



Island Report

Communication, Advocacy and Protection of BHI Property Values

3rd in a Series — Welcome New Property Owners!

As you read in our previous installment of this series, Bald Head Association (BHA) has seen a dramatic turnover in Bald Head Island property owners in the last few years. In fact, 45% of properties have turned over from 2018 through May 31, 2022.

Here's a brief recap. First, BHA would like to welcome its new members. You become a BHA member once you close on a house or lot. We work for you, and BHA's Board of Directors (six members) and volunteers (currently a total of 54) of seven committees are your neighbors. BHA is Bald Head Island's largest property owners' association, representing approximately 2,000 members. The original vision of "living in harmony with nature" is still BHA's point of reference, with BHA's Covenants guiding that principle, utilizing the Design Guidelines.

The first article in this series covered BHA and its environmental stewardship of Bald Head Island. Last month's article covered what BHA does for its members on an everyday basis, including BHA's overall role of helping protect the value and aesthetics of property on Bald Head Island.

This month's focus is on communication. In BHA's Covenants under its functions, the second item states, "To communicate the actions, decisions and activities of the Association and Bald Head Island events (deemed by the Board to be of general interest) to its members." We take pride in providing our members with timely, credible information in a professional manner.

After a property sale closes, BHA mails the new owner a Welcome Package. We encourage you to please read your Welcome Package contents! And keep the information for handy reference. It's full of essential information including:

- Living on a barrier island (such as *BHI Basics* and *The Story About Understory*).



- New owner first steps 1-2-3-4.
- How to stay informed with the *Island Report*, BHA's *Compass* email bulletins, BHA's website (www.baldheadassociation.com), BHA's YouTube channel and social media.
- How to help preserve BHI's delicate ecosystem for generations to come. This resource sheet has tips to help prevent any of BHA's top three violation categories — trees/landscaping, Common Area and lighting — as well as reminders about staying off the dunes, sea turtle nesting season, no fishing in any BHI lagoons, help prevent and pick up litter, etc.
- Stay in touch with BHA. Your contact details help us both stay in touch. Sending us your email address kick-starts an internal process to invite you to set up your owner portal and sign up for BHA's *Compass* email bulletins.

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ARC Corner

Architectural Review Committee

Ask ARC before any work begins!

- Planning a renovation project or new construction?
- Wanting to change outdoor lighting or fixtures?
- Thinking about cutting/trimming trees or vegetation?
- Considering any landscape changes?

ARC office — open by appointment only

Email Fran Pagliaro, ARC Coordinator, at fran@baldheadassociation.com or

Sharon Beasley, ARC Associate, at sharon@baldheadassociation.com or

for urgent ARC matters, call 910-477-7246.

For all questions about trees and vegetation, email trees@baldheadassociation.com.



NO weed eaters

Design Guidelines 26th Edition



The newly revised Design Guidelines was approved by BHA's Board of Directors on September 9, 2022, and is now in effect.

Click this QR code for the document link.

Don't forget to try the handy keyword search function (click "CTRL" + "F").

Schedule Your ARC Appointment

In order for ARC staff to best help all members, the ARC requests that you call or email ahead and make an appointment. Our goal is to assist property owners with all of your construction/renovation/landscaping questions, which can take anywhere from a few minutes to a couple of hours. By scheduling an appointment, staff can prepare any necessary files before the meeting and organize daily meetings to help reduce wait times.

We're here to help! ARC staff is available by phone and email to assist you.

For any questions and to schedule an appointment, contact ARC Coordinator Fran Pagliaro at 910-457-4676, ext. 22 or fran@baldheadassociation.com.

For ARC Associate Sharon Beasley, call 910-457-4676, ext. 23 or email sharon@baldheadassociation.com.



Holiday Decorations

For upcoming holidays such as Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, some property owners may be wondering about exterior decorations on Bald Head Island and what is compliant with the Design Guidelines.

Here are some important points to be aware of for any outdoor decorations you are considering. Visit www.baldheadassociation.com for the Design Guidelines. "Decorative Items" are on page 116. You can also perform a key word search by clicking "CTRL+F" once the document is fully open, to bring up the search window.

- All exterior decorative items such as planters, statuary, water features, feeders, wind chimes, birdbaths and other ornamental items and structures must be harmonious with the community aesthetic, site, home and surrounding environment.
- All exterior decorative items (including temporary holiday decorations) must be constructed of natural and organic materials and blend seamlessly within the home and landscape design. Colors should complement the natural surroundings. Holiday novelty decorations like blowups and items that are inconsistent with this guideline are not allowed. See additional information under Lighting.



- These exterior decorative items must be few in number and consistent with the general subdued and natural character of the Bald Head Island conservation consciousness.

Regarding exterior holiday lighting specifically, here is the guideline (on page 121 of the Design Guidelines):

- Holiday lighting is permitted from November 15 to January 15 only. Moderation is recommended. No holiday or string lighting is to be used for exterior decoration any other time during the year, including clear or white lights, nor is it permitted to be used to illuminate any exterior steps, porches, arbors, structures, etc., any other time of year.



BHA President's Letter ~ Alan Briggs

The Next Steps

In August I wrote about "Getting a good start." I explained the basic process the Board follows on getting underway in a new project. There are four basic steps we follow to get started:

1. The first thing we do is get the facts.
2. The second thing we do is consider whether or not the matter is our business or, as I have said in the past, is this something in our sandbox.
3. The third thing we do is we discuss it among and between the members of the Board and our Executive Director.
4. The fourth thing we do is we seek to inform our members of the issues.

