



# First Town. Your Town.

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

Spring 2015

## President's Message

Your Foundation continues to work on maintaining the historic nature of Bath and creating a museum. Talks are still underway for several alternatives for the museum. We are waiting on word of the grant request for the proposed town park at the foot of the bridge. Your memberships are vital for us to continue our work. Our annual membership meeting is coming up. We need you to submit your proxies when you receive them. Our treasurer has worked long and hard to help us and is now stepping down; we need someone to come forth and help us in this vital area. Without your help, your Foundation cannot succeed. I hope each and everyone has a very pleasant and enjoyable summer.

President, Surry Everett

## Financial Report

2015 has started out well with Membership and Fundraising revenue up \$6,700 from 2014. Currently the cash balance is \$311,009.74 up over \$15,000 from year end. Funds restricted for the museum are \$122,475.79. Thanks for your continued support and if you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please mail it to HBF, PO Box 238, Bath, NC 27808.

The Awards Ceremony and Reverse Raffle was a huge success on January 31, 2015 at Swindell's Cash Store, thanks to our many Sponsors. The sponsors this year were BB&T Bank, First Bank, Leslie Gibbs - Van Der Have Family Law, The Clement Companies, Blackbeard's Slices and Ices, Pair Electronics, Bennie A. Moore Septic Tank Service, R.A. Jeffreys Distributing Company, Billy Byrd - Nationwide Insurance, True Value of Bath, Country Kitchen Grill, and David Williams at Hi Tech Electronics.

*Director Mariann McQueen*



## Membership

Dear members: Your contributions exceeded expectations for 2015 annual membership dues. Your dedication to this organization continues to produce positive results for Historic Bath. Thanks to you, our 2016 annual dues goal of \$25,000-\$30,000 is within reach.

*Director, Karen Sayer*

HBF has successfully submitted the Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant for the town park at the base of the Bath Creek Bridge. Please contact our legislators to show your support for the project and to encourage designation of funds for DENR PARTF funds.

# Historic Bath Foundation

The two Main Street stores that the foundation bought, stabilized and resold have now become the home of the new owners – Debra Torrence and Clay Johnson – in what has become a very successful foundation venture.

The new owners agreed to restrictive covenants promising that the front and two sides of the buildings will not be changed; and they went on to refinish the buildings in a way that was satisfactory to the foundation and virtually assures that the buildings – once in danger of collapsing–will be preserved.

The success of this venture has led the board to agree in principle to stabilizing, or assisting in the stabilization, of other properties in the historic district if they become endangered or in obvious need of repair. The foundation board could do this by purchasing and then reselling a building or by direct grants to assist property owners in saving buildings in the historic district.

The foundation is open to suggestions from members and the public at large about restoration projects in the historic district.

*Director, Gene Roberts*



*Successful restoration of Main Street property.*

## 2015 SMALL GRANTS

Historic Bath Foundation Awards Four Small Grants in 2015

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.
- Bath Booklet Printing - The Bath Fest committee was awarded \$400 to print materials for 500 booklets on Bath history and architecture. These printed materials will be used in a bookbinding activity at Bath Fest in May 2015.
- 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.
- 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.

*Director, Patricia Samford*



# Committee and Special Events News

## SPECIAL EVENTS

HBF Board Member, Gene Roberts, Receives Order of the Long Leaf Pine

Eugene L. Roberts received North Carolina's Order of the Longleaf Pine Society award Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, at a ceremony organized by the Historic Bath Foundation and held in the former Swindell's Cash Store, one of the historic Main Street buildings that Roberts helped to save from demolition in the state's oldest town. More than 60 residents and members of organizations concerned with preserving the Historic Bath State Historic Site attended the awards ceremony, which followed a meeting of the state-sponsored Historic Bath Commission. Steve P. Keen, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory's Eastern NC representative, presented the award, which is conferred annually by the North Carolina governors to citizens for exemplary service. Roberts, a native of Pikeville in Wayne County, had a long career in journalism, working for newspapers in Goldsboro, Virginia Beach, Raleigh, Detroit, Philadelphia and New York. He is a former managing editor of the New York Times and longtime executive editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer, which won 17 Pulitzer Prizes for journalism under his editorship. Roberts and his wife, the former Susan McLamb, first met in the Bath area of Beaufort County and have had a home there for more than 50 years.



