



Bald Head Association

November 2023

Volume 34, No. 11

Island Report

Communication, Advocacy and Protection of BHI Property Values

Want to Join the BHA Board of Directors?

BHA's Board of Directors believes it functions most effectively if it has diversity among its members. This includes, but is not limited to, sex, gender, sexual or gender preference, national origin, religion, race, age, educational background, employment experience, prior HOA experience, prior BHA committee experience and any and all of the other differentiating characteristics that makes each of its members special and unique. The overall expectations of a BHA Board member are to:

- Serve a three-year term
- Serve as a Board liaison to one of BHA's committees
- Attend meetings in person and/or remotely

There are two ways to be considered for BHA Board service. First, the Nominating Committee is charged with selecting at least one candidate for each vacancy and recommending them directly to BHA's membership for consideration at the Annual Meeting. This year's deadline for 2024 Board candidate submittals was July 31. Nominating Committee Chair Joe Brawner informed the Board of the committee's selection of candidates at its regular

September Board meeting and includes Michael Bumarch, Chris Parrish, Elizabeth (Betty) Robinson and Steven H. Smalley.

Additional information will be shared with the membership in the 2023 Annual Report, mailed in early December. New this year, Board candidates will be invited to participate in a forum hosted by BHA in early December. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Second, if someone wants to be considered by the membership for Board service and is not identified through the Nominating Committee process, BHA's Bylaws identify an alternative path: "A petition signed by a minimum of fifteen (15) individual property owners, advocating a nominee for election to the Board

Meet the 2024 BHA Board Candidates

BHA will host its first-ever Board Candidate Forum on Monday, December 11 at 1:00pm. It will be held in-person and via Zoom, and the recording will be posted on BHA's YouTube channel following the event. Stay tuned for additional details.

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BHI Native Plant Feature of the Month

Wax Myrtle

Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) is commonly known as Bayberry, Candleberry, Dwarf Bayberry, Dwarf Wax-myrtle, Eastern Bayberry, Southern Bayberry, Southern Waxmyrtle, Southern Wax Myrtle, Tallow Shrub, Waxmyrtle and Wax Myrtle. It's a hardy, southern, heat-loving evergreen species that is native to North Carolina marshes, forests, swamps and streams. It is useful in wetlands or restoration gardens, in wet or shady areas or on a bank for erosion control.

It has light, olive-green colored leaves and gold/yellow or green flowers in the spring. It also produces clusters of waxy, aromatic, bluish-white berries in late summer and early fall. Its berries have been used for many years to make bayberry-scented products like soaps and

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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 Chris Howard, ARC Administrative Assistant, at Chris@BaldHeadAssociation.com or for urgent ARC matters, call 910-477-7246.

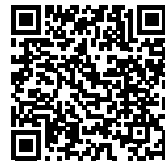
For all questions about trees and vegetation, email Trees@BaldHeadAssociation.com.



NO weeders

Holiday ARC Meeting Schedule

Plan ahead for your ARC meeting. There will be no Section B meeting in December 2023 and no Section A meeting in January 2024. For a schedule of ARC submission deadlines and meeting dates, visit www.BaldHeadAssociation.com/architectural-review-and-design-guidelines. Or, from the homepage, select “About BHA,” then “Architectural Review.”



ARC Update

Where did this year go? And what a busy year it's been at the ARC! For each new construction, which currently totals approximately 25, there are typically three separate reviews (Draft, Preliminary and Final). A combined total of 62 of those separate reviews has gone through the ARC process in the first three quarters of 2023. There were also Major and Minor Renovation, Plant Material Change and Paint/Color applications, for a whopping total of 255 reviews by the Architectural Review Committee, all submitted by your friends and neighbors. Over 83% of these submittals were approved. Sometimes applications are withdrawn by the property owner or not approved because they weren't in compliance with the Design Guidelines.

By purchasing a home or lot, members agree and are obligated to abide by the Covenants because they run with the land.

What does this activity mean for you and your investment on Bald Head Island? It means that there are more new homes proposed and your ARC volunteers and staff are working hard to ensure the Design Guidelines' standards are maintained. It's a division of labor, with the staff doing the technical reviews to make sure the applications are complete and meet the minimum requirements and the volunteers, who make decisions that affect the vision of BHI as a place where the community works together to cultivate the unique quality of life here.

There are 18 ARC volunteers, divided into two teams, with each section meeting 11 times a year. Section A reviews projects west of Muscadine Wynd, and Section B reviews projects to the east of Muscadine Wynd and within the multifamily



ARC Quiz – True or False?

1. You have to be a full-time resident of BHI to volunteer on the ARC?
(Answer: False — The requirement is that you must own property on BHI.)
2. The ARC is the only volunteer opportunity at Bald Head Association.
(Answer: False — BHA has a total of seven committees. Besides ARC, the committees include Community Wide Standards (CWS), Education and Recreation (ER), Resource Conservation and Beautification (RCB), Finance, Long-Range Planning and Nominating.)

Interested in getting involved and volunteering? Please visit www.BaldHeadAssociation.com/committees to complete a Committee Volunteer Application.

