

First Town. Your Town.

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

Winter 2015

2015 HBF Annual Awards Ceremony Announcement:

Debra Torrence and Clay
Jonhson: HBF Preservation
Award for Restoration of a
Historic Structure

The Bath Garden Club:
HBF Preservation
Award for Landscape
Beautification of Historic
Bath

Mariann McQueen: HBF
Preservation Award
for meritorious public
service in Representing,
Promoting & Advancing
Historic Bath

Presidents Message

Members of the Historic Bath Foundation:

Negotiations between Bath High School Preservation (BHSP) and our Foundation (HBF) are almost complete. Both Boards have appointed negotiating teams which have met and agreed on terms of conveying title to the Northwest Wing for use as a museum. Final terms have to be worked out between the Town, BHSP and HBF and their respective lawyers. By the time you read this, it may be a done deal; we are aiming for the end of the year, but there are town sub-division and parking regulations which must be followed, so it may extend beyond 31 Dec. As soon as title is conveyed a request for bids will be developed for redoing the first floor and ceiling of the Northwest Wing. It will be quite an undertaking and we need as many volunteers as possible to help develop sources of funds.

We have also learned that the grant application to the State Parks and Recreation Division has been fully approved. Many thanks are due to Ashley (Brownie) Futrell, Gene Roberts, and Betsy Boxer.

A Senior Center is another projection in which the HBF has provided some assistance. Many thanks to Robin Boyd for her effort which she has devoted to make this happen. We don't know if we have been successful yet, but more will be known by the time you read this.

All of this means that HBF is alive and working to preserve the historic nature of Bath. Without your participation and financial help, none of this would be happening.

May the New Year bring cheer and joy to your lives.

Surry Everett, President



Membership

Projects abound and in an effort to keep up with them, please consider increasing your annual membership contribution or consider recruiting a new member to the cause!

Director Karen Sayer

Historic Bath Foundation

The Historic Bath Foundation placed a series of four advertisements in the Raleigh News and Observer in late spring and early summer announcing that the state's historic homes are now open on Sunday afternoons.

The ads, at a cost of \$2,200, each included a photograph of a historic Bath structure and pointed out that the town is a perfect weekend destination. The foundation is also paying for a part-time staffer to be available at the visitor center on Sunday afternoons.

The foundation's board has long thought that the center and historic houses should be open on Sundays as well as Tuesday through Saturday, but, after the 2008 recession, the state economized by closing its historic sites on Sundays. This year, the state agreed that the sites could be open with local funding. The foundation moved quickly to appropriate the necessary funds.

Director, Gene Roberts

An inviting gateway into Historic Bath: Bath Creek Park Collaboration at its best! The Bath Creek Park has been funded!

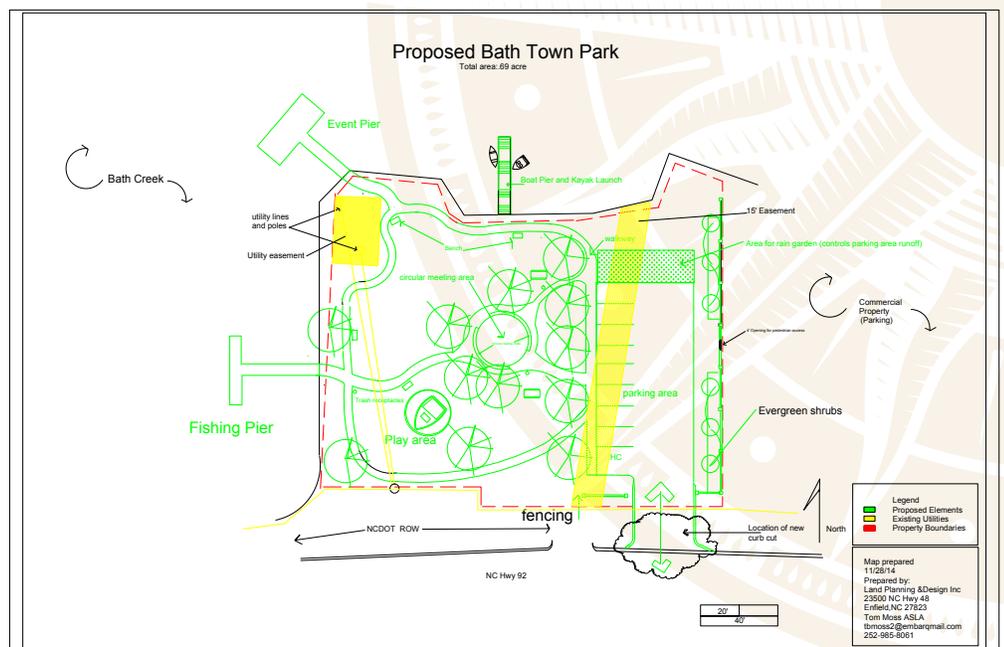
HBF had a vision for the vacant lot we purchased at the foot of the bridge. We wrote and received a grant from state park and recreation funds totaling just under \$228,000. HBF is providing \$224,000 in matching funds which is a combination of cash and land value. The total cost of the project is expected to be around \$455,000.