Okay, so what do we do thereafter? Well, the easy and correct answer is, "It depends."

The Fifth Thing we do "depends."

Let me discuss an example. Let's take the one with which we are currently focused — the Ferry/Transportation System. What do we do now, after Step Four is completed?

First, we informed our members. But like last year, we find that informing our members is not a singular event. We don't just send out a *Compass* email bulletin containing the latest filings with the NC Utilities Commission (NCUC) and hold an Informational Session, as we did on July 27, 2022.

While that is a good start, it is only the beginning. The facts of which we need to inform our members keeps growing. New facts happen each day or week. So, we keep up the delivery of information to our members — daily, weekly and/or as needed.

We then did a survey of our members to see if the facts which they had received so far were sufficient for them to form an opinion about the issues.

The results of the survey were very helpful to us, the Board. Seventy percent of you said you wanted the NCUC to regulate the parking lot and the barge. Thirty percent of you said you had not yet formed an opinion or needed more information before you could decide what to do.

All this was exceptionally helpful. In addition, we received many, many comments from you. All of this was very helpful.

The Sixth Step we take is to listen to and understand what our members think about these issues.

We asked our members their opinions. They spoke to us. We listened.

The next thing that happened in the NCUC proceedings was

to file our draft direct testimony for Docket A-41 Sub 21, the proceeding in which the NCUC has been asked by the Village to regulate the parking lot and barge. We did that on

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Signals *By Alan Briggs*

it is 8:00am
it is time
scout knows it is time
for the morning dog walk

race to the beach
look for buddies
four legged buddies
listen for the sounds

yellow labs chocolate labs
goldens great danes
french bulldogs
you name it
put a doodle on the end

all sizes all colors
all fun all play
they know how to play
watch for signals

one goes into a crouch
the front legs go straight out
on the ground
the hind end goes up

the other looks
then sits
this response says "yes"
let's play

their eyes meet
they are off to the races
chase the ball
play keep away

jump in the waves
jump on each other
suma wrestle
race up the beach

they play so well
they have fun
every day
in every way

there is a lot
we could learn
from just watching
our dogs at play.

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Editorial Policy

Letters to the Editor and articles written by property owners about BHI issues and experiences are encouraged, subject to the Content Approval guideline as well as the following space guidelines:

(1) The maximum length of a letter for publication in the *Island Report* will be 250 words. This limit will be strictly enforced. If the article or letter exceeds that length, the contributor may be granted more space by the Communications Associate or Executive Director, if appropriate. (2) Any individual will be limited to one letter every six months. BHA reserves the right to edit letters in the interests of accuracy and civility or to publish a letter as written, followed by a correction by the editor. In the interest of covering diverse topics and opinions, BHA reserves the right to select among submissions for publication. For the full *Island Report* Editorial Policy, www.baldheadassociation.com/about-bha. Deadlines are the 1st of the month for the following month's issue.



Village of BHI Updates

Flood Protection

The Village of Bald Head Island participates in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS).

The CRS is a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding NFIP standards. Participating in the program can result in the reduction of flood insurance premiums and reduction of flood damage to property, strengthens and supports the insurance aspects of the NFIP and encourages a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

The Village remains at a Class 7 rating. This means all federal flood insurance policyholders on Bald Head Island are eligible for a 5-15% discount on their NFIP premiums. This information has been sent to all Write Your Own (WYO) Principal Coordinators and National Flood Insurance Program Direct Servicing Agents. Since this is a fairly new designation for BHI, you may want to follow up with your insurance agent to make sure that the discount is applied at renewal.



One of the CRS activities that the Village has implemented is the Program for Public Information (PPI). Including the following flood information in this issue of the *Island Report* is one of the Village's public information initiatives. Additionally, all of the

By Carin Faulkner, Village Public Information Officer

information below is available on the Village's website at <https://villagebhi.org/residents-owners/learn-about/flood-protection>, along with several downloadable brochures.

History of Flooding in Bald Head Island

The Village of Bald Head Island is bordered by the Cape Fear River on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the south and east. To the north, the Village is bordered by wetlands in the Bald Head Island State Natural Area.

Flooding in Bald Head Island may be the result of thunderstorm events or heavy rain. Due to its vulnerable coastal location, the Village is also susceptible to flood impacts from hurricanes, such as those experienced during Hurricane Florence, as well as coastal wave action, beach dune erosion, high tide flooding and sea-level rise.

Being Prepared Is Your Best Defense Against a Flood. How Do You Prepare for a Flood?

Step 1: Know Your Flood Hazard

Regulated floodplains are illustrated on inundation maps called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FIRMs are the official maps for a community on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has delineated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), which represent the areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual chance flood event. On average, structures located within the SFHA have a 26% chance of flooding during the life of a standard 30-year mortgage.

You can view flood risk information for your property online at the North Carolina Flood Risk Information Center portal (<http://fris.nc.gov>). You can also contact the Village's Development Services Director at 910-457-9700.

Properties located outside of the SFHA are not guaranteed to be safe from flooding.

