

# 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 2014

## HBF Preservation Awards

January 31, 6PM  
Swindell's Cash Store

HBF Preservation Award  
for leadership in the  
restoration of the exterior  
and the library wing  
of Bath High School.

Jimmy Edwards  
Sandra E. Harrison

Certificate of recognition:  
In grateful recognition of  
meritorious public service  
in helping save and  
preserve buildings in the  
Bath Historic District.

David Johnston

## President's Message

Friends of Historic Bath:

With your help, your Foundation continues to do its best to preserve the historic nature of Bath. Our current activity involves creating a park on the bridge lot as one enters Bath. As envisioned, the park would include a playground, a walkway, a natural gazebo, and a pier. We are working with the town council, who will own the park, to obtain a matching grant. We are continuing to work on plans for a museum in Bath. We hope to show visible progress during the next year.

See you at our annual Awards Banquet and reverse raffle on January 31, 2015.

Thank you for your help; it is only with your membership, help, and participation that our work succeeds.

Director, Surry Everett

## Financial Report

2014 was a great year for The Historic Bath Foundation Inc. During the year we funded two small grants and two larger real estate purchases. We will end the year with unrestricted assets around \$170,000. We started the year by raising over \$11,000 at our Reverse raffle and awards ceremony. First quarter also started out well with memberships coming in at a steady pace and ended 2014 up from the previous year at \$21,834. Over \$90,000 was received from generous benefactors in 2014 to fund the real estate purchases. This allowed The Historic Bath Foundation Inc. to purchase two properties in Bath. One of the properties was stabilized, then sold. The undertaking of these two projects highlights the greater purpose of the organization to preserve the historical aspects of Bath for the future. New projects in our community are already being identified. Funding is needed to continue these efforts. 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 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

## 2014 SMALL GRANTS

Since 2006, 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 in 2014 and was pleased to give four grants to three organizations:

**Van Der Veer Smokehouse Project** – Funding was granted to the Historic Bath State Historic Site to make needed repairs and purchase materials that allowed the Van Der Veer Smokehouse to be interpreted as a working smokehouse. Until recently, the smokehouse had been used to store equipment and supplies used in site landscape maintenance. The exterior repairs and repainting have been completed and by the beginning of 2015, 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.

**Educational Material for the Queen Anne's Revenge Exhibit** – This past summer, almost 4,200 visitors to Historic Bath State Historic Site enjoyed an exhibit on the underwater excavation of Blackbeard's ship, the *Queen Anne's Revenge*. Visitation to the site was up approximately 33 percent over that same time period (June 13-July 26) the previous year. The historic site was awarded a grant that allowed them to create educational materials to accompany the exhibit. The materials printed for summer programming were extremely helpful and the worksheets about the exhibit that were printed for the general public were quite popular.

**Ground Water Diversion for Bath High School** – Bath High School Preservation was awarded funding to install additional gutters and a French drain to aid in drainage of the library wing of the school. This project, which involves three steps, is currently underway, with anticipated completion by the end of 2014. As of early December, the eaves have been painted and the gutters have been ordered. Once the gutters have been received and installed, the French drain will be added.

**Pirate-Themed Play and Learn Area** – Girl Scout Troop #3556 was awarded funding towards creating a pirate-themed outdoor learn and play site in Bath. Funding from the Foundation helped fund a knot-tying station as well as the printing of placemats about the outdoor learning project. These placemats were distributed to local businesses to raise awareness about the project.

## REVISIONS TO SMALL GRANT PROGRAM

At its September meeting, the board of the Historic Bath Foundation made several changes to the way the Small Grant program will be administered in the future. Since its conception in 2006, the program was set up to be a reimbursed grant – in other words, the organization awarded the grant would get reimbursed for the awarded funding once the project was completed and the final report was submitted and approved. The rationale behind this approach was to insure that funding

was used in the manner outlined in the proposal and that the project was successfully completed. Beginning with the next round of applications in 2015, the Foundation is allowing applicants to request during the application process 50% funding disbursement at the time of the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement. The remaining funding will be disbursed when the grant project is complete and the final report approved. Making this change to the funding disbursement will make it easier for smaller organizations without a surplus of funds to accomplish their projects quickly.