Correction

Please note a correction from the October ARC quiz in the print issue. Exterior decorative items (such as concrete bird baths, sculptures, garden art and house signs) must be harmonious with the community aesthetic, site, home and surrounding environment, and they require ARC approval through the Minor Renovation/Change application (Category II).

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BHA President's Letter ~ Alan Briggs

Dianne and I went to the Amalfi Coast in late September for vacation. As part of that trip, we had a day trip to Capri, and we had to take a ferry to get to it. Before landing we cruised around the island for an hour. All was gorgeous and scenic.

I have been to Martha's Vineyard and it, like Capri, is also a beautiful island paradise. You also can take a ferry to Catalina, off of southern California, and, again, you are surrounded by beauty. I know there are other beautiful island paradises around the world for which you take a ferry to get there.

One of them is Bald Head Island. It is as beautiful and unique as any island in the world. We are very, very lucky to live here. God created it for all of us.

The Mitchell family purchased Bald Head Island and developed it for all of us. And they did it in a way that was intended to be kind to Mother Nature and remain beautiful and unique. They paid millions of dollars to do this for us. Hopefully, it was a profitable venture for them; it surely is for us.

In order to assist all of us in maintaining Bald Head Island as the island paradise it is, on April 27, 1982, Bald Head Association was incorporated for this purpose, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation:

Article IV

The specific purposes for which it is formed are to provide for beautification, maintenance, preservation, and architectural control of the single-family homes, multi-family units and non-residential areas, the residence lots, assessable properties and the common areas with those tracts of property. ...


That, very simply, is primarily why Bald Head Association was formed, and that is the daily ongoing responsibility of the BHA.

In the last eight years, I have had the privilege and pleasure to serve as the President of Bald Head Association Stage II for two years, as President of Bald Head Association for three years and on the Board of Directors for eight years. As such, I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know many of the dedicated volunteers who have served on the committees of Stage II and BHA, those who have been elected to and have served on the Boards and the full- and part-time staff of BHA.

There will come a time when each of us, for whatever reason, will have to leave our island paradise. In the time we are here, we want to know that we have done our share to preserve, protect and improve our island paradise.

I am pleased to report to you to help meet that goal, we have been blessed by having many exceptional volunteers and staff members who have dedicated themselves to carrying out the purposes set forth for us by the original families who started BHA's preceding organization and as set forth in BHA's Articles of Incorporation. These volunteers and staff are doing all that is required and necessary

to preserve this incredible island paradise for all of us and for generations to come.

Bald Head Island is and will remain the best island paradise in the world. 

It is time By Alan Briggs

today at church
Pat and Pat said Barbara
is leaving the island
they said "it is time"

it got me thinking
what does it mean
when they said
"it is time"

so I talked with Barbara
and told her how sorry I was
she is leaving the island
and asked her "what does it mean?"

she said "you will know"
when it is time"
well that sort of helped
and sort of didn't

but I guess if
I don't know now
what it means
it must not be time.

Managing Editor

Carrie Moffett, BHA Executive Director

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Alan Briggs, President; Christine Osborne,
Vice President; Robert Drumheller, Secretary
and Treasurer; Paul Carey, Assistant Treasurer;
Joe Brawner; John Kinney

Contributors

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.



Yard Debris Pickup on BHI

By Carin Faulkner, Village Public Information Officer

Yard debris pickup is a service that municipalities typically provide to property owners. It not only ensures that yards are nicely kept, but it also helps keep right of ways clear for traffic, promotes proper storm drainage and eliminates areas where pests can make a home where they are not wanted.

The Village offers debris pickup for property owners who do their own yard work. Most of the debris is turned into mulch and the mulch is free for property owners to pick up at the Timber Creek Mulch Site. The Village picks up the tab for the items of debris that cannot be turned into mulch and must be hauled off the island. To prevent contractors from abusing the Village's service which

is intended for property owners, the Village schedules specific times at which debris is picked up and it must be at the request of the property owner.

In the months of April through October, yard debris is picked up on the first and third Wednesday of the month. In the months of November through March, yard debris is picked up once a month on the first Wednesday of the month.

The Village accepts all limbs less than six inches in diameter

at the largest point. The debris must be left on the roadside no later than 6:00am on pickup day. Property owners can request a pickup by calling our Customer Service Representative at 910-457-9700, ext. 1000 or by placing a work request online. The QR code for the work request web page accompanies this article. Requests must be made by 2:00pm on the day before the scheduled pickup. Requests made after this time will be

scheduled for the next pickup day. You must call in/or place an online work order, or your debris will not be picked up.

The Village is aware that there have been piles of debris being left on vacant property around the island. The Department of Public Safety and Public Works are working together to

investigate and enforce this illegal dumping activity. If you observe illegal dumping, please call 911 immediately while it is happening (let the operator know you are on Bald Head Island). If you find a pile that has been left, please call our Customer Service Representative at 910-457-9700, ext. 1000 so the location can be reported to the appropriate staff.

Please send your questions to public.information@villagebhi.org or call 910-457-9700, ext. 1025.



YARD DEBRIS PICK UP ON BHI

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twice a month.

On the first and third
Wednesday.

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ext. 1000
or
submit a work
request online
@
www.villagebhi.org**

• NOV • • MAR •

November through March
once a month.