Step 2: Insure Your Property

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowners' insurance policy. Bald Head Island participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes federally backed flood insurance available for all structures in the Village regardless of whether or not they are located within a SFHA. Coverage is available for the building itself as well as its contents. Renters are highly encouraged to purchase flood insurance for their contents. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. That means now is the best time to buy flood insurance.

Contact your local insurance agency for more information. Additional information can be found online at www.floodsmart.gov or by calling 1-888-379-9531.

Step 3: Protect Yourself and Your Family During a Weather Event

Tune-in to local commercial radio or television stations (WHQR 91.3 FM and WAAV 980 AM) or NOAA weather radio frequencies (162.550). Purchase a Weather Alert Radio to stay informed of changing conditions. Look for and adhere to all posted warnings.



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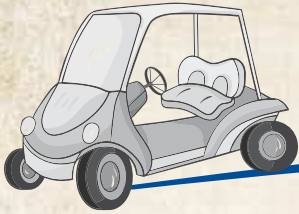


JONATHAN PEELE
President



JOSH WHITAKER
Vice President

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Ride Along Series — BHI's Turtle Patrol

By Patrick Wirth, Guest Author

There are some folks on this Island whom you'll rarely encounter in the waking hours. Even though we may never meet them, these invisible guardians are a major part of what makes Bald Head Island so special. Paul Hillbrand has been at the helm of the BHI Conservancy's Sea Turtle Protection Program for four seasons. He has his Master's in Sea Turtle Biology and ten years of experience working with sea turtles in many settings across the East Coast and Caribbean.

I first met Mr. Hillbrand on the porch of the BHI Conservancy campus in the light of late afternoon. Well, afternoon for me. Paul's biological clock read the equivalent of 4:00am for us non-nocturnal folk. Beach remnants still hugging his hands, legs and unshod feet, Paul is sea turtle incarnate. Apropos of everything, the sand evidenced a previous night's dig. There have been 147 nests on Bald Head Island this summer, making it one of the top five seasons in recent memory. Though there is still time for more nests to be laid, the hatching season has begun.

If you are out and about on the beaches of Bald Head Island on any given summer night, you are bound to encounter a souped-up beach buggy specially affixed with red headlights. The driver and passenger are on the clock, giving 9-to-5 a new meaning. Of course, individuals such as these never truly clock out, as they are on turtle time 24/7.

We headed to the beach around 9:00pm in early August without any idea what the night's patrol might hold. At Access #42, 30-ish people of all ages chatter with anticipation. Paul is already on the scene, and I hear him exclaim, "It's boiling!" Before I know it, a swarm of 80-odd newborn loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings make a break for it, pouring down the adapted "runway." These shadowy figures, inching along in a mob-like formation, resemble little more than flipped peach pits.

The first and last 10 hatchlings are carefully examined by Paul and Eli (this year's Sea Turtle Protection & Nighttime Tagging Intern) for a fellow intern's summer research project. Apparently unaware they have been elected to participate in a

Patrick Wirth is a freelance writer for the *Island Report* and websites such as Collider and Medium. Mr. Wirth is preparing to leave for Peace Corps Jamaica in March 2023, where he will act as a Literacy Facilitator for elementary school students. He plans to continue writing about his experiences while abroad. For updates and more content, follow [@919paddy](#) on Instagram and Medium.

scientific data collection, their heads reel while Eli takes their dimensions and Paul records the data. Paul reminds the awestruck onlookers not to do this themselves as the Conservancy has a North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Permit and training, allowing them to handle these delicate creatures. Other Conservancy employees and volunteers maintain control over the crowd and tend to the safety of the other turtles making their way to the ocean.

After an upstanding effort, all those little turtles made it to sea that night. We return to the UTV around 10:00pm, still humming with excitement and wonder. I settle myself, taking in the beach from this newfound vantage point and think to myself, "So, this is how the Conservancy sees the Island?" As a collection of nests meant to be preserved and protected, nature's neonatal unit. We pass maybe five to seven closely situated cages and runways. Not even one beach access later, Paul stops the vehicle abruptly. Jumping out, he simply states, "That's a sea turtle." Before I can make out the indistinct figure in a shallow pit about 30 yards away, I hear, "She's a Green!"

Lost in a naturally occurring trance, this mother was in the throes of labor. Maintaining a respectful distance, we watched her work under the bright moon's light. "What is she thinking?" was my primary meditation while observing. Paul, Eli and Conservancy volunteers acted as her translator. They explained

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Sea turtle hatchling.

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October means Oysters on Bald Head Island!

By Dr. Beth Darrow, Chief Scientist

Join the BHI Conservancy
October 10-16 for North Carolina

Oyster Week as we “shellebrate” the ecology, history, culture and economy of oysters on Bald Head Island! Mid-October marks the beginning of wild oyster harvest season, and we look forward to enjoying wild oysters in oyster roasts, holiday meals and on the half shell. We will be hosting a number of oyster-y events, and we would love for you to join us!

The Eastern Oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, is a bivalve mollusc that is native to the East Coast of Canada and the US, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. Oyster reefs are located in salt or brackish water; in Bald Head Creek at low tide, you can see our extensive (and sharp!) reefs. Oysters are sessile, or immobile, animals once they reach their adult stage. They settle on hard structures (i.e., piers, rocks and old shells) and form these reefs — intricate structures that form a habitat for fish, crabs, shrimp and other animals. These structures can protect coastal areas from erosion and stabilize vegetation from being uprooted due to storm surge. Oysters are suspension feeders, meaning that they filter floating plankton from the water column. This helps remove algae and clear the water column. These “ecosystem services” are some of the many reasons that the Conservancy and other conservation organizations focus on enhancing and restoring oyster reefs.

