



Bald Head Association

September 2023

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Island Report

Communication, Advocacy and Protection of BHI Property Values

Go Native!

It is critical that we maintain the delicate balance that nature created in order for future generations to enjoy the Bald Head Island we know today. Protecting and planting native plants that have evolved on Bald Head Island is key, rather than establishing lawn grass or ornamental plants. "Natural" landscaping is not defined as a total abandonment of planting maintenance but, rather, a controlled and guided landscape in character with the charm and beauty of Bald Head Island.

Removal of any vegetation from all areas on Bald Head Island is a critical issue. This vegetation, whether shrubs, grasses or vines, is holding the soil/sand in place and defending the Island from erosion and storm damage. Much of this vegetation may appear to be "scrubby" and not considered "beautiful" to some people, but all of it is important to Bald Head Island's unique ecosystems.

The Maritime Evergreen Forest

Many species of plants and animals find their home in BHI's unique, globally imperiled forest. Live oak, sabal palm, redbay, laurel oak and loblolly pine provide a canopy that rises from its salt-sheared ocean edge to about 50-feet adjacent to the salt marshes. Much of the vegetation is evergreen. The forest helps hold the sand as well as shear storm winds to protect the island. The understory plays a critical part by knitting all of the forest protecting the larger trees' roots from salt, plus providing habitat for birds and wildlife.

Fall Is the Best Time to Plant

"Dormant seasons, the fall after leaf drop and early spring before bud break, are ideal times to plant new trees. Be sure the weather conditions are cool and allow time for new plants to establish roots in the new location before spring rains and summer heat stimulate new top growth." (*International Society of Arboriculture*)

plant list in the current Design Guidelines; pamphlets and links giving instruction on how to design landscapes for birds, butterflies and/or reptiles; "The Story About Understory," NC Coastal Landscape Initiative resources; and more can be found on the site.

The Dunes

Animals and vegetation also occur in the dune environment, comprising the scrub and pioneer zones. Sea oats and other salt- and wind-tolerant grasses, vines and shrubs inhibit the movement of sand that would otherwise bury the forest.

For more information, visit BHA's website at www.BaldHeadAssociation.com, click on "LIFE ON BHI" and select "BHI Landscaping." The



BHI Native Plant Feature of the Month

Coral Honeysuckle

Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is also known as Coral Honeysuckle, Trumpet Honeysuckle and Woodbine. It is an easy-growing vine with red, trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom in the spring and remain through the summer.

According to the NC Cooperative Extension, "Its flowers are attractive to hummingbirds, bees, butterflies and some moth pollinators. The small red berries are eaten by songbirds. The foliage may be eaten by white-tailed deer. It is a nectar source of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and a larval host for the Spring Azure Butterfly and the Snowberry Clearwing Moth.

"Trumpet honeysuckle is a vigorous twining vine in the Caprifoliaceae (honeysuckle)

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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 weed eaters

Hurricane Season – What Does It Mean for BHI, ARC and Trees?

Statistically, September is the height of hurricane season in southeastern North Carolina, and Bald Head Island has seen its fair share of them. How many of you were here in 2018 when Florence came to visit? What about Isaias or Ian? And let's not forget those tropical storms and the damage they have done. In other words, being prepared for the worst is the best course of action during hurricane season.

To start, do you have a hurricane action plan? Check out Brunswick County's emergency information site

(www.brunswickcountync.gov/e-alerts) for details on how to get notifications, prepare an emergency kit and create an evacuation plan. North Carolina's "ReadyNC" website has additional resources (www.readync.gov).

Job Sites on BHI

Preplanning also extends to any construction projects you have going on before the storm strikes. You and your

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New Processes for ARC Submittals

After a very brief lull in the number of monthly submissions, ARC is back in full swing seeing upwards of 20 applications every two weeks. To facilitate the process for BHA property owners and their architects, designers and contractors, ARC applications are now online.

This new system is designed to make it easier to submit complete applications and help prevent reviews being held up due to missing information that is required. Each application has its own list of items that is needed at the very top of the application. Visit www.BaldHeadAssociation.com/architectural-review-and-design-guidelines.

Physical items such as plans, paint chips, roof or decking materials, pavers, etc., in addition to review fees, will still need to be brought in or sent to the ARC office to be included in the submittal. Only complete applications received by the deadline can be presented to the ARC for its consideration.

Be aware that the meeting times and submittal deadlines have not changed. ARC meeting and deadline schedules are available at the web page address mentioned above. Preliminary and Final Applications are due on Friday by noon three weeks prior to the meeting, and all other applications are due on Friday by noon two weeks prior to the meeting for which you are submitting. The ARC team is here if you have questions about applications. Contact Chris Howard at 910-457-4676, ext. 23 or Chris@BaldHeadAssociation.com.



