



Historic Bath Foundation Bi-Annual Newsletter, November 2011

(Newsletter layout by Debra Torrence)

Greetings from the Historic Bath Foundation

As we move forward toward the end of this year and the beginning of next year, it's time to stop and reflect what we have achieved and what we want to continue to do. We have continued to support our State Historic Site and the Town of Bath through grants.

We have a new look: our Board has selected a new logo and our brochure has been redesigned. Also we are making everything transparent, including our goals and actions, to our membership and the public by publishing them on our new web site.

As the results of our actions begin to be more and more visible, Lawson's Walk, the gardens at the Bonner House, and the construction at the High School, we will develop more and more interest. I invite you to continue your membership in the Foundation and if not a member already, to join us in our efforts to maintain and restore the historical aspects of Bath.

President and Chair Surry P. Everett



Get Involved, Get Informed with a click! The new HBF website will be up and running early 2012. There you can find Foundation meeting information, details and supporting documents, the Foundation's strategic plan, goals and deadlines as well as committee goals. Access information about how to communicate with the Foundation and make suggestions. While visiting the site learn more about the history of Bath and see accomplishments. Application forms to become a board member or to nominate someone for an award will also be included on the site. Tax-deductible donations to support the work of the Foundation will be easy to do with an online PayPal account as well as printed forms you can download and mail. Be sure to visit www.historicbath.com to keep up with all the activities the Foundation is undertaking and collaborations underway!

Message from the Foundation Ex-Officio Directors

The Town of Bath fully supports the preservation efforts of all of the support groups. We have made progress in getting our wastewater system upgraded but still have a ways to go. Without the necessary upgrades, the Town cannot offer any expansion to current, much less new opportunities for the Town. We continue to make the wastewater upgrades our number 1 priority and ask for your continued support.

James G. Latham, Mayor, Town of Bath

Historic Bath Site shares the vision of maintaining the history and natural beauty of North Carolina's first town for its residents and all North Carolinians. Through generous funding from the Historic Bath Foundation, Inc. and open communication with various arms of the town's administration, including the Historic District Commission, Historic Bath has recently strengthened its heritage landscape with the Bonner House Colonial Revival beautification project. Historic structures have changed colors to reflect the time periods in which they were built. Most importantly, Historic Bath staff has been pleased to see how the Town of Bath and other vital entities of the town have come together to protect this cultural resource for generations to come. Leigh Swain, Manager of Historic Bath State Historic Site.

Leigh Swain and I recently attended an all day meeting in Raleigh with the Department of Cultural Resources and learned quite a bit regarding new operational procedures the Department will put in place. It appears our budget concerns are not over with, and more creative and less costly site operational endeavors need to be initiated. While our site has cut costs dramatically, where possible, we have already begun reviewing methods that could have good potential and positive results, but we must remember, we have to adhere to DCR directions. Other ideas are being discussed. Visitation is being given serious consideration. The site is the epicenter of Bath, and the commission continues to provide tremendous support and guidance within the framework of the DCR. Bill Pruitt, Jr., Chairman, Historic Bath Commission

Foundation Activities & Accomplishments

Strategic Plan

In early 2011 the HBF Board envisioned that the development of a strategic plan would enhance the accomplishment of the mission of the Foundation. The plan objectives have been identified and committee assignments have been established. The committees will develop goals and action plans for the achievement of each objective. Updates will be provided at the HBF Board quarterly meetings and a "scorecard" will be developed to provide a simplified method to track the plan accomplishments. Focus group discussions with other organizations in the Bath area will be conducted to share the strategic plan and to provide an opportunity to enhance momentum of all groups through the collaboration of efforts. *Director, Jerry Waters*

Collaboration/Joining Effort

Bath is a town rich in history. There are many non-profit, business, and civic organizations that have been founded to preserve the history and promote Bath. And we all have that common thread: to preserve Bath's rich history and promote the value of visiting our town. One of our goals for the future is to develop collaborative efforts in grant writing and fund raising to further our common goals. The inclusion of the deep and willing resources at East Carolina University and Beaufort Community College to assist us in this goal is another example of collaborative efforts underway to support our common goal. *Director, Betsy Boxer*

Communications

One of the goals of our strategic plan is to become more involved with Bath community groups and we thought offering space in our newsletter to them would be a good way to start. It is a tool which can provide news of the foundation's activities as well as to share news from other groups about their specific goals and accomplishments. Perhaps it will provide an avenue for exposing opportunities for us to work together towards like goals. *Director Karen Sayer, Secretary*

Events

The Historic Bath Foundation is continually at work to encourage and promote the historic aspects of the Town of Bath. Locally, we are becoming more interactive with community events and working cooperatively with all like-minded groups. Our annual awards ceremony recognizes people within our community who have made significant contributions towards preserving history. We also hope to capture a larger audience of people across the state that are eager to contribute to our goal. Improvements to our website will make us more visible to both our members and potential members. The Historic Bath Foundation is excited about the future as we continue to bring vision and unity to our town. *Director Robin, Boyd*

- ❁ *Director Josie Hookway* is researching possible ways of highlighting Bath through billboards and signs in order to increase tourism. Send suggestions by email to historicbath@yahoo.com.
- ❁ A new slogan has been developed to encourage multitudes of North Carolinians to realize Bath is their town also. Brochures and rack cards have been created to share information about Historic Bath.