Did you know that in North Carolina it is illegal to throw oyster shells away in the landfill? This is because these shells are a valuable natural resource. Throughout the state, oyster shells are recycled and used to build artificial oyster reefs. The Conservancy, with the assistance of volunteers, built three artificial oyster reefs in the fall of 2021. These reefs, made from “building blocks” of mesh bags filled with recycled shells, will be further enhanced this fall. We request that households and restaurants on BHI place oyster and clam shells in our yellow bin at the Village Creek Access or bring them to the Conservancy campus.


How can you get involved in NC Oyster Week?

- **Volunteer.** We welcome volunteers age 12 and up to help fill shell bags and place them in the creek. Bagging



shifts are **Wednesday and Saturday mornings**, and the restoration day is on **Friday, October 7** (sign up: <https://www.trackitforward.com/site/642847/events>). Email conservation@bhic.org with any questions.

- **Discover.** Bring the family to Fleming Education Center at the Conservancy on **Saturday, October 8**, for all the fun oyster activities! The Fleming Education Center will be open from 10:00am-3:00pm with oyster exhibits set up throughout the building. And oyster shell art will take place from 1:00-3:00pm. Be prepared to come and get your hands dirty and have fun!
- **Eat & Learn.** Join us **Sunday, October 9, at 5:30pm** for a family friendly “shellebration” at Wrightsville Beach Brewery in Wilmington, where BHIC Chief Scientist Beth Darrow will give a presentation while we enjoy bivalves and brews.
- **Support.** You can help support the Conservancy by purchasing oyster-related merchandise at Turtle Central (TC) — look for new designs this fall. And for a limited time, you can “Adopt an Oyster” through our website or at Turtle Central. For \$10, include your name or a short message on a recycled oyster shell, and we will include it in a bag to be placed on one of our restored reefs. Donate at <https://bhic.org/donate/> and write “Adopt an Oyster: **Your message**” in the comments. Or visit TC and write your own message.

We hope you enjoy *shellebrating* these mighty molluscs as much as we do! 



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Lt. Will Barker Cushing — Part 3 of 3

By Jake Grossman, Educator and Collections Coordinator

"It affords me the pleasure to inform the officers and men of the squadron under my command that the rebel ram *Albemarle*, which has for so long a time kept a large force of vessels employed to watch her, has been destroyed by Lieutenant William B. Cushing, who, in this hazardous enterprise, has displayed a heroic enterprise seldom equaled and never excelled."¹

~David D. Porter, Rear Admiral, Commanding North Atlantic Squadron

As dawn broke over the Roanoke River, the late October sun illuminated a shirtless body rising out of the murky Carolina river. It was Will Barker Cushing (WBC). He awoke injured, behind enemy lines and unsure if the *Albemarle* had actually sunk; yet, he was alive. WBC fled into the swamps, where he encountered an enslaved man who informed him that the *Albemarle* had sunk. WBC then trekked five hours, seized a raft and paddled about 25 miles back to the Union fleet near Roanoke Island. Cushing received an official "Thanks of Congress" (the highest possible award for a seaman), promotion to Lt. Commander, as well as \$50,000 in prize money. No rest for the weary, however, after sinking one of the Confederacy's most formidable warships, the young WBC (still only 21 years old) set sail to capture the Confederacy's



Portrait of WBC: U.S Naval Academy Museum.

most formidable coastal fortification, Fort Fisher.

The Union planned to assault Fort Fisher in December 1864. Known as the "Southern Gibraltar" or the "Malakoff Tower of the South," Fort Fisher was the largest earthen fortification in the world. The fort was shaped similarly to a "7," boasting fifty cannons, over a mile of wall protected by a 9'-high stake fence and 15 earthen mounds raised 30 feet above sea level. Blockade runners relied on the fort for protection as they entered New Inlet on their way to Wilmington.

Indeed, WBC charted the New Inlet, getting as close as "a biscuit might be tossed from the boat to beach" to see if gunboats could run the inlet and fire on the fort from the river.²

Nonetheless, it was determined the only feasible plan would be

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-Chad H.



Dark Skies | By Pat Miller

How is your Bald Head Island neighborhood at night? The section of the Island where I live has embraced "Night Sky Magic!" The positive responses received from the BHI Club, BHI Conservancy, Bald Head Association and Village of BHI in working together shows that "teamwork makes the dream work."

Are you interested in being an ambassador for BHI Night Sky and working with your neighbors? I would love to have your night sky pictures to share. But in the meantime, we are working on some lovely events to promote BHI Night Sky. Be on the lookout. And yes, one person can make a difference. And don't forget, before you install those beautiful lights on your porch or deck for night enjoyments, check to see if they meet BHA's Design Guidelines with the Architectural Review Committee (ARC).



Photo by Amy Dunmire

••• Continued from page 1 (3rd in a Series — Welcome New Property Owners!)