On the first
Wednesday.

- Piles should be left on the roadside.
- The Village will not accept limbs larger than 6 inches in diameter at the largest point.

If you use a landscaper/contractor, they are responsible for removing debris. This service is for property owners with occupied homes who do their own yard work.

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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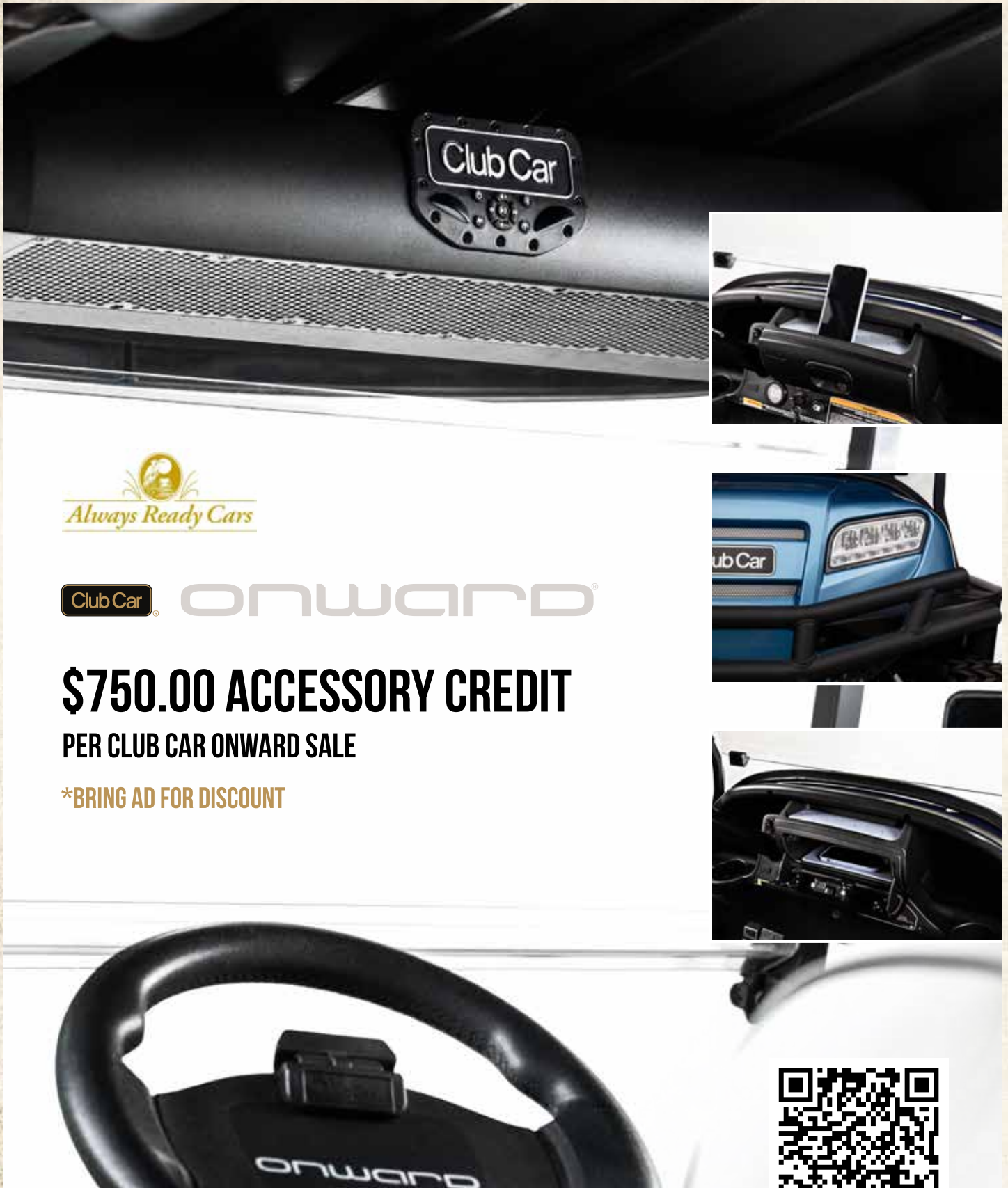

























































































































































































































































































































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A Commute Like No Other

The month of November is a chance for us to celebrate the special connections we have with family and friends. This year, I wanted to take a minute to recognize and thank those who've worked throughout the year to make 2024 another successful year — Bald Head Island's employees.

As someone who has ridden the ferry twice a day, five days a week for more than twelve years, I can tell you firsthand that it's hard. Sure, there are days, like today, when the sky is painted that splendid Carolina blue and we all enjoy and appreciate our commute. But, there are other days when it's raining side-ways, and we've resigned ourselves to walking into work completely

By Carrie Moffett, Executive Director, Bald Head Association

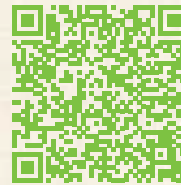
soaked. Or, when the cold wind whips off the water and cuts right through to the bone. Those are the days when it's hard to come to work. That's when it's harder cleaning the houses, fixing the HVAC units, remodeling the sunrooms, cooking lunch or dinner, building houses, protecting the public, serving the property owner members and on and on. And the weather condition is on top of the regular, everyday challenges of navigating life around a ferry schedule.