ARC Monthly Quiz

- How many gallons of water are needed for one person daily? Don't forget to include water for pets.
 - (A) 5 Gallons
 - (B) 4 Gallons
 - (C) 2 Gallons
 - (D) 1 Gallon – Correct
- You should have how many days' water supply in your disaster kit?
 - (A) 30 Days
 - (B) 11-15 Days
 - (C) 8-10 Days
 - (D) 3-7 Days – Correct
- How often should you change stored drinking water in your disaster kit?
 - (A) Never if in a sealed container
 - (B) Once a year
 - (C) Once every 3 months
 - (D) Once every 6 months – Correct

BHA President's Letter ~ Alan Briggs

This month I would like to highlight for you our Long-Range Planning (LRP) Committee. The Bylaws describe the committee's responsibilities:

1. Review and evaluate past long-range plans; summarize progress toward stated goals.
2. Recommend actions that help fulfill Association purposes and responsibilities.
3. Manage long-term projects as charged by the Board of Directors.

The 2023 LRP Committee members are:

Greg Wendling, Chair
Courtney Callihan
Victoria Lonker
Walter McNairy
Joel Michaels
Elizabeth (Betty) Robinson
Scott Thomas
Bob White

This committee is generally thought of as the "Think Tank" for the Board of Directors. We have always had a very talented group for our LRP Committee and they have proved exceptionally helpful to the Board.

Over the last eight years, some of our strongest and most talented leaders on the Island have chaired this committee, including Anne Gardner, Joe Hawkins and Peter Menk.

For the last two years, Greg Wendling, a graduate of Wake Forest Law School and a practicing trial attorney in Greensboro, NC, has been the Chair. He and his family have had a second home on BHI at Timbercreek for the last 15 years.

Every year this committee has been asked to study a number of complex issues and then report to the Board their views and thoughts on these issues. This year, they have been asked to consider whether or not Bald Head Association should still hold the Battery 4 real property in whole or in part, or if it should sell the property.

At our Board retreat in February 2023, one Board member suggested we sell the Battery 4 real property. Accordingly, we asked Greg and his long-range planning committee to study this issue and report their conclusions back to the Board, hopefully in the fall of 2023.

To that end, BHA Executive Director Carrie Moffett did extensive research and dug out the history as to how our acquisition of this property came about and gave this to Greg and Bob White. Bob is one of the members of the LRP Committee, and he owns and has been operating a real estate development company in Virginia and North Carolina for the last 30+ years. The two of them have studied the material at length and gave the material to all of the committee members. Then on August 24, 2023, the LRP Committee met and fully discussed this issue. Stay tuned for updates.

In addition, they had two guest speakers address the committee: Paul Carey, a current member of the BHA Board who has an extensive and successful finance and business background, and Dick Johnston, a long-term BHI resident, a former President of the BHA Board and a person who understands the reasons the

Continued on page 5

a blast from the past By Alan Briggs

Off the Southwestern Coast
of North Carolina
near Bald Head Island
every summer at mysterious times
it will happen
without any warning
all of sudden there will be a blast
that vibrates across the ocean
so loud your teeth rattle
your body shakes
it sounds like
what you would think
a cannon blast would sound like

a little research disclosed
for over 150 years
from unknown places
on Cape Fear
off the North Carolina Coast
all have heard these
loud booming noises
the windows rattle
the buildings vibrate
the ground shakes
some say
Seneca Guns
(whatever they are)
cause these blasts
but no one knows
how why or from where
they come

some say
the Civil War
has not ended.

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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.



Village of BHI Updates

Emerging Contaminant Update

JP McCann, Public Services Director, recently gave an update on emerging contaminants in local water systems. Mr.

McCann has been attending NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) workshops locally for the last two years regarding this topic and shared information about the Environmental Protection Agency's policy proposals and the latest on the Village's response to emerging contaminants.

EPA's Response — Mr. McCann reported that the EPA is proposing a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) to establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) in drinking water. The EPA is also proposing health-based, non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for these six PFAS. These MCLGs are the maximum level of contaminant in drinking water where there are no known or anticipated negative health effects allowing for a margin of safety.

The proposed MCLG and MCL (enforceable levels) can be viewed on the right-hand side of the accompanying graphic.

Village's Response — The state approached the Village about testing the Island's drinking water, and tests were performed this past spring 2023 of the Royal James well. The results are shown in the graphic. The numbers on the left are the test results of the water coming straight from the well, and the numbers on the right are the test results of the water coming from the tap at the time of the testing (this would be water from all sources that the Village's water system was pulling from at the time of testing). All results received from this testing would fall below EPA's proposed enforceable levels.

