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Active Effort, Not Talk!

Over the weekend Coast Guardsmen from the Coast Guard cutter Chilula, based at Fort Macon, and 33 Boy Scouts accompanied by five adult Scout leaders from Troops 201 in Beaufort and 283 in Morehead City planted 65,000 pine seedlings at Cape Lookout.

Over the past five years several people, including the Scouts, have been involved in planting seedlings at the Cape. Some of those people include Les and Sally Moore, who operate the Cape Lookout Sports Center; Sam Bass and Charlie Reeves, both of Sanford, and Tony Seamon Jr. of Morehead City.

Purpose of planting the seedlings is

to stabilize the soil and build soil composition to make it fertile to grow other things.

Almost anything worthwhile is beset with some difficulty. This holds true with planting tree seedlings at Cape Lookout. Persons who were supposed to know said the seedlings could not thrive in the sand. They have. While some have died, the majority of the trees have survived. Some are now 12 feet tall.

In a letter to assistant State Forester Chamblee written in December, H. A. (Buck) Tate, field forester at the Claridge State Forest Nursery at Goldsboro, had these comments worthy of public attention:

"It is not a certain thing that any action taken by man will influence the inexorable progress of change by wind and sea; however, it is most unusual to encounter a group of individuals such as Mr. Seamon and his friends, who are willing to spend time and money to attempt a project so difficult and yet possibly vital to the continued existence of an unexcelled oceanside recreation area.

"Their efforts are not motivated by personal gain, but rather by a love for 'The Cape' and the intangible and tangible values to kindred souls for whom the Cape holds uncanny fascination. They do not stand back and complain that 'they' ought to do something about the Cape eroding away, but instead step forward with active efforts."

We agree with Mr. Tate and applaud Mr. Seamon and his friends.



Tony Seamon Jr., right, shows a friend, Morrison Smith, Indian Springs, new pine growth at the Cape.