



# First Town. Your Town.

The mission of the Historic Bath Foundation is to encourage and promote the historic aspects of the Town of Bath.

Summer 2014

## HBF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Membership Meeting on June 20, 2014. The meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M. at the Bath Town Hall.

If for any reason you will not be able to attend, it is very important that you send your proxy to arrive in the mail or be entered online no later than June 19, 2014. Please make this a priority if you are unable to attend.

You may do this by sending it to Historic Bath Foundation, P.O. Box 238, Bath, NC 27808 or you may access it at [www.historicbath.com](http://www.historicbath.com)

*Director Milo Gibbs*

## President's Message

The Historic Bath Foundation is continuing its work to help maintain the historic and town ambiance in Bath. The Foundation is working on acquiring and stabilizing two buildings on Main Street owned by Al Willson that according to John Wood, North Carolina Archives and History Preservation Specialist, "If the L. A. Willson store buildings were to be demolished: out of the total five remaining historic commercial buildings that retain historic integrity, the loss of these two buildings would result in the loss of 40% of the total remaining historic commercial buildings that retain historic integrity." In addition, the Foundation is working on acquiring the vacant property to the left of the Bath Creek Bridge as one enters Bath.

Surry Everett  
President/Chair

## Financial Report

The Historic Bath Foundation Inc. started the year with the Awards Ceremony and Reverse Raffle. Over \$11,000 was raised in the raffle and expenses were kept below \$1,000 due to the generosity of members. First quarter also started out well with memberships coming in at a steady pace. The Historic Bath Foundation has undertaken two new projects to purchase two properties in Bath. Funding for the projects comes from the general fund and the kindness of generous benefactors. The undertaking of these two projects highlights the greater purpose of the organization to preserve the historical aspects of Bath for the future. The funds you have been providing over the years has allowed us to move forward with these purchases. Please consider giving additional tax deductible contributions this year so that we can continue to build our general fund for future opportunities. In addition to our general fund, we currently have restricted funds of \$122,476 for a museum. If you are interested in making a large donation or wondering how you can make a difference, please contact any of the board members for opportunities to provide a lasting contribution. The Historic Bath Foundation is a great place to give because all of the money is reinvested locally. The results of your gifts will be seen for generations to come. Please mail your tax deductible donation to HBF, PO Box 238, Bath, NC 27808.

*Director Mariann McQueen*



# Historic Bath Foundation Grants

Examples of how your contributions are being used to preserve and promote Historic Bath



HBF has contracts to purchase these pivotal properties.



Bath Library: Historic Bath Foundation contributed funds to create and furnish the Local North Carolina History and Genealogical Section of the library. In addition, over 600 books related to NC history and genealogy have been donated by a director on behalf of the Foundation.

## Small Grants Announced

Since the mid-2000s, the Historic Bath Foundation has been pleased to award funding to a number of organizations for projects that promote the historical importance of Bath. The Foundation received a number of great proposals earlier this year for its 2014 round of funding and is pleased to announce four grants made to three organizations:



**Van Der Veer Smokehouse Project** – Funding has been granted to the Historic Bath State Historic Site to make needed repairs and purchase materials that will allow the Van Der Veer Smokehouse to be interpreted as a working smokehouse. The interior of the structure will be converted to appear as a working smokehouse with the addition of faux foods to represent smoked and salted meats.



**Ground Water Diversion for Bath High School** – Bath High School Preservation has been awarded funding to install additional gutters and a French drain to aid in drainage of the library wing of the school.

**Educational Material for the Queen Anne's Revenge Exhibit** – In the summer of 2014, an exhibit on the Queen Anne's Revenge excavation will be on display at the Historic Bath State Historic Site. Funding has been granted to the historic site to create educational materials to accompany the exhibit.

**Pirate-Themed Play and Learn Area** – Girl Scout Troop #3556 has been awarded funding towards their project in creating a pirate-themed outdoor learn and play site in Bath.

Please join us in congratulating our awardees and look forward to positive changes in our town as a result of these projects!

*Director Patricia Samford*

# Committee and Special Events News

## Membership Update

Membership dues have been flowing in since our February renewal notice and we appreciate the loyalty of our members. You have been increasingly generous over the years and we expect to meet and even exceed our financial support through membership dues.

The dues you pay allow us to move immediately on projects that are vital to our town; and currently we are engaged in two of our most ambitious undertakings. We are leading the effort to acquire waterfront property just northeast of the Bath Creek Bridge, at the town's entrance from the Washington highway, for use as a park. And we are also in the process of acquiring, stabilizing and painting two frame stores on Main Street – a project the State Office of Preservation in Greenville considers essential in protecting Bath's identity as a picturesque North Carolina village.