Mr. McCann emphasized that this is a snapshot in time and that the results can change. This is because the Village pulls from different wells over time and adds Brunswick County treated water at various amounts during peak usage periods. He explained that as more testing is performed, the Village will get a better understanding of what sources impact the results. The frequency of testing required for local water systems is likely to come out of the EPA's guidance. The current proposed levels

By Carin Faulkner, Village Public Information Officer

Compound	Bald Head Island (Royal James Well) (Utilities tap)	Proposed MCLG	Proposed MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	14.3, 19.2 & 23.1 1.28, 2.27	zero	4.0 ppt (also expressed ng/l)
PFOS	3.03, 2.7, & NT 2.13, 3.56	zero	4.0 ppt (also expressed ng/l)
PFNA	1.07, 1.08 & 2.22 NT		
PFHxS	3.31, 4.12 & 5.26 1.77, 2.35	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
PFBS	11.4, 13.2 & 17.8 1.42, 2.8		
HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals)	7.15, 8.43, 9.17 677, 845		VSHI Hazard Index .3474

are also a snapshot and are subject to change. Mr. McCann indicated that the proposed levels have gone from 140 ppt and 70 ppt to the currently proposed levels of 4.0 ppt and 1.0 Hazard Index (unitless).

The Village performed additional testing at the end of July that concentrated on water from the wells closest to the river and intake water coming from Brunswick County and then a tap result. Results were still pending at the time this article was written. The Village is also being proactive by putting in pre-filters and is seeking to modify them to include additional filters such as GAC (granular activated carbon) filtration. The Village will provide updates as more test results are received and as the EPA's regulations become final.

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.

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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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BHA 2023 Assessment Dues — Don't Wait for the Lien Process

Thank you to all members who have paid their annual BHA 2023 assessment dues, which were due by February 15, 2023. There is a 30-day grace period before late fees and interest begin to accrue, which ended on March 15, 2023. For property owners who have not yet paid, final statements were mailed in May 2023. The list of properties with outstanding balances went before the Board at its August meeting, and the lien process has begun.

Payments can be made easily and securely on the website at www.BaldHeadAssociation.com. On the top menu, click on "Make A Payment." If you are signed up for Owner Access and log in under "Property Owner," the amount due is shown. If you are not signed up for Owner Access and log in under "Other," the amount due is not shown, and you must enter the amount from your statement.

Website payments can be made using a checking account (ACH) or credit card, with accompanying fees. Checks can be mailed to Bald Head Association, PO Box 3030, Bald Head Island, NC 28461. Note your BHI street address in the check's memo line and include your account number. For any questions, contact Leigh Ann Fink at LeighAnn@BaldHeadAssociation.com. Thank you! 

BHA's Finance Committee

On June 29, 2023, BHA's Finance Committee met to discuss the first draft of the 2024 budget. The key assumptions that the budget is based on were discussed. The committee will meet again in early September to review the budget line-by-line and will provide a draft for the Board to review in October, with the final version to be considered for approval by the Board at the November regular meeting on November 9, 2023.


There are several new members on this year's committee. BHA thanks the committee members for their input in the somewhat daunting budget process.

••• Continued from page 3 (President's Letter)

Battery 4 property was recommended for purchase by the BHA Board and why the BHA members approved and paid for the purchase of the property.

The Committee will consider this information, share thoughts among and between themselves and in the near term, report to the Board their conclusions and recommendations.

I really appreciate the good work Greg Wendling and all the members of BHA's Long-Range Planning Committee are doing to work on this project and all the work they have done in the past for all of us.

Thanks. 



Dale Giera

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Notes From the Classroom: Nature Exploration

By Morgan Greene, Education Part-timer, BHI Conservancy

You packed your bags, drove to the marina and rode the ferry. Now you're finally here — your special time on Bald Head Island has begun! But what should you do first, among all there is to do on Bald Head Island?

Maybe your first activity should be the Bald Head Island Nature Exploration Tour. This brand-new tour begins at the Hatchling Hut, the Conservancy's information desk right across from the ferry, and takes you to all the best nature stops on the Island. You'll get a glimpse at the variety of ecosystems we have on Bald Head Island, as well as some fun places to return to for further exploration on your own.

The first stop on our tour is the Kent Mitchell Nature Trail, which takes us into one of BHI's marsh hammocks. These "hammocks" are small patches of maritime forest that occur in the salt marsh wherever sediment has built up above the high tide line. You may see fiddler crabs and squareback marsh crabs hiding in the cordgrass or spot egrets fishing in the marsh creeks while terns and songbirds fly overhead. The Kent Mitchell trail also gives you a glimpse at Middle Island, home to the ibis sanctuary that can be accessed through the Conservancy's Middle Island Tour.

Farther into the Island, we explore the maritime forest, where we could encounter some of the many songbirds, reptiles, insects and arachnids that call Bald Head Island home. We'll also see the Timmons Oak, a massive live oak specimen and the oldest tree on the Island, at about 400 years old. All our live oaks are incredibly important to the Island biome, making up much of the forest canopy for the maritime plants and animals that rely on them for shade and shelter. One of those plants is poison ivy, so make sure not to wander off the trail.

