



Bald Head Association

February 2023

Volume 34, No. 2

Island Report

Communication, Advocacy and Protection of BHI Property Values

Love the Wild

Many *Island Report* articles over the last few years have covered the philosophy and science behind the importance of preserving the understory and vegetation that grows on BHI property owners' lots, as well as across the entire Island. BHA thanks the many property owners who follow the proper procedures outlined in the Design Guidelines. Unfortunately, the Island experiences a high number of violations where work is done outside of the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) process, including landscaping changes.

The BHA Covenants were drafted and adopted by the property owners of Bald Head Island and provide:

2.1 Function of Association. *The Association will be responsible:*
(a) *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...*

Note that last part about "the beautification and conservation of the natural environment of the Properties." Also within BHA's Covenants, the property owners created the ARC and Design Guidelines to support their goal of "enhancing and protecting the value, desirability and attractiveness" of the Bald Head Island properties and maintaining the environment in which they exist.

Since Bald Head Island is an interconnected ecological puzzle, changing even one piece of that puzzle has a domino effect, though some effects may not be immediately visible. You may not understand that making landscape changes on your own lot outside of the ARC process affects you and your neighbors, but it does.

Here's an example. If you ignore the Design Guidelines and do not seek ARC prior approval and remove the understory vegetation on your lot, you've affected the natural flow of water and runoff. The roots from that improperly removed understory were holding the soil and preventing erosion, as well as aiding in water absorption. Now, with that important mechanism altered, you may find that your lot gets quite muddy and doesn't drain water as well as it used to, especially following a rainstorm. So now, and again by ignoring the Design Guidelines and not seeking ARC prior approval, you may think that adding mulch to your entire lot would be a good solution. Not only is this a violation of the Design Guidelines (by laying mulch over the entire lot) as well as an ARC violation (for work done outside of ARC), you've again affected the ability of that necessary understory to regrow and help with water runoff.

Get to know your Design Guidelines and always ask ARC for approval before any landscaping changes are done, with

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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

Can I Clear That “Scrubby Stuff”?

When, where and why to let nature take care of your landscape.

Although only two nautical miles from the mainland, Bald Head Island is a world away. Sitting out where the Cape Fear River meets the Atlantic Ocean, BHI is exposed to forces of nature unlike those experienced by the mainland. Hurricane-force winds, salt water and sea spray, flooding and drought have all shaped the environment in which more and more homes are being built. Many new property owners are attracted to the wild beauty of the Island but aren't used to having the wilderness so close to their homes. So, they ask, *Can I clear that “scrubby stuff”?*

The “scrubby stuff,” officially known as understory, plays an important role in protecting BHI from the extreme forces of nature. In addition to providing shelter for the animals and insects which call the Island home, this dense tangle of small trees, mosses, vines and weeds enriches the soil through decomposition and provides a wind-buffering function at ground level — especially important during hurricane season! So, no, you can't simply clear the scrubby stuff.

The BHA Design Guidelines specify what requires approval for building and landscaping. Let's look at new construction first and then existing homes. Here are just a few things to keep in mind when working with your builder.

New Construction

- For new construction, trees to be removed are to be identified in the site plan. Trees under 3" diameter are usually not identified on the plans because their size and number would make the plan difficult to read. Once the site plan is approved by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC), these smaller trees and understory located within the limits of construction can be removed without specific approval by the ARC.
- Limits of construction are outlined on the approved site plan. These limits are usually 6' from the building pad, including accessory structures, hardscape such as driveways/walkways and a designated construction material laydown area. As the words imply, the limits of construction limit the area in which the construction activities are to be conducted, and trees and vegetation outside those limits are to be undisturbed.

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BHA President's Letter ~ Alan Briggs

The Baton Is About To Be Passed

Forty years ago, George and Cynthia Mitchell bought Bald Head Island. For the last four decades, the Mitchell Family and their corporate entities have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into developing Bald Head Island into the paradise we all call home.

George and Cynthia Mitchell each died over 10 years ago. For the last 10 years, the Mitchell family and their corporate entities have continued to pour millions of dollars into completing the development of BHI, but that is ending. Whether it is today, tomorrow or next month, change is imminent.

Accordingly, the single most important issue facing the owners of the 1,889 member properties is who is going to direct the future of BHI now? Is it one of us or all of us?

To be sure, our many Bald Head Island organizations have played a role in the development for these last 40 years. But control always has been with the Mitchells as they owned the Island.

The future and success of this Island, our Island, will now be our responsibility and our responsibility alone.

