

2023

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Bald Head Island Conservancy
BHIC.org



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Bald Head Island Conservancy
BHIC.org



Our Vision

BHIC champions the sustainability of barrier islands through environmental research & stewardship



Our Mission

We Discover, Learn,
Conserve, and Preserve



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Bald Head Island Conservancy Turns 40!

In 1983, Dr. Thad Wester, along with a group of visionaries who appreciated the magnificence of Bald Head Island's ecosystem and the importance of protecting it in a formal way, established the Bald Head Island Conservancy. Dr. Wester was joined as signatories on the Charter by James Harrington, James Harper, Betty Timberlake, and Kent Mitchell. This document is remarkable in that, although none of these individuals had formal training in barrier island ecology, they created the Conservancy around the core ecological principle of connectivity among the island's habitats and species, a holistic conservation perspective that was in its infancy 40 years ago. BHI has grown quite a lot in the last four decades, as has the Conservancy, but three things that haven't changed are that Bald Head Island remains an environmental beacon for barrier islands along the Southeast US coast, the BHI community continues to amaze in its support for the Conservancy's Mission, and our organization remains 100% committed to protecting the island for present and future generations. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported our Mission during these 40 years, with a special thanks to Dr. Wester and all those who championed **Living in Harmony with Nature** and the ideals of **conservation, education, and preservation** that we still pursue today!



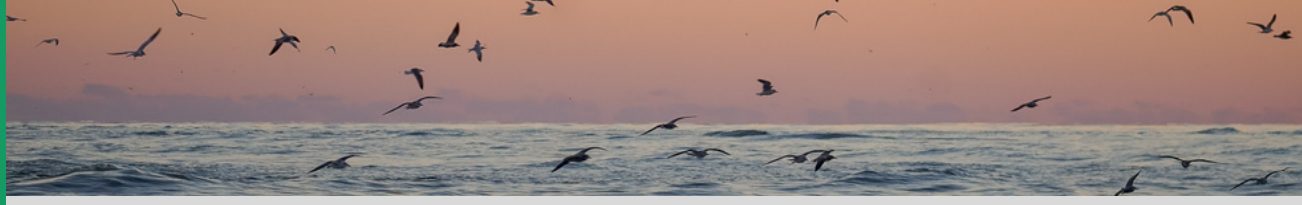
Dr. Wester by the Thad Wester Oak

Thank You for Supporting 40 Years of Conservation, Education, and Preservation on Bald Head Island!

G. Christopher Shank, Executive Director



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Cheers for 40 Years Cocktail Party

We celebrated our 40th Anniversary in fine fashion at the Cheers for 40 Years Cocktail Party in August at the East Beach home of Raymond and Kathryn Harbert. The Harberts graciously hosted more than 100 attendees, many of whom have been associated with the Conservancy for more than two decades, and a few whose Conservancy connections date back to 1983. The event included personal stories about BHI and the Conservancy for each decade and lots of reminiscing among friends old and new. Additionally, we raised over \$80,000 to purchase a new golf cart and boat, support for outreach and sea turtle genetics studies, and other critically needed items. Pam Smith was the creator and organizer of the event, and her personal touch created a party that we will always remember!



40th Anniversary Ornament



Conservancy supporters share their stories at the 40th Anniversary Cocktail Party



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Low Down, Throw Down Shrimp Boil

On a beautiful October afternoon, more than 150 people attended the Low Down, Throw Down Shrimp Boil on the Conservancy's campus. The food and sense of community were outstanding and although this was not a formal fundraising event, we also raised more than \$3,000 in support of our 40th anniversary. Special thanks to Pam Smith and her husband Mike, with help from Chris Barnette and Sharon England, for the shrimp and fixin's that made for such a terrific meal. Our shrimp boils have become an important fall tradition for volunteers and Life Members, and it was nice to open the event to the entire island community in celebration of our 40th year.



2023 Low Down Throw Down

Written in the Sand Videos

We wanted to commemorate our 40-year history through a series of special interviews with folks that could help us trace the Conservancy's impact on BHI, from the Generator Society to present. The series, entitled 'Written in the Sand,' was created by Jenny Marty and Morgan Hooks and included sessions with Dick and Pat Johnston, John and Sheila May, the Cathcarts (Ann, John, Henry), Susan Baker and Elyse Armitage, Jim Brown, David Berne, Matthew Ramirez, Kit Adcock, and the Wester children (Amanda, Ginny, Bryan, and Ellen). Everyone's stories are different, but passion for what the island has meant to so many for so long is amazingly consistent: <https://www.youtube.com/c/BaldHeadIslandConservancySouthport>



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



RECORD VISITOR GROUPS

The reach and impact of the Conservancy's engagement throughout the region have exploded over the past couple of years, including new partnerships in 2023 with Southport NatureFest and St. James Conservancy. Much of our outreach growth has been led by Senior Educator Dr. Jennifer Wigen, who has become well-integrated in environmental education networks throughout eastern NC. We hosted a record number of visiting groups last year, including UNCW's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and another round of Brunswick County 6th graders participating in Barrier Island Botanists. We also continued to provide merit badge and patch weekends for Cape Fear Boy and Girl Scouts. Here are the groups we hosted on BHI in 2023:

K-12

Brunswick County Public Schools
Cape Fear Academy
Young Scientist Academy
Southport Charter School
Swansboro High School
Southport Christian School
Murray Middle School
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
DREAMS of Wilmington

University

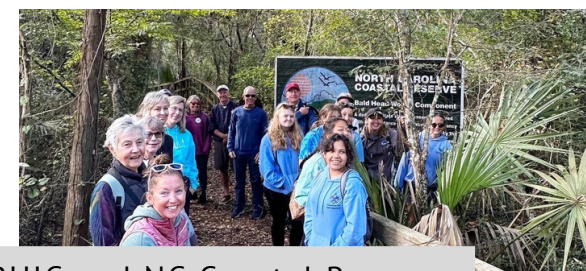
Hampden-Sydney College
UNCW Honors College
Brunswick Community College

Adult

UNCW OLLI
Southport Garden Club
St. James Garden Club
NC Coastal Reserve
Vivian Howard weekend



Local middle schoolers visit the island for BIB



BHIC and NC Coastal Reserve hike Bald Head Woods



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS EXPANDED

If the Conservancy is going to effectively lead the stewardship of Bald Head Island, our science team must continue to pursue a comprehensive understanding of the island's key habitats and species and the myriad interactions among them. However, no matter how talented and motivated our science team is, we cannot be experts on every important subject related to barrier island ecosystems. So, one of our primary goals over the past few years has been expanding our network of academic research partners who can provide expertise across the many sub-disciplines of coastal science for which we need assistance. This model has been working extremely well under the guidance of Chief Scientist Dr. Beth Darrow and Sea Turtle Biologist Paul Hillbrand, especially so in 2023. In just the past year, our collaborators included:

- Bryan Shamblin (U. of Georgia) – sea turtle genetics
- Mariana Fuentes (Florida State) – sea turtle population ecology
- Scott Belcher (NC State) – aquatic ecotoxicology
- Matt Ware (UNCW) – sea turtle nesting ecology
- Joe Long (UNCW) – coastal geophysics
- Stephanie Kamel (UNCW) – sea turtle nesting dynamics
- Natalie Nelson (NC State) – coastal water quality
- Simona Ciriani (Florida Fish & Wildlife) – sea turtle migration
- Elizabeth Kierepka (NC Museum of Natural Sciences) – canid population genetics

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS EXPANDED

Our Science team has earned respect among academic researchers to where we are now consistently asked to serve as co-investigators on large grant proposals to major funding agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF). In 2023, Sea Turtle Biologist Paul Hillbrand served as BHI's lead on a NSF proposal with collaborators at UGA and UNC, clear recognition of Paul's work in the sea turtle ecology field as well as respect for our entire organization. Another sign that our science efforts are expanding is through increased presentations at regional and national conferences and peer-reviewed publications. These were our publications and presentations in 2023:

Research Publication:

Jobe, S., R.E. Urbanek, **P. Hillbrand**, **E.S. Darrow**, E. Abernathy. 2023. Predator exclusion cages as visual attractants to coyotes. *Urban Ecology* DOI:10.1007/s11252-023-01359-3

Invited Presentations:

Darrow, E.S. "Cracking Open the Science and History of Oyster Shells in North Carolina." Cape Fear River Watch First Saturday Seminar, October 7, 2023.

