Middle Cape Fear Region. SALT’s lineup for 2009 includes three projects in Moore County – one along the Deep River, one in northern Moore County near Ft. Bragg, and one along Drowning Creek.

The Deep River project is a 63-acre tract located on the Deep River in northern Moore County, approximately 2.3 miles west of High Falls and immediately upstream of the Bear Creek junction. The proposed project is adjacent to the Johnson’s Ford/Buzzard Rock complex, a regionally significant natural heritage site that is considered by many to be the “crown jewel” of the Deep River as it

is the premier white water recreational site on the river making it a high priority protection area for the newly authorized unit of the North Carolina State Parks System – the Deep River State Trail.



Deep River – Johnson’s Ford/Buzzard Rock complex

Nearby, McLendons Creek contains one of the most distinctive floodplains in North Carolina due to a series of very small “oxbow” ponds – areas where the stream breached across the neck of a sharp meander, cutting off the flow of water and leaving a pond in its place. Here, SALT is seeking funding to protect a 221-acre tract as the cornerstone of our newest initiative in northern Moore County. The property has gently rolling terrain and a mature hardwood forest, and protects more than 1.5 miles of riparian buffer.

Finally, SALT is continuing our decade-long initiative to protect Drowning Creek corridor, which is the drinking water supply for southern Moore County. SALT has requested funds to protect another two tracts in the Richmond County headwaters area, adding to more than eleven miles of contiguous conservation lands on Drowning Creek.

Moore County Event – Supporters Meet and Greet SALT's new Executive Director

In early February, a small group of SALT supporters and their friends gathered at the Country Club of North Carolina to enjoy camaraderie and meet our new executive director, Dan Bell. While sampling a number of quite interesting wines and exquisite hors d'oeuvres, the guests were treated to Dan's enjoyable presentation recounting SALT's 17-year history, its early work, recent accomplishments and both immediate and long-range plans. Dan also stressed the importance of broad community involvement.

Before taking questions, SALT's newest video (produced by Moonlight Communications of Fayetteville) was shown, featuring the unique and beautiful Sandhills region and SALT's efforts to preserve and protect this area as a legacy to our children and grandchildren. Both the talk and the video were enjoyed by everyone and stimulated interesting questions, conversations, and, we hope, far-reaching interest.



SALT Executive Director Dan Bell visits with Marshall Berg and General Shachnow



Don Bryant, Angela Baldwin, and Reginald Miller



Karl Legatski and Joe MacDonald



Save a Tree!

Send your E-MAIL ADDRESS to SALT!

Your E-mail will help us cut down on the amount of paper we use! It is one small but meaningful step all of us can take to make our world more sustainable, and beyond that, postage can be costly. We will never share your E-mail address with anyone else, and you will receive time SALT announcements, updates of scheduled events and projects, time or date changes of field/canoe trips, and more! Please send your E-mail address to bmonkman@sandhillslandtrust.org – and look forward to hearing from us!