How we divide that responsibility among and between us is critical to the long-range development and character of our paradise.

Is it going to be the Village of Bald Head Island through its mayor and five council members who reside on BHI and are elected by and report to the approximately 280 registered

voters who live on BHI? To be sure, the Village has done and is doing a superior job of dealing with all the public safety, beach, roads, utilities, hurricanes, beach erosions and the constant new challenges of a barrier island.

Is it going to be Bald Head Association through its six-person board of directors, each of whom is elected by owners of the 1,889 member properties on BHI? Most of the directors live on BHI some or all of the year and have guided us in the development and control of the homes and common areas for over 40 years and, if I do say so, have done an outstanding job.

Is it going to be the Bald Head Island Club which through its elected leadership has accomplished miracles in acquiring from BHI Limited two premier and private golf, croquet, tennis, beach and restaurant clubs and expanded and made all better year by year, resulting in the superior country club world we enjoy every day.

Is it going to be the exceptionally talented business leaders we have — Claude and Melissa Pope; Wendy Wilmot; Harper Peterson and his always new and expanding ventures; Henson Building Corporation, who builds and rebuild our homes; Tiffany Williams, our real estate and retail mogul. And too many more to list; we need them all.

Is it going to be the BHI Conservancy under the leadership of Chris Shank and his talented and environmentally

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Blowing in the Wynd

By Alan Briggs

Winter on Bald Head Island
Driving plastic covered igloos
Scurrying up and down the Wynds
Blowing in the wind

Driving Federal Highway
Surrounded by ice covered trees
As if you are in a glass palace
Ice glistening all around you

Walking the dog on the beach
Freezing but loving it all
Gloves ear muffs scarves
If you are warm all is good

Firewood from Claude
Huddling by the fireplace in the house
Jumping in the hot tub on the porch
Looking at the Milky Way

All beautiful
In its own way.

Managing Editor

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BHI Conservancy • Old Baldy Foundation
Village of BHI • Village Chapel of BHI

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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

Wilmington Harbor Inner Ocean Bar Project Update

The US Army Corps of Engineers contracted with Marinex Construction to provide maintenance dredging of the Wilmington harbor inner ocean bar. Approximately one million cubic yards of the dredged material is being placed on South Beach. The project plans show that fill will be placed near Sandpiper Trail and will go all the way down to the Killegray Ridge area on South Bald Head Wynd. Marinex started pumping sand on the beach on December 9, 2022. The estimated completion date has been moved out to April 3, 2023. The completion date is approximate since weather and mechanical impacts can change the project's schedule.

The Village has created a webpage (use QR code) to post project information, including a progress map and photos. The Village also posts project updates on its social media channels regularly. If you have property near the project area and will have renters, this page will give them an idea of what to expect during construction. If you have not experienced a shoreline restoration project on Bald Head Island, here is what you can expect:



The beach will remain open except for the areas of immediate construction where a 1,000-foot section of the beach will be closed at any given time when nourishment is underway. Due to the many variables associated with the construction progress, such as mechanical or weather impacts, it is extremely difficult to forecast when the contractor will have a particular section of the beach closed. There will be a large pipe that carries the sand slurry down the beach and heavy excavation equipment that will be working 24/7 until the project is completed. There will be noise from the large machinery 24/7, including "back-up signals"

By Carin Faulkner, Village Public Information Officer



Aerial photo of the disposal area and equipment, photographed on December 14, 2022.

from the machines and lighting that is required for the safety of the crew. Sand ramps will be spaced along the beach (approximately every 400 feet) to allow beachgoers to walk over the pipe and access the ocean.

Please help the construction crew by being mindful of the construction fencing and signage. Do not go beyond any signage or barriers, as doing so may place yourself and others in harm's way.

The Village has been asked why the sand is not going to be placed in front of the Shoal's Club, where the sand is needed the most. Since this is an Army Corps of Engineers project solely funded by the federal government through Congressional appropriations and the sand source per the Sand Management Plan ("SMP") is the sand dredged from the federal navigation shipping channel to ensure the channel remains open, the Village does not have any direct authority over the project and where the sand will go. The Village can ask and did so the last time the Corps did this project in 2021, and at that time the project budget funded by Congress and the quantity of sand dredged from the channel allowed for the sand to be placed from the west end of South Beach down near the Shoals Club. For this Corps project, the funding appropriated and the volume of sand to be removed from the shipping channel was not enough, and the Village considered expending Village funds to add additional material to reach the Shoals Club area as an additional contract to the Corps contract while the dredge was here. The Village ultimately decided against it at the recommendation of the Village's coastal engineer, primarily because the quality of sand did not justify the cost share the Village would have to pay.