There will be major upgrades to the bare lot at the foot of the bridge:

A small "green" gazebo with amphitheater type seating, a fishing pier, viewing pier, and small boat slips. Additionally, playground, picnic tables and more will be a part of the park layout. A beautiful addition to our little village. Be on the lookout for our progress in 2016!

Director, Betsy Boxer

Claude Jones has a genuine interest in the history of eastern North Carolina. He shares that Bath was an important chapter in our state's history and is an important contributor to our education of the past. He feels the Foundation is a steward of Bath's history and provides an opportunity for sharing the past with current and future generations. He is interested in serving on the Board of Directors in the role of Treasurer. He was a cost accountant for three different corporations for ten years as well as a general manager for a small independent corporation for three years. He owned and operated a small business for 27 years having worked closely with the CPA, banker, and franchisor. He is currently the manager of the Bath ABC store. He has served on the Boards of the United Way of Beaufort County, Pamlico Pals of Beaufort County and on the Boys and Girls Club of Pitt County. He feels his accounting, finance, and computer experience would be helpful to the Foundation. He shares that he is always willing put forth effort to learn new things which would further the Foundation's objectives.



In an effort to protect the foundation's investment in the beautification project, Lawson Walk, and to encourage a flourishing natural landscape, the electric along the Walk will be buried.

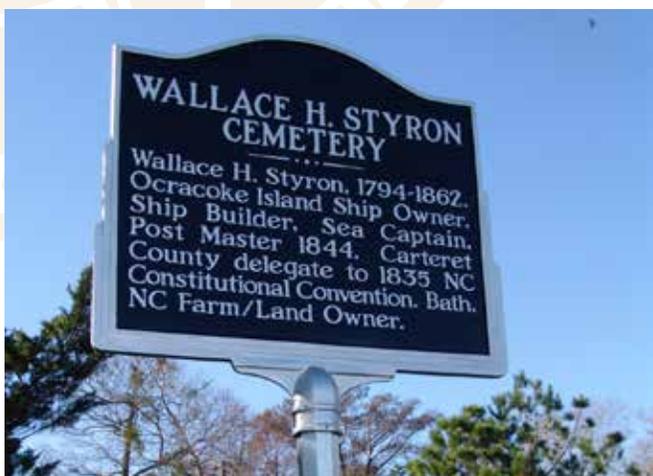
Grants and Committee News

The HBF was the driving force behind putting an attractive cast iron fence around the cemetery at the junction of Craven and Carteret streets. The HBF purchased the fencing and contracted with Slade Landscaping to erect it. Cleanup of the cemetery was originally spearheaded by the late Bea Latham. Jimmy Latham, who mows the cemetery in memory of Bea, inquired with the HBF board of directors as to whether the fence would be an appropriate project for HBF. The board has been proactive in protecting other cemeteries around town and so the Craven fence project was compatible with our mission and the project was completed in late October.

Director, Jimmy Edwards



At the urging of Mary Helen Ellis, an effort to beautify and protect the Catnip Point Cemetery (Styron Cemetery) has come to fruition. HBF was asked to provide a grant for the Styron Cemetery sign and it was installed by the Catnip Howner's Association in the fall.



2016 Small Grant Program Announced

Historic Bath Foundation Small Grant applications are available for pickup at the Historic Bath Visitor Center or online at www.historicbath.com starting February 1, 2016. We encourage projects that:

- Promote the maintenance and advancement of the Historic Bath State Historic Site.
- Assist in historical research and study pertaining to Bath and Beaufort County, including the publication of books, pamphlets and other printed material.
- Aid in the purchase, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of structures and sites in Bath that have special historical, architectural or aesthetic value.
- Implement an educational program of historic interest to Bath and Beaufort County.

Applications are due by February 28, 2016 and notification of awards will be announced by April 15, 2016. Questions? Email historicbath@yahoo.com

Report on 2015 Small Grant Program

The Historic Bath Foundation Small Grants Program has awarded four grants in its 2015 round of funding.