With this approaching holiday season, I especially want to acknowledge all of the Island's employees (including BHA's own talented and dedicated staff) for all of their hard work and

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Why Are More Roosting Birds Flocking to the Wildlife Overlook?

The BHI Conservancy conducted an environmental research project this past summer at both Ibis Pond and the Wildlife Overlook to observe how water quality is affecting wildlife biodiversity. The Ibis Sanctuary used to be an ideal, scenic birding site as hundreds of ibis, egrets and herons came to roost nightly. But it has had a noticeable decline in the number of roosting birds and wildlife sightings in recent years. Meanwhile, hundreds of birds have been flocking in waves to the Wildlife Overlook. See the QR code to read the entire article by the BHI Conservancy.



Roosting birds at the Wildlife Overlook.
Photo by The BHI Conservancy.



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LET US TILE YOUR ISLAND HOME



Brunswick County Students Become Barrier Island Botanists With BHI Conservancy Program

By Carrie Barnette, Director of Development, BHI Conservancy

Have you noticed groups of students exploring Bald Head these past few weeks? They aren't skipping school or running away from home; these young people are attending our Barrier Island Botanist (BIB) program, a collaboration between Brunswick County Schools and the Bald Head Island Conservancy. Started in 2018, the BIB field trip program has hosted more than 1,000 sixth grade students annually from Brunswick County. Originally funded through a corporate grant prior to the pandemic, BIB was brought back in 2022 thanks to the generosity of Jim, Devon, and Sinclair Brown.

"The Barrier Island Botanist program is an amazing opportunity for local kids to experience our island's ecosystem in such a fun and memorable way," says Devon Brown. "We truly believe that being able to visit the island and participate in hands-on activities with the BHIC's phenomenal educational and scientific staff will resonate with them in a way that really complements and builds upon



Sea Turtle Biologist Paul Hillbrand explaining the dune ecosystem.



BIB student writing in her nature journal.



Students identifying unique biological features of the dunes on BHI.

classroom curriculum. Our hope is that generations to come take the lessons they've learned and incorporate the BHIC message into their lives, particularly as climate change becomes a critical concern, both here on the coast and worldwide."

On a typical day of BIB, BHIC staff bring about 60 students and their teachers to Bald Head Island. Because our island consists of three primary ecosystems — the maritime forest, the salt marsh and the coastal dunes — students have the unique opportunity to experience this rare natural laboratory without traveling beyond the county border. Our program takes students to three different stations around the marina, where they learn about dune structure, saltmarsh food webs and the relationships between maritime forest flora and fauna.

BHIC Education Director Jennifer Wiggen works alongside Brunswick County Curriculum Coordinators to create fun activities that reinforce concepts the students are learning in class, providing hands-on experiences that demonstrate the complexity of coastal species and the connectivity between coastal processes and habitats. Students are challenged to work collaboratively and use their critical thinking skills to investigate how different plant species have adapted to live

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BHA Annual Report Packets, Annual Meeting and Voting

On the last Saturday of each January, Bald Head Association members gather to elect a new board of directors, consider any board-recommended changes to governing documents and learn about the Association's challenges and successes from the previous year.

Not only is it an opportunity for members to learn more about BHA, it's also a chance to learn more about the inner workings of the entire Island. In addition to BHA representatives, members also traditionally hear from other BHI entities, including the developer, BHI Limited; the Village of BHI; the BHI Clubs; the Old Baldy Foundation; the Village Chapel; the BHI Conservancy; and the Public Service Auxiliary. All that information is packed into approximately two hours, and numerous long-time property owners have expressed that they learned more about Bald Head Island at the

Annual Meeting than they had from any other source.

BHA is planning to hold its 2024 Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2024, beginning at 9:00am, both in person and online. More details will be forthcoming.

As required by BHA's Covenants, members will receive in late December 2023 a packet of information with materials for the 2024 Annual Meeting. The packet will contain BHA's 2023 Annual Report and specific instructions for online voting, including your individual voting registration ID. **Your unique voter registration ID label will be on the front cover of the Annual Report.** If you have questions about your voter ID, call Diane Mesaris at 910-457-4676, ext. 21. For any other questions, contact Executive Director Carrie Moffett at Carrie@BaldHeadAssociation.com or 910-457-4676, ext. 26. 

Poor Cell Reception?

By Mark Prak

Attention all Islanders who use Verizon or Spectrum for their cell phone service. Several BHI property owners with successful backgrounds in communications law and utilities are attempting to improve cell phone service on the Island for Verizon/Spectrum subscribers. Mark Prak (partner,

Brooks Pierce) and Scott Gardner (retired regional manager of Duke Energy and current Village Council member) are aiming to persuade Verizon to relocate its antenna nearer to the top of Crown Castle's new 60-foot taller tower located behind the Maritime Market, which should improve signal coverage for

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-Robert, BHI Owner

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Hurricanes of the Past — Part 3

By Jake Grossman, Educator and Collections Coordinator, Old Baldy Foundation

Historians do not usually write about recent events. In fact, I had a little bit of difficulty formulating an approach to discuss this 2018 hurricane that so greatly impacted our area. It is one thing to discuss the American Civil War or even 1990s hurricanes, but quite another to discuss the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Florence. Yet, here we are. So, let us look back five years to mid-September of 2018.