While moving rapidly on problems and opportunities in Bath, we are simultaneously building a fund that will ensure that our town one day gets the kind of museum that it needs to tell its history and that of the Pamlico region.

We need your help more than ever. Please consider recruiting a new member. Share the news of how your contributions are being put to work in the Bath community. Pass along this newsletter or send us a list of names and addresses of friends who should receive a special invitation to join the Historic Bath Foundation movement.

You can email names, addresses, or ideas for recruiting new members to me at: [historicbath@yahoo.com](mailto:historicbath@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your loyalty and the lasting contributions you are making to Historic Bath.

*Director Karen Sayer*

## REVERSE RAFFLE

The Reverse Raffle and Awards Ceremony was a huge success and a great time was had by all. The event cleared over \$10,000. Thanks to all of you who purchased tickets. Special thanks to BB&T Wealth Management our sponsor, Trade Wilco Hess, True Value, and many anonymous individuals who donated money and items for the event. The excitement built through the evening until the last three ticket holders agreed to split the money. Congratulations to the winners!

*Director Mariann McQueen*

## Museum Committee Report

The foundation's museum committee is putting together a Show Boat memorabilia collection and needs the help of foundation members in locating material in anticipation of the time when Bath will have a museum to tell its story and that of the Pamlico region.

The committee especially wants to locate posters, playbills or other memorabilia from the James Adams Floating Theater, which was the inspiration for Edna Ferber's novel, the Broadway musical, and three movies. If you have, or know of, any floating theater material, please contact a member of the foundation board.

It was in Bath that Mrs. Ferber went aboard the floating theater for several days and used the boat and some of Bath's history as the background material for her book.

*Director Gene Roberts*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all volunteers: do you have some time to volunteer to help with Bath Fest on May 17, 2014; arrive at Bonner Point at 9 AM, and Paddle Bath this fall. Volunteers are vital to the success of these events! Please email us at [historicbath@yahoo.com](mailto:historicbath@yahoo.com) to tell us how you would like to be involved!

*Director Betsy Boxer*

## WEBSITE UPDATE

In the first quarter of 2014, the HBF website has been visited by more than 1,200 unique visitors who are accessing information and resources. This is just shy of half of the number of total HBF website visitors for the entire year in 2013. On average the site is visited 23 times a day.

*Debra Torrence, Membership  
Committee Member*

# Community News

**Historic Bath Garden Club** - Do you enjoy gardening, making new friends, sharing gardening tips, arranging flowers, learning about local activities, and getting your hands in the dirt? Then join the Bath Garden Club. The club meets on the second Monday of the every month, at 10 A.M., at the Bath Christian Church. The meeting begins with a guest speaker and topics range from gardening, the environment, and cooking with fresh ingredients. New Members and visitors are welcome.

**Bath Fest** - Bath Fest will be held from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 17. The activities will be on Bonner's Point with art and craft vendors lining the event area. Local civic groups will offer a variety of great food. Discover Bath, celebrate North Carolina history and explore your family's roots at Bath Fest 2014.

Blackbeard will once again roam the streets of Bath, causing general mischief, sharing his tales of adventure and looking for small scalawags dressed as pirates. All young visitors are encouraged to bring their best swagger and take part in the pirate costume contest. Bath's own pirate will declare the winner.

The Cut-Throat Croquet Tournament will be held in conjunction with Bath Fest. Proceeds from the tournament fund scholarships at Beaufort County Community College in honor of Bath residents, Dot and John Tankard. Proceeds also are used to enhance the Historic Bath Site.

From settlement in the 1690's to the home of Blackbeard in 1718, Bath's roots run deep. The May 17th event will assemble resources such as researchers and librarians to give you the tools to trace your family history. Not only will you learn how to research your heritage, you will learn how to dig into your family stories to give richness and meaning to the names on your family tree. An oral history panel will add color and texture to your image of Bath in the early to mid-1900's.

For more information call (252) 923-3971 or go to [www.bathfest.com](http://www.bathfest.com).

**Outdoor Learning for Kids in Bath** - Did you know pirates play outside? The Bath Outdoor Learning Collective will host outdoor learning activities during Bath Fest so plan to join in. Tours of Lawson's Walk and its exercise and play stations will be given on the hour by Girl Scout Troop #3556 during the festival. Stop by the booth and add to the natural weaving, sign up to get updates by email, help with activities and building projects and more. And participate in the activities being hosted by the NC Estuarium!

**Library Launches Homegrown E-Books** - BHM Regional Library and other libraries in the state have joined together with NC LIVE in a project called Homegrown e-books. Ten NC publishers will be part of this project and e-books written by NC authors will be available for download. Look for additional information about this program in the fall of 2014. This will be an exciting addition to our e-resources and be available sometime in 2015. The books will have MARC records and be searchable in the catalog.