Hillbrand, P. "BHI Red Light Initiative" - Lighting Workshop, NC ST Meeting, UNC Wilmington, January 2023

Hillbrand, P. "Sea Turtle Conservation on Bald Head Island" - Nature Fest - Southport, NC, January 2023

Hillbrand, P. "Sea Turtle Conservation on Bald Head Island" - Bald Head Association's Potluck Dinner, BHI, NC - February 2023

Hillbrand, P. "Sea Turtle Conservation on Bald Head Island" - Holly Springs High School, Virtual, May 2023, Oct 2023

Conference Presentations:

Darrow, E.S., P. Hillbrand. "Predator exclusion cages are the most widely used predator management method on North Carolina sea turtle nesting beaches." Southeastern Sea Turtle Research Society Meeting, Orange Beach, AL, Feb 27 - Mar 3, 2023.

Hillbrand, P., E.S. Darrow, R. Urbanek, S. Jobe, E. Abernathy. "Living in coexistence: a novel predator exclusion cage design." Southeastern Sea Turtle Research Society Meeting, Orange Beach, AL, Feb 27 - Mar 3, 2023.

Szympruch, K., P. Hillbrand, E.S. Darrow. "Between the calipers: an assessment of nesting experience on reproductive output." Southeastern Sea Turtle Research Society Meeting, Orange Beach, AL, Feb 27 - Mar 3, 2023.

Johnson, A.M., P.A. Hillbrand, E.S. Darrow. "Me first! An analysis of Loggerhead (Cc) hatchling size and mass on emergence order." Southeastern Sea Turtle Research Society Meeting, Orange Beach, AL, Feb 27 - Mar 3, 2023, 2023.

Darrow, E.S., J. Harrison, N. Nelson, A. Harris, C. Osburn, E. Morrison. "Coproduction of knowledge by academic and nonprofit researchers: Real-time monitoring of fecal indicator bacteria." Oral presentation, Coastal and Estuarine Federation Meeting, Portland, OR, Nov 12-17, 2023.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS



HATCHLING HUT

The Hatchling Hut (aka “The Hut”) had its Grand Opening on Wednesday, June 21. We have always wanted a presence near the harbor to increase awareness of our Mission and to boost revenue for Turtle Central. After several months of discussions with Intracoastal Realty’s Trisha Howarth, Michelle Goodwin, and President Trey Wallace, we were given the green light to build the structure. Pam Smith and Geoff Moore designed the Hut to mesh perfectly with the existing Intracoastal building while providing enough room to serve as a BHIC info center and small retail space. Thus far, we have received rave reviews with more than 2,000 visitor interactions and thousands of dollars in Turtle Central sales through customers with coupons acquired at the Hut. How nice it is for visitors to be greeted by friendly BHIC interns when they arrive on BHI! The Hut was made possible by a gift from Ginger and Georgio Aydogdu and Simply Southern.



Hatchling Hut Grand Opening

BHIC'S MISSION IN ACTION: WE DISCOVER



VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROJECTS

One focus that has changed in the 40 years since the Conservancy's founding has been an increase in environmental data collection beyond sea turtle conservation through our Environmental Services Contract for the Village. Chief Scientist Dr. Beth Darrow oversees a slew of monitoring and scientific investigations that allow us to **Discover** information about the health of the island's most important systems and species, as well as to inform the Village should we observe any health or safety threats to residents and visitors. The baseline data we collect is important for assessing how our environmental systems function and fluctuate on different time and spatial scales and, most importantly, allowing us to decipher the potential impacts of human activities on our environment. The breadth of projects we perform for the Village is comprehensive:

Tidal Creek Water Quality: We examine water quality in Bald Head and Cape Creeks weekly, including measurements of nutrients, oxygen, and bacterial indicators. Our creeks receive inputs from the Cape Fear River as well as runoff and groundwater from BHI, so it is important that we can distinguish the impacts of each water source. In 2023, our assessments indicated the creeks were in good health overall with typically low algal biomass and minimal bacterial contamination.

Aquifer Health: We conduct monthly depth-to-water (aquifer volume) sampling from 28 wells throughout the island, and quarterly water quality measurements from 21 wells. This work allows us to understand how freshwater withdrawal and sea level rise influence the magnitude and saltiness of BHI's aquifer, which also supports the maritime forest. We do regularly observe salty groundwater in monitoring wells around the periphery of the island, but at the current sea level and the Village's rate of freshwater extraction, we do not see an immediate threat to our forest from saltwater intrusion.

BHIC'S MISSION IN ACTION: WE DISCOVER



VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECTS

Dune Health/Beach Vitex: Beach Vitex is an invasive plant that outcompetes native dune plants that are critical for dune stabilization. We have been carefully applying herbicide to beach vitex (painted on each plant, not sprayed) for several years and are now quantifying the effectiveness of this application followed by cutting at the ground level—so far so good!

Coyotes: In 2023, we collaborated with Dr. Liz Kierepka from the NC Museum of Natural Sciences to assess the coyote population through the analysis of scat genetics. The study estimated that there are up to 12 coyotes on Bald Head and Middle Islands, in two family groups plus some unrelated individuals. We also found that there is population connectivity between an individual from Fort Fisher and an individual from Middle Island. Emigration of coyotes to Ft. Fisher likely helps control BHI's population numbers.

Shorebirds: Each spring, we set up postings at Access 1 and 11 to protect nesting shorebirds, and to our surprise, we had an American Oystercatcher nest (Access 1) and a colony of Least Terns (Access 11 - 13) in 2023. Least Terns had not nested on BHI since 2017, so this was very exciting and kept our team busy documenting nests and moving postings.

White-tailed Deer: The Conservancy has been conducting deer population surveys for more than 20 years via a summer spotlight survey and a fall camera census. This work is important for evaluating the health of the herd and potential herbivory impacts on our ecosystems. The 2023 spotlight survey (25 days) revealed a female:male ratio of 1.9:1, and the fall camera census (15 days) estimated the total number of deer at 176 individuals (96 does, 50 bucks, 26 fawns). Interestingly, the number of fawns has increased substantially over the past few years as immunocontraception effectiveness wears off, and perhaps, as coyote predation declines.

Alligators: We conducted 12 nights of alligator spotlight surveys in 2023. We are still finalizing the numbers, but recent data shows an increase in the alligator population since the mid-2000s, mostly among the smaller/younger population.

To learn more about what we Discover through our Science and Research, check out our [webpage](#).