At the far end of the Island, we'll peer over the dunes for a view of Frying Pan Shoals. At over 3,000 shipwrecks and counting, these infamous sand bars earned Cape Fear its reputation as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." The shoals extend about 25 miles out to sea, not too far from Frying Pan Tower. The tower used to be a light station manned by the US Coast Guard to keep ships from wrecking on the shoals, but once GPS and radar made the tower obsolete, it was temporarily abandoned before becoming a dangerous but exciting destination for thrill-seekers and researchers alike as the world's most dangerous hotel.

After we take a break at the Conservancy for lunch at Mike's Bites and some shopping at Turtle Central, we'll make our way down South Bald Head Wynd to the final stop on our tour — BHA's Wildlife Overlook. At this popular pond viewing area, you have the chance to see white ibises, yellow-bellied sliders and perhaps even an alligator. From here, the tour takes you back to where we started at the Hatchling Hut, but you'll be able to return to any of your favorite stops as you please.

Want to learn more about any of these locations? Itching to see an alligator? Curious about the Timmons Oak or Frying Pan Shoals? Be sure to stop by the Hatchling Hut and sign up for the Bald Head Island Nature Exploration Tour. Whether you're fairly new to the Island or you've been around BHI for some time, this tour is guaranteed to teach you something you never knew about Bald Head Island.



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Hurricanes of the Past — Part 2 of 3

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

“Hurricane Alley” is a fitting name for the 1950s because there were eight hurricanes, including the treacherous Hurricane Hazel.

Hazel began auspiciously when Chief Forecaster Grady Norton died from a stroke. Although he was warned to avoid working long hours, the urgency of charting Hazel’s path pushed him to his death. On October 15, 1954, during an abnormally high tide, Hazel slammed into the border between the Carolinas.¹ Winds at Holden Beach, Calabash and Little River were reported at 150 mph, while Oak Island reported 140 mph. The storm barely slowed down as it blasted inland. Indeed, Philadelphia recorded its highest-ever measured winds of 94 mph, while Toronto experienced historical flooding.

Back in North Carolina, only five out of the 357 houses on Oak Island remained standing. All 33 houses in Ocean Isle were destroyed. Connie Helms-Young-Ledgett and her new husband at that time rode out the rising tide on a mattress all the way from Oak Island to Davis Creek. The next day, they sat down on the beach and had lunch from their still-intact refrigerator that they found about a mile from where their house has previously been.² Farther up the coast, Clara Evans Pierce and her ex-husband and keeper of the Cape Fear Light Station, Curtis Evans, fled Captain Charlie’s Cottage and went into the now-demolished Cape Fear Lighthouse. Afterwards, they found a chest of drawers that had washed across from Oak Island containing clothing for their newborn as well as their life insurance papers. Although the newlyweds and the Evanses survived Hazel, 19 people in North Carolina died. In addition, Hazel destroyed 15,000 homes while damaging another 39,000. In total, NC reported \$36 million in damages.³ Afterwards, citizens in Southport planted a cedar tree in memory of those who suffered due to Hazel. That tree lasted until July 1996, when Hurricane Bertha swept through and knocked it down.

BHI welcomed five hurricanes in the last four years of the 1990s. Not to belittle the storms between Hazel and Bertha, but there is only so much space to write. I will briefly mention Donna in 1960, Diana in 1984 and Hugo in 1989. Diana

was likely the first major storm to hit BHI since our recent development. Hugo caused 1.5 million people to lose power, resulting in a superhuman effort by Duke Energy employees to replace 8,800 poles, 700 miles of cable and 6,300 transformers, all in two weeks.

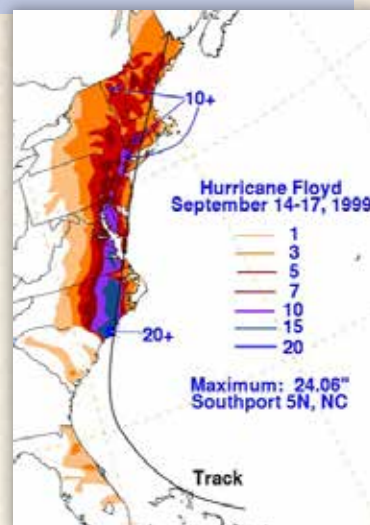
Bertha passed over the Frying Pan Tower and then made landfall on July 11, 1996 at Wrightsville Beach. Damages such as the Hazel memorial tree in Southport and a destroyed Ferris wheel in Wrightsville Beach are obvious examples of a hurricane’s wrath. Perhaps less obvious is that according to the NC State Tourism Board, beach communities lost \$6 million dollars of revenue each day the beach was closed.