The NC LIVE Home Grown eBook pilot project, in a nutshell, will:

- be available to all NC LIVE libraries.
- provide perpetual access to about 1,000 titles
- include content from about 10 NC-based publishers, including Algonquin, Press 53, Ingalls Publishing, John F. Blair, Publishing, UNC Press, McFarland, and a few others
- use an "always available" model, making holds unnecessary
- provide a user-friendly interface for access and discovery
- provide basic MARC records for addition to local catalogs for better access and discovery.
- enable downloading to mobile devices for offline reading

**Story Time** for pre-schoolers is held at 10:00 a.m. the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at the New Bath Community Library, 102 S. Harding St. in Bath. Older siblings are welcome.

**Beginning computer classes** are taught at the Bath Community Library on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 11:00 a.m. Registration is required. Call the library to find out when the next session begins. To register for the next session of computer classes or for more information on any library program, call 252-923-6371 or e-mail [mcaudle@bhmlib.org](mailto:mcaudle@bhmlib.org). The New Bath Community Library is located at 102 S. Harding Street.

**The Summer Reading Program** at Bath Community Library kicks off on Wednesday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. with a visit from storyteller Mark Daniel. All ages are welcome. Programs for children in grades K through 5 will also be held on June 25, July 2 and July 9 at 10:30 a.m. Children who wish to keep a record of their reading (or being read to) for prizes this summer may pick up reading logs at the library beginning June 9.

# Calendar of Events

## MAY

**May 17 – Bath Fest: Bath Roots Run Deep.** Free of charge. 10 am – 3 pm. Held at Bonner's Point at 200 Front St. For more information, call 252-923-3971.

**May 17 – Annual Cut-throat Croquet Tournament.** Play begins 9:30 am – 5 pm. Bonner's Point at 200 Front St. For more information, call 252-923-3971.

## JUNE - AUGUST

**June 7 – Storms Make History, Too!** - Join WRAL-TV's Documentary Producer Clay Johnson from 10-11:30 am Historic Bath Visitor Center at 207 Carteret St. Free.

**June 13 – Grand Opening of the Queen Anne's Revenge Traveling Exhibit.** Artifacts recovered from the wreck of Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge will be on display. Free.

**June 13 – July 26 – Queen Anne's Revenge Exhibit.** Just as Blackbeard made his way to Bath in June (1718), so will this exciting exhibit that has been making a statewide tour! Historic Bath Visitor Center, 207 Carteret Street. Free.

**June 19 – July 24 Pirate Past Times Thursday Day Camps.** Children will be able to see the Queen Anne's Revenge exhibit in a unique way and will participate in age appropriate learning, pirate games and activities! Fee charged: \$10, covers food and supplies. Pre-registration is requested, call 252-923-3971 or email [bath@ncdcr.gov](mailto:bath@ncdcr.gov). Historic Bath Visitor Center, 207 Carteret St., 10am-2pm.

**June 20 – Historic Bath Foundation Annual Membership Meeting. 10 AM. Bath Town Hall.**

## SEPTEMBER

**September 6 – St. Thomas & Glebe House History Lecture.** Historic Bath Visitor Center, 207 Carteret St., 10am-12:30 pm.

**September 26 – Historic Bath Foundation Quarterly Board Meeting. 3 PM. Bath Town Hall.**

## DECEMBER

**December TBD – Historic Bath Foundation Quarterly Board Meeting. Bath Town Hall.**

**December 7 – Christmas Parade.** Come early to park and be ready for the parade start time at 2 PM, Main street in Bath.

**December 13 – Christmas Open House.** 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Call 252-923-3971 or email [bath@ncdcr.gov](mailto:bath@ncdcr.gov) for more information.

## Messages from.... HBF Ex-Officio Directors

The Town of Bath is in the final stages of getting the waste water system upgrade finalized. Wetter than usual weather during the winter months slowed progress to a crawl as well as funding agencies being slow in their reimbursements. The weather seems to be breaking and hopefully we will get back on schedule and be up and running soon.

*Jimmy Latham, Mayor, Town of Bath*

On December 8, 2013, Historic Bath Site lost a fine treasure in the passing of Bea Latham, assistant site manager. The hiring process has moved slowly this winter, but if all goes as expected, the site will have someone in place by the time you read this newsletter.

The site looks forward to hosting the statewide traveling exhibit of Blackbeard's Queen Anne's Revenge artifacts for six weeks, June 13 – July 26. A great day to bring your guests to see the exhibit will be July 12 when we will also host a pirate encampment at Bonner's Point. Children's programming will be offered every Thursday while the exhibit is in Bath. More details will be shared on Historic Bath Site's Facebook page, local newspapers, etc. Stay tuned and take advantage of history right on your doorstep this summer!