BHIC'S MISSION IN ACTION: WE LEARN



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR ALL

The more one can learn about the natural environment, the stronger their bond with nature will become, as will their desire to protect it. The Conservancy promotes learning through a myriad of activities for all ages, but we must be especially purposeful in connecting kids with BHI's nature: that connection will last a lifetime, and the island will someday be theirs to enjoy. Here's how we **Learn** on BHI:



Investigative tools to examine ecosystem health



Classes provide knowledge about BHI critters and habitats



Interactive exhibits generate curiosity and wonder



Paul Hillbrand and our sea turtle interns interacting with kids during a nest excavation is probably the most poignant learning experience that BHIC offers!

BHIC'S MISSION IN ACTION: WE CONSERVE



PROTECTING BHI THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Conservation involves active participation in the study and protection of the natural environment. Unfortunately, such efforts are often needed due to the stressors that humans created for that environment. In 2023, we aimed to **Conserve** BHI's habitats and species in partnership with several entities. We worked closely with the Bald Head Association to develop their sea-turtle-friendly lighting recommendations, watered newly planted trees weekly as part of their ReForest project, and assisted with the planting of the new Pollinator Garden. We also started a Pollinator Project on the iNaturalist app to document pollinator species on the island, especially sightings of the Queen Butterfly, which may be expanding its range northward.

The Conservancy team also assisted the NC Coastal Reserve with trail maintenance in the Bald Head Woods. We also collaborated with them and the NC Natural Heritage Program to conduct vegetation surveys in forest dune swales to examine the impacts of freshwater withdrawals from our aquifer on overlying vegetation. Furthermore, we coordinated another Terrapin Tally with staff and volunteers to count the adorable and threatened diamondback terrapins in our creeks. One of our staff, Coastal Educator Heather Bariso, was able to rescue a number of terrapins that she found caught in crab pots, and BHIC's actions were featured in a story on NPR's Morning Edition in June.



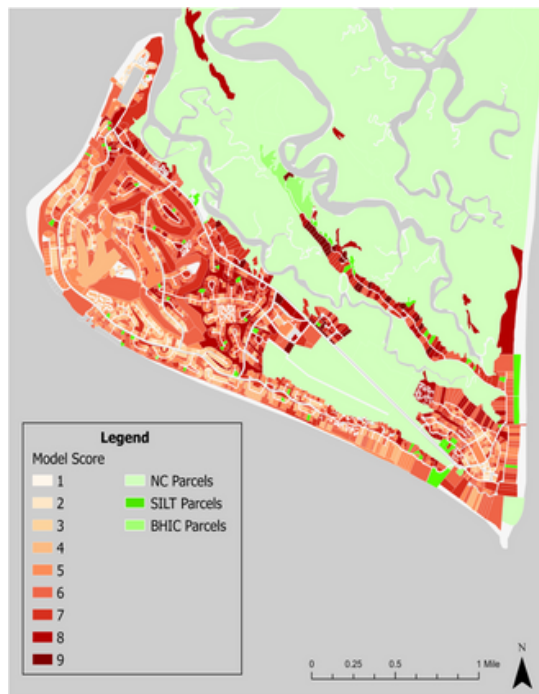
An especially cool conservation activity we pursued in 2023 in collaboration with the Village of BHI, NC Coastal Federation, and the Johnston Center for Coastal Sustainability, was expanding our oyster reef restoration in Bald Head Creek. This work culminated in securing funding for a 188-foot living shoreline that will be installed in early 2024 along the creek shores of Marina Park. The oyster reef shoreline will be constructed by Sandbar Oyster Co. and will be created from OysterCatcher biodegradable materials.



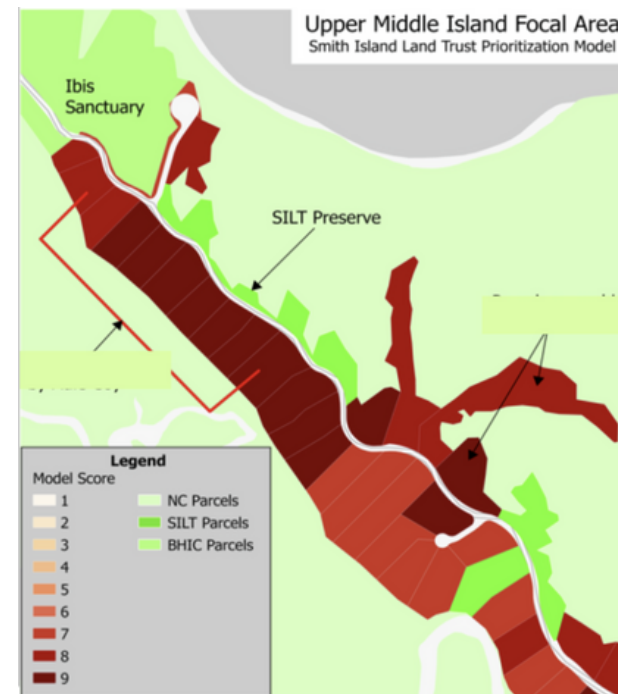
BHIC'S MISSION IN ACTION: WE PRESERVE

SMITH ISLAND LAND TRUST PARTNERS WITH CONSERVATION TRUST OF NC

As development on the island seems to be accelerating, so have the discussions about how we can best **Preserve** BHI's most ecologically valuable regions. In 2023, The Smith Island Land Trust (SILT) partnered with the Conservation Trust of North Carolina (CTNC) on a project that aimed to identify parcels across Bald Head and Middle Islands that would be most desirable for land preservation. The work was carried out by Duke University graduate student Hanna Bliska with assistance from fellow graduate student Emma Childs and CTNC's Rusty Painter. Hanna created a multi-layer GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Preservation Prioritization Model using datasets that included parcel size, biodiversity, forest cover, proximity to protected land, resiliency, and presence of development. Hanna and Emma then visited BHI to ground-truth the model in June. The images below are the model results, with the deepest red areas being the most desirable areas for preservation. The model showed some obvious priorities, especially throughout Middle Island. In addition to this project with CTNC, our first Johnston Graduate Fellow in Coastal Sustainability, Kimmy Hansen from UNC, is examining the impacts of different development scenarios on BHI's maritime forest. Both projects will be important in SILT's future efforts to Preserve the most ecologically important and vulnerable natural areas on Bald Head and Middle Islands.



Smith Island Land Trust
Prioritization Model



Upper Middle Island Focal Area
Smith Island Land Trust Prioritization Model



40 YEARS OF BHI TRADITIONS



OLD TRADITIONS

Thad Wester Fishing School

Thad Wester's Fishing School in October was another spectacular success. Lots of fish were caught, lots of friends were made, and lots of great food was consumed. This year's students were especially determined as we have never had such a hard time getting people to leave the beach after 8 hours of fishing! It was special to have so many kids involved in 2023 and very cool to see them exhilarated by BHI's natural bounty. Among the best catches were a couple of beautiful red drum by Paul Sherwin and young angler Davis Blackwell. In fact, Davis was so committed to catching a red drum that he got up before sunrise on Sunday to fish at the Point, and was duly rewarded! When Davis headed back to Tennessee on Sunday afternoon, he was proudly carrying a cooler with his red drum inside, which would be his family's supper that evening.



Fishing School 2023

July 4 Auction and Cart Raffle

Our annual summer fundraiser brought in more than \$70,000 last year, with raffle ticket sales exceeding 2022 totals by more than \$5,000. Although it is a hot and humid endeavor, selling tickets at the Market once again proved important to the process. It was also just a great way to engage with people, to educate folks about what we do for the island, and of course, to see Dick Johnston in his appropriately patriotic and magical ticket-selling hat!