Another often overlooked result of hurricanes is the devastation of livestock and crops. Indeed, during Fran, which hit NC near BHI on September 5, 1996, one million turkeys and chickens, 16,000 hogs and 400 head of cattle all perished. Farmers reported an additional \$685 million in crops lost. If the wife of a power worker hadn’t forced her husband to reroute power to the powerless Ft. Fisher Aquarium, those aquatic animals may have perished, as well.

Two years later, four dogs, two cats, one parrot and six BHI residents sheltered inside Old Baldy during Bonnie.⁴ A spokesman for the NC emergency response team correctly stated that Old Baldy has “been there a long time, and it’s weathered a lot of storms.”⁵ Before the new millennium, Old Baldy would be tested twice more by Dennis and Floyd.

Hurricane Dennis paved the way for Floyd two weeks later. Uncertainty factored into the preparation for both storms. Evacuations began as it seemed Dennis would plow right into BHI on August 30; however, it swerved and went back out to sea, then swerved again, eventually making landfall near Cape Lookout. Yet, from August 30 to September 5, high winds battered the NC coast as Dennis decided where to go. Two weeks later, on September 16, 1999, Hurricane Floyd strolled onto the scene. Floyd was unpredictable in a different way. It appeared that it would make landfall as a large category 4, then it suddenly dwindled to a 2. Yet, the recent impact of Dennis and the amount of rain from Floyd still caused record flooding and destruction.

Indeed, Wilmington experienced 15 inches of rain in one day, the most up to that point. The flooding and high water caused multiple barges full of munitions to break from Sunny Point. Thankfully, the barges were safely recovered, yet damage was



The path and rain level of Hurricane Floyd. Courtesy of the Hydrologic Prediction Center.



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Village Chapel Update | By Kevin Arata, Village Chapel Board of Trustees

The Village Chapel outreach team is conducting an ongoing pet food drive to support Brunswick County families in need. All donations are distributed through Brunswick County Food Pantries and Meals on Wheels routes. New, unopened pet food donations can be dropped off at Salty Paws BHI near the Maritime Market when the store is open. Please do not leave donations outside the front door when the store is closed. Donations can also be made directly on the Paws Pantry website (use the QR code), where you can make a monetary donation or purchase food directly from Amazon or Chewy for Paws Pantry.



••• Continued from page 8 (*Hurricanes of the Past — Part 2 of 3*)

extensive all around. Not only did Floyd cause nearly \$4 billion worth of damages, but 52 people lost their lives due to the storm. That was the highest number of deaths in a storm since 1883. Floyd ended up being the last major hurricane of the 1900s; however, check back in next month for our final hurricane article, where we outline another hurricane that begins with the letter “F.”



¹ The October lunar high tide is appropriately named the “Marsh Hen Tide” because the tide is so high, waterfowl are forced to flee the marsh.

² Per Connie Helms-Young-Ledgett.

³ According to the CPI Inflation Calculator.

⁴ *North Carolina's Hurricane History Includes a Decade of New Storms from Isabel to Sandy*, by Jay Barnes.

⁵ *Los Angeles Times*, August 27, 1998.



At left: The corner of Lord and Bay streets in downtown

Southport after Hazel. Courtesy of Madeline “Punk” Spencer. At right: Houses from Oak Island pushed into the marsh during Hazel. Intact houses were brought back and put on new foundations. Courtesy of Madeline “Punk” Spencer.



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Voting and Residency

As of August 9, 2023, there are 365 people registered to vote in BHI elections. This is an approximate increase of 10% from two years ago. If you live on Bald Head Island full-time or part-time, you may want to review the voting requirements and determine WHERE you want to exercise your voting rights.


According to the Brunswick County Board of Elections, to register to vote in Brunswick County, you must “be a legal resident domiciled in Brunswick County and North Carolina for 30 days by the date of the next general election day.” The residency deadline is Sunday, October 8, 2023.

Here are some important voting details. Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina. You can request and submit absentee ballots right now, either from downloading the form from the website or by calling the elections office. You

can request an absentee ballot at any time. Absentee ballots are available beginning October 6, 2023 and will be mailed on that date to those who have previously submitted requests.

Voter registration deadline is October 13, 2023. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, and polls are open 6:30am-7:30pm. As long as you’re in line by 7:30pm, you can still vote. For the full list of voting dates, visit www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections and select “2023 Municipal Election.”


The “One-stop” early voting process for 2023 is Thursday, October 19 through Saturday, November 4. For specific days and hours, visit www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections/onestop.

For questions, call the Brunswick County Board of Elections at 910-253-2620. Office hours are 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday, and the website is www.brunswickcountync.gov/elections. 