At this point, the Village is working on the permitting to borrow sand from a new area of Jay Bird Shoals and



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Bald Head Island Academy™ Opening

By Pam Henson, Communications Manager, Bald Head Association

Did you know that surfing involves math? Did you know that gardening can help teach the whole child — mind, body and soul — through learning agriculture, plant species, nutrition and more? How about a recess that utilizes bike riding to the creek or beach? Or, how about trying geocaching to learn math, English, science and geography? Is your interest captured? All of these topics and more are now possible with something new opening on Bald Head Island — BHI Academy (BHIA).

BHIA is here to serve kids ages 5-14. It's described as a "c-squared, e-squared approach — a child-centric eco-education." BHIA is open to all students, no matter their financial situation; the school has a fundraising arm to award scholarships.

Think this sounds good? Here's another point. In collaboration with a Charlotte Lab curriculum, every age group per quarter looks at everyday life and comes up with a problem to help solve; a Quest. The possibilities are endless, and the problem-solving skills developed in youth can help serve these students for a lifetime.

BHI parents and grandparents have already been spreading

the news about this exciting new option for learning. The traditional school is now enrolling grades K-8 for the 2023-2024 school year. There are three additional options to attend for summer and part-time enrollment — Summer Enrichment Program, On Track Program and ESL Program (the ESL Program is free). BHI Academy welcomes employees of BHI organizations, contractors who work on BHI and renters (one week is the minimum to attend the On Track Program).

I spoke with Sheree Vaickus, BHI Academy's Curriculum Operations Solutions & Marketing Officer, and Melanie Raskin, Board Secretary, to learn more. Their passion about BHI Academy, its mission and what future students mean to Bald Head Island is quite clear.

"Bald Head Island offers fun exploration to complement an academic component — Earth sciences, habitat preservation and maritime ecosystems. We're speaking to children's passions, playing to kids' gifts and talents. They can't help but rise," said Melanie.

"Small class sizes help with a concentrated, personalized touch. The island itself becomes a classroom," said Sheree.

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Christmas Bird Count on Bald Head Island

By Dr. Beth Darrow, Chief Scientist, BHI Conservancy

The Bald Head Island Conservancy and volunteers assisted with the Audubon Society's 2022 Christmas Bird Count on January 1, 2023. Sixty-five bird species were identified in Bald Head Island's diverse habitats. Our first species of 2023 was an American Woodcock, strutting along Federal Road through the fog in the pre-dawn light. Other species of note included a Prairie Warbler, spotted on the golf course and uncommon at this time of year; distinctive Black-and-White Warblers; and a Sedge Wren. A cute Palm Warbler with its bobbing tail was walking along South Bald Head Wynd near the Villas.

Many raptor species were spotted, including Coopers Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, a Red-shouldered Hawk (mostly near the golf course) and a stunning Northern Harrier keeping an eye on us at the Ibis Pond. Six species of gull, many Forster's terns, Double-crested Cormorants and Killdeer were present on the beaches, despite disruption by dogs and walkers enjoying the New Year's Day sunshine. Other species spotted included shorebirds such as the Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover and Willet; waterbirds such as Ring-Necked Ducks, Ruddy Ducks and Pied-billed Grebes; and great numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Cedar Waxwings.

Participants in the BHI count included Jamie Adams, Bob Cowan and Beth Darrow. Special thanks to Jamie Adams for his wonderful pictures (use the attached QR code). The Christmas Bird Count has run since 1900, making it the nation's longest-running community science bird count. Bald Head Island is a part of the Southport Circle. For more information on the Christmas Bird Count, visit www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count (or use the attached QR code).



Prairie Warbler

Full List of Bald Head Island Christmas Bird Count Species — January 1, 2023

Greater/Lesser Scaup	Brown Pelican	Gnatcatcher
Ruddy Duck	Great Blue Heron	House Wren
Pied-billed Grebe	Great Egret	Sedge Wren
Mourning Dove	Snowy Egret	Carolina Wren
American Coot	Tricolored Heron	Gray Catbird
Black-bellied Plover	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Northern Mockingbird
Semipalmated Plover	Northern Harrier	Hermit Thrush
Killdeer	Cooper's Hawk	American Robin
Dunlin	Red-shouldered Hawk	Cedar Waxwing
American Woodcock	Red-tailed Hawk	White-throated Sparrow
Willet	Belted Kingfisher	Savannah Sparrow
Bonaparte's Gull	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Song Sparrow
Laughing Gull	Downy Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-billed Gull	Northern Flicker	Common Grackle
Herring Gull	Eastern Phoebe	Black-and-white Warbler
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Blue-headed Vireo	Orange-crowned Warbler
Great Black-backed Gull	Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
Forster's Tern	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Red-throated Loon	Carolina Chickadee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Common Loon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Prairie Warbler
Northern Gannet	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Double-crested Cormorant	Blue-gray	Boat-tailed Grackle