Dick and Pat Johnston give a sea turtle a lift

40 YEARS OF BHI TRADITIONS



NEWER TRADITIONS

World Sea Turtle Day

Since 2019, we have celebrated World Sea Turtle Day each June with a fun-filled day of events including face painting, sea turtle exhibits and activities, and reading of the official World Sea Turtle Day Proclamation presented to BHIC by the Governor of NC (read by Mayor Peter Quinn in 2023). Among the most popular activities was a chance for kids to interact with Sea Turtle Biologist Paul Hillbrand and his summer sea turtle intern crew. The ability of Paul and his interns to connect with kids is amazing and likely helping us recruit interns for summer 2024.



Learning about sea turtles with educational tech and crafts

Johnston Coastal Sustainability Symposium

The 2nd Annual Johnston Coastal Sustainability Symposium was held on Tuesday, April 4 at the BHA Generator Society Hall, with presentations by experts on barrier island economics, salt marsh restoration, shoreline management (including the Frying Pan Shoals project), and renewable ocean energy. The evening dinner lecture at the BHI Club featured Dr. Craig Landry from the University of Georgia, who spoke eloquently about the interplay of barrier island economics and sustainability. This Symposium has been instrumental in sparking conversations about the local and global threats to island sustainability and the importance of proactive decision-making in maximizing the health and resilience of these vulnerable systems, especially Bald Head Island.



Mayor Quinn reads the World Sea Turtle Day Proclamation in front of the Conservancy

Johnston Coastal Sustainability Symposium at the BHA Generator Society Hall



40 YEARS OF BHI TRADITIONS



NEWER TRADITIONS

Turtle Trots

We had a record year for turtle trotters in 2023 (over 1,400) that included a single race record of 194 runners on July 5! It amazes me how many people are willing to participate in our trots to support our sea turtle program given the heat and humidity they encounter during these summer 5K races.

Badwater Cape Fear

A slightly more intense race that has become a rite of spring on BHI for 200 mostly crazy individuals is the Badwater Cape Fear 50km/50 mile ultramarathon. Silver Sponsor Chris Kostman is the race organizer and a great supporter of the Conservancy, as are his runners, who donate thousands of dollars each year. The 2023 race was extra special because our somewhat-crazy Senior Educator Dr. Jennifer Wigen ran in her very first Badwater Cape Fear with her husband Jack. What made Jennifer's feat even more impressive was that it rained for nearly the entire day, often quite heavily! Congrats to Jennifer for finishing (and, of course, with a smile on her face)!

We needed a wide angle lens to get all 194 runners in this picture!



Dr. Wigen and her husband Jack at Badwater Cape Fear



40 YEARS OF BHI TRADITIONS



NEWER TRADITIONS

Barrier Island Botanists and Young Scientist Academy

We are incredibly fortunate to be able to visit, live, and/or work on Bald Head Island. A commitment we have made as an organization is that we should share our island with those who would otherwise have little opportunity to do so. Since 2018, we have operated our Barrier Island Botanists (BIB) program that brings nearly 1,000 Brunswick County public school 6th graders to the island (disclaimer: not all at once) for a hands-on learning experience like no other. Over the past few years, we have also partnered with Young Scientist Academy in Wilmington to bring small groups of kids to learn about our marshes and sea turtles. In 2023, through a grant we received from the NC Museum of Natural Sciences, we were able to bring the YSA groups for overnight stays on our campus. Included in this year's visitors were Syrian and Ukrainian refugees. How wonderful that we were able to share our island with kids who most certainly need an opportunity to connect with the beautiful natural ecosystems of Bald Head Island!

Simply Southern Day

Everyone on BHI knows when it's Simply Southern Day at the Conservancy: it's hard to miss the colorful tent and shiny Jeep adorned with flowers, sea shells, and sea turtles in front of Turtle Central. BHIC Board Member Ginger Aydogdu is the owner of Simply Southern, and for the past several years, we have partnered with her company on island clean-ups in July. These events have been very successful, removing hundreds of pounds of trash from the beaches, wynds, and forest each year. Simply Southern has been an awesome sponsor and supporter of our organization, and we look forward to continuing to partner with them in keeping BHI clean!



YSA students
learn about the
ocean on BHI



Simply Southern Day 2023



DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS



TURTLE CENTRAL PAM SMITH AND DESI BRIDGE

Gross Revenue - Retail sales exceeded \$1 million for the 3rd consecutive year despite fewer visitors during the shoulder seasons.

Storage Improvements - New and better storage was installed to facilitate the efficiency of our retail operations including new flooring and shelving in the back of TC and the addition of Grayson (large gray storage container in back of TC).

Hatchling Hut - We now have a place to greet visitors when they arrive on BHI and introduce them to our Mission!



Summer Interns Sarah Riedlin and Isabel Gebers model TC swag



BHIC's Hatchling Hut, next to Intracoastal Reality at the marina



Storage improvements in Turtle Central



DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING CARRIE BARNETTE, JENNY MARTY, MORGAN GREENE

Giving Tuesday - Carrie and Morgan Greene were successful in their first fundraising campaign as Giving Tuesday raised more than \$15,000 for the Wildlife Response and Sea Turtle Protection Programs. The BHIC staff also collected 135 pounds of trash from across the island as a way to Give Back to our community.

Annual Fund - We exceeded our AF goal of \$205,000, which is incredibly helpful as we move into 2024!

Written in the Sand - Produced the 'Written in the Sand' video series that traced BHIC's history back 40 years to the Generator Society.



Giving Tuesday 2023



Weighing trash by the marina during the Giving Tuesday cleanup

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS



FINANCE

DIANE CAHOON AND AMY DUNMIRE

Short-term Investment Account - We have been fortunate over the past few years to have received several large gifts from generous donors. For funds that are geared toward long-term plans, we created a short-term investment account (6-12 months) with First Citizens Bank that has yielded more than \$10,000 in interest thus far.

Unexpected Revenue - Under North Carolina law, qualified nonprofits are exempt from paying sales tax for purchases in NC. Amy Dunmire led an effort to get our sales tax refunds for the maximum allowable 3-year period, and we expect to see almost \$20,000 returned to BHIC coffers.

Modernizing Turtle Central Financial Oversight - Diane Cahoon oversaw a substantial upgrade of our retail finance apparatus that was critical for an enterprise that now regularly generates seven-figure gross revenue annually. This effort was instrumental in the integration of TC cash flows with the rest of BHIC's operations and is a prime reason we enter 2024 in such good financial condition (see later in report for details).



Industrious young BHIC supporters donating their 'business' profits



DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS



SCIENCE

DR. BETH DARROW, ALLISON POLINSKI, KATIE KNOTEK

US Coastal Research Program - Beth and Allison finished Year 2 of our USCRP grant with NCSU's Natalie Nelson and have processed 2 years of continuous (15 minute) water quality data from lower Bald Head Creek. Beth presented research findings at the Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation conference in November.

Coastal Policy - Staff have been brought into several policy discussions on BHI and throughout the region:

Port of Wilmington Harbor Improvement Program - Beth and Chris made public comments on the NC Ports Authority's plans to deepen the Cape Fear River channel. Beth participated in 3 days of expert workshops with the US Army Corps of Engineers and remains involved in the NEPA Review process.