*Director, Patricia Samford*

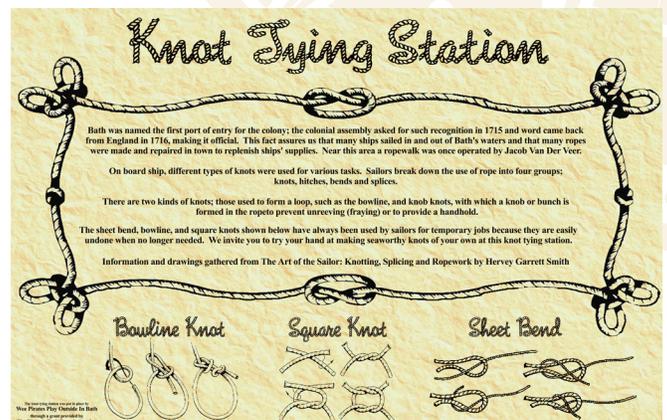
## HISTORIC SITE



*QAR Exhibit - children's games - print material*



*Historic Site Smokehouse structure repairs and enhanced interpretation*



*Girl Scout Troop #3556, pirate-themed outdoor learn and play site at Lawson Walk.*

# Committee and Special Events News

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jason Pair was appointed to the board of directors in 2014 for a two year term. He also serves on the board of directors for First Bank. Jason wanted to serve on the board in order to give back to the community. He feels the primary focus of the Foundation is to preserve Bath and the surrounding area's historic value and assist in keeping properties preserved for generations to come. Jason would like to share his business management and networking skills. For this reason, he will work with fellow board member Gene Roberts in formulating a strategy for recruiting new members.

## CEMETERY

The Historic Bath Foundation has approved funds to purchase a marker for the Wallace H. Styron Cemetery located on Catnip Point Road in Bath. Wallace H. Styron, (1794-1862), was an Ocracoke Island ship owner, ship builder, and sea captain. He was also a Carteret County delegate to the 1835 North Carolina Constitutional Convention (pivotal in creating North Carolina's post-colonial state government). In 1844 Styron was the Ocracoke Island post master. He was also a Bath, North Carolina farm and land owner. Many of the Styron's family are buried in the cemetery, having died in the Yellow Fever epidemic of the early 1850s. An unveiling ceremony will be planned for late spring or early summer.

*Directors Mariann McQueen and Jason Pair*

## MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your loyalty to the Foundation. Our membership numbers are increasing and we are steadily reaching our goal of 300 members and \$25,000 in annual dues. Our membership year ends June 30th but you can join or make a donation anytime throughout the year. Although our family membership is \$25 annually, many of you donate above this level. This has enabled us to move forward on unexpected opportunities such as seen this year with both the purchase of the park property and stabilization of a Main Street structures.

*Director Karen Sayer*

## TOWN PARK

You know that "little piece of heaven" lot at the base of Bath Bridge? HBF, along with the help of local residents has purchased it! And we've got exciting and hopeful news: HBF members are busy working on a grant through NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to turn that lot into a park for all of the area residents to enjoy! We hope to add parking, a pier, an area for boat docking and kayak launching, picnic tables, and maybe some playground equipment. Keep your fingers crossed. We'll keep you posted!

*Director, Betsy Boxer*

## STABILIZATION OF STRUCTURES

One of the Historic Bath Foundation's boldest projects – the purchase, stabilization and sale of two Main Street stores—was successfully completed this summer and fall; and the Foundation hopes to use the experience as a prototype for other property rescues.

The Foundation bought the stores from the Len Willson family early in the year and by fall— under the leadership of David Johnston, the Main Street architect and builder— had stabilized them and put them on the market. They were quickly purchased by Clay Johnson and Debra Torrence of Bath who are converting them into a residence with on-premise offices.

Foundation officers believe Clay and Debra will be ideal owners of the stores. The officers were impressed by the way they had restored their home on the northwest corner of King and Craven Streets.

The Foundation more than recovered its investment and was able to rollover the stabilization investment as a tax credit to be utilized by the new owners. Under terms of the tax credit and a restrictive covenant in the deed, future owners cannot alter the front, sides and general appearance of the two stores.

As a result of the stabilization and sale, Foundation officers feel they have gained valuable experience in both restoration and tax credits that can be applied to any future rescue projects in the historic district.