To our neighbors on Bald Head Island, if you have bikes you need serviced or would like to purchase new bikes or e-bikes, please call the shop. We are happy to pickup, deliver and tag your bikes for delivery on the Bald Head Island Ferry.

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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
919.485.9901
dale.giera@gmail.com

BUILDING AND RENOVATING FINE HOMES ON BALD HEAD ISLAND

New to BHA? Meet the BHA Staff

Bald Head Association is the largest property owners' association on Bald Head Island, with 1,889 member properties. BHA has a six-member Board of Directors and is managed by Executive Director Carrie Moffett, with nine staff members. Here is a list of BHA staff members and their responsibilities, with their phone extensions and email addresses for easy contact.

Carrie Moffett, Executive Director

Oversee all aspects of the organization and manage the day-to-day operations of BHA; provide leadership in developing sound program, organizational and financial plans with the Board of Directors, committees and staff; carry out plans and policies authorized by the Board; act as the Board's representative for enforcing the Covenants; serve as a resource for property owner members.

910-457-4676, ext. 26

Carrie@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Mary Anne Steele, Deputy Director

Assists BHA's Executive Director with Board and property owner relations, oversees all facets of human resources and Covenants compliance.

910-457-4676, ext. 31

MaryAnne@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Diane Mesaris, Administrative Assistant

Contact information changes, real estate closing information, BHA master calendar of events, Association Center rentals, Welcome Package mailings, community garden and general BHA questions.

910-457-4676, ext. 21

Diane@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Fran Pagliaro, Architectural Review Coordinator

Architectural Review Committee (ARC) activities and BHA's Design Guidelines — new construction, renovation and repair, all exterior structure changes including paint color, lighting, roofing, landscaping and tree and understory trimming/removal/additions.

910-457-4676, ext. 22

Fran@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Kimberly Bandera, ARC Specialist

Field work related to Architectural Review Committee (ARC), the Harbour/Middle Island Architectural Review and more.

910-457-4676, ext. 29 / Cell 910-477-7193

Kim@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Sharon Beasley, ARC Administrative Associate

Helps facilitate ARC process and general ARC questions.

910-457-4676, ext. 23 / Cell 910-477-7246

Sharon@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Pam Henson, Communications Manager

Monthly *Island Report* newsletter, *BHA's Compass* email bulletins, Annual Report, BHI Basics, resource information and Welcome Package; BHA website and social media; event seminars and forums; videos and more.

910-457-4676, ext. 28 / Cell 910-477-7537

Pam@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Leigh Ann Fink, Bookkeeper

BHA accounts payable/receivable, supports annual audit process, manages financial resources of the organization and BHA-managed communities (Keeper's Landing, Surfman's Walk and Sumner's Crescent) and TOPS owner access.

910-457-4676, ext. 27

LeighAnn@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Pam Rainey, Customer Relations Associate

Manages drip-line communities of Keeper's Landing, Sumner's Crescent and Surfman's Walk; manages BHA Common Area, including tree trimming/approval requests and landscaping contracts; manages Boat Park storage.

910-457-4676, ext. 24 / Cell 910-477-2956

PamR@BaldHeadAssociation.com

Dora Richey, Covenants Compliance Associate

Helps homeowners maintain compliance with BHA's Covenants, Design Guidelines and Community Wide Standards.

910-457-4676, ext. 31

[!\[\]\(9c1bd5a68bb1bbd6cc910c91238328cc_img.jpg\)](mailto:Dora@BaldHeadAssociation.com)




BHI Questions? Your Municipality — The Village of BHI

Incorporated as a municipality in 1985, the Village of BHI has all the powers, duties, rights and privileges granted and imposed upon municipalities by the general law of the State of North Carolina.