Beach Erosion - Chris, Beth, and Paul have been invited to discussions with the BHI and Shoals Clubs to address solutions to the erosion problem at the Shoals. Paul is also very involved with keeping lines of communication open with the NC WRC about beach suitability for sea turtle nesting after renourishment projects.

Offshore Wind - BHIC science staff participated in workshops about offshore wind coming to our region, and we plan to contribute sea turtle satellite tag data to examine potential impacts of wind farms on sea turtle migration patterns and foraging areas. We also hosted Project WOW (Wildlife and Offshore Wind) scientists in early 2023.



Fall Intern Jonathan Saldeen testing marsh water quality

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

SEA TURTLE PROTECTION

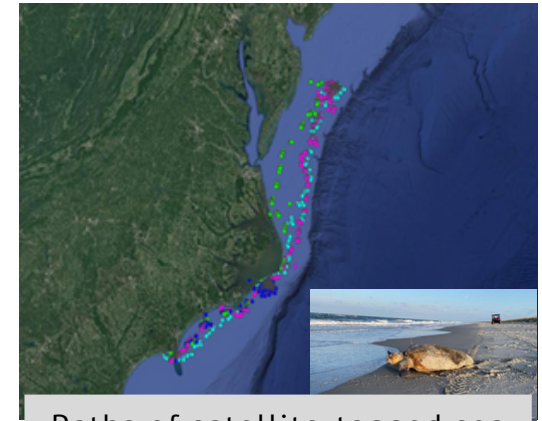
PAUL HILLBRAND AND ALI JOHNSON

2023 Season Statistics - Among the most important data from summer 2023 include 122 nests protected with more than 10,000 hatchlings reaching the sea. We had a dozen or so nests depredated by coyotes, but another summer without a direct landfalling tropical cyclone led to a very good year overall.

Satellite Tags to Track BHI Nesters - We applied satellite tags to 4 sea turtles in summer 2023. Scarlett got another tag this past summer, and we have now been able to track her continuously for nearly 3 years (she is a big fan of Charleston).

UNCW Collaboration - We partnered with Matt Ware, Joe Long, and Stephanie Kamel from UNCW to investigate how nest temperatures are influenced by sand quality, overwash frequency, and other environmental variables. This work has implications for sea turtle population dynamics throughout the SE US. As warmer nests produce female hatchlings almost exclusively, and as renourishment projects alter sand quality and our climate warms, it is important that we understand the implications for the female:male ratio of hatchlings.

Southeast Region Sea Turtle Network Meeting - As BHIC staff stepped into the Grand Ballroom of Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL, they were immediately met with the excited chatter of over 200 sea turtle biologists, students, and volunteers gathering together for the first time in three years. Everyone was eager to exchange stories and discuss developments in sea turtle conservation. BHIC was well-represented at SERSTN by Dr. Beth Darrow, Dr. Jennifer Wigen, and Paul Hillbrand, as well as previous Sea Turtle Protection Interns Ali Johnson (2022), Karlee Szympruch (2021), Savannah Weber (2020), Rylie MacDonald (2019), Natalie Monnier (2017), Ashley Kusel (2016), and Matt Ramirez (2011 - now a UNCW professor). What a great reunion!



Paths of satellite-tagged sea turtles since August



BHIC staff at the Southeast Region Sea Turtle Network Meeting

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS



EDUCATION

DR. JENNIFER WIGGEN AND HEATHER BARISO

Engagement through Education and Outreach - The number of people engaged by the Education team totaled 23,620 last year (WOW!), including 17,840 visitors to the Fleming Environmental Education Center, 2,865 participants in education programs, and 1,915 participants in Private Groups and Outreach events.

NC Year of the Trail Event - We partnered with the NC Coastal Reserve for the NC Year of the Trail to highlight the magnificence of Bald Head Woods, the second largest maritime forest in the state. We hosted dozens of excited visitors for a guided forest hike. BSA Scout Troop 888 from Virginia also came out and assisted us for the event. We love being outdoors and are grateful for the opportunity to help people connect with nature.

Barrier Island Botanists - All six public middle schools in Brunswick County participated in BIB this year, including Leland Middle School's Accessible Classroom. In addition to students that were on the spectrum, they had a fully blind student, so we created a BIB booklet in braille for him to use—very cool!



Students learn about island plants and habitats during BIB

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

CAMPUS AND FACILITIES

GEOFF MOORE

Field Station Completed - We finally have an outdoor field station for rinsing equipment and staff/interns after working hard in the field and getting muddy, sandy, salty, and sweaty! A big chunk of funds were provided by a matching gift from the Farris Family for 2022's Giving Tuesday.

Rice Media Center Transformation - Our Rice Media Center still utilizes technology, but now with a different purpose focused on education. We moved Draw Alive and the Interactive Sandbox to the renovated Media Center, which then allowed us to convert the small Fleming classroom into a much-needed technology-outfitted meeting room.

Endless Summer Intern Lounge - The dorm's Endless Summer Intern lounge in memory of Claire Miley was well-utilized by our interns in 2023. Interns used the lounge to retreat from the larger dorm living space to work, drink a cup of coffee, or relax in relative quiet.



BHIC's outdoor field station



Renovated Media center and Fleming classroom



Endless Summer Intern Lounge

STAFF CHANGES

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Allison Polinski - Allison joined us as Coastal Scientist after having been a conservation intern in summer 2021. Prior to returning, she worked several seasonal field jobs, most recently at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Hospital. Allison leads much of our fieldwork, including Village projects and for the USCRP grant.

New Development Team - We hired Carrie Barnette as our new Director of Development and Morgan Greene as Marketing Associate. Carrie has more than 20 years of fundraising experience, including non-profit management. Morgan has many ties to BHIC, including being a past student in my UNCW Barrier Islands course that spent a weeklong field session on BHI, and being childhood friends with a couple of Dick and Pat Johnston's grandkids!



Allison Polinski



Carrie Barnette



Morgan Greene

STAFF CHANGES

FAREWELL TO FORMER TEAM MEMBERS

Katie Knotek - Katie was a Conservation Technician who led wildlife spotlight surveys throughout the summer and was a great intern mentor. She is now in graduate school at St. Andrews U. in Scotland.

Ali Johnson - Ali was our first Sea Turtle Technician and helped Paul manage the summer 2023 intern crew, did QA/QC on our sea turtle nesting dataset, and conducted a project to evaluate whether there is a link between the order in which hatchlings emerge from the nest and their body size. Ali is headed to graduate school soon.

Jenny Marty and Morgan Hooks - Jenny and Morgan handled most of the marketing and media activity until we hired Carrie and Morgan G. They were quite helpful at bringing our communications into the 21st century.

Geoff Moore - Geoff served as Campus Manager for 2.5 years. Those who have been associated with BHIC for more than a few years can remember how dated the Fleming Education Center was before Geoff arrived. In October, he headed back to his previous life as a homebuilder after receiving an offer that makes a lot of sense for him personally and professionally. **Good Luck, Geoff!**



Pam Smith - After 10 years at the Conservancy, Director of Retail Operations Pam Smith took a new position with Simply Southern in December. Pam did incredible things in Turtle Central, financially as well as creating a warm and welcoming environment for all visitors, staff, and her devoted volunteers. Pam was a BHI icon, although she was too humble to say so. We will miss her tremendously, but are thrilled that she received this opportunity with Simply Southern!

Thanks Pam for a great decade at BHIC and Good Luck!



GIVING THANKS

THANK YOU BOARD!