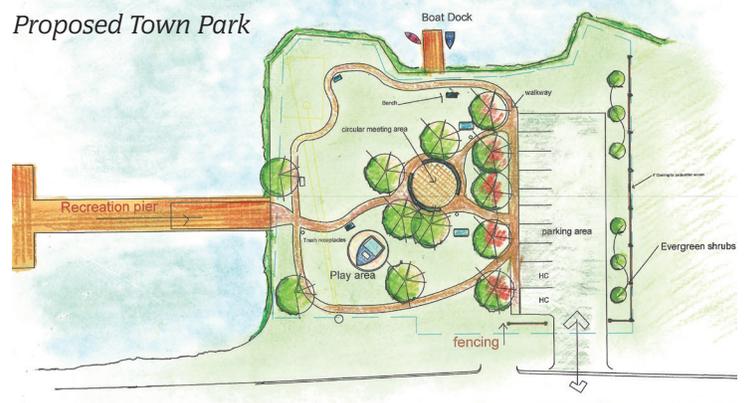
At the present time, the Foundation is looking into the possible rescue of a historic house about three miles from Bath; and it is also exploring the possibility of offering limited grant opportunities to owners of historic properties who want to restore them.

*Director, Gene Roberts*

*Marsh House before and after (most recently known as the Willson stores)*



*Proposed Town Park*



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

It is always exciting to start a new year, when the world is full of possibilities! It is equally fulfilling to look back at the past year to see in what ways you have grown and in what ways you need to change. The same is true for a business, even one that focuses on history, where one may not expect to find change! Many of our modern changes have occurred with the broadening of our presence on social media – we invite you to follow us on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook or follow our blog at [www.historicbathsite.wordpress.com](http://www.historicbathsite.wordpress.com). Have your friends review Historic Bath on Trip Advisor; we can be found under “attractions.”

Some programming highlights for Historic Bath Site in 2014 included our hosting of the Queen Anne’s Revenge traveling exhibit and the inaugural Pirates in the Port program, which will become a signature event for the site each July. Perhaps the biggest programming change occurred with the moving of Christmas Open House to a Saturday and an enlargement of that day’s events; we hope that our guests embrace this change.

The new year brings the opportunity to begin educating people about Bath’s place in history as our colony’s first official port of entry, a 300th anniversary celebration that will conclude in 2016. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events!

*Leigh Swain, Manger Historic Bath State Historic Site*

The Historic Bath Commission is working closely with the First Port Steering Committee to bring a well coordinated and exciting calendar of events together celebrating “Bath-First Town, First Port” in 2015. In November, John Morris, Director of the NC Underwater Archaeology Branch, detailed known artifacts in Bath Creek and what an underwater survey includes. The next meeting on January 30, 2015 will include a report from a team of experts on grant opportunities and live participatory education options. During planned dives, viewing screens can be set up on the shore for adults and children to watch real time underwater investigations for historic treasures. The celebrations for First Port have already generated some refurbishing, with the Town of Bath ordering new flags featuring the popular ship design for designated lamp posts and proposed park signage recognizing the significance of Port Bath. We hope to see many friends, family and visitors enjoying a variety of water-focused activities as we celebrate 300 years of maritime roots as NC’s First Seaport from 2015 to 2016.

*Peggy Daw, Historic Bath Commission Chair*

During the month of October Bath High School Preservation had two successful fundraisers. The third annual 5K was well attended with many former runners returning as well as new participants joining the group. On the same day the annual

Raffle was held with lots of great prizes awarded. Proceeds from both of these events provided funds to make the final payment to the Town of Bath for the building. By the time you are reading this Newsletter the final payment will have been made. The last five years have seen many individuals contribute time, energy and resources in realizing this significant goal. The support of both the immediate and far-reaching community has made this possible.

We invite you to mark your calendar for February 28, 2015 and join us again for the annual Oyster Roast. Each year brings more people to this event where an afternoon of great fun, plentiful supply of oysters and other delicious foods are enjoyed. Your continued support is appreciated and vital in completing the next phase of restoration.

*Becky Tuten, President, Bath High School Preservation*

### ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY – ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE

**Mark your Calendars!!!** The Awards Ceremony and Reverse Raffle will be January 31, 2015 at Swindell’s Cash Store. To purchase tickets, please see any board member or mail your check for \$100 to HBF, PO Box 238, Bath, NC 27808

### WEBSITE UPDATE

*Fall 2014 HBF Newsletter Article on the Website  
\*HBF Website Served Nearly 4,000 Visitors in 2014\**

The HBF website continues to serve as both a source of information about the work of HBF and community happenings. Nearly 4,000 unique visitors have viewed the HBF website at least once. A total of 5,908 visits have been made to the website to view more than 2 different pages per visit. The calendar section was the most frequently viewed section to date in 2014.