Village municipal services include: enforcement of ordinances; building permits; public safety (fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement and water rescue); animal control; licensing and registration (including golf cart registration); road maintenance; utilities (water and sewer);

tax collection; garbage, recycling and yard debris collection and disposal; US Post Office and Island Package Center (IPC); contractor services; Village parks (The Commons and Whale Head Park in Cape Fear Station, Marina Park in the Harbour, the Creek Access on North Bald Head Wynd and the Dog Park); shoreline stabilization; flood protection; emergency preparedness; and more.

For information, visit the Village website at VillageBHI.org. The Village's main office phone number is 910-457-9700. 



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Gill — Part 2 of 2

By Jake Grossman, Educator and Collections Coordinator

The *U-158* next appeared about two and a half months later outside of Bermuda when it attacked the Latvian steamer *Everalda* on June 29, 1942. The Germans stole confidential information and then sunk the *Everaldo*. Afterwards the Nazis radioed the information back to Hitler. The lengthiness or the urgency of the radio message caused the Nazis to shed some guise, allowing the US Navy to intercept the signals and pinpoint the Nazi submarine's location.

The following day the Nazis were basking in their victories, sunning themselves under the Bermuda sun, when US Navy pilot Richard Schreder, Ensign Jack "Jocko" Gierisch and Radioman Wrencie Vickers materialized out of the clouds in a Martin PBM Mariner Bomber.¹ The crew deftly dropped one (or two) depth charge(s) amongst the scrambling Nazis. The charge did not explode immediately but lodged itself into the deck. The submarine dove, and the Nazis took a sigh of relief, unaware of the uninvited guest aboard. Eventually, the sub hit the "trigger depth" that exploded the charge, sunk the submarine and killed the entire crew. Schreder was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions.² Increased air patrols, like Schreder and his crew, were just one of the ways

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Clockwise at top left: The *Robert C. Tuttle* (sister ship to *Gill*) after it struck a mine. Cheney was aboard this ship, too. (Photo courtesy www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/numerical-list-of-images/nhsc-series/nh-series/80-G-14000/80-G-14047.html.) Two "Coasties" having fun on beach patrol (photo courtesy of The Old Baldy Foundation Collection). Coast Guardsman Jack Murphy, stationed on Bald Head Island, donated his boots to The Old Baldy Foundation (OBF) years later, and they remain in the OBF collection.



Bald Head Island Services Rentals & Sales

Bald Head Island Services is about making a house a home. Whether you want to rent a beach home, rent your property or talk about purchasing a home. We are here for you every step of the way.

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Don't Worry.



We Have This.

••• Continued from page 10 (Gill — Part 2 of 2)

the US responded to the sinking of the *Gill* and Nazi U-boats.

In addition to air patrols, Americans began a “convoy system” to protect large ships with an encirclement of smaller ones, employed “black outs” to minimize lights at night and began horseback beach patrols. That last method might seem silly, yet it was quite effective. Indeed, horses (unlike automobiles) did not need gas or lights, they could cover more ground (opposed to marching) and took on the burden of carrying bulky radios and machine guns.

Conveniently, the Army had a surplus of animals due to recent technological advancements. Thus, 3,000 horses were sent out to the coast, including Bald Head Island, to hunt Nazis. Theoretically, Bald Head Island patrols would patrol along East and South beaches and, if anything was amiss, radio or gallop back to the repurposed lighthouse into radio tower — Old Baldy — and alert the Navy and Air Force stations on the mainland.³

Although there was a learning curve, one “Coastie” from Philadelphia reported that when the grazing horses would “hear a wave crash, they’d throw the rider and off he’d go. Oh, brother!” Eventually, the North Carolina coast defenders fell into sync, sinking four Nazi submarines throughout the remainder of the war. So, the next time you are walking along a BHI beach, think of our fearless horseback protectors!

Note about part 1 of this article, published in the January 2023 *Island Report*: Prior to receiving his medal, Edwin F. Cheney was aboard a “sister ship” of the *Gill* (possibly the *Robert C. Tuttle*)⁴ that was involved in a separate Nazi attack on June 14, 1942. The *Tuttle* sunk after striking a mine set by a U-Boat, although many believed they were struck by a torpedo. Indeed, in ten minutes the *Tuttle* sank 54 feet deep in waters outside the Chesapeake Bay near Virginia Beach. Thankfully, 46 of the 48 people aboard (including Cheney) escaped on life rafts. Cheney escaped this time with broken ribs.

¹ Wiberg, Eric T. U-Boats off Bermuda: Patrol Summaries and Merchant Ship Survivors Landed in Bermuda, 1940-1944. Fonthill Media, 2017.