Hurricane Florence approached Wrightsville Beach as a category 1 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph. The predicament looked bleak, due to a wet summer that year plus lingering damage from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Mandatory evacuations began on Bald Head Island on September 12, 2018. Two days later, Florence churned into Wrightsville Beach, just above BHI. For the next two days, Florence barely moved while pounding the area with intense

rainfall. The rainfall, at least 30 inches over two days, resulted in the highest single storm rainfall amount in Wilmington history. Although the high winds helped contribute to 90% of New Hanover County losing power for approximately 110,000 people, the aftermath flooding remains infamous.

It usually takes a day or two after a storm for flooding to begin in earnest. The aftermath began in Boiling Spring Lakes, when lakes breached multiple dams overnight on September 15, 2018. Three days later, the Village of BHI reported, "All of the major wynds including WBHW, NBHW, Federal (both lanes), Stede Bonnet and many of the secondary roads all within and under the canopy of the maritime forest are presently impassable."

Meanwhile, Wilmington temporarily became an island itself when all roads in and out of the city flooded. On September 20, 2018, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety stated, "There is not a safe, stable



Flooding and damage at the BHI Club after Hurricane Florence. Photo courtesy of Charlotte Properties.

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Continued from page 10 (Hurricanes of the Past — Part 3)



I-40 completely flooded after Hurricane Florence. Photo by NC Department of Transportation.

or reliable route for the public to take to and from Wilmington.” At the height of the storm, there were over 20,000 people living in storm shelters. People and even shorebirds were displaced. Coastal birds such as terns, oystercatchers and petrels were spotted 40 miles east of Raleigh at the Buckhorn Reservoir. Eventually, people were able to get back to their homes and assess the destruction.

Florence resulted in \$16.7 billion in damages in North Carolina, with 74,563 structures reporting flood damage. Repairs are still underway for the 1919 Alton Lennon Federal Building and Courthouse in Wilmington, due to Florence. Old Baldy sustained multiple instances of damage to the stucco

that covers and protects the brick structure. Thankfully, the Old Baldy Foundation received a federal grant to repair damages. We are also using that relief funding for an archeological dig to look for evidence of a glacis wall around the base of Old Baldy. If found, we will recreate the wall to better stabilize Old Baldy against future storms.

Many buildings, such as the circa 1915 Bald Head Creek Boathouse, did not make it. The boathouse was a valuable piece of history that told the story of the US Lighthouse Service and United States Life Saving Service. It had been the second Bald Head Island site on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, thousands of our trees were knocked down or weakened.

Non-emergency personnel first assessed the destruction when they were allowed to return to BHI on September 27-28, 2018. Old Baldy did not welcome visitors again

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“Light up the Holidays” Christmas Tree Auction

Are you feeling festive? Support Old Baldy by donating your time and artistic talents to decorate a tabletop Christmas tree for the annual “Light Up the Holidays” Christmas Tree Auction! Old Baldy will provide the tree. Stop by the Old Baldy Gift Shop now through November 22 to pick up a tree and take it home to decorate in any theme you like. Return the decorated tree to Old Baldy on November 23 by 4:00pm, and your creation will be included in the auction, held at the BHI Club on November 24. All proceeds go directly to the Old Baldy Foundation and its continued preservation efforts. Enjoy supporting a cause that is important to you while kicking off the holiday season.



BHA's decorated tree for the 2022 auction. Photo by BHA.



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BHI Academy and Its Acorns

By Sheree Vaickus, Curriculum Operations Solutions and Marketing Officer, BHI Academy

Sowing the Seeds of Successful Knowledge Transfer into the Next Generation

Human beings are complicated. It makes sense our children would be, too. So, why would we think that teaching our kids would be uncomplicated? The educational complexity becomes even more challenging with each child's state of mind: dyslexia, ADHD, autism, high IQ, high functioning, shy, disruptive behavior, etc. And then what about those children with issues such as hearing loss and/or sensory deficits. At Bald Head Island Academy (BHIA™) we have an educational approach, with the right formula of a high teacher to student ratio, plus exceptional empathy embedded throughout where we have the compassion to find — and actually *see* — and teach each individual child.

With its small class size and teachers who are equipped with a variety of teaching modalities, BHIA guides children to discover (and celebrate) how they learn best, helping them become independent thinkers and lifelong learners. We cultivate children's innate leadership skills so that when they get that "Aha!" moment, they will naturally share what they've learned across peer and age groups, and help the younger children rise up. This applies both academically and in social skills.

If a child has dyslexia, BHIA deploys proven learning techniques to engage the scholar, from special tools, phonetics exercises and games to praising each small win. For children with

ADHD, we have created a carefully structured environment within our blended, small classroom to support their learning adventure, complete with leadership components and a strong athletic program. We find that kids (particularly those with ADHD) thrive academically when they have a rigorous athletic regimen; revving up their physical engine calms their mindset so they can tackle the work and handle the tasks.