*Leigh Swain, Manager, Historic Bath State Historic Site*

At our January, 2014 meeting, the Historic Bath Commission (HBC) received a report by professionals of the NC Office of Archives and History on the importance of extant commercial buildings to the Bath Historic District. Two of the five buildings that have not been significantly altered are known as the Willson Property. They are indicative of naval storefronts, strategically located adjacent to Harding Landing State Dock and diagonal to the Palmer- Marsh House, a national historic landmark. After being updated on the status of these two properties by Gene Roberts, the HBC voted unanimously to support interventions to preserve these historic buildings, with a formal letter of support to the Foundation's board. The Historic Bath Commission sincerely appreciates the active involvement of the Foundation's members in protecting and preserving the character and integrity of the Bath Historic District.

One of our 2014 projects is to digitize the last 55 years of Commission Minutes and make them available to the public on our website.

We hope to see many of you at the Queen Anne's Revenge traveling exhibit activities. A special committee of HBC members is working to prepare an exciting venue of family events for your enjoyment during this 6-week exhibit. More information is available at Historic Bath Site. Please join us at the Opening Day Ceremonies, June 13, 2014 and throughout the summer. We plan to close out the exhibit July 26, 2014 and expect all local organizations to participate, as we welcome visitors to our community!

*Peggy Daw, Chair, Historic Bath Commission*

Thanks in great part to the support and encouragement of Historic Bath Foundation, the dream envisioned in 2005 by the BHSP founders continues to materialize. With restoration and renovation of the South Wing and adjoining corridor, Bath now has a modern Library and budding Gallery. The journey is not over but the vision is clearer than ever.

The building is now occupied for the first time since 1989. The wonderful news is that The Bath Community Library, operated by the Beaufort-Hyde-Martin Library System, with the support of The Friends of Bath Community Library, has tripled its space and usage since occupying the building.

To summarize, the building has been stabilized. So what comes next? The next project is completion of the Gallery, which will expand exhibit space to around 1200 square feet.

2014-2015 will be a year of reassessment and planning. Strategic planning is underway to develop an updated plan for the remainder of the building. The goal is to identify uses that expand services to the community while providing long term funding to maintain the BHSP Campus.

BHSP is most appreciative of HBF's ongoing support.

*Sandra E. Harrison, President, Bath High School Preservation*

### Nominating Committee

The nominating committee encourages you to apply for a board of director position and you may find details at the following link:

<http://www.historicbath.com/boardmembers.rhtml>.

Please complete an application at:

[http://www.historicbath.com/](http://www.historicbath.com/prospectiveboardmemberapplication.rhtml)

[prospectiveboardmemberapplication.rhtml](http://www.historicbath.com/prospectiveboardmemberapplication.rhtml)

or contact [historicbath@yahoo.com](mailto:historicbath@yahoo.com) with questions or concerns.

Nominee applications must be received by June 19th. Nominations are also accepted at the annual meeting on June 20th.

### HBF Annual Awards Ceremony

The following awards were presented in 2013:

HBF Preservation Award for Advancement  
of Historical Research  
Bea Latham

HBF Preservation Award for Representing,  
Promoting, and Advancing Historic Bath  
Josephine Hookway

Join the work of preserving  
Historic Bath  
Send your tax-deductible contribution to  
Bath Historic Foundation  
P.O. Box 238 Bath, NC 27808

Donate by visiting us at  
[www.historicbath.com!](http://www.historicbath.com)



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## 2014 HBF Board of Directors Election Proxy Card

This year, we are trying out the use of an electronic proxy card as a cost and time saving measure. To allow a HBF Director or a member in good standing to vote for you, we ask that you complete the required information included in the short online proxy form. If you do not complete the online form you must mail in a proxy sheet.

This year's annual meeting and Board of Directors elections will be held on June 20, 2014 at 10 AM at the Town Hall. By submitting a proxy form online or by mail, all previous proxies are no longer valid. If you later decide to attend the meeting, this proxy will be revoked.

You can access the online proxy form on the HBF website home page. Your proxy form must be received no later than June 19, 2014.

If you are not currently a HBF member and wish to vote, please visit the HBF website [www.historicbath.com](http://www.historicbath.com) to access membership details. A tax-deductible, annual membership (July - June) is \$25/household.

Please mail your membership fee of \$25 to The Historic Bath Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 238, Bath, NC 27808.

*Historical*

landmarks where the beginnings of a State took root...

*Intriguing*

tales of an infamous pirate and his hidden treasures...

*Timeless*

tranquility in the "summer-country" nestled along the Pamlico River...

Where else but North Carolina's oldest town would be the backdrop for this drama? Where else but the village town of...

*Bath*



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