² <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/dam/nhhc/research/histories/naval-aviation/Naval%20Aviation%20News/1950/pdf/oct50.pdf>.

³ Kevin Duffus, Warzone: World War II off the North Carolina Coast.

⁴ I believe this is the correct ship for a of couple reasons. The *Tuttle* was completed a year prior to the *Gill* at the same shipyard (Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co, Chester PA) for the same company (Atlantic Refining Co, Philadelphia). The *Tuttle* also struck a mine on June 15, 1942. According to the newspaper, Cheney spent three weeks in the hospital, a month recovering, then went back out to sea in June. Thus, the timing for him to be on the *Tuttle* also works (<https://uboa.net/allies/merchants/ship/1815.html> and <http://www.aukevisser.nl/t2tanker/t-tankers-2/id1035.htm>).



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

is still pursuing a permit for sand from the adjacent Frying Pan Shoals. A future, privately funded Village beach nourishment project is planned for the winter of 2025 that will look to address the erosion at the east end of south beach, and this topic will be discussed at the annual Council Retreat in February (either the 7th and 8th). Our coastal engineer will be updating the Council on the status of the shoreline management program to include a discussion on details of the future Village beach nourishment project and erosion mitigation efforts specific to the area at the Shoals Club.

To date, the Village has worked in assisting the Shoals Club and its engineer with obtaining state permits through the Division of Coastal Management for the installation of temporary erosion control structures (i.e., “sandbags”) over the summer that have helped to protect the private infrastructure and minimize the ongoing erosion. Inquiries about this project can go to Carin Faulkner, Public Information Officer, at public.information@villagebhi.org or 910-457-9700, ext. 1025.

Cook Smart — Do Not Let “FOG” Clog the Drains

When byproducts of cooking such as residual fats, used cooking oils and grease (FOG) are disposed of

improperly, it can cause sewer equipment failures or line blockages that often result in a sewer spill. These are costly events to clean up, are dangerous for public health and can degrade the water quality in our public waters.

Many of the problems caused by Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) in the sewer system originate from food waste poured down drains in homes. Although the wastewater collection system is owned, managed and maintained by the Village of Bald Head Island, all residents and visitors benefit from it being used responsibly. Through education and by adopting certain habits, it is easy to minimize FOG sources at home.

Grease Myths

It's okay to pour grease down the drain as long as...

... I use the garbage disposal.

MYTH! The garbage disposal only grinds up items before passing them into your sewer pipes.

... I run hot water.

MYTH! Hot water only gives the illusion of dissolving grease. The grease will eventually cool and build up in the pipes.

Continued on page 18



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••• Continued from page 1 (*Love the Wild*)


noted exceptions. Remember, ARC staff are here to help! Per BHA's Covenants and Design Guidelines:

"ARC review and approval is required for the removal of trees 3 inches in diameter measured 48 inches along the trunk from ground level; tree limbs of 3 inches or more in diameter; clustered growth vegetation two square feet or more at ground level regardless of branching habits or diameter. Within the understory, ARC approval is required to remove vegetation 1 inch or greater in diameter measured 48 inches along the trunk from ground level."

Save the Understory

Here is a reminder about the importance of keeping the understory (the "scrubby stuff") in property owners'

landscapes. "Manicured" lots may suit home standards in mainland neighborhoods but not on a barrier island, where all of the ecological pieces help sustain the others and the entire Island. When you clear out around your home and reduce the understory vegetation, you take out good-quality soils, which weakens your trees' ability to protect your home and removes vital wind protection. Plus, understory serves additional benefits to water absorption, soil nutrient composition, insects and wildlife. Therefore, a natural landscape should be maintained.

For any questions about landscaping and ARC, email Fran@BaldHeadAssociation.com. There is also a wealth of information at BaldHeadAssociation.com/bhi-landscapes. 

••• Continued from page 5 (*Bald Head Island Academy™ Opening*)

She continued, "We're building an even better community here. You can opt-in fully or just sample what we offer with our Summer Enrichment or On Track programs. We're also looking at community arts projects and how our kids can help with BHI events."

Sheree stated, "I'm passionate about nature and planet Earth. I want to honor and feed kids' passions and gifts, positively informing them for the future. As we build grownups who love BHI and believe in protecting the ocean and habitats, that conservation and preservation mentality can positively serve BHI or anywhere they go. Perhaps we are growing the next wave of interns at the BHI Conservancy."