- Information about your specific neighborhood (such as Cape Fear Station or a drip-line community).
- The current issue of BHA's monthly *Island Report* newsletter. Property owners can choose to read issues online or in print. To change your preference, contact Diane Mesaris at diane@baldheadassociation.com.

For ongoing resources, news, tips, events and updates, BHA has several media vehicles:

- BHA's website is a workhorse of information including founding and official documents, Design Guidelines and online forms, news, event calendar, the history of BHA,

BHA's Board members and staff, service provider list, historical and environmental self-guided tour with audio, BHA Common Area, Operation Re-Forest — We Forest map and list, owner access portal, life on BHI resources and much more. The handy keyword search bar at the top can help you quickly find a specific topic.

- BHA's monthly *Island Report* newsletter — both online and in print. Archived issues are available online at www.baldheadassociation.com/island-report-archives.


Letters to the Editor and articles written by property

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Village Chapel Update

By Kevin Arata, Village Chapel Board of Trustees

Village Chapel services are now held at 8:30am. Masks are not required, and outdoor seating is available.

Time Capsule

Did you know that the Bald Head Island Village Chapel is observing its 35th anniversary this year? Help your Chapel to celebrate this wonderful occasion by becoming involved with one of the anniversary festivities we are planning.

We are asking you to share with us (and everyone who loves the BHI Chapel) one or more of your fondest Chapel memories. Over the next two months, we'll be collecting photographs, anecdotes and any other significant memorabilia you may wish to share, to be placed in a time capsule and buried on the Chapel grounds. Fifteen years from now, at the Chapel's 50th anniversary, we hope our future BHI family and friends will be able to experience what we have been blessed to know about our Chapel and its worshippers. Maybe you were married at the Chapel; perhaps one of your children or grandchildren was baptized at the Chapel; possibly a family member had the opportunity to preach or play music at the Chapel; or like many of us, maybe it's just one of your favorite places on Bald Head Island. Whatever the occasion, if you'd like to share a photograph taken or a story you remember, or the names of people you knew, please don't hesitate to send it/them to us. What

a wonderful way to join our past, present and future together!

Submissions may be sent to: Village Chapel of Bald Head Island, 105 Lighthouse Wynd, PO Box 3035, Bald Head Island, NC 28461. Please mark "Time Capsule" on your envelope and don't forget to note the "who, what, when, where and why" for your submissions.

Save the Date — Homecoming

We will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Village Chapel on November 8, 2022. Worship service will be at 11:00am, with dinner on the grounds to follow. Box lunches will be available for purchase. Stay tuned for more information!


Ministers for October:

October 2 – Rev. Dr. Scott Suskovic; Christ Lutheran Church; Charlotte, NC.

October 9 – Rev. Alex Kennedy; Carmel Baptist Church; Matthews, NC.

October 16 – Rev. Laura Fine Ledford; Apex United Methodist Church; Apex, NC.

October 23 – Rev. Adam Snell; St. Paul's United Methodist Church; Kensington, MD.

October 30 – Rev. Laura Mitchell; Wrightsville Trinity United Methodist Church; Wrightsville Beach, NC. 



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A Great Resource for Guests and Renters

Bald Head Island is a barrier island with interdependent ecologies and an abundance of unique flora and fauna. Education is key to helping preserve Bald Head Island. This includes educating visitors, whether they are renters or family/guests of property owners; property owners who are new; property owners who have been on BHI for a long time; and property owners anywhere in between, both full-time and part-time residents.

BHA developed an educational resource that encompasses the essentials of BHI — information about the Island, daily living tidbits, information about wildlife that live among us, safety information and much more. It's called "BHI Basics." Want a copy for yourself or your guest book (if you rent)? Visit BHA's office (111 Lighthouse Wynd) Monday-Friday between 9:00am-4:00pm and ask for a copy. Or, check it out online at www.baldheadassociation.com/life-on-bhi. Use the QR code for the "BHI Basics" direct link.

If you rent your home through a property management company, ask them if "BHI Basics" is in your guest book. "BHI Basics" is a wealth of information for everyone on Bald Head Island.

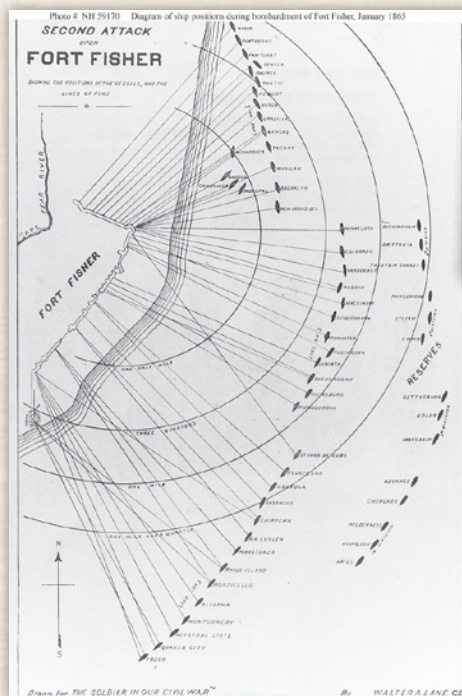
••• Continued from page 8 (Lt. Will Barker Cushing — Part 3 of 3)

to land troops and storm the fort. Thus, on December 25, 1864, the first assault on Fort Fisher commenced with a Naval bombardment of 10,000 shots, the largest by the Navy to that date. Mainly due to a lack of cooperation between Army/Navy, however, the land assault never fully materialized, and by the 26th, the Army scrapped the assault and took off back north. They would not be gone for long, though.