••• Continued from page 1 (BHI Native Plant Feature of the Month — Coral Honeysuckle)

family that is native to the southeastern United States and evergreen in the warm winter climates of the deep South. The genus *Lonicera* is named for Adam Lonicerus, a German botanist from the 1500s.

“Trumpet honeysuckle grows in medium moisture, well-drained, neutral to acidic soils in full sun. It will grow in some shade, but best flowering is in full sun. It likes organically rich soils.

“This is a twining vine that can reach 10 to 20 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide. It needs a support structure and thus is an excellent choice for a trellis, arbor or fence. However, it can also be allowed to sprawl as a ground cover. It is a nice addition to a butterfly, native or pollinator garden. Its salt tolerance makes it especially welcome in coastal gardens.” 



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Smith Island Land Trust (SILT)

By Lynn Barnard, SILT Board Vice-President,
and Marianna Fitz-Hugh, SILT Board President

Founded in 1996, the Smith Island Land Trust (SILT) works to preserve the historically and ecologically significant lands of the Smith Island Complex (Bald Head, Middle and Bluff Islands) for the benefit of current and future generations. SILT serves as the land preservation arm of the Bald Head Island Conservancy (BHIC); however, the entities are separate 501(c) (3) organizations with a separate Board of Directors and bylaws. Through the kindness and generosity of many donors, over 100 acres of land have been preserved by SILT, representing over 10% of the developable land across Bald Head Island and Middle Island. Currently, 65 lots have been donated to the Smith Island Land Trust.

Every preserved lot makes a significant difference to the future of the Island. SILT lots provide natural corridors for the Island's many animal species, and a balanced ecosystem that encourages species diversity. Forests throughout the Smith Island Complex are used by more than 200 bird species as feeding and nesting grounds, or as stopovers during seasonal migrations. Undeveloped lots along the salt marsh provide food and protection for coastal marine fish, reptiles, shellfish and birds. The ecosystem thrives in these natural areas and protects the incredible beauty of Bald Head Island for our future generations.

All donations to the Smith Island Land Trust are tax deductible, and there are substantial benefits to donating land. Protected parcels in the maritime forest help ensure high-quality groundwater for the Island's drinking water supply. Natural lots along the salt marsh attenuate erosional currents and augment creek water quality. A healthy forest canopy provides a buffer against hurricane winds for Island infrastructure and its wildlife inhabitants. In more practical terms, a lot donated to the Smith Island Land Trust may also provide the donor with increased privacy, a protected view and a natural storm barrier for their own home. Donors can reduce or eliminate property taxes, lower estate taxes and potentially find savings on itemized income tax returns.

The officers and staff of the Smith Island Land Trust will be happy to answer any questions you may have and help you through the process of land donation. Visit SmithIslandLandTrust.org for more information.



ISLAND EXPERTS



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BHI Transportation Updates

New Uniforms

You will soon see BHI Transportation (BHIT) ferry crews wearing new shirts. The crews are changing from the previous white, button-down shirts with shoulder boards to a polo-style, performance fabric shirt in dark gray. The previous white shirts are made of heavy cotton, are hot, uncomfortable and get ruined quickly with stains in the course of ferry operations. BHIT is making the change to provide better wearability and easier maintenance for the ferry crews. The ferry mates and captains will wear collar devices to identify their position on the crew, and "Ferry" will be embroidered under the logo.

Bulk 40 Coupon Code Usage Tracking

There is a new, helpful feature for the Bulk 40 Coupon Code users — the ability to check coupon code usage. Users may now track their round-trip ticket usage at www.baldheadislandferry.com. Visit the FAQ web page (see QR code) for the specific steps.

Tram Is Tied to Your Ferry Ticket

BHIT is looking holistically at all system variables to be more effective and efficient. One of the focus areas is the coordination between the ferry and the tram, particularly tram pickups. The purpose of the tram is to take passengers from the terminal to their BHI destination and reverse the process when leaving BHI.

When ferries run late, tram pickups are delayed as well, to help reduce stacking up at the terminal.



Linking ferry reservations to tram reservations is important to help ensure a smooth and efficient operation of the transportation system overall.

In addition, the linkage between ferry and tram reservations helps BHIT learn how to most effectively staff ferry and tram crews as well as other support personnel to best meet service demands. As BHIT continues to gather data under the new ticketing and reservation system, they are making adjustments to both the ticketing and reservation system as well as internal processes to improve the overall performance of the transportation system.

New and Future Capabilities

BHIT appreciates your feedback and has been working with the developer for necessary fixes and future capabilities. One recent update is that Apple Pay and Google Pay are now available for use in the app. Users may have to refresh/update the app to see the option available on the payment screen.