BHIA literature reads, "With a motto of embedding respect for self, others and the environment for generations to come, BHIA will provide children of all socioeconomic backgrounds with a best-in-class, state- and federally compliant K through eighth grade education. Open to children of residents and families who work on the island, this private school will emphasize Earth/life sciences, maritime ecosystems and preservation."

BHI Academy's logo has special meaning and purpose. "The symbolic images — sea turtle, painted bunting and

Continued on page 15



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February Is the Love Month. Fall in Love with the BHI Sky!

By Pat Miller

Sunrise, sunset — each a gift. Thanks to each of you who has responded to our night sky awareness by not using your outside lights when not needed and for those who have utilized lower wattage bulbs in your outside lights.


We “Howl at the Moon,” but we can also cheer before the sunrise. What a treat to go outside in the morning before the sun rises and look up. The stars actually seem their brightest. Join in and share the night sky experience with your neighbors and friends. Let our Island be known for being aware of one of the things money can’t buy — the gift of a beautiful night sky on Bald Head Island. 




Photo by Greg Braswell.

••• Continued from page 14 (Bald Head Island Academy™ Opening)

lighthouse — are Bald Head Island in a, well, nutshell. Having them cocooned in an acorn represents our community strength and deep roots that anchor our BHI togetherness. The green symbolizes the land, its flora and our unique island topography. The blue represents how the sky unites with the ocean to surround our island paradise. And the dark red speaks to the passion behind the good, hard work it took in

developing and maintaining our island we all call home.”

BHI Academy is located at 2B Maritime Way and will be offering tours and curricula overview at the end this month. BHI Academy does have plans to build a larger facility soon. Enrollment for traditional and summer enrichment classes are open, and space is limited, so sign up early. To learn more about BHI Academy, visit <https://bhiacademy.org>. 



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~Virginia, BHI Rental Property Guest



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BHA's 2023 Annual Assessments

BHA's 2023 annual assessment coupons were mailed in early January 2023 and are due by February 15, 2023. BHA's basic assessment is \$190 per lot and \$570 per home. Depending on what neighborhood you live in, there may be sub-association and/or additional fees. For any questions, contact Leigh Ann Fink at LeighAnn@BaldHeadAssociation.com or 910-457-4676, ext. 27 (office hours are 9:00am-4:00pm Monday-Friday).

BHA has an owner portal that provides a secure vehicle for automated, one-time or regular online payments with lower fees. There is no charge if you sign up using a bank

account; a small convenience fee applies for credit cards. For property owners with assessment balances over \$1,000 who wish to make quarterly payments, please make arrangements by emailing BHA Bookkeeper Leigh Ann Fink at LeighAnn@BaldHeadAssociation.com.

For first-time member portal enrollees, email Leigh Ann Fink. For questions about the 2023 basic and supplemental assessments, contact Leigh Ann Fink (email address above) or Carrie Moffett at Carrie@BaldHeadAssociation.com or 910-457-4676, ext. 26. 

••• Continued from page 2 (Can I Clear That "Scrubby Stuff"?)


- Protective fencing should be installed 2' from around the base of trees or vegetation to be protected per the site plan before pilings are installed. After the pilings are installed, construction fencing should be installed along the limits of construction to protect the trees, understory and dune vegetation located outside the limits of construction.
- Landscape plans should keep cutting and thinning of plant material to an absolute minimum. The ARC

may require a mitigation rate of up to 100% for each inch of diameter of trees or vegetation to be removed. Landscape plans are often resubmitted at approximately 70-80% of project completion, when there is a better sense of how the home will look within the natural environment.

Existing Homes

For existing homes, ARC review and approval is required for the removal of trees 3" in diameter; clustered growth vegetation 2 sq. ft. or understory vegetation 1" or greater in diameter (see Design Guidelines for details). This **does not** mean that anything smaller than the specified sizes can be clear cut.

- Removal of understory and ground cover in naturalized areas on existing home sites is prohibited. A general rule of thumb is to leave 60% of your site undisturbed.
- Mulch should be confined to existing, defined bed areas indicated on the approved site or landscape plan. The Island mulch site is a great local resource.
- Trees or limbs damaged in a storm may be removed regardless of size if they pose an imminent danger. Just be sure to take photos to present to BHA before and after cutting. If there is no imminent danger, contact Trees@BaldHeadAssociation.com before removing larger trees and limbs. Storm-damaged, smaller trees and understory can be trimmed without approval.