Because of our in-the-moment, applied learning methodology, what our scholars are learning matters. Rather than memorization or other old-school, antiquated modalities, our little Acorns are engaged because they have a vested interest in what they are learning, and it applies to them *now*. For example, one of our students who is passionate about robotics is leading younger scholars in an exploration of technology. Another student is mentoring younger peers in nature photography, inspiring an appreciation and love for not only art but also the natural world (and there is no better natural habitat than the one on BHI). All of this is happening every day with these sometimes goofy, always amazing children. That's how we teach, in a nutshell, but there is more to our secret sauce as to why it's working.

BHIA's whole-child methodology allows our educators to teach lessons unique to each child's strengths and needs, giving

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Bill Pinkus, Owner 919-369-6252

Continued from page 12 (BHI Academy and Its Acorns)

the scholars more confidence, immediate academic improvement from previous pain points and incredible adaptability for dealing with life's lessons. This bespoke, fit-for-purpose, tailored approach is different from public schools and larger schools — often with one teacher for every 12 to 30 students (and all the disciplinary issues that come with large class sizes that detract from the learning experience). There, you can liken teaching to a lawn mower — some blades of grass (children) will be trimmed just right, others too much and yet others not at all.

Continuing the analogy, and in contrast, at BHIA we have bonsai scissors to transform the raw Acorns into works of art!

The key to our secret sauce is “The Isle of Ideas” that lives within our talented volunteers and a commitment to teaching. BHI is the nexus for the best and brightest. BHIA utilizes engaging and fun activities to pique each Acorn's interest, but still teaches solid fundamentals so that the children see how “boring” learning is applied in everyday life. In addition to our experienced, full-time teachers, Sarah Tennant and Andrew Hano, our incredible school is supported by a volunteer K-12 math teacher, Barbara McCarthy, who shares her passion for all things math and science. Over the summer, scholars experienced a living history lesson at the McCarthy's home, the Old Coast Guard Station. They discovered



that math is everywhere, even on a yacht. And they talked turtles with our world-class BHI Conservancy experts. They enjoyed a painting lesson with corporate executive-turned-artist, Meredith Bourne and are exploring their love for photography with Dr. Ted Peck. Former chemist and aviator, Doug Oakley, will expose older students to an ecosystem preservation-focused flight experience. Our scholars are learning entomology and commerce through beekeeping, with plans to commercialize their product in 2024. Politician Bill Bennett presented the school with his *Book of Virtues*,

and Elayne Bennett shared lessons on respect based on her Best Friends Foundation. The students are enjoying eating healthy foods, thanks to Chef Tonya Jenkins, and will learn how to cook with our culinary community. Robin Prak read her book titled *Ellie on the Island* to the children, they will study dental hygiene with Deb Feeney and there is much more.

Our Academy Board also gives much of their time and resources to ensure success. Each day we are approached by brilliant individuals willing to gift their knowledge to our scholars, making BHI Academy the Isle of Ideas and where our future lives. This is why these children are thriving. Stay tuned for more, as this is just the beginning of the Academy's story. The best is still unfolding.



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Bald Head Island's Pollinator Garden: It Takes a Village

By Betsi Stephen, Education & Recreation (ER) Committee Chair

It all started with a simple question from Megan Stephenson to her employer, Harper Peterson. "Wouldn't it be great to have a pollinator garden here in the Marina Park?" Megan has an MS degree in Conservation Medicine from Tufts University and is a critical part of Harper's team, spending much of her time helping outfit Islanders and guests for excursions in the creek, so she has a lot of time to inspect the natural flora and fauna in Marina Park. But Megan had a vision for something more grand.

I happened to run into Harper Peterson just after Megan had posed her question, and he asked me how we could make a pollinator garden happen. Fortuitously BHA's Education and Recreation (ER) Committee had just brought back the Garden Club, so I knew just the person — Grace Valentine, chair of that club — to lead the charge. To paraphrase a TV show, "And just like that," the Pollinator Garden on BHI was born.

After two meetings with all potential stakeholders (the Village, BHA, BHI Conservancy and Garden Club), we were off and running. Megan had proposed seven zones for the Pollinator Garden, several of which already contained native plants. Zone 1 was designated as behind the



Volunteers beginning work on the Pollinator Garden.
Photo by Betsi Stephen.



← Check out the Pollinator Garden video here.

Continued on page 18

BHI Transportation Authority Update

The BHI Transportation Authority (BHITA) held its regular meeting on September 20, 2023, in Southport and online. Despite an objection by the Village, the current slate of officers was re-elected. Mayor Peter Quinn, Scott Gardner and Claude Pope voted against it, citing a need for fresh faces to represent BHITA outside of the organization. It was announced at the meeting that mediation on the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) issue was scheduled in Raleigh for the following day, September 21.

The BHITA slate of officers are: Susan Rabon, Chair; Robert Howard, Vice Chair; Landon Zimmer, Secretary; and David Jessen, Treasurer. BHITA's annual report and financials are posted on BHA's website at www.BaldHeadAssociation.com/news.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20, at 9:15am at the Indian Trail Meeting Hall (113 W. Moore Street) in Southport.