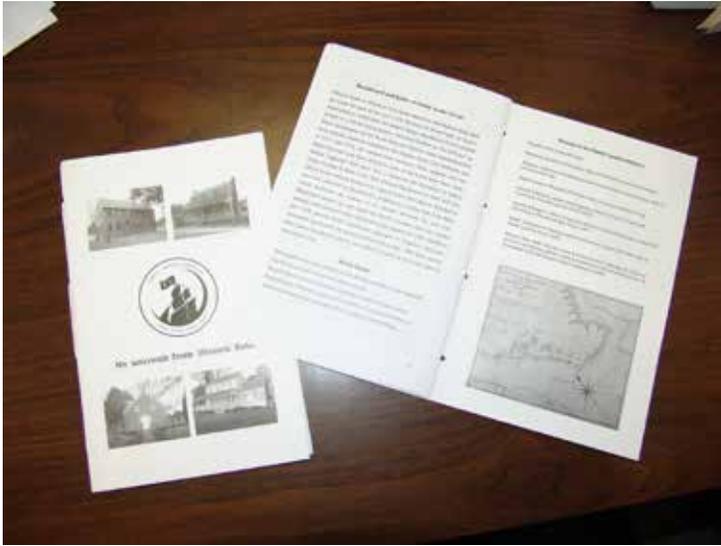
State Dock Pilings Repair – The Historic Bath State Historic Site received \$1000 to place plastic end caps on the pilings at the State dock at Harding's Landing. Many of these pilings have begun to rot from the inside out and these caps will protect them from further disintegration. TJ's Marine Construction, LLC will be donating labor to the project for the installation of the pier caps. Completion of the project is anticipated before the end of the year and is expected to come in under budget.

Continued on page 4

Grants and Committee News

Report on 2015 Small Grant Program - continued from page 3

Bath Booklet Printing - The Bath Fest committee was awarded \$400 to print materials for 500 booklets on Bath history and architecture. These printed materials were used in a bookbinding activity at Bath Fest i



Chimney Repairs at Bath High School – The Bath High School Preservation received funding in the amount of \$2500 to go towards replacing missing brick and capping five chimneys at the High School. This project has been completed.



Port of Bath Educational Materials – Gillian Hookway Jones was awarded \$1200 to work with the Port of Bath Committee to create a number of educational materials related to the history of the Port of Bath. Three educational activities were completed in time for use at May's Bath Fest and the July "Pirates in the Port" program: a colonial merchant chest with assorted spices and other imported merchandise; an identification board of colonial sailing vessels, and a toolbox featuring colonial tools used in port trades. Other educational materials still under construction include a teacher's guide titled "Mapping Colonial Bath by Land and Sea". In connection with this grant, an entry co-authored by G. Hookway-Jones and Baylus C. Brooks on the port of Bath was written and launched in October on the new NCpedia.org. The link for this article is <http://www.ncpedia.org/port-bath>.

Director, Patricia Samford



Grants and Committee News

Stabilizing An Important Historic Structure:

A 175-year-old farmhouse on the Vernon Godley farm on Possum Hill Road has been weather-proofed and mothballed by the Historic Bath Foundation until a suitable site can be found for it in Bath or nearby.

Work on the classic two story house, which in recent years has been used for storage, was supervised by David Johnston of Bath, who also supervised the stabilization of the two Main Street stores that were acquired and sold in 2015 by the foundation.

Mr. and Mrs. Godley are willing to donate the building to the foundation in an effort to save it for future generations. The foundation hopes to find an owner who will restore it under historic guidelines that will make it eligible for foundation assistance and federal and state tax credits.

The mothballing process included patching the roof, boarding up the windows and sealing the back of the house with plywood to prevent future weather damage.

The foundation has undertaken the project at the urging of John Wood of the State Historic Preservation Office in Greenville. Mr. Wood says it is rare to find an un-restored house of this period in eastern North Carolina that is not too far gone to reclaim.

Director, Gene Roberts

Treasurer's Report

As of December 2015, HBF unrestricted cash balance was \$165,277. Income for 2015 was \$35,531 and expenses equaled \$39,576. Restricted cash for the museum is \$122,475.

Director, Claude Jones

Volunteers contact historicbath@yahoo.com if you are interested in the following:

- Assisting with fund raising events
- Brainstorming about funding avenues for the museum
- Assisting with maintaining and growing our membership
- Managing the HBF newsletter
- Refining and growing capacity of our website

Godley House before and after stabilization.