The Union Army returned with a new general and renewed enthusiasm for the second assault on Fort Fisher, which would take place on January 15, 1865. Sixty Navy warships softened up the fort with another 10,000 shots prior to landing troops. Soldiers numbering 9,000 hit the land-facing wall to the northwest while WBC and 2,000 volunteer sailors stormed 500 yards up the beach and over the Northeast Bastion. The NE Bastion was a strong point of the fort and basically entailed a 45'-high sand dune with cannons jutting out like porcupine quills. Under covering fire from Marines and armed with only revolvers and cutlasses, they "board[ed] the fort on the run like seaman-like way".³

Although grueling and bloody, the Union assault worked. WBC and the Navy, however, suffered gravely with 284 dead in 25 minutes. WBC dragged wounded sailors back to safety while organizing the retreating mass into a group ready to rejoin the fray, if necessary. Thankfully, it was not necessary, and the sailors could rest prior to their next task — to capture Bald Head Island's Fort Holmes and Oak Island's Fort Caswell.

After Fort Fisher fell, the Confederacy abandoned Holmes and Caswell, fearing the Union ships now in the river. Subsequently, a small Union force led by WBC captured both. WBC was the first person to step on Bald Head Island after the surrender, and one has to wonder if he climbed Old Baldy to take a look around.



Naval Attack on Ft. Fisher: Wikipedia.



Capture of Ft. Fisher: Library of Congress.

Soon, WBC was in Southport, where he accepted the conditional surrender from the mayor, became acting military governor and took up residence in the same building he had infiltrated years prior. However, the Union soon took Wilmington, and within a month, as a prophetic Robert E. Lee claimed, "If Wilmington falls I cannot maintain my armies," the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered at Appomattox Courthouse.⁴

WBC lived only 10 years after the war.

He passed away at age 32 due to either cancer or a bacterial infection. WBC was busy during his last few years. He not only met and married Katherine Louise Forbes, but they had two daughters together. WBC is buried in the USNA Cemetery in Annapolis, MD. Look for a monumental casket with "Albemarle" on one side and "Ft. Fisher" on the other, and you will find Lincoln's commando, WBC.

¹ United States. War Department. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*. Series 1, Volume 10, book, 1900; Washington D.C.

² Malanowski, Jamie. *Commander Will Cushing: Daredevil Hero of the Civil War* (p. 211). W. W. Norton & Company. Kindle Edition.

³ Porter, David D. Found in Malanowski, Pg. 217.

⁴ Lee, Robert E. Found in Fonvielle, Chris E. *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Departing Rays of Hope*. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA

••• Continued from page 4 (Village of BHI Updates)

Sign up for Brunswick County's emergency notifications (Code Red) at this link: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/7BC24EDE14D3>.

If your property is in imminent danger of flooding, contact your utility provider to request that your power or natural gas be shut off or for guidance on how to do it yourself.

Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.

Develop an evacuation plan for your family. Designate a place where your family will meet after an evacuation order is issued and make sure you are prepared to leave quickly should the US Coast Guard close the river to commercial traffic, including the Bald Head Island Ferry.

Step 4: Protect Your Property from the Hazard

Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the floor level of your property is lower than the "Base Flood Elevation" (elevation of the 100-year flood, based on the FEMA maps), consider elevating your structure, if possible. **[NOTE: Property owners must work within BHA's Architectural Review Committee process for all external changes.]**

Brochures discussing flood proofing and other mitigation measures are available through the Village's Development Services Department at 910-457-9700.

If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages. Residents can help reduce flooding by taking an active role in keeping trash and debris off the streets and sidewalks and out of streams and ditches.

Step 5: Build Responsibly

Development within the Village requires various types of permits depending on the project. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Development Services Department at 910-457-9700. The department will also make a site visit to your property to discuss drainage problems and offer advice on how to protect your property. If a property is within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), it will need to follow the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, including obtaining a floodplain development permit. Further, coastal development will need to comply with the Coastal Area Management Act regulations.

Remember, when building or grading, always maintain a clear area between lots for drainage.

The Village requires that if the cost of reconstruction, additions or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. Contact the Development Services Director at 910-457-9700 for more information.

Step 6: Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

Floodplains are a natural component of the Bald Head Island environment. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of the Village's dunes, freshwater ponds, maritime

forest and saltmarsh helps reduce potential flood damage and protect resources. Poorly planned development can damage these natural areas, weaken flood protection functions, cause habitat loss, adversely impact water quality and lead to increased risk of flooding.

Much of the Island is conserved as natural floodplain open space to protect flora and fauna. Contact the Bald Head Island Conservancy at 910-457-0089 for more information.

Step 7: General Preparedness

The Brunswick County Emergency Management Department recommends community members prepare their families, homes and businesses for all types of emergency events. They recommend four simple steps: (1) preparing an emergency kit; (2) making a plan for what you will do, including evacuation; (3) stay informed about the event; (4) get involved in preparing your community.

The Brunswick County Emergency Management website (www.brunswickcountync.gov/emergency/management) provides detailed information about local hazards and threats of all types, evacuation routes, shelters and how to prepare an emergency kit.