*First Town.
Your Town.*

Historical

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

Indriqing

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

Timeless

tranquility in the "summercountry" 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



Historic Bath

is located in beautiful eastern North Carolina, on NC 92 off Highway 264 East. Its quiet charm and historic setting draw many visitors throughout the year.

The Historic Bath Foundation, Inc.
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www.historicbath.com

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North Carolina map compiled and drawn by G. Schreier, 1864.
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First Town. Your Town.

Finance Committee:

The finance committee's primary purpose is to safeguard the assets of the foundation and maximize the return on investments. In addition, the finance committee is researching new fundraising opportunities. The committee plans to have at least one major fundraiser in the first quarter of 2012 with the hopes of raising over \$10,000. Look for details of this new event in your mailbox after the New Year. *Director, Mariann McQueen, Treasurer*

Membership

Per the HBF Strategic Plan, our goal is to increase our membership to 500 members in the next two years. In order to broaden our membership, it was recommended we update our brochure to be timeless and have broad-reaching appeal. Because we were getting low on materials, we felt this an ideal time to update things. We will work towards increasing our mailing list to target a specific audience of preservation and history enthusiasts across the state. We intend to be more proactive with advertising, newsletters, outreach programs and a user friendly website for drawing a larger audience to the Foundation.

Michelle Myers, Membership Committee Chairperson

Small Grants

The HBF Small Grants program is based on charitable and educational purposes to serve the Bath area. In 2011 the Small Grants Committee recommended that individual efforts for restoration and beautification be acknowledged and further encouraged. In two particular cases, considerable monies and work time had been invested in the projects. *Director Blanche Monroe, Small Grants Committee Chairperson*

2011 Awards:

- Van Der Veer Garden Enhancement, Historic Bath State Historic Site: \$750
- Historic Bath Architectural Guidelines Book, Town of Bath HDC: \$500
- Saving the Bath Cemetery, Bea Latham and Family: \$500
- Clayton-Noe House Restoration, Elaine Noe: \$3,250

2012 Applications: The deadline for applying is **March 15, 2012**. Projects which focus on the following established criteria will be considered:

- Historical preservation in Bath, to include the purchase, restoration, and preservation of structures in Bath, NC that have special historic, architectural archaeological, or aesthetic value.
- Historical research that leads to publication of books, articles, brochures, or with the development of educational programs pertaining to Bath and Beaufort County.
- Promote the maintenance and advancement of Historic Bath State Historic Site.
- Programs of historic interest.

Long-term Planning

The Museum Committee reports progress on arrangements needed to acquire artifacts for a future museum in Bath. Keith Hardison, director of historic sites for the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, said his staff is working on a document that will make it possible for collectors to give items to Bath with the understanding that they will remain in Bath and not be stored in Raleigh or other distant locations. In another development, Charles Ewen, head of East Carolina University's archeology department, says he has inventoried his department's collections and determined that there are 60 boxes of materials amassed during archeological digs in and around Bath. He says his department will seriously consider transferring these artifacts to Bath when suitable storage space has been found. Discussions are underway between the museum committee and Bath High School Preservation to determine a suitable storage area within the school.

Director Gene Roberts/Vice President, Museum Committee Chairman

HBF 2011 Accomplishments through funding:

The large grants we awarded in 2011 spurred additional giving including philanthropic gifts and grants. A combined effect of bringing local groups together and moving projects forward has been a benefit for the Bath community.



Bonner House Garden



Lawson Walk



BHS exterior restoration

**2011 Historic Bath Foundation Award Ceremony
December 11, 4-6pm Bath Visitor Center**



Please join us as we celebrate the efforts of the following individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of preservation of Historic Bath.

HBF Preservation Award for new construction:

Caroline and David Johnston

HBF Preservation Award for renovation:

Billy and Margaret Anne Wooten

HBF Preservation Award for the advancement of historical preservation of Historic Bath:

Frank Michael Godley

Dr. Edwin Clement

Community News

Advancing Bath High School Preservation

The Bath High School Preservation (BHSP) has been busy this summer. We have a new roof on the East and West wings. We will begin the reconstruction of the portico, which was extended from the East wing (auditorium), when the school was first built. You may have seen the bricks piled there for that work. Hurricane Irene did us some small damage, but the shingles stayed on the roof, a tribute to Sandra Harrison's foresight in insisting on a higher than required wind resistant shingle. Next steps include working towards moving the Bath Community Library to the South wing, which is the old cafeteria wing. Our membership is in excess of 300 now, thanks to Nelda Ormond's membership committee's work. I would remind everyone that anyone who wishes to join the BHSP is encouraged to do so. You need not be an alumnus of Bath High School (BHS) in order to join. In fact, four of the BHSP Board members did not attend BHS. For more information, go to bhspreservation.org. Jimmy Edwards, President.