Messages from.... HBF Ex-Officio Directors

The year 2015 marked the beginning of another 300th year milestone in Bath. Through lectures, the visitor center exhibit and activities, foundation stones were laid in educating our guests about our forefathers petitioning the Lords Proprietors to be named an official seaport town, and Bath did become the first official port of entry by their decree in 2016. We are looking forward to partnering with other entities and offering some exciting programs in the months to come and want you to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about our historic town we all love.

*All Best Wishes in the New Year,
Leigh Swain, Historic Bath Site Manager*

The Town continues to work out the final details on the wastewater system upgrade. We have begun to hookup new customer to the system.

Thanks to the City of Washington and Commissioner John Taylor, we had lighted street decoration for Christmas. This was a long time coming and without Commissioner Taylor's efforts, it would not have happened.

The Town, along with countless volunteer's planted 40+ live oak trees along King St Saturday 11/21/2015. The trees look great and with community support, there's little that can't be accomplished.

On a personal note, thanks to the HBF for funding the fence around the cemetery on Carteret and Craven St's. It really adds to the cemetery appearance.

Jimmy Latham, Mayor of Bath

The Bath High School Preservation is very pleased that the 2nd phase of the Gallery expansion is currently underway-we look forward to the completion and will surely let everyone know when it is completed.

Also, we are in negotiations with Historic Bath Foundation regarding the transfer of ownership of the North Wing (or Office Wing) of the High School to HBF for the purpose of a Museum. Both BHSP and HBF have a common goal, to see the completion of the original vision of restoration of the Bath High School Building.

We invite you to mark your calendar for February 27, 2016 and join us again for the annual Oyster Roast. This is a great event that we have each year and continues to bring in more people enjoying an afternoon of great fun, plentiful supply of oysters and other delicious foods. This year we will also hold our BHSP Annual Raffle-1st Prize: John Deere Gator-2nd Prize: \$2500 Cash. Tickets are \$100 each-only 300 tickets will be sold and can be purchased from any Board Member.

BHSP continues to seek ideas, support and funds to fulfill our dream to see the building occupied and useful to our community. We cannot succeed in our goal without your help and your continued support.

*Ruth Webster Dorkin
President, Bath High School Preservation*

The Historic Bath Commission supports the Town and partners with all local organizations, as we celebrate the 300th anniversary as NC's First Port. Bath was officially named the First Port of North Carolina by local officials during 1715 and confirmed by the Lords Proprietors' decree in 1716 after the formal letter of approval made a slow return by ship from England. Therefore, to honor the forward thinking colonist in the first town of NC and to acknowledge the position of authority that England held, we chose to celebrate across the full period. The Gift Shop has new 300th items and all sales provide funds to support the Site and local history. There will be new nautical styled maps describing the earlier docks, shipping wharfs and original owners of lots. As described, Bath County was established in 1696 and its large landowners included Joel Martin, Simon Alderson, Nicholas Daw and David Perkins. On March 8,1705, the General Assembly established Bath as the first Town with Lawson, Martin and Daw as the first Town commissioners. With good high land and clear channels, Bath was a port of call for many. Shipping and trade flourished. Blackbeard's career was short lived with his demise in 1718, but the legend lives on. From the height of shipping in Bath, Captain Matthew Rowan of Ireland, traded between Ireland and Bath selling his Irish goods for silver money before becoming the acting Governor of the colony (1753-1754). We will be focusing more events on local nautical and farming heritage with opportunities to search your family name. If you wish to learn more about Bath's importance and rich maritime history, visit NCpedia at <http://ncpedia.org/port-bath>. We appreciate everyone's interest and participation in Port Bath events!

Peggy Daw, HBC, Chair

Community News

LIBRARY - The Bath Community Library is now open during the hours of 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. M-F and 9 a.m. – noon on Saturday. You will know the library is open if the flag is flying in front of the building—except when it is raining. New books are continually arriving, through lease programs, purchases, and gifts from Bath Library patrons. And because most libraries in the State of North Carolina share resources via NC Cardinal, the Bath Library can now be your one-stop shop. A suggestion box is now available for your suggestions for new books and improved services. Please tell us what you like about the Library and how we can better serve you. The Town of Bath is in the process of naming a member to the BHM Regional Library Board. Congratulations to the Bath Library Staff for receiving an \$800 grant from Tri-County Telephone Foundation to support Bath Elementary School's middle grades participation in the NC School Library Association Battle of the Books. And special thanks to the Estate of Frances H. Critchfield for a \$5,000 donation for books or other library needs to honor Fran's memory. We are grateful to all who work and contribute to keeping the Bath Community Library a vibrant place to read, learn, and connect! For additional information on recent events and updates, see: <https://www.facebook.com/bathcommunitylibrary/> and <http://bhmlib.org/website>.