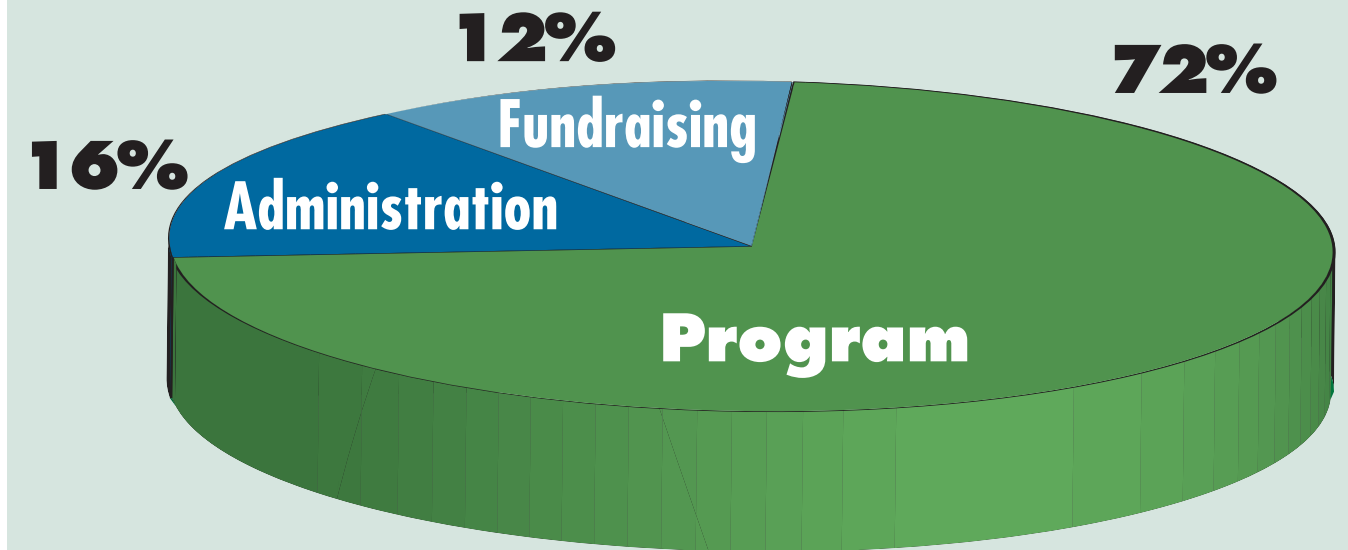
Visit SALT's Website to enjoy this newsletter in **full color** and get information on the latest update of our Calendar of Events at:
www.sandhillslandtrust.org

Thanks to your generosity... 2008 was a banner year for SALT!

Looking back, the year started with a celebration of the impressive increase in the acres of land we had protected during 2007. We also realized that in focusing so much attention on land protection, we had neglected to build a sufficient donor base to support our work, and we were

expenses, with the rest going to administrative and fundraising efforts.

As we look to 2009, there are many more miles of riverbank needing conservation easements in order to secure clean drinking water for our future. And the fact



struggling to meet operating costs such as staff salaries, utilities and rent.

In response to our critical need for unrestricted dollars, an anonymous donor stepped forward with a matching grant for \$50,000 that really got the ball rolling! You responded to the challenge and by the end of the year, we had more than doubled the amount of unrestricted funds raised in 2007.

You made it possible for SALT to successfully continue our land conservation efforts in the Sandhills. Thanks to your help we have protected our treasured spaces and wildlife habitats, and placed conservation easements on miles of river banks to provide a buffer that ensures quality drinking water for communities in our region.

The following chart illustrates how we were responsible stewards of your contributions in 2008. Nearly three quarters of your contributions went directly to program

that North Carolina loses 325 acres of farms and forest every day is a reminder of how critical it is that the lands we treasure be preserved now. Conservation simply cannot wait!

Your contribution in 2009 is more important than ever. While the current financial environment will make it difficult to raise funds for the best of causes, this same environment will slow the rise of land prices, making property affordable for a land trust acquisition. Within ten years, the price of properties is expected to rise beyond the ability of a non-profit organization's budget.

We need your help! Please consider making the Sandhills Area Land Trust one of your special projects in 2009, and together we can protect our special lands for our children, forever.

Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

Initial Introduction and Expansion Range

Chinese Privet was introduced into the U.S. from China as a garden plant in 1952. It has been widely planted for hedges and has since escaped cultivation spreading throughout the Southeast and Midwest. Chinese Privet is usually found in bottomlands, low woods, streamsides and disturbed areas. Chinese Privet is an extremely aggressive shrub forming dense, impenetrable thickets that can shade out the herbaceous layer altering the natural species composition and community structure of natural areas.

