

October 29, 2010



PO Box 144, Fayetteville NC 28302
910.484.9098

www.sustainablesandhills.org

Dear Southern Pines Garden Club:

Sustainable Sandhills is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the eight county region surrounding Fort Bragg. Through education, demonstration and collaboration, we are changing the ways we live, work and play. Of the eight program areas in which we work, our Green Schools program is particularly exciting in Moore County. It is in support of this program that we reach out to you and your organization.

Sustainable Sandhills was recently awarded a **Student Energy Internship Program (SEIP)** grant from the **NC Energy Office** to fund a group of recently graduated NC College and University Interns to implement an expanded SS Green Schools program in the public school districts of the Sandhills region in 2010-11. We have placed a full-time Green Schools Intern (an NCSU graduate from Moore County!) in the Moore County School district to implement energy and water conservation, solid waste reduction, and environmental education programs. With your help, we will implement a "Bio-Blitz" program for Southern Pines Elementary School students.

This Bio-Blitz will introduce children to the diversity of plant and animal species in their own backyard. For this program, we will develop a set of lessons, each focusing on a specific species or groups of species found in Southern Pines and the Sandhills Region. Each lesson will be led by a local and regional expert who can educate the students on the natural history and conservation efforts of those plants and animals. For example, a local native plant expert could instruct the students on some of the special native species found in Southern Pines and the students could catalog the diversity and number of these plants in the area around the school. Much of this work could be done in and around Southern Pines, underscoring the natural diversity that exists in populated neighborhoods.

Our objective is to enlighten students to the unique natural world around them and to stress the importance of protecting and nurturing our special Sandhills Region.

Your consideration of a donation in the amount of \$2500 would allow Sustainable Sandhills to organize this program with our local elementary school students.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon M. Parsons".

Jon Parsons
Executive Director, Sustainable Sandhills
jonparsons@sustainablesandhills.org