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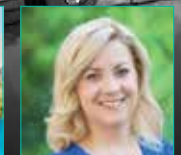
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All numbers represent sales of all property types (except commercial sales) located on Bald Head Island from 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022, and are sourced from NCRMLS Market Penetration Report run by Company Type (offices within same have been company combined). An agent who is both Buyer's Agent and Seller's Agent in any one sale is granted 200% credit. All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. (C) 2022 NCRMLS



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••• Continued from page 1 (*Want to Join the BHA Board of Directors?*)

of Directors, may be submitted to the Association office no later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting and this candidate or candidates shall be added to the final ballot which will be mailed to the membership no less than thirty (30) days in advance of the annual meeting.”

This year, November 27 is the 60-day deadline for petitions to be received by BHA. Of course, that date is the final deadline, and submissions can be sent any time prior to the deadline. Note that all Board candidates are required to complete a biography/questionnaire and send a photo for publication in BHA’s Annual Report and on BHA’s website to help inform members of candidates’ credentials. With a tight

print deadline, all biography/questionnaires and photos must be received by 4:00pm November 28, 2023. All who are interested in submitting a petition can email BHA Executive Director Carrie Moffett at Carrie@BaldHeadAssociation.com.


The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors and consists of a chairperson, who is a member of the Board of Directors, and four members of the Association who are not currently members of the Board of Directors. The 2023 committee members approved at the Board’s June regular meeting are: Rick Nelson, Robbie Nixon, Claude Pope and Kirby Ward. Matt Scibienski is the alternate, and Joe Brawner is the Board Liaison. 

••• Continued from page 1 (*BHI Native Plant Feature of the Month — Wax Myrtle*)

and candles. Historically, the plant was also used to make medicine by Native Americans.


Wax Myrtles can be used as a barrier or hedge and are a beneficial wildlife food source. According to the NC Cooperative Extension, “It attracts butterflies, pollinators, small mammals and songbirds. It is a host plant for the Red-Banded Hairstreak butterfly. Its flowers provide an excellent source of nectar for honeybees and butterflies. The fruits are eaten by birds, especially

the yellow-rumped warbler in the fall and winter.”

Wax Myrtles are exceptional for a butterfly, pollinator or herb garden because they are “highly resistant to salt, sea spray and deer damage. They can grow 20 to 25 feet tall but are usually much shorter. They are easily grown in medium to wet sandy soils in full sun to dappled or partial shade.” Because of its aesthetic appeal, colorful flowers and fragrant berries, it is a wonderful plant for a coastal garden. 


••• Continued from page 2 (*ARC Update*)

developments. With an average of 15-18 reviews per meeting, these dedicated volunteers commit to monthly meetings that can last 2-4 hours, plus the time spent reviewing projects prior to the meeting. Some volunteers take paint samples out to the sites to see how the colors actually look in both sunlight and shade, and make sure the streetscape is harmonious. Others may make

site visits to assess the impact of a major renovation or new construction on the neighboring houses. And each year, they review the Design Guidelines and recommend any changes to the BHA Board. We thank them for their devotion to Bald Head Island and for their commitment to preserving its ageless appeal for generations to come. 

••• Continued from page 7 (*A Commute Like No Other*)

commitment to do what is needed to make this Island run. Please consider thanking the Island’s employees when you see them. After all, they went through a lot that day just get to work!

Here’s to an abundance of wonderful moments and lasting memories with your loved ones. Happy Thanksgiving! 



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••• Continued from page 9 (Poor Cell Reception?)

Verizon and Spectrum cell phone users on the Island. Knowing how many subscribers who have poor cell reception on BHI helps provide potential leverage for their efforts.

(Spectrum cell service is affected because Spectrum purchases capacity from Verizon and resells Verizon service.)

If you subscribe to Verizon or Spectrum and have poor cell phone reception on BHI, please send an email to Carrie Moffett at carrie@baldheadassociation.com including your name, phone number, BHI address and whether your provider is Verizon or Spectrum. Stay tuned for more information on this issue! 

••• Continued from page 14 (Bald Head Island's Pollinator Garden: It Takes a Village)

bulwark to the left as one looks out to the creek, and we quickly determined that the perfect day for planting Zone 1 would be Earth Day, April 22, 2023.

After deciding on the depth of the planting area, BHA Board member and veteran gardener, John Kinney, and Megan consulted on the best plants — most of which are native to BHI — and developed a mock-up of plant locations. John not only bought all of the plants, primarily from Shelton Herb Garden in Leland, but he also transported them all to the Island and tended the plants until April 22, when we could plant them.


Meanwhile, Harper Peterson tilled the ground, and the newly formed Garden Club members prepared the bed, with Grace Valentine, Deb Feeney and Barbara Giera heading up the effort.


Each stakeholder was in their own lane, and since I'm not much of a gardener, I took up the task of fundraising. Two major efforts in the spring — BHI Trivia Night at Jailhouse Provisions and a

honey-inspired talk by Desiree Bridge (from the BHI Conservancy) — brought us enough money to purchase the spring plants. We can't thank the kind participants and donors enough for believing in us when all we had was some dirt and lots of ambition.