*Debra Torrence*

**SMALL GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE  
NOW ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.HISTORICBATH.COM](http://WWW.HISTORICBATH.COM).  
DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR A SMALL GRANT IS  
FEBRUARY 28TH, 2015. AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED  
AT THE HBF MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING.**

# Community News

**LIBRARY:** The Friends of the Bath Community Library are having a spaghetti supper on Friday, January 23, 2015 at the Bath Ruritan Building at 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$7.00 and can be purchased prior to supper. Tickets will also be available at the door on day of supper. Funds raised will be used to pay library rent, utilities and special projects.

**BHSP:** The 4th Annual 2015 BHSP 5k Pirate Run will be held Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 8:00 AM. The 9th Annual BHSP Oyster Roast & Chili Shindig is Saturday, February 28, 2015 at Selby's Farm Shop 4:00 - 7:00. Thank you!

## WEE PIRATES PLAY OUTSIDE IN BATH!

HBF Grant Expanding Outdoor Play & Learning Spaces in Bath - A grant from HBF has supported the Wee Pirates Play Outside in Bath Coalition installing a hopscotch board with historically accurate depictions of Scout-drawn animals on the tiles. The board is a feature of Lawson's Walk so stop on by, toss a pebble and hop down memory lane on this wonderful addition to Bath's outdoor spaces. A knot tying station, also supported by the grant, will be added to Lawson's Walk in spring 2015 to offer an opportunity for children and adults to try their hand at creating loops and knots used both long ago and in modern times to keep goods on board and sailors safe at sea and dock.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING EFFORTS HAS WIND IN SAILS

- In partnership with the Beaufort/Hyde Partnership for Children, the Coalition has secured a grant from PNC Foundation to create an outdoor learning space & signage in the form of a boat structure to be placed in Bath at a location to be determined and accompanying outdoor play and learning events to bring dramatic art outside.

**OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES FOR 2015** - The first movie was a great success and has generated interest in a series in 2015 with a variety of offerings for adults and others for families with children.

**FREE LITTLE LIBRARY** - A treasure box of library books to take and exchange will be installed near the state dock in the new year as part of BMH Library's effort to install boxes at every port in their territory.

# Calendar of Events

## JANUARY

**January 15th:** "First Town, First Port" Kick-Off Event. Join Historic Bath Site as we kick off our 310th anniversary year as North Carolina's First Town, and 300 years as the first port! Witness the unveiling for our new "First Town, First Port" Hallway Exhibit. 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Cost: Donation Accepted!

**January 23rd:** The Friends of the Bath Community Library are having a spaghetti supper at the Bath Ruritan Building at 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$7.00 and can be purchased

**January 31st: Historic Bath Foundation Annual Awards Ceremony and reverse raffle. Swindell's Cash Store. 6 PM. (quarterly meeting deferred).**

## FEBRUARY

**February 28th:** The 9th Annual BHSP Oyster Roast & Chili Shindig is Saturday, at Selby's Farm Shop 4:00 - 7:00 PM.

**February 28th.** African American History Month Lecture by Amanda Smith, "Local Civil Rights Movement: Williamston Freedom Movement, 1957-1970", 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Cost: Donations Accepted!

## MARCH

**March 3rd,** "An Evening With..." Series Presents: John Lawson, Spend an evening with the gentleman who aided in the creation and making of the Town of Bath! 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Cost: Donations Accepted!, Pre-Registration Deadline: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2015 (seating is limited!).

**March 27th, Historic Bath Foundation quarterly meeting. Bath Town Hall. 3 PM.**

## MAY

**May 16th, BathFest 2015,** This Town of Bath event features craft vendors, free house tours, crafts, performances and other activities. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Events occurring at certain times throughout the day). Cost: Free

**May 16th, Cut-Throat Croquet Tournament 2015,** Join the Beaufort County Community College Foundation as it sponsors the twelfth annual croquet tournament, with flights for beginners or more advanced players. Play occurs at lot beside Bonner House, 200 Front Street. For more information, call 252-923-3971. 9:30 AM- 5:00 PM. Cost: Charge for players, free for spectators unless purchasing luncheon ticket.

## JUNE

**June: Date to be determined, Historic Bath Foundation Annual meeting, Bath Town Hall. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.**

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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The Town of Bath is like an ongoing tapestry of history which you as a valued member of The Historic Bath Foundation play a valuable role. Your participation allows the Foundation to preserve the great heritage of Bath, while at the same time building upon that rich heritage to continue to enhance the quality of life for the great citizens of Bath. This past year has been an outstanding one for the Foundation with the projects we have participated in. Thank you for your support and please continue to make your voice heard through your attendance, or proxy at the annual meeting. The 2014 response was outstanding and let us make 2015 an even better one.

*Director, Milo Gibbs*

## *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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