*PHOTO: (L-R): Shown are Eugene Roberts (center), receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from Governor Pat McCrory presented by Steve Keen (right), Eastern District Director, Office of the Governor, State of North Carolina, and Surry Everett (left), Chair, The Historic Bath Foundation, Inc. (Photo courtesy of Robin Suggs, Historic Bath State Historic Site)*

## HBF BOARD NOMINATIONS

Inquire at  
[historicbath@yahoo.com](mailto:historicbath@yahoo.com)  
to obtain a nominee application!

## Introduction of New Board Member

James Edwards shares that he has benefited from being in the Bath community in so many ways and he wishes to continue to give back to Bath. He is especially interested in the foundation's mission of enhancing historic properties. He is interested in working with the board to meet challenges through expanding the scope of work in order to meet set goals. He is willing to serve in whatever role the board feels he would be well suited to manage. Jimmy most recently served as Bath High School Preservation Chair for three years. He has held many officer positions in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Committee on Nuclear Air and Gas Treatment including Vice Chair. Jimmy has a varied business and technical background. He also has experience in leading organizations. He has a knack for carrying the torch for a project, speaking with clarity, and directing action towards successful results.

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)!

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

Spring brings change and growth – Elizabeth Midyette was promoted to Assistant Manager in March and on April 1st we were happy to hire Charles “Chuck” Guard as a new historic interpreter. Visitation is on the rise and Historic Bath Site is pleased to be able to offer its seasonal re-opening on Sunday afternoons, 1-5 pm. We were excited to be the recent recipient of two grants from the HBF’s small grant program. To stay up-to-date with historic site happenings, I encourage you to follow us on social media and websites – email me at leigh.swain@ncdcr.gov for that contact information or to share your ideas for programming that would benefit our community in the months to come. Happy Touring!

*Leigh Swain, Historic Bath Site Manager*

What are the signs of connection between NC’s estuarium, the Bath Creek and the Chesapeake Bay, our nation’s largest estuary? Why are we celebrating Bath as the First Port this year? What was Blackbeard’s real name? Do you know who Edward Beard was? Where were the original shipping wharfs along Bath Creek? Who would know the answers? Where can we find out more? The Historic Bath Commission works with the State Historic Site to preserve the history of Bath and share the answers to these exciting questions!! Come visit during the First Port activities this summer, learn more and ask some new questions. We look forward to exploring history with you.

*Peggy Daw, Historic Bath Commission Chair*

The Town of Bath continues to work with multiple agencies trying to get our latest wastewater expansion/upgrade on line. The cold wet weather over the winter exposed some deficiencies in some of the equipment. Hopefully that has been replaced or modified to work as originally designed so we can begin to offer more hookups to businesses and homeowners.

Other projects are in various stages of work and development such as the butterfly garden, tree plantings on Carteret St near the Post Office.

Bath Fest is shaping up to be another success.

*James G.(Jimmy) Latham, Mayor of Bath*

Very soon now we will see the initial phase of engraved bricks in place. The order has been placed and we expect delivery and installation during the latter part of May. The first phase is to be located along the corridor leading to the Gallery entrance. Once these are in place the next phase begin.

Commemorative bricks not only honor or memorialize someone special, the funds raised contribute to further restoration of the building. We encourage our friends, neighbors, alumni and supporters of the town to be part of restoring this important landmark. Help the BHSP Organization complete the restoration so that it might again be occupied with services and activities that would be enjoyed by the entire community. In the very near future there will be a survey in the community to help determine which services are most desired.

Once the remainder of the gallery is complete the strategic plan calls for work to begin on an elevator / interior staircase and the upper connector wing.

Obviously there remains much to do but it is the desire of this organization to see the building fully restored and occupied. So if you know someone interested in joining this effort of preserving another important part of Bath’s history we welcome them.

Join in..... the rewards will be worth it and the results should last for many years to come.

*Becky Tuten, BHSP President*

**Please contact us at [historicbath@yahoo.com](mailto:historicbath@yahoo.com), if you are interested in a board of director, volunteer, or committee member position.**

## WEBSITE UPDATE

The HBF website continues to be a virtual resource and information source supporting and growing efforts to share the work of preserving Historic Bath and sharing community happenings. In the first four months of the year, over 1,500 unique visitors have viewed the HBF website at least once. A total of 2,120 visits have been made to the website to view more than 1 page per visit. Unlike previous reporting periods, the most current analytics show visitors are stopping by multiple website sections in healthy numbers.