Inventory and photograph your home's contents and keep important papers and insurance policies in a safe place.

If possible, place the washer, dryer, furnace and water heater above potential flood waters. They should be placed on masonry blocks or concrete at least 12 inches above the projected flood elevation, moved to inside a floodwall or moved to a higher floor. All work must conform to state and local building codes.

Step 8: Hurricane Preparedness

In the event of a storm, check TV and radio sources for up-to-date information. Know what to do in the event of a hurricane watch, warning and/or evacuation order. Create a checklist for emergency supplies, know the locations of evacuation centers and plan ahead for family and your pets. Prepare your home before a storm to reduce potential damage.

For evacuation routes, shelter locations and other hurricane preparedness tips, visit <https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/emergency/hurricanes/>

**For more information
about flood safety
or the NFIP:**

www.floodsmart.gov

www.ready.gov/floods

1-888-379-9531

Step 9: Flood Education

Bald Head Island and Brunswick County have many resources available to help you understand your flood risk and options for mitigation. If you want to learn more about flood risk as well as

the benefits of mitigation, contact the Development Services Department at 910-457-9700. The Village is also promoting education on NAI — no adverse impact floodplain management — to set local goals and reduce damages from floods. To learn more about NAI, visit www.floods.org or contact the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM).

Continued on page 19



Dale Giera, owner and master craftsman, created Trinity Design Build on Bald Head Island after building custom, award-winning homes in the Triangle area for more than 30 years. Being an island property and business owner with a keen eye for design, Dale aims to complete projects with proficiency, integrity and exceptional skill. Stop in to discuss your construction needs at Dale's office on the island at Station 32 Edward Teach Extension.



CONTACT
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dale.giera@gmail.com

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••• Continued from page 5 (*Ride Along Series — BHI's Turtle Patrol*)

to the growing crowd what she was doing and why nature had ordained her to behave in this manner.

Eli was responsible for collecting as much pertinent data as he could without disrupting the mother's process. The BHI Conservancy and its Sea Turtle Protection Team facilitate these experiences for folks while keeping these creatures as protected as possible. With his attentiveness to the mother, chemistry with the entire team of volunteers/employees and excitement to share this moment with others, Paul once again demonstrated his uncanny knack for interacting with sea turtles and humans alike. His duty is to preserve the natural ecosystem and protect its many inhabitants for future generations to enjoy so they, too, may experience the sublimity of life.

Three hours later, the mission was complete. We follow Momma Green to the water and say our silent goodbyes. Paul and Eli quickly work to cage the nest. They do so to keep out predators such as raccoons, foxes and coyotes. Eli and Paul locate the nest, taking one egg that will be sent away to study the diet and environmental conditions of the mother. They wordlessly and efficiently dig a trench surrounding the buried egg chamber and secure the cage, burying it to blend in with the environment. An orange cage and an informational sign are the only traces they were ever there.

We ride around for a bit after that, wind whipping through the vehicle, checking other nests. I contemplate what an incredible undertaking their lives must be, and yet, I come close to

understanding when I see those turtles disappear into the ocean. Eli surmised it as incredible luck to behold such intimate miracles. Paul described the effect as realigning, centering and sustaining his spirit. I can attest that some of the most

beautiful things to witness on this Island happen after the sun sets. Tonight's nests mark 148 laid this summer and 12,453 successful hatchlings making it to the water as of this writing.

So, get out of the house at night! Go to the beach. Just be sure that when you do, you are following BHI's light ordinance. Designate a red flashlight for such instances. Use outdoor lights sparingly and room-darkening shades, especially on beach-facing windows. When on the beach, do not use any white light source, which includes phones. Keep your dogs leashed after dusk for their safety and that of the sea turtles. Learn, interact, volunteer. But most of all, do your part to protect this place. Support the BHI Conservancy so that sea turtles perpetually inhabit our magical little Island.



The 2022 Sea Turtle Protection Team.
Left to right: Jordyn Brown, Eli Bradly,
Ali Johnston, Grace Shay and Ashlyn Crain.



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BHA's Finance Committee Update

On August 15, 2022, BHA's Finance Committee met to discuss the second draft of BHA's 2023 Budget. Each income and expense line item was discussed. The committee was able to see everything that is involved in running the Association. They made inquiries about various items and issues, and they also gave valuable input. During the month of September, BHA staff continued to update budget information. A revised draft of BHA's 2023 Budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at its regular meeting on October 14, 2022. The Board will have a chance to ask questions, make comments and give suggestions for preparation of the final budget. 

••• Continued from page 3 (BHA President's Letter ~ Alan Briggs)

September 8, 2022. We provided to the NCUC the survey, the results of the survey and the many comments made by our members.

My concluding remarks in my proposed direct examination (filed prior to print date) were:

To be sure our Members have spoken to us in the survey and seventy percent (70%) of our Members want the NCUC to exercise jurisdiction over the parking lot and the barge. We represent our Members and are here to support our Members.

However, all the evidence is not yet in. The proposed evidence of the Village has been filed but the remainder of the proposed testimony was not filed until September 8, 2022, so we have not yet been able to review the new evidence. In addition, depositions and document discovery are ongoing

and rebuttal positions may be filed.

We will forward to our Members all the new information that is filed on September 8, 2022, and thereafter. We will listen to our Members as they speak to us as to any new evidence. We the Board of six directors will discuss and consider all.