Historic Bath Garden Club (HBGC) Activities

The Historic Bath Garden Club, established 1979, promotes the beautification of Bath through plantings and education. Many ongoing projects are maintained including the beautification of the garden at the Monument and at the Historic Bath signs that welcome visitors to Bath. The Garden Club also works with the Visitor Center each December to create the lovely and authentic decorations that grace the historic homes during the annual Christmas Open House.



New members and guests are always welcomed at HBGC. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the Bath Christian Church fellowship hall. Upcoming topics include Historic Gardens, Purple Martins, and Cooking with Herbs. For more information, call Monk Wheeler, President at 252-923-9134 or Muffy Bowman, Vice President at 252-923-3691.

Bath Community Emergency Medical Services

Bath Community Emergency Medical Services was established January 1, 1983. We began and still remain a non-profit, volunteer service. Bath's EMS has grown from a handful of responders, answering emergency calls in our own personal vehicles to 19 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) utilizing a fully equipped emergency truck. Our EMTs are constantly attending continuing education classes to remain current on the latest in medical procedures in order to take care of our community's needs. Our mission is to provide medical service to our community in their time of need. We do not charge for our services but are able to maintain our equipment, truck and building from the generous, tax-deductible donations provided by our community. Donations are welcome year-round and may be sent to: Bath Community Emergency Medical Services, P.O. Box 179, Bath, NC 27808. With the holidays fast approaching, it is our wish for each and everyone to have a happy and safe season!



You're Invited!

The Historic Bath State Historic Site and the Historic Bath Garden Club invite you to visit the 1751 Palmer-Marsh and 1830 Bonner House on **Sunday, December 11th between the hours of 12 Noon and 4 p.m.** The houses will showcase greenery, cloved fruit and floral arrangements as found in the appropriate time periods. Also featured will be Colonial music of the Ad Hoc Players, Lorraine Hale on the harpsichord and Don Shiffler on wind instruments, in the entrance hall of the Palmer-Marsh House. Hearth-baked gingerbread and pressed apple cider will be available at the Bonner House for sampling. And visitors can also make their own hand-dipped candle near the Van Der Veer House. This is a **free** event, come join us for an enjoyable and educational welcome to the holiday season. For more information call the Bath Visitor Center at 252-923-3971.

The Voyages of Sloop ADVENTURE Celebrate North Carolina's Colonial Maritime Heritage

The replica 16th century vessel *ELIZABETH II* interprets the "Birth of the Colony" with the settlement on Roanoke Island. The voyages of replica 18th century sloop *ADVENTURE* will interpret the "Development of the Colony" that occurred by interconnecting Eastern Carolina's colonial maritime trading centers - located along the sounds and rivers with the coastline and commercial destinations northward to Boston and Southward to Charleston, and on to the Caribbean and the West Indies.



Bath became the Colony's first town due to its direct connection to the Pamlico and the coast via Ocracoke inlet, having two relatively deep and wide creeks providing access to an abundance of timber yielding logs and milled lumber, pitch, tar, and turpentine. Merchant trade thrived and in 1716 Bath became the Colony's first port. Sloops were popular vessels for colonial merchants. They were fast and maneuverable, and small enough to navigate the relatively shallow waters, yet sturdy enough for open-ocean trips to the islands. They didn't require huge crews. They were lightly ballasted, leaving lots of room to carry goods. To learn more about the Blackbeard Adventure Alliance visit www.BlackBeardsloopAdventure.org or contact Pat Mansfield, President, Mansfieldpm@earthlink.net





Post Office Box 238 Bath, NC 27808

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Calendar of Events December 2011 – May 2012

Dec 11, 2011 Historic Bath State Historic Site Open House
Bath Visitor Center (12 Noon – 4:00 PM)

Dec 11, 2011 Historic Bath Foundation Award Ceremony
Bath Visitor Center (4:00 – 6:00 PM)

January 6, 2012 Historic Bath Foundation Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
Bath Town Hall (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

March 15, 2012 Historic Bath Foundation Small Grants deadline

March 30, 2012 Historic Bath Foundation Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
Bath Town Hall (3:00 – 5:00 PM)

May 19, 2012 Town of Bath, Bath Fest

This is the time of year that we kindly remind you to please send your year-end tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation, P.O. Box 238 Bath, NC 27808.