*Debra Torrence*

# Community News

**LIBRARY** - The Bath Community Library will launch its 2015 Outdoor Movie Series in June. See the calendar of events for details on these free events to be hosted on the town lot next to the library. Plan to attend and vote for your favorite movie to be shown in late September! Take a book, leave a book at the Treasure Box at Harding's Landing. This free little library dubbed "Red's Box" was installed in memory of Irene Komarow by her husband, Paul, and family friends. The box was designed, built and donated by Bill & Jane Lendhardt and Reid Betham, The box was made from reclaimed wood removed from the Torrence/Johnson home on Main Street. Looking for more activities? Check out the calendar of activities at all BHM Regional Libraries at <http://bhm.libcal.com/calendar.php?cid=1798#!/month/2015/05>.



**OUTDOOR COALITION** - The Wee Pirates Play Outside Coalition has been active in creating outdoor play and learning spaces in Bath. The new knot tying station, support by HBF, is being installed on Lawson's Walk this month. A new butterfly facts quiz has been created with the help of Girl Scout Troop #3556 for local use. The Troop and Coalition are also supporting the installation of a butterfly garden at the Bath Elementary School this spring, with support from a Lowes Education Toolbox grant. And funds have been secured from the PNC Bank Foundation to partially support the installation of a play boat structure at the much anticipated town park by the bridge.

# Calendar of Events

## JUNE

**June 26th HBF Annual Membership meeting: Bath Town Hall: 10:00 AM.**

**June 27** – Bath Library 2015 Outdoor Summer Movie Series. On the town lot next to the library. Movie ET. Starts at dusk.

## JULY

**July 9, 16, 23, 30** – Pirate Past Times Day Camps for children; limited space. (9th and 23rd for children ages K-3rd gr.; 16th and 30th for children 4th – 6th gr.) Cost is \$10 and programs held from 10 am-2 pm. Call 252-923-3971 to register.

**July 11** – Bath Library 2015 Outdoor Summer Movie Series. On the town lot next to the library. Movie - Muppets Most Wanted. Starts at dusk.

**July 17** – An Evening with Israel Hands: Leland Smith, who portrays this shipmate of Blackbeard's with the Devilmen of Cape Feare, will present a talk about piracy. Free; refreshments served. 6:30-8 pm

**July 18** – Pirates in the Port. This program focuses on Lieutenant Maynard's 1718 visit to Bath after the battle at Ocracoke. Pirate encampment and scheduled pirate talks will be held. Free. 10 am – 4 pm

## AUGUST

**August 1** – Bath Library 2015 Outdoor Summer Movie Series. On the town lot next to the library. Big Hero 6. Starts at dusk.

## SEPTEMBER

**September 26** – Bath Library 2015 Outdoor Summer Movie Series. Movie Viewers Choice.

**September 25** – HBF quarterly board meeting, 3pm, Bath Town Hall.

## OCTOBER

**October 3** – Paddle Bath Poker Run. Contact Glenn Holt of the Bath Business Alliance at [info@lowtiderealty.com](mailto:info@lowtiderealty.com) for more information.

**October 3** – Bath Marine Market. Contact Glenn Holt of the Bath Business Alliance at [info@lowtiderealty.com](mailto:info@lowtiderealty.com) for more information.

**October 16 & 17** – Ghost Walk. Take an hour's walk through the village streets and learn the stories of people in Bath's past. This two-night event will have limited space; two tours held each evening. Tickets may be purchased at Visitor Center by 6:30 pm with first tour beginning at 7:30 pm.

## DECEMBER

**December** – HBF quarterly board meeting – deferred.

**December 6** – Bath Christmas Parade. 2 PM. Main Street, Bath. Streets around town close before parade so come early.

**December 12** – Christmas Open House – Visit the site's historic homes decorated in Colonial Revival Style. Morning activities to be announced later with open house from 12 noon – 4 pm. Free.

## JANUARY

January – to be announced – HBF Annual Awards Ceremony.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Imagine a town with no appreciation for its history. A town with no vision, because the citizens have neglected the past, and new generations have not listened to or neglected to honor and appreciate the wisdom of past generations.

This certainly is not the case with our beloved Town of Bath. Both current and previous generations, share in the wonderful legacy of our great port town, and the importance it has for our state and nation. We are building on our past, for a continued bright future. Your membership and support in the Historic Bath Foundation, along with the support of town leaders, provides the means for new projects, that not only moves us forward, but maintains the integrity of the past.

We are all connected for many different reasons, but we share one common purpose, to preserve the history and beauty of Bath, while enhancing the lives of our modern day citizens.

One way to continue this process, is to attend the Annual Meeting of the Foundation on June 26th at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall, or if you cannot attend send in your proxy, so your voice can be heard. Let us continue the great traditions of Bath, while moving it into the future in a responsible manner.

*Director, Milo 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*



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