The time, energy, and passion for BHIC's mission provided by our 18-member Board is critical to our immediate and long-term success. Their remarkable financial generosity also helps provide resources that my team needs to excel. The 2023 Board leadership included President John Cathcart, VP Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Treasurer Randall Tuttle, and Secretary Julie Keenan, all of whom contribute wisdom and perspective that help guide us towards a more impactful future. The Executive Committee also included Trish Healy, Ginger Aydogdu, Hilary Gerhardt, and Jim Brown. The EC's combined talents provided finance, business operations, and leadership savvy, which was especially important given a few key staff departures. Thank you for your patience and trust in 2023! I also appreciate the continued commitment of Donna Patterson, who has been involved with many aspects of BHIC over the years, including thousands of hours in TC and strategic planning. Former Board President and Fishing School leader John May continues to engage with his vast BHI experience, and he never utters a word that isn't important. Nancy Easterling's ties with BHIC also go back a while, and I appreciate her excitement about our education programs. Laura Hall continued with her long-time support, as did Shannon Thatcher, who has a long family history with our sea turtle program and now provides legal and governance advice to the Board. Dylan McNamara and Marie Chabot-Fletcher were our two science PhDs who helped us think broadly about sustainability and research. Kim Blackwell is not only the mom of awesome TC helper Owen Jennings, but also provides very adroit insight to the Board. John Kinney helped connect us with BHA's Reforest initiative, which I hope we can grow in future years. Lastly, Marianna Fitz-Hugh, who put her heart and soul into serving as SILT President, had great success in reenergizing and refocusing our preservation efforts.



GIVING THANKS



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

We receive assistance from hundreds of volunteers who believe passionately in our Mission and generously donate their time. A few volunteers went above and beyond even more than usual in 2023. BHI's resident bird expert Robin Prak assisted intern Tyler Petruccelli with fall bird surveys and kept us regularly informed about nesting shorebird activity. She and husband Mark also allow us to use their dock for water quality sampling. Susan Andrews is BHI's botany expert and always asks us for projects to do whenever she is on BHI. Susan excels at activities needing naturalist expertise, such as helping identify and label plants and keeping an eye on nesting shorebirds. She and her husband Mark helped with the Terrapin Tally and oyster shell bagging, and she clued us into the expanding range of Queen Butterflies. One of our youngest volunteers was teen Cate Kelly, who supported the conservation crew with less glamorous tasks such as helping archive data and watering newly planted live oaks. We appreciate Cate's willingness to help with anything and her youthful tech-savvy expertise! Teghan Devon is the sea turtle program's standout volunteer for 2023, with more than 100 hours of service as a Nest Monitor, excavation assistant, and beach hand preparing for storms and king tides. Most importantly, Teghan monitored numerous nests after most others had left for the summer. Teghan has been a fabulous volunteer for many years and has guided many hatchlings to the ocean! The education team would like to send a special thanks to Suzi Buzzard, Marie Chabot-Fletcher, and Donna Patterson for their help with Barrier Island Botanists this year. They assisted with leading stations and answering lots of questions! We could not have given 888 6th graders such a good experience without them! TC would like to send special shout outs to long-time TCers Elyse Armitage and Donna Patterson, as well as Devon and Sinclair Brown. We especially can't handle Black Friday without y'all!

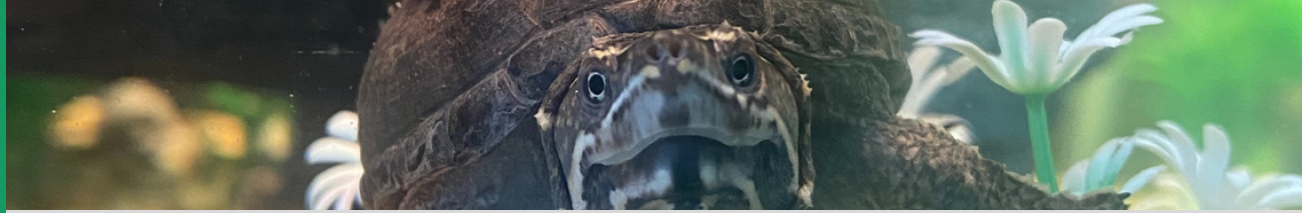


Robin sharing her passion for birding



Teghan with a sea turtle hatchling

GIVING THANKS



THANK YOU MEMBERS AND DONORS!

Life Members - A special **THANK YOU** to those who made a long-term commitment to BHIC in 2023!

- Brady and Martha Anderson
- Thomas Lucas
- Robert and Tammie Beatty
- Douglas Witcher
- Kevin and Nicole Brady
- Teresa and Brian Camp
- Jim and Carol Corson
- Tom and Mary Hill
- Scott and Jill Harris
- Bryan and Peg Mulqueen
- Bryan and Janet Wester
- Joel Michaels and Jennifer Russel
- John and Peg Welch
- Dan and Diana Saklad

We've had 50 new Life Memberships in the past 2 years—WOW!!! I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting our new Life Members for porch chats and behind the scenes campus tours. If we haven't connected yet, let's do so soon!

40th Anniversary Gifts - We received wonderful gifts in recognition of our 40th anniversary including funds for a boat (Jim & Devon Brown), 6-seater golf cart (Ginger & Georgio Aydogdu), UTV (Alia & Jeff Farris), sea turtle field equipment (Maureen & Richard Phillips), and water quality research equipment (Marie & Clayton Fletcher). A few others, including the Harberts & Kim Blackwell, provided generous cash gifts. **THANK YOU!**

Major Gifts - Large gifts allow us to push through operational funding limitations and raise the baseline for our Mission's impact. Carmen and Paul Mugge made a very generous gift to support the development of education technology, with a specific priority being the creation of VR experiences based on BHI ecosystems. Thus far, we have purchased a few VR headsets that we tested in camps with stock VR videos (e.g. coral reefs), but we are aiming to create our own VR experiences that align with BHIC scientific activities. Additionally, Dick and Pat Johnston provided a large supplement to their prior gift that established the Johnston Center for Coastal Sustainability. These funds support the annual Symposium, Graduate Fellowship in Coastal Sustainability, and projects such as the living shoreline that will be installed in 2024 along Bald Head Creek.

THANK YOU Mugges and Johnstons!



GIVING THANKS



THANK YOU 2023 SPONSORS!

DIAMOND



PLATINUM



A Bald Head Island Company



BALD HEAD ISLAND LIMITED

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



GIVING THANKS



THANK YOU TEAM!

THANK YOU to our great **TEAM!**

Y'all are amazing in bringing passion and excellence to BHI each and every day!

