

## WHY GO NATIVE?

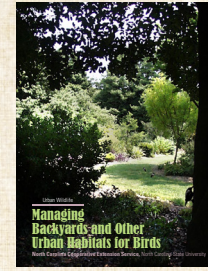
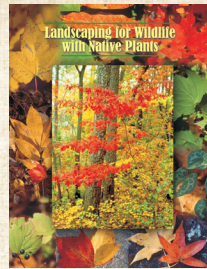
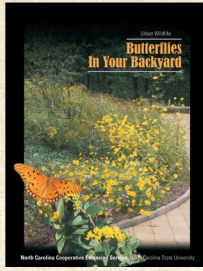
It is critical that we maintain the delicate balance that nature created in order for future generations to enjoy the Bald Head Island we know today. Protecting and planting native plants that have evolved on Bald Head Island is key, rather than establishing lawn grass or ornamental plants. “Natural” 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.

### THE MARITIME EVERGREEN FOREST

Many species of plants and animals find their home in BHI’s unique, globally imperiled forest. Live oak, Sabal palm, Red bay, 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, and providing habitat for birds and wildlife.

### 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. **Removal of any vegetation from the dune areas is a critical issue. This vegetation, whether shrubs, grasses or vines, is holding the dunes 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.**



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**GO TO:** [www.BaldHeadAssociation.com](http://www.BaldHeadAssociation.com)

**CLICK ON:** LIFE ON BHI

**CLICK ON:** BHI LANDSCAPE

The Landscape section of the current BHA Design Guidelines, as well as pamphlets giving instruction on how to design landscape for birds, butterflies and/or reptiles, are found on the site.

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



# Go Native!!!

*Bald Head Association*  
Native Plant Guide

*Bald Head Association is the largest property owners’ association on Bald Head Island. The Association administers the Covenant restrictions that help protect the value and attractiveness of its members’ properties.*



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**ARC office hours:**

8:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday



**A FEW OF BHI'S NATIVE PLANTS:**



**American Beautyberry** (*deciduous shrub*) Grows 5 to 8 ft. tall and wide. Small pink flowers in the summer and bright purple berries in the fall. Sun to partial shade. Fall migrating songbirds eat berries.



**Coastal Red Cedar** (*tree*)

Grows 25 ft. Evergreen with blue cones. 50+ species of birds, including warblers, mourning doves and cedar waxwings use it as a food source. The tree provides nesting material and cover for wildlife. Stabilizes the dunes. Full sun to partial shade.

**Coral Honeysuckle** (*vine*)



Easy growing vine with red trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom in the spring and remain through the summer. Full sun to partial shade. Favorite of hummingbirds.

**Dwarf Palmetto** (*shrub*)

Evergreen palm growing 3 to 5 ft. tall and wide.



Small white flowers open in early spring with black fruit that ripen in late summer into fall. Full to partial shade.

**Live Oak** (*tree*)

Evergreen may vary from a shrub-size to large tree-size and may reach 60 ft. tall with a spread of nearly 80 ft. Bald Head Island is home to numerous specimen over 200 years old and over 6' in diameter. These trees intertwine limbs, called holding hands, and can shear hurricane force winds.



**Muhly Grass** (*grass*)

Forms clumps and grows 3 to 4 ft. Muhly grass grows in poor soils as a groundcover and can be used to prevent soil erosion. Pink/purple flowers August - October. Winter seeds feed songbirds. Full sun.



**Partridge Berry** (*ground cover*)

Evergreen plants slowly spread to create dense cover under 2" tall. Small white flowers open in the spring and are followed by red berries eaten by songbirds in the winter. Part to full shade.



**Sea Oats** (*grass*)

Grass growing 6' ft. tall. Stabilizes primary dune. Full sun.

**Wax Myrtle** (*shrub*)

Evergreen growing 10 to 15 ft. tall and wide. Produces a gray waxy fruit August-Winter. Full or partial sun. Favorite food of songbirds.



**Yaupon Holly** (*shrub*)



Evergreen tree growing 10 to 20 ft. Produces a small red berry that stays attached

to the plant all winter. Sun-shade. Favorite food of songbirds.