In addition, Ginny Wester Reeves needed to move the bricks that had lined her father's (Thad Wester) walkway through his garden at their home on Bay Tree Trail. J.P. McCann, the Village's Public Services Director, agreed to take the bricks, as long as they were put onto pallets. Ginny, Cam McIntyre, Elizabeth Kinney and I ended up filling four pallets of bricks — yes, they were laid one by one, all by hand. J.P.'s crew wrapped each pallet in shrink wrap and then delivered one of the four pallets to Marina Park. Dale and Barbara Giera, owners of Trinity Builders BHI, generously offered the services of their bricklayers to prepare and create the brick path.

Read the rest of this article online at
www.BaldHeadAssociation.com/life-on-bhi.





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••• Continued from page 8 (BHC
Brunswick County Student BIB Program)

on the island, how those plants protect our island from storms and erosion and how they support our wildlife. These activities also mirror current Conservancy research projects, emphasizing how the work we do supports and protects our environment and our homes.

The students learning on our beaches, in our marshes and around the maritime forest this fall will be bringing more home with them than just sand in their shoes; they're also gaining a new understanding of the importance of the Bald Head environment to our island community, southeastern North Carolina and the ocean biome as a whole. Together, we can all have a positive impact conserving and preserving this great gift of an island that we and so many amazing species call home.



••• Continued from page 11 (Hurricanes of
the Past — Part 3)

until October 6, 2018, while our Island-wide tours were suspended until November 2018. Florence was bad, but it could have been worse. It is up to us to stay diligent in preparation of storms and to unite afterwards to mitigate what damages occurred. The only predictable aspect of a hurricane is that they are unpredictable. We do not know when the next one will come. All we can do is prepare for the worst, hope for the best and enjoy every beautiful day on the Island between the storms.



¹ National Weather Service.

² *Village's Voice*, September 11, 2018.

³ Statewide, 300,000 households were without power. As many as 10 days limited power was restored to Bald Head Island on September 27, 2018.

⁴ Duke Energy statistics.

⁵ Per City of Boiling Spring Lakes.

⁶ Village of BHI manager, Chris McCall, "Post Florence Update,"

Village's Voice, September 2018.

⁷ National Weather Service.

⁸ Source: eBird.

⁹ *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*.

Correction

In the October *Island Report* print edition, Matt Scibienski's name was listed incorrectly in the article "Want To Join the BHA Board of Directors?" as the alternate on the Nominating Committee. His name was corrected in both online versions. BHA apologizes for this error. We appreciate our volunteers!

Scan this QR code with your phone camera
for full details on BHA's events calendar!



November 2023:

ARC-A Meeting	11/3/2023	9am
BHIC's "Year of the Trail" Hikes	11/4/2023	10am
Daylight Saving Time Ends	11/5/2023	
Municipal Elections	11/7/2023	
BHA Board Meeting	11/9/2023	3pm
BHA Office Closed	11/10/2023	
Veterans Day	11/11/2023	
Community Potluck Dinner	11/14/2023	6pm
ARC-B Meeting	11/17/2023	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	11/17/2023	
Thanksgiving	11/23/2023	
BHA Office Closed	11/23/2023-11/24/2023	
Old Baldy Annual Christmas Tree Auction	11/24/2023	
Christmas Parade	11/24/2023	4:30pm
BHI Conservancy Turtle Trot 5K	11/25/2023	8:30am
Smith Island Art League Show & Sale	11/24/2023-11/25/2023	10am
Howl at the Moon	11/27/2023	4pm
Community Tree Lighting/Sing-a-long	11/25/2023	5:30pm

Save the Date in December:

Cookie Exchange	12/4/2023	4pm
Hanukkah	12/7/2023-12/15/2023	
BHA Board Candidate Forum	12/11/2023	1pm
Village Council Meeting	12/15/2023	10am
Geminids Meteor Shower	12/14/2023-12/15/2023	
Christmas	12/25/2023	
BHA Office Closed	12/25/2023-12/26/2023	
Howl at the Moon	12/26/2023	4pm
Kwanzaa	12/26/2023-1/1/2024	

Around the Corner in 2024:

New Year's Day	1/1/2024	
BHA Office Closed	1/1/2024	
Community Potluck Dinner	1/8/2024	6pm
Operation Re-Forest — We Forest	1/8/2024-1/10/2024	
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	1/15/2024	
ARC-B Meeting	1/19/2024	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	1/19/2024	10am
BHA Annual Meeting	1/27/2024	9am
Smith Island Social	1/27/2024	5pm

Ongoing:

AA Virtual Meetings:	Mondays & Thursdays	8am
(Zoom Group: #85999065097, P/C: 570863, Email: sober.1day.at.a.time@gmail.com)		
Knitting Group:	Wednesdays	9:30am
Men's Group:	Every Other Monday	8:30am
Shag Dance Classes:	Tuesdays (Oct. 3, 10, 17)	6pm
Village Chapel Services:	Sundays through Memorial Day	8:30am
Women's Fellowship:	1 st & 3 rd Mondays	10am
Yoga Classes:	Mondays & Wednesdays	11:45am



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Reminder:

The deadline to submit a petition to join the BHA Board of Directors is November 27, 2023.



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