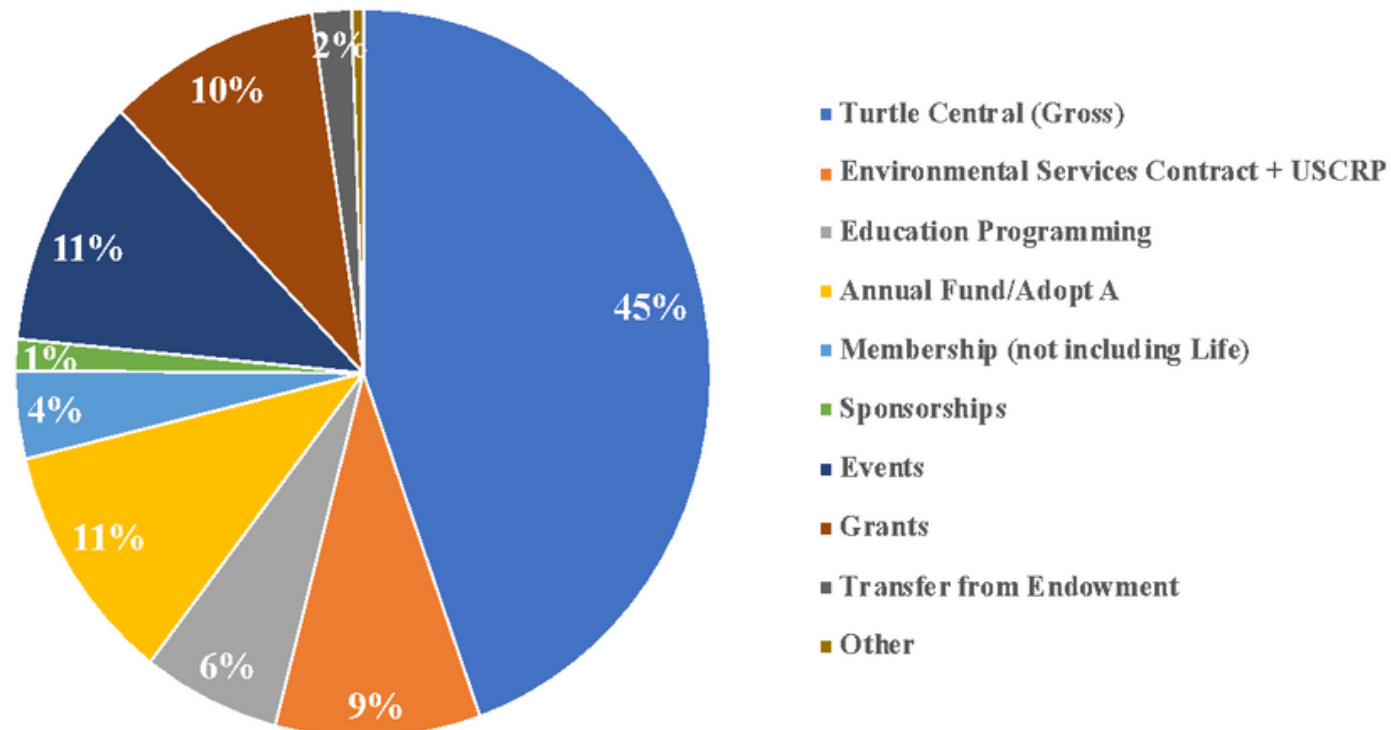


2023 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Record operations revenue at nearly \$2.4 million, with steady TC and big increases in grants and education
- Short-term Investment Account of \$250,000 currently providing 5% annual interest (not reflected in graph)
- We are in good shape entering 2024 with no debt, cash in the bank, and major gifts reserved for big dreams!
- Organizational Grants from NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Mitchell Foundation, and F.M. Kirby Foundation (Special **THANK YOU** to the F.M. Kirby Foundation for continuing their decades of support!)

2023 Operations Revenue = \$2.39 million



LOOKING TO 2024



BHIC'S NEXT 40 YEARS

In 2024, we intend to address key challenges that BHI will face in the coming years/decades, including sea level rise, local/regional development, and land use changes. We will assess the most ecologically important of undeveloped natural spaces and work towards their preservation, increase our ability to engage with the public about the wonders and vulnerability of coastal systems, and pursue research and conservation partnerships that promote the sustainability of Bald Head Island. Among the specific items on our docket for 2024 are:

New Strategic Plan - The last Strategic Plan was completed in 2019 under the leadership of President Nanette Watjen. Wow, did we accomplish a lot in 5 years! We have now begun planning for the next 5 years, which will lay the operational foundation for our next 40 years.

Coastal Sustainability Initiative - Pressing local and regional issues require us to push for more focus on sustaining our island through research, conservation, and preservation activities. I hope to see everyone at the 3rd Annual Johnston Coastal Sustainability Symposium on April 9 to learn more!

TC Expansion/Visitor Center - The amount of space for merchandise processing and storage is way too small for the modern Turtle Central, and our campus is ill-equipped to handle an ever-increasing number of visitors. We are working on a plan to address both of these campus issues. TC is a vital source of revenue that allows us to pursue our Mission, so a stronger TC means stronger science and education actions that better sustain BHI.

Expanded Public Engagement - We need to continue to increase the quantity and quality of opportunities for public engagement. On our campus, we intend to augment our education technology for better visitor educational experiences. We will also continue to expand our visitor group numbers, as the island itself is the best classroom for connecting people with barrier island ecosystems.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to another amazing 40 years on BHI!





2023 VOLUNTEERS

Halit “Hal” Maner
Anna Sophia Polge
Autumn Rierson Michael
Ava Kennedy
Thompson Wyatt
Betsy Kelly
Suzanne O’Bryant
Colin Cummings
Dee Ann Wilson
Caroline Clavien
Katie Chatas
Celena Garcia
Carol Wright
Donna Patterson
Ella Parrish
Elyse Armitage
Ellie Macken
Christ Priest
Erik Arneson
Georgia Wall
Gregg Thatcher and family
Hugh Kaine
Heather and Micah Evans
Johanna Kreisel
Kaitlyn Duffy
Keith McHugh
Bob & Kathy Ketels

Kit Adcock and family
Colby and Eve Harvey
Lucy Clarens
Lillian and Ballentine Carter
Liz Dion
Liz Carroll
Lucy Jones
Mary McHugh
Marie Fletcher
Patrick Macken
Nathan Emonson
Susan Baker
Axel Duren
Alexis Harris
Pat Johnston
Rick Nelson
Richard Phillips and family
Robin and Mark Prak
John Cheesborough and family
Sophia Scott
Sue Shaylor
Steff Plotts and family
Lexi and Preston Plotts
Susan and Mark Andrews
Teghan Himelfarb
Barry Lucas
Jim, Devon, and Sinclair Brown

Lucas Jensen
Lisa Kennedy
Betsi Stephen
Connor Jacobs
Carter McCall
Kelly Kenoyer
Camille Mojica
Sabine Schaeppers-Cheu
Suzie Buzzard
Geoff Moore
FA McLeod
Connie Bools



LIFE MEMBERS

Names in green became Life Members in 2023

Mr. & Mrs. David Adcock
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Allen
Brady & Martha Smith Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Anderson
Mrs. Meg Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Auchenpaugh
Mr. & Mrs. Georgio Aydogdu
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Babcock
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Banas
Dr. Geoffrey Banks & Mrs. Natalie Banks
Ms. Susan Baker
Drs. Radolphe & Lisa Barrangou
Mr. & Mrs. David Beam
Robert & Tammie Beatty
Tom & Jenny Becherer
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Bell
Dr. & Mrs. William Bennett
Mrs. Bill Berne
Dr. Kimberly Blackwell
Dr. & Mrs. Matthew Boes
Dr. & Mrs. John Bools
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brader-Araje
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. Don Bradley
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bradshaw
Kevin & Nicole Brady
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brawner
Alan Briggs & Dianne Reid & Family
James & Devon Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Brown
Ms. Elizabeth Burroughs
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Byrne
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Byrne
The Camp Family
Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Carney
Mr. & Mrs. Watts Carr
Ms. Lois Cassidy