To be sure, we want to speak to the Commission for Bald Head Association but want to wait to do so until all the evidence is submitted.

We are also aware that the issues in this case are primarily questions of law for the Commission to decide. However, we want to submit the opinions of the Members of Bald Head Association and of the Board of Bald Head Association when the submission of evidence to the North Carolina Utilities Commission is complete for whatever probative value the Commission gives it.

And what we did thereafter was exactly what we said we were going to do. We sent out the September 8-9, 2022, filed testimony to you, our members via *BHA's Compass*. We continued throughout September to send and post new information for our members. It is important for all to stay up to date on the most recent information.


The hearing regarding whether or not the parking lot and the barge should be regulated is scheduled to begin October 10, 2022. This is the basic process we follow.

The Seventh Step is we take the action we think appropriate at that time to best promote the interests of our members.

The Covenants again guide us to what our duty is:

to act on such matters as the Board determines affects the welfare and recreation of its Members and the beautification and conservation of the natural environment of the Properties; to provide such services and facilities to its Members as the Board determines will promote the welfare and recreation of its Members...

So, again, the answer is "It depends."

We, the Board, are charged with the responsibility of determining what will best promote the welfare and recreation of our members and to take action accordingly. We thank you for sending us your responses to our survey. If you have any questions about what we are doing at any point in time, just let us know. Thanks. 



Jeremy D. Downey

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••• Continued from page 11 (3rd in a Series — Welcome New Property Owners!)

owners about BHI issues and experiences are encouraged, subject to the Content Approval and space guidelines. Contact Pam Henson with any questions at pam@baldheadassociation.com.

- BHA's Compass email bulletin. You can sign up online on BHA's home page (www.baldheadassociation.com), and archived editions are available online at www.baldheadassociation.com/news_E-blastPage.
- Like and follow us on Facebook for information about fun events and more.
- Follow our YouTube channel for videos such as "What can I trim on my BHI property without ARC prior approval," informational meetings, seminars, BHA's Annual Meeting and more (www.youtube.com/channel/UCRZxfHb_jCY00VesvK_IBJw/videos).


BHA encourages its members to stay updated with credible information. Keep in mind that social media site posts may not have been vetted, so please check the facts. And help your BHI neighbors, both new and seasoned, by sharing this article with them.

Whether you live on Bald Head Island full-time or part-time and have been on BHI for a long or short time, this is your community. Help us help you by letting us know what we're doing well and what we can improve. And thanks for reading! 

••• Continued from page 14 (Village of BHI Updates)

Step 10: Protect Dunes and Marshes

Protecting the natural coastline is a critical piece in the protection of Bald Head Island. Dunes and marshes can provide flood protection by acting as barriers and absorbing water, help to prevent coastal erosion and help with shoreline stabilization. Coastal development impacts the health of these features and their ability to perform these natural services.

The Village of Bald Head Island monitors all beaches along the 14 miles of shoreline on the Island consistently with CAMA requirements. For more information, contact the Assistant Village Manager at 910-457-9700, ext. 1003 or visit the "shoreline protection" section of the Village's website for more information about current projects. 

Scan this QR code with your phone app to view BHA's events calendar!



October 2022:

BHA 40 th Anniversary/Community Potluck Dinner	10/1/2022	6pm
ARC-A Meeting	10/7/2022	9:30am
North Carolina Oyster Week October	10/10/2022-10/16/2022	
BHA Board Meeting	10/14/2022	11am
Howl at the Moon	10/9/2022	5:30pm
39 th Annual Thad Wester Fishing School	10/15/2022-10/16/2022	
ARC-B Meeting	10/21/2022	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	10/21/2022	10am

Save the Date in November:

ARC-A Meeting	11/4/2022	9:30am
Daylight Saving Time Ends	11/6/2022	
BHA Board Meeting	11/10/2022	11am
Veterans Day	11/11/2022	
BHA Office Closed	11/11/2022	
Community Potluck Dinner	11/14/2022	6pm
Leonids Meteor Shower Peak	11/17/2022	
ARC-B Meeting	11/18/2022	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	11/18/2022	10am
Thanksgiving	11/24/2022	
BHA Office Closed	11/24/2022-11/25/2022	
Smith Island Art League Show & Sale	11/25/2022-11/26/2022	10am

Around the Corner in 2022:

Community Potluck Dinner	12/12/2022	6pm
Geminids Meteor Shower	12/14/2022-12/15/2022	
Hanukkah	12/18/2022-12/26/2022	
Christmas	12/25/2022	
BHA Office Closed	12/23/2022 & 12/26/2022	
Kwanzaa	12/26/2022-1/1/2023	

Ongoing:

Knitting Group:	Wednesdays	9:30am
Village Chapel Services:	Sundays	8:30am
AA Virtual Meetings:	Mondays & Thursdays	8am
(Zoom Group: #85999065097, P/C: 570863, Email: sober.1day.at.a.time@gmail.com)		



Bald Head Association

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- former Fish Bowl owner

"We are so grateful for your amazing job! Thank you!"

- Villa 3 owner

"You have been nothing short of amazing over the past five years. We are truly grateful."

- No Hurry owner

"We're proud to be one of your customers."

- Dewey's Paradise owner

"Thanks for all you do. It is much appreciated."

- Elephant's Foot owner

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