Description and Biology

Privet is a large evergreen shrub up to 15 feet tall with small elliptic, smooth-edged leaves arranged oppositely. Leaves are thick with a glossy upper surface and a pale green lower surface. Midrib of each leaf is hairy. Small white flowers in clusters at the ends of branches bloom in June and July. Small black fruits ripen in August and September.

Prevention and Control

If an infestation of Chinese Privet is caught early, the possibility of successful control and eradication is good. Well-established thickets of privet can be controlled but complete eradication is difficult.

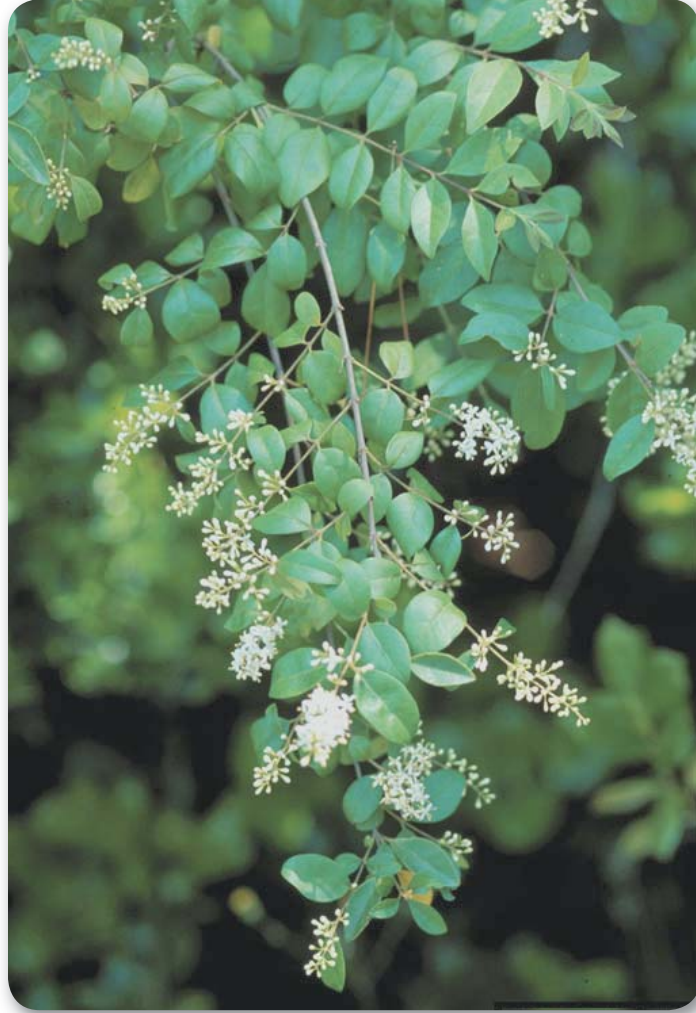
Privet can be removed manually or by herbicides or a combination of the two. Consult a professional for the best method of removal.

Summarized from:

Invasive Exotic Plants of North Carolina by Cherri Smith

N.C. Department of Transportation 2008

<http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/pe/neu/NEUProcedures/default.html>.



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The Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) is a non-profit 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.

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Thank You for Your Support

The following names reflect contributions made to SALT between the months of January 2008 and February 2009 and represent over \$225,000 in unrestricted funds, project support, and in-kind gifts. If your name is not listed and should be, please let us know. (Asterisked names indicate that the individual is now deceased.)

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ANNUAL MEETING

A Day at Reservoir Park, Southern Pines - April 18, 2009 - 10 am to 2 pm

- See what SALT has done!
- Meet SALT's new Executive Director
- Board Elections – the members vote
- SALT's Plans for the Future
- A Picnic Lunch
- A Guided Nature Hike on a SALT Conservation Easement
- Wear comfortable shoes

Register
TODAY


REGISTER NO LATER THAN APRIL 9TH

You may return this card; call our office (910-695-4323) or email – ntalton@sandhillslandtrust.org your information.

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