Mr. & Mrs. John Cathcart
Mrs. Ann Cathcart
Mr. George Cecil
Ms. Beverly Chambers
The Chanter Family
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Chatas
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Christian
Mr. & Mrs. R. Todd Clancy
Mrs. J. M. Coburn
Ms. Jenny Cockburn-Becherer
Mr. & Mrs. Earl E. Congdon
Mr. & Mrs. Sky Conklin
Mr. & Mrs. Buck Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Copan
Jim & Carol Grantham Corson
Mrs. Howard W. Coupland
Mr. Rex Cowdry & Ms. Donna Patterson
Ms. Adie Coy
Mr. Adan Coy
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Cresswell
Mr. & Mrs. Richard R. Crisp Lacy
Mrs. JoAnn Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Oswaldo de Rivero Barreto
Ms. Jenny Dees
Nick del Rosso & Kristin White del Rosso
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Delk
James & Joyce Dickerson
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Dietsche
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Doron
Dr. & Mrs. Gene Douglas
Drs. Pamela S. Douglas & Geoffrey S. Ginsburg
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Drumheller
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Dunham
Dr. & Mrs. David Durack
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Durkan
Mr. & Mrs. George Enochs
Ms. Elise Dee Coy Epstein
Ms. Alexa Leigh Epstein

The Evans Family
Mr. Barry Evans & Mrs. Marla Wright-Evans
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Faber
Doreen & John Fairbank
Dr. & Mrs. William Farabow
David & Lelia Farr
Mr. Jeff Farris & Mrs. Alia Farris
The Felder Family
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Firth
Mr. John L. Fisher
Ms. Anne Garland Fitz-Hugh
Mrs. Marianna Fitz-Hugh
Mr. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh III
Mr. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh IV
Mr. & Mrs. John Flanagan
Ms. Carolyn Fleming
Mr. Robert Fletcher & Dr. Marie Chabot-Fletcher
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Floyd
The Flick Family
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Flynn
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Fountain
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Frech
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Fry
Mr. & Mrs. Vic Galef
Mr. & Mrs. William Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Gasque
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gerhardt
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Gililan
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Glass
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Grantmyre
Dr. Jerry Greenhoot
Mr. & Mrs. John Grim
The David Hall Family
Ellen & Spence Hamrick
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Harbert
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Harlan
Mr. Robert Harper & Mrs. Kristin Harper
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Harrington



LIFE MEMBERS

Names in green became Life Members in 2023

Scott & Jill Harris

The Hart Family
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Hartman
Mr. & Mrs. Michale Hartshorn
Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Hattaway
Mr. & Mrs. John Healy
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Helgesen
Mr. & Mrs. Kendall Hendrick
Mr. & Mrs. John Henson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Henson
Mr. Jesse Hermann & Ms. Julie Keenan

Tom M. & Mary L. Hill

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Himes
Mr. & Mrs. David Hodson
Mrs. Lorette Hollinshed
Mr. William Holtzrager
Mr. & Mrs. Trig Horton
Mr. Charlie House
Mr. & Mrs. Giden Huddle
Mr. Victor Farah & Ms. Robin Hudson
Jim & Ginny Hunt & Family
Ms. Sandra Hyde
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald I. Hutton
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Jacobsen
Mr. & Mrs. John Jelinek
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Jellison
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Jessen
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Johnston
Sally & Tom Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. William Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Oren W. Justice
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Kameen
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Kane
Mr. Larry Hopkins & Mrs. Terri Kelly-Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ketels
Mr. & Mrs. J. Hall Kinlaw

Mr. Kirkpatrick
Mr. & Mrs. Koch
Mr. & Mrs. John Knott
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Knouff
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Krainin
Mr. & Mrs. John Kropp
Mr. & Mrs. James Ladd
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Lambert
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Lammert
Mr. & Mrs. Rod Lang
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Poul Lindegaard
Ms. Ruth Lindsay
Mr. Robert Lock
Mr. & Mrs. Derek Lonker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lord
Barry & Jennifer Lucas
Sam Lucas

Thomas Lucas

Mr. Chris Edmonds & Mr. Fred Lyman
Dr. Nancy K. Maguire
The Maher Family
Ken & Paige Marsh, Amelia Anne & Cece
Mr. & Mrs. George Martin
Ms. Barbara Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Massie
Mr. & Mrs. John May
Mr. & Mrs. James McCarthy
Mr. & Mrs. George McGowen
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen McInnis
Mr. Stanley McInnis
Mr. & Mrs. W. Lawrence McKeithan
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Meyers

Joel Michaels & Jennifer Russel

Robert & Allison Miley
Barbara Adams Miller & Leonard Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Miller
Ms. Pat Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Mitchell
Mr. George Mitchell
Mr. Kent Mitchell
Mrs. Carol Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mugge
Mr. Bill Mullican
Bryan & Peg Mulqueen
Ms. Cheryl Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Neuwirth
Ms. Hannah Newcombe
John & Mary Murrill Oakes
Murrill Irene Oakes
Pat & Suzanne O'Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald O'Keefe
Mr. Robert Overstreet
Sharon Palsha & Jake Freiberger & Family
Mr. Charles Pardee
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Parrish
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Payne
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Perry
Mr. & Mrs. Harper Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. David Peterson
Ms. Mary Peyton
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Phillips
The Plotts Family
Steve & Tami Polge & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Poole
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Poole
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Prak
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pritchard
Ms. Dana Pritchett
Rocky & Deb Rausch
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Reckhow
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Reyner
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rice
Randy & Kris Riley
Sybil Robb



LIFE MEMBERS

Names in green became Life Members in 2023

Mrs. Melanie Robbins
Mr. Lawrence Kirby & Ms. Diane Robinson
Rooney-Dillon Family
Ms. Juanita Roushdy
Jim & Sheri Ruddy & Family
Dan & Diane Saklad
Ms. Alice Saunders
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Schmidt
Mrs. Anita Schnog
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schuler
Mr. Philip C. Scibilia
Mr. David Shaddy
Dr. Julie & Dr. Ned Sharpless
Mr. & Mrs. Gaither Shaw
Ms. Kaitlyn Clare Silvagni
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Smith
Mr. Marcus Smith
Mr. A. C. Sorrell
Ms. Sallie Shuping-Russell & Mr. Ed Spence
The Spivey Family
Jim & Elizabeth Stanfill
Dr. & Mrs. Scott Starks
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Staton
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Stockton
Mr. Tim Dunn & Dr. Ellen Stofan
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Stonehouse
Mr. Terry Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Syring
Mr. & Mrs. Rich Tarplin
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Timmons
Alex, Courtney, Elia & Sylvie Toledo
Ms. Milan Tolley
Mr. & Mrs. George Toulas
Ms. Penny Jackson Trask
Mr. Bynum Tudor
Ms. Elizabeth Tudor
Ms. JoAnna Tudor
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Tuttle

Mrs. Betty Twiggs
Mr. & Mrs. Robb VanMarter
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry VanSant
Mr. & Mrs. C. Porter Vaughan
Mr. & Mrs. Drayton Virkler
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Walker
Mr. Edmund G. Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Watjen
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Watson
Dr. & Mrs. John Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Griffin Weld
Mr. & Mrs. David Welden
Bryan & Janet Wester
Mrs. Lee Wester
Ms. Valerie White
Ms. Michelle Whitman
James & Mildred Wilkinson
Mrs. Nonie Williams
Dee & Bruce Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Wilson
Mrs. Rachel Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. E James Wisner
Douglas Witcher
Theodore Wojtech & Claire Lonagan
Deborah Wong & Richard Riddell
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Wright
Drs. Sally & John York
Bill & Karen Young
Mr. Richard Young
Mrs. Pat Young
Ms. Robyn Ballard Ziperski
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Zoukis