



Bald Head Association ~ “The voice for BHI property owners”

910-457-4676 • 111 Lighthouse Wynd, Bald Head Island • [www.BaldHeadAssociation.com](http://www.BaldHeadAssociation.com) • [www.BHAMobile.com](http://www.BHAMobile.com)

## Let's Talk Trees on BHI

It's spring! Are you looking around your house for landscaping projects?

Keep in mind that trees and undergrowth help maintain the natural balance of Bald Head Island's ecosystem. BHI has three diverse environments — the creek side marsh, the open dunes and the maritime evergreen forest. By its very nature, these three entities have protected this area for as little as 800 years (Bald Head Island), up to 1,600 years (Middle Island) and as long as 6,000 years (T1 unnamed island).

Bald Head Island is a good example of a domino effect. Once you knock over one domino (or tree or area of undergrowth), it affects many other things, in a chain reaction. With incoming human population and development, guidelines were developed in order to have a minimal effect on this delicate balance on BHI.

Spring is a good time to remind everyone of the rules, as property owners clean up yards and improve their views. The current Unified Design Guidelines contain all the specific information property owners need when improving or maintaining their yards. The permissions needed are best summarized in this paragraph from the Design Guidelines:

*“Village Ordinance provides that removal of any tree or trees 3 inches or greater in diameter at 48 inches above grade requires permission and/or a landscape permit from the Village Building Inspector, even if the tree is determined to be dead or diseased. Per Village Ordinance, removal of branches of 5 inches or more in diameter also requires Village approval. ARC approval is required for the removal of trees 3 inches in diameter and understory vegetation 1 inch or greater in diameter measured 48” along the trunk from ground level, tree limbs of 3 inches or more in diameter and clustered growth vegetation two square feet or more at ground level regardless of branching habits or diameter.”*

If you are not sure if permission is needed for the trimming, pruning and weeding that you plan to do, please call ARC Coordinator Karen Mosteller at BHA at 910-457-4676, ext. 22. She will be happy to help you.