

# TPO News, Events and Opportunities



## Upcoming Events

### **July 14, 6:00**

Town Council meeting, Town Hall. Tree Peace will be presenting a check.

### **July 15, 10:00**

Regular Tree Peace Meeting at Middleton Park in front of the Community Center

**July 16 8:30.** Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity Landscape Day, 8032 Fuller Court, Leland, NC 28541

### **August 11 8:30**

Tree Peace Beach Sweep with OKI Beach Beautification, place TBA

### **August 19 10:00.**

Regular Tree Peace Meeting at Middleton Park in front of the Community Center

### **September 17 6:30 - 8:30**

Native Plant Festival New Hanover County Arboretum with NCSU Cooperative Extension

## Southport Man Threatens to Shoot Any That Would Harm Tree

*Circa 1953 As Told by Jimmy Moore*

The Howe Street widening project had begun and the tree had to go - or so said the mayor and the road crew. One gentleman had other ideas for the tree that shaded the front of his house in the age before air conditioning.



***Jimmy has had many roles in his 84 years in Southport and Oak Island including husband to Yaupon Mayor Mae Moore, Shrimp Boat Captain and Airport Manager.***

The road crew refused to proceed while the man sat on his front porch with a gun across his knees. He aimed to follow through on his threat it seemed. The foreman told the mayor he better do something about it if he wanted his road widened. The mayor complained to the sheriff who reluctantly paid his friend, the tree vigilante, a visit.

The man was invited to the jail where he had to stay for 48 hours while the massive Live Oak tree was cut down and removed and the blacktop laid.

Southport was a lot like fictional Mayberry in 1953 and you can imagine a convivial time in the hoosegow... a checkerboard atop a cracker barrel and a glass of sweet tea to cool tempers.

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## About Us

Tree Peace OKI is a 509 (c) (3) non profit incorporated in the State of North Carolina dedicated to promoting and educating about the value of trees to Oak Island, NC. We may endeavor to influence legislation for that purpose but we may not support any candidates or political parties.

## Contact us

We meet the third Wednesday every month at 10:00 a.m. Message us on our Tree Peace OKI Facebook page.

## Our Officers

Phil Dudley, President

Paula Byerly, Vice President

Eileen Soderberg, Treasurer

David Merkle, Secretary

Judy Reid, Events Coordinator

John Schweikart, Chief Information Officer

Ann White, Membership Chairperson

## Join or Donate to Tree Peace OKI

at [treepeaceoki.org](http://treepeaceoki.org)

A one year membership is only \$20

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Giant oaks were everywhere in Southport in 1953 and the roads went around them. You see some of that today in East Brown Street, Atlantic Avenue and West Nash Street in Southport. It is the price of 'progress' but don't you wish more were saved? The live Oak can live to 600 years old, many of these giants are just middle-aged.

## THE WILLIAMSON TRACT

### A Longleaf Pine Forest

*In June, 1995, Richard LeBlond, Principal Scientist for the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program prepared the document "Inventory of the Natural Areas and Rare Species of Brunswick County, North Carolina. "The purpose of the inventory was to identify the most significant natural areas, describe their features, and document the rare species associated with the areas. Below are excerpts from the published report:*

**INTRODUCTION:** The primary objective of the Brunswick County natural areas inventory is to identify areas of outstanding natural significance. These areas contain the best examples of natural habitats and/or locations of rare plants and animals.

Criteria used to determine significant sites were (1) the quality and significance of the natural features within an area, and (2) the overall integrity of the area. All identified sites were then ranked according to biological importance, using

## ***THE WILLIAMSON TRACT continued***

criteria developed by the NHP and The Nature Conservancy. Depending upon the global or statewide rarity of the most critical species and natural features at a site, it was ranked as having national, statewide, regional, or countywide significance.

*The Boiling Spring Lakes Wetland Complex (BSLWC), which includes the Williamson Tract, ranks of national significance.*

**SIGNIFICANT FEATURES:** 1. This stand-alone macrosite contains an outstanding assemblage of natural community types, including the global distributional majority of two community variants: the Wet Pine Flatwoods *Leiophyllum* Variant, and the Pine Savanna *Pleea* Flats Variant. Other community types and variants present are High Pocosin, Pond Pine Woodland, Pine Savanna Wet Spodosol Variant, Wet Pine Flatwoods Wet Spodosol Variant, Coastal Fringe Sandhill, and Xeric Sandhill Scrub Coastal Fringe Variant. **The combination of all of these community types in fair to excellent condition over a large, contiguous area is remarkable, and not repeated elsewhere at this scale.**

A variety of geomorphic formations contribute to the diversity of natural communities and species in this nationally significant megasite. Small to large Carolina bays are scattered throughout. These features are elliptical basins surrounded by arcuate sand ridges called bay rims. The basins typically support pocosin communities, and the rims support communities dominated by longleaf pine. A relict dune ridge-and-swale system formed by an ancient ocean shoreline is found south of the Boiling Spring Lakes area. Like the Carolina bays, the dune ridges support longleaf pine communities, and the swales support pocosin, with streams forming in the larger swales.

Several types of longleaf pine communities occur on the Carolina bay rims, relict dunes, low interstream terraces, and sandhills. Sites with wetter mineral soils support Pine Savanna (two variants) and Wet Pine Flatwoods (two variants). The Pine Savanna has among the highest species richness of any temperate North American natural community, and supports more rare species than any other community type in North Carolina.

***THE WILLIAMSON TRACT continued***

**In an assessment of longleaf pine communities within the southeastern Piedmont and southern coastal plain of North Carolina, this portion of the BSLWC received the highest assessment score based on rare plant and animal potential, diversity, and size (Carter, 1992). Twenty-nine other sites were ranked in this assessment.**

The BSLWC is characterized as a non-riverine wetland with inclusions of upland sand ridges, remnants of ancient sand dunes, and swales of shallow peat. Many Carolina bays punctuate the terrain throughout the complex.... The longleaf pine community has adapted to survive, and even thrive, in areas prone to periodic fires. There are several animal species that have co-evolved with this fire-maintained ecosystem. The fox squirrel is dependent on green longleaf cones for food. The larvae of the southern chocolate angle moth feed exclusively on longleaf needles. Protected and rare species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, northern pine snake, mimic glass lizard) the Carolina gopher frog and Bachman's sparrow all thrive in the longleaf pine community. Approximately 600 species of North Carolina's flowering plants are found primarily in longleaf pine communities and one in four rare plant species is an associate of the longleaf pine.

**The rarity and extraordinary diversity of endangered plant and animal species within the Williamson Tract demands that this land be protected and conserved to the greatest extent possible.**

Article submitted by Bruce Pitt

## Recognizing our Sponsors!

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Oak Island NC



*A multi-generation Oak Island family donated \$1,000.00 to continue our efforts to preserve and restore the tree canopy. Anonymously.*

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