Ruth Peterson

The Historic Bath Garden Club meets every second Monday of the month at the Christian Church at 10:00 a.m. Guests are invited to attend. See upcoming events in HBF calendar.

Sallie Lacava

Below is an update on Bath outdoor activities and efforts coming up. Pass it on!

- **GROWING MATH & SCIENCE SKILLS** - Additional tools to support children gaining math and science skills and knowledge have been donated to the Bath Brownie Troop to use during meetings and in the garden. added in the coming weeks, thanks to a donation of \$100 from a Bath resident.

- **READ...Share one, take one**- The free little library box has been waterproofed by the builders, adding a layer of protection for shared publications that easily accessed by the state dock. Drop your books, magazines and more in the box and take a few while you are stocking it up!

Debra Torrence

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

January 11 – Bath Garden Club: Timothy Minch - Discussion on Camellias and Their Care

January 14th – Recording Family History: the Search to the Scrapbook Bring pictures – a genealogy scrapbook kit will be provided and time to begin work on your project will be provided. 10 a.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center. \$10.00 per person and limited to 10 participants.

January 15 – Opening of 300 Years of Port Bath Hallway Exhibit at the Visitor Center

January 25 – The Friends of Bath Library will be co-sponsoring a spaghetti dinner with the Ruritans

January 30 – Historic Bath Foundation Annual Awards 5pm Swindell's Cash Store

FEBRUARY

February 8 – Bath Garden Club: Bill Lendhardt - Slide show and Discussion of the Historic Van Der Veer Vegetable Garden

February 11 – Victorian Valentines Workshop This program will feature a brief history of the holiday, and will offer participants the chance to recreate Victorian-style Valentines for their friends and loved ones using materials provided. 10 a.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center. \$2.00 per person and limited to 15 participants.

February 27 –BHSP Oyster Roast & Raffle Drawing at Selby Barn on Hwy 92 E

MARCH

March 5th – Pieces of Eight: Digging Up Pirates This lecture by Dr. Charles Ewen, anthropology professor at East Carolina University, offers a view of the archaeological perspective of piracy. 10 a.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center. FREE

March 12 or 19 – Lions Club Bingo

March 14 – Bath Garden Club: Eric Slade, Correct Pruning Techniques

March 25th – Historic Bath Foundation quarterly meeting. 3pm Bath Town Hall.

APRIL

April 9th – Reaching for the Channel: Colonial Shipping at Ports Brunswick and Bath This lecture will be presented by Jim McKee, historian and site manager of Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson. 10 a.m. at Historic Bath Visitor Center. FREE

April 11, Bath Garden Club: David Pike of Witherspoon Rose Care in Durham, Discussion of Roses and Their Care

MAY

May 9 – Bath Garden Club: Goose Creek Park, Bird Watching Followed by Annual Picnic

May 14th – BathFest 2016 – Maritime focus. This Town of Bath event features craft vendors, free house tours, crafts, performances and other activities! Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm. Free

May 14 –BHSP Yard Sale Fund Raiser

May 15 – Bath Volunteer Fire Department Chicken Dinner Benefit



U.S. Postage
PAID
Bath, NC
27808
Permit #14

Post Office Box 238 Bath, NC 27808

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The measure of any great town is its people and their culture and how they use that culture to move forward, taking lessons of the past with them to improve their lives.

Bath is certainly a great example of a citizenry that appreciates their past, while at the same time creating an evolving future with a great dignity.

Your Historic Bath Foundation Board has attempted to reflect that dignity with many decisions and resulting accomplishments over this past summer and fall.

As you have reflected on the many projects of your board in this newsletter, we hope you feel the same way. In each and every project and endeavor, your board has attempted to provide growth and a respect for our culture.

It has been a very successful year for the Foundation. It has been our pleasure to work with the Bath High School Preservation Committee in their diligent efforts to preserve a wonderful landmark. We also initiated a strong advertising campaign to promote your visitor's center. We stabilized a significant historic property, enhanced the Craven Street Cemetery by adding appropriate fencing, and we continued to provide funds through our Small Grant Program.

In the coming months we hope you will enjoy seeing progress made on a new town park that will be located at the base of the Bath Creek Bridge. Your Foundation has worked hard over the past year, along with your town leaders to make this a reality.

We have attempted to maintain a dignified approach to these efforts, with an eye to the future for all the citizens of Bath. Thank you for your continued support.

Director Milo L. Gibbs, Jr.

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



Follow us on Facebook!

Contact us at historicbath@yahoo.com