Here are some additional items that have been completed, based on user feedback since deploying the system on June 7:

1. Improved Apple Wallet function to show additional travel/ticket details.
2. Improved vessel tracking, including color-coded markers

Continued on page 15



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LET US BUILD YOUR BHI DREAM HOME

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 owner who has completed many new construction and remodeling projects on the island, Dale is well versed on the details of building on Bald Head Island. He's currently building a beautiful, custom home on Brown Pelican Trail and recently completed new construction projects on Kinnakeet as well as the Esplanade building on Maritime Way.



Dale Giera
919.485.9901
dale.giera@gmail.com

••• Continued from page 13 (BHI Transportation Updates)

- and vessel name labels.
3. Included the ability to choose one-way tram when making ferry reservations.
 4. Streamlined reservation information input — many inputs are optional or no longer required.
 5. Enabled autofill for most personal information entries online.
 6. Improved guidance for ferry and tram reservations to reduce errors and missed/duplicate tram pickups.
 7. Enabled ability to track Bulk 40 Coupon Code usage through the website.
 8. Changed employee and contractor ticket structure to reduce scanning errors and scan times.
 9. Updated the app to show Bulk 80 scans used (for newly issued Bulk 80's; not applicable to previously issued passes).
 10. Implemented pilot program (weekend of August 11-13) to validate email/text notification of ferry/tram pickup delays.
 11. Made ferry and tram reservation space availability clearly visible to assist passengers in completing ticket purchase.
 12. Enabled Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Future improvements include:

1. New website design to include live ferry terminal camera feed (anticipated in September).
2. Ability to track Bulk 40 Coupon Code use through the app (awaiting developer implementation).

Some Statistics

Here are some interesting statistics to share:

- July 2023 was the highest passenger volume in BHIT's entire history.
- Over 200,000 passengers have been carried since the June 7, 2023 launch of its new online system.
- Even with a higher volume of passengers, compared to July 2022 there was a 22% reduction in the number of ferries that bumped passengers and an equivalent reduction in the number of passengers bumped this July.
- Approximately 70% of riders are now using the new electronic system to book their ferry and tram reservations.



Grove, Eloise and Henry Robbins raised \$302.50 in two summer afternoons for the Smith Island Land Trust (SILT). The next generation of stewards of the Island. Photo by Melanie Robbins.



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—Robert, BHI Owner



iTrip NC Beaches Team Members

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

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.

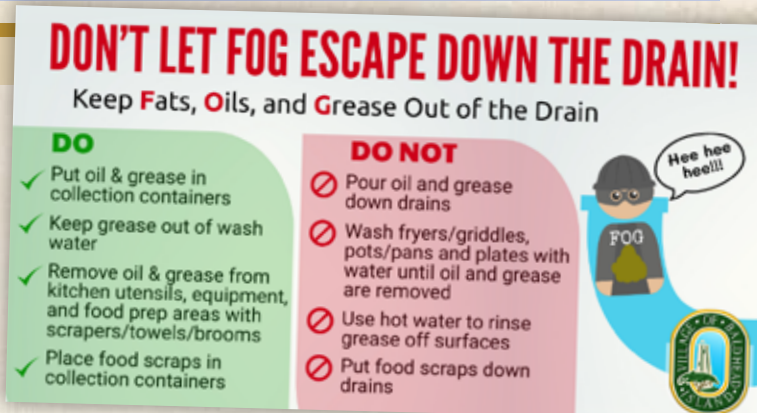
... it is a liquid oil at room temperature.

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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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 2 (Hurricane Season – What Does It Mean for BHI, ARC and Trees?)

contractors should make a habit of keeping your jobsite clean and securing loose materials at the end of every workday. Flying debris can wreak havoc not only on your property but your neighbors, as well.

ARC worksite guidelines go beyond keeping Bald Head Island beautiful; they are designed to help you and your contractors avoid potential devastation through providing preventive measures. Clean worksites are always essential. Make sure your contractor keeps the job site clean and free of litter, especially materials that can be blown by wind. Construction fencing should be installed and maintained.

As the property owner, you — not your builder — are ultimately responsible for compliance with all relevant BHA Covenants, Design Guidelines and Community Wide Standards (CWS). All of these documents are on BHA's website (www.BaldHeadAssociation.com). For those who have contractors working on your property, make sure they have a hurricane preparation plan in place.

It is crucial to have in writing who is responsible for various preparation tasks such as securing loose materials, which otherwise could become lethal flying objects. By delegating specific assignments in advance, a contractor's employees can avoid confusion and act quickly. Some tasks include:

- Secure trash containers and other debris. Dumpsters should never overflow, and contents must be secured from wind.

- Remove equipment and tools.
- Secure or remove portable bathrooms.
- Remove fence screens and any signage.
- If possible, take measures to protect utility systems.

Property owners and contractors should monitor the weather regularly to help ensure adequate time for preparation. Although it may look like a normal day today, a storm could be nearby and moving quickly.