The native vegetation of Bald Head Island has evolved to protect the Island and its residents. Let nature lead the way on your landscaping plan by allowing your property to remain as natural as possible. This approach protects not only your investment but also helps the overall health and sustainability of the Island. Leave the concept of well-manicured lawns back on the mainland. After all, the wild nature of BHI is what makes it special. 



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... it is a liquid oil at room temperature.

MYTH! Liquid cooking oils, like canola oil and olive oil, float on wastewater and easily adhere to sewer pipes.

The Do's and Don'ts of FOG

Do!

- Place cooled oil and grease into trash bins or covered collection containers.
- Be aware of the “hidden oils” such as salad dressings, cheese, cookies, pastries, sauces and gravies.
- Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash bins.
- Manually wipe off all visible fats, oils, grease and food residue from dishes and cookware into trash bins.
- Use a strainer in the sink to collect excess food particles.
- Clean up grease spills with absorbent material and place into trash bins.
- Encourage neighbors to help keep fats, oils and grease out of the sewer system.


Don't!


- Don't pour oil or grease down the drain.



- Don't scrape food scraps down the drain.
- Don't pour liquid foods (syrops, batters, gravy, etc.) down the drain.
- Don't run hot water over greasy dishes, pans or fryers — it will prevent FOG from sticking to the inside of the pipes.
- Don't use chemicals to remove grease clogs; they can damage the piping system.
- Don't rely on a garbage disposal to get rid of grease.

Please do your part to help prevent unnecessary equipment failures, blockages and sewer spills.





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

committed team and board of directors who have combined to grow and develop environmentally sensitive programs for all and to help preserve and protect this nature preserve in which we live.

Is it going to be The Old Baldy Foundation governed by Mark Prak and a nine-member board of directors and well managed by Chris Webb, Executive Director? The Old Baldy Lighthouse is and always will be the leading historical attraction on the Island, and the development plan Mark Prak and the Foundation have underway will take us several levels beyond where we are now.

We have an abundance of organizations and experienced leaders who have helped the Mitchell family grow and develop BHI for the last 40 years. All have somehow worked together, each operating within their own areas of responsibility.

I am very positive about the future of BHI post-Mitchell family exit. We have outstanding homeowners, businesses and business leaders, a dedicated Village, an experienced and dedicated property owners' association, a first-class Conservancy, two spectacular private clubs, The Old Baldy Foundation and much, much more.

And we have the most beautiful and unique barrier island in the United States.

All we have to do is get along with and mutually support each other. We don't have to agree on everything. It is okay for good people to have differences. But it is important that each of us be respectful of the other. Together we will succeed. Divided we will fail.

We each have a role and a job. Success is not about control. It is about each of us doing our individual jobs and moving forward together. We all are working for the same end result.

The Mitchell family has done its job. And they have done it exceptionally well. The baton is about to be passed to us.

We will not fail. We will succeed. We will succeed together with each of us doing our respective jobs.

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



February 2023:

Groundhog Day	2/2/2023	
ARC-A Meeting	2/3/2023	9:30am
Women's Fellowship	2/6/2023	10am
Village Council Annual Retreat	2/7/2023 & 2/8/2023	
Valentine's Day	2/14/2023	
ARC-B Meeting	2/17/2023	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	2/17/2023	10am
Smith Island Art League Show & Sale	2/18/2023 & 2/19/2023	10am
Women's Fellowship	2/20/2023	10am
Mardi Gras	2/21/2023	
Village Chapel Ash Wednesday Service	2/22/2023	TBD
BHA Board Annual Retreat		TBD

Save the Date in March:

ARC-A Meeting	3/3/2023	9:30am
Women's Fellowship	3/6/2023	10am
BHA Board Meeting	3/10/2023	11am
Daylight Saving Time	3/12/2023	
St. Patrick's Day	3/17/2023	
ARC-B Meeting	3/17/2023	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	3/17/2023	10am
BADWATER Cape Fear	3/18/2023	
First Day of Spring	3/20/2023	
Women's Fellowship	3/20/2023	10am

Around the Corner in 2023:

BHIC's Johnston Coastal Sustainability Symposium	4/4/2023	
BHI Artisans Show & Sale	4/8/2023	10am
Easter	4/9/2023	
Earth Day	4/22/2023	

Ongoing:

Knitting Group:	Wednesdays	9:30am
Village Chapel Services:	Sundays	8:30am
AA Virtual Meetings:	Mondays & Thursdays	8am
(Zoom Group: #8599065097, P/C: 570863, Email: sober.1day.at.a.time@gmail.com)		
Yoga Classes:	Mondays & Wednesdays	11:45am



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