After a Storm

Once a storm has passed and everyone is safe, you'll want to take a look at your home on BHI. How did it fare with the wind, rain and/or storm surge? First, take care of anything that poses an "immediate danger" to humans or property — don't forget to take before and after photos to submit to the ARC. Then evaluate other damage to your house, garage and trees. A lot of repairs and clearing can be done without ARC approval (repair or replace "like" with "like" materials; trim small branches according to the Design Guidelines). You may also want to consult our tree guide titled "Hangers and Leaners after a Storm" (from the homepage www.BaldHeadAssociation.com, select the document titled as such, just a few items below the *Island Report* flipbook). Or, if storm damage to a crofter might be the springboard for the renovation project you've been delaying,

Continued on page 19

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Safety on BHI Roads

Golf cart safety

- You must be a licensed driver to drive a golf cart.
- Follow all NC traffic laws, including the speed limit on Bald Head Island of 18mph (unless otherwise posted).
- Do not drive with a child on your lap.
- **ALWAYS** let emergency vehicles, trams and gas-powered vehicles pass when safe to do so. Pass foot traffic and bicyclers with extreme caution.
- Park with **ALL 4 TIRES** off of the roadway and only in designated areas.
- **NEVER** block 911 emergency beach accesses.


Traffic flow and helmets

All foot traffic should **FACE** oncoming traffic. Bicyclers should ride single-file **WITH** traffic. Bicyclers should pull to the side when safe to do so to allow gas-powered vehicles to pass.

If you're bringing your bicycle to BHI, don't forget to bring your helmet, too. Safety helmets are required for those 16 years and younger and are encouraged for everyone. 


••• Continued from page 1 (Go Native!)

Please Note

The removal of any plant(s) that cover an area of 2 sq. feet or more at their largest spread may require ARC approval prior to work. Please check with the ARC office before removing any vegetation over 18" from the scrub and pioneer zones. 

••• Continued from page 18 (Hurricane Season – What Does It Mean for BHI, ARC and Trees?)

check the Design Guidelines (just a few items below the article previously mentioned).

We hope this hurricane season will pass without a visit to our Island, but if you do need assistance with the Design Guidelines and how they apply in cases of storm damage, contact Chris Howard at 910-457-4676, ext. 23 or Chris@BaldHeadAssociation.com. For any questions about trees, contact Pam Rainey at 910-457-4676, ext. 24 or at Trees@BaldHeadAssociation.com. 

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



September 2023:

ARC-A Meeting	9/1/2023	9:30am
Labor Day	9/4/2023	
BHA Office Closed	9/4/2023	
Pilates Class	9/7/2023	11am
BHA Board Meeting	9/8/2023	11am
Grandparents Day	9/10/2023	
Community Potluck Dinner	9/11/2023	6pm
Patriot Day	9/11/2023	
ARC-B Meeting	9/15/2023	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	9/15/2023	10am
Village Council Candidate Forum	9/25/2023	2pm
Orionid Meteor Shower	9/26/2023-11/22/2023	
Howl at the Moon	9/29/2023	6pm

Save the Date in October:

ARC-A Meeting	10/6/2023	9:30am
Absentee Ballots Available Start Date	10/6/2023	
Community Potluck Dinner	10/9/2023	6pm
BHA Board Meeting	10/13/2023	11am
Voter Registration Deadline	10/13/2023	
One-stop Early Voting	10/19/2023-11/4/2023	
ARC-B Meeting	10/20/2023	9:30am
Village Council Meeting	10/20/2023	10am
Island Litter Sweep	10/28/2023	10am
Howl at the Moon	10/28/2023	5pm

Around the Corner in 2023:

Daylight Saving Time Ends	11/5/2023	
Municipal Elections	11/7/2023	
Veterans Day	11/11/2023	
BHA Office Closed	11/11/2023	
Thanksgiving	11/23/2023	
BHA Office Closed	11/23/2023-11/24/2023	
Old Baldy Annual Christmas Tree Auction	11/24/2023	
Smith Island Art League Show & Sale	11/24/2023-11/25/2023	10am
Howl at the Moon	11/27/2023	4pm
BHA Board Candidate Forum	TBD	

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 (Sept. 12, 19, 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17)	6pm
Village Chapel Services:	Sundays through Sept. 3	8:30am/10am
Women's Fellowship:	1 st & 3 rd Mondays (resuming Sept. 18)	10am
Yoga Classes:	Mondays & Wednesdays	11:45am



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BHA is hosting a
Village Council Candidate
Forum on Monday,
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information.



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- former Beach Music owner

"Please know we sincerely appreciate you and your team."

- Giggling Oyster owner

"You did an incredible job for me."

- former Fish Bowl owner

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

- Villa 3 owner

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

- No Hurry owner

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

- Dewey's Paradise owner

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

- Elephant's Foot owner

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