



# 2014 Annual Report

Bald Head Island Conservancy  
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Bald Head Island, NC 28461  
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[www.bhic.org](http://www.bhic.org)

# 2014 Annual Report

A letter from the Board President and Executive Director:

In 2014 the BHI Conservancy staff put forward an ambitious set of priorities. These priorities were identified with community and board input and were used to develop goals for the year. The first and second strategic priority for 2014 included **fully utilizing the Barrier Island Study Center and Building and Strengthening Strategic Partnerships**. “It is of critical importance that the study center becomes a driving force within future Island Conservation and Education activities. The way to utilize BISC and fulfill our mission is to build partnerships with key entities” (2014 Strategic Plan).

Your BHI Conservancy has made measurable progress towards these priorities. A funded partnership with NC State yielded collaborations with the State Climate Office and Dr. Chris Osborne a water quality scientist. We will build a state sanctioned weather station on the BHI Conservancy campus early in 2015. The weather station provides the community with real-time weather information. It will connect BHI to a statewide network collecting information about average and severe weather. The weather station provides information important to island residents and businesses, as well as to researchers who depend on accurate and detailed wind, humidity, temperature, and soil data. Dr. Chris Osborne is embarking on research in the Bald Head Creek to evaluate the source of nutrients and the role the marsh plays in carbon cycling. These partnerships result in researchers using the BISC facility and provide tools relevant to our BHI Community.

UNC Chapel Hill Scientist Dr. Ken Lohman and his student Roger Brothers leased the Barrier Island Study Center laboratory this summer. The research group studied how sea turtles develop homing instincts for natal beaches. The scientists used x-rays and electric fields to observe that hatchlings orient themselves relative to the area's magnetic field. Their hypothesis considers the use of magnetic particles in turtle brains to map home beaches. This brain map facilitates their return decades after they leave the island. The same turtle physiology is used to navigate around oceans. A potential conservation outcome includes a recommendation about the use of metal cages to keep predators out of turtle nests. If metal cages are found to interfere with this homing instinct another material will be sought to exclude predators.

The final two strategies were to **Engage fully with the Community and act as One BHI Conservancy Team**. To understand what our community wants we must first listen. Early in 2014 rats became problematic and the persistence of these pests continued through the year. The BHI Conservancy helped identify the species causing the problem and then developed recommendations for homeowners to respond to rats inside and outside of residences. To address longer term concerns, a research project to track predator abundance on the island was proposed to the Village of BHI and funded. That project is under way through June of 2015.

Other community collaborations included working with the Village of BHI during the planning stage for terminal groin construction. Once again your BHI Conservancy serves her community by providing credible environmental services at a very reasonable cost. In 2015 staff will monitor for sea turtle and shorebird nesting in the nourishment and terminal groin project area.

The BHI Conservancy worked the Village of BHI and BHI Limited to find a solution for the increasing need for drinking water. The developer had set aside land through the interior of the Maritime Forest Reserve to drill water wells. This location provides high quality drinking water. Unfortunately, using this area would also have the biggest impact on the integrity of the Maritime Forest ecosystem. All entities worked to provide the BHI Community with enough water while protecting your forest. The plan evolved into a well system located only along the western edge of the forest reserve. All sides, including the NC Division of Coastal Management worked to secure a land swap and an environmental plan to protect the forest and ensure plentiful water.

Your Executive Director serves on the NC Coastal Resource Commission. Important issues considered in 2014 included the development of new policy around inlet management. The new policy will help address the unique properties of the Cape Fear River mouth. It seeks to provide relief from older policies that made it difficult for Bald Head to respond to non-natural accelerated erosion caused by the Army Corps of Engineer's dredging activities. Other issues under review include a new report by the Science Panel on Sea Level Rise, dredging windows and sea turtle nesting, and wetlands designation.

Your BHI Conservancy works by engaging professional staff, volunteer board, and YOU! One BHI Team means that we work to meet our mission goals with the most efficient use of all resources. The most important resource is our volunteers. Volunteers worked: in Turtle Central, as sea turtle nest monitors, volunteer educators, citizen scientists, and event volunteers. Our fundraising efforts, turtle trots, July picnic, membership, and annual fund would all fall short without YOU...so many are involved and share our passion for living in harmony with nature. Thank you for your service. If you have a friend or neighbor who gave some time in 2014 please let them know how important their contribution is to your BHI Conservancy!

# 2014 Annual Report

Within the staff we worked hard to find ways to meet your ambitious goals with the best-trained and motivated team. We challenged all staff to make suggestions about opportunities to improve outcomes. We've cross trained and developed new communications tools. Your staff worked to improve communications through all our media outlets and planning was put in place to update and upgrade these tools. This year we brought back the Conservator and improved email blasts and the frequency we update the web page.

Our excellent training sometimes means that excellent staff move forward with their careers. We always cheer our interns as they return to school or start new jobs. This year we cheered Kendyll Collins as she pursued her dream job at the South Carolina Aquarium. Kendyll started at the BHI Conservancy in 2011 as a summer intern and worked her way up to be our Environmental Educator. Kendyll's cheerful disposition and attention to detail, not to mention incredible neatness will be sorely missed. Former intern Amy Eldredge will replace Kendyll in January 2015.

Where did we fall short in 2014? We were too ambitious with our budgeting goals and were forced to redirect when financial goals were off. The staff and board pulled together to respond to the shortfalls including layoffs and restructuring. The end result was a year-end that looks to be close to a break even point.

As members of the BHI Conservancy we need you to provide staff and board with input about the overall direction of the organization. As we move forward into 2015 we've maintained our priorities and added one more: **Becoming a Driving Force for Barrier Island Conservation, Education, and Preservation.** We want to provide you with information on issues that matter most to you, be that coastal policy, energy issues, or off shore wind. Please help us achieve this goal by contacting us and making us aware of your concerns and hopes for you island. We hope you'll bring your ideas to our members meeting or drop a staff member a note. Our general mailbox is [email@bhc.org](mailto:email@bhc.org) and we would love to hear from you.

Shelia May  
President of the Board of Directors

Suzanne E. Dorsey, Ph.D  
Executive Director

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# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR YEAR 2014

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year-ended December 31, 2014 with comparable totals for 2013 and 2012

	2014	2013	2012
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Educational Programs	199,670	192,097	155,635
Conservation	270,308	135,550	138,028
Membership (excludes Life)	113,254	107,553	102,175
Annual Campaign / Adopta's	137,589	133,467	86,161
Development	174,750	170,043	214,605
Turtle Central (Net)	192,569	192,954	193,346
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,088,140</b>	<b>\$931,664</b>	<b>\$889,950</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Education Programs	108,493	142,699	138,502
Conservation	231,270	136,301	152,591
Membership	10,066	7,568	7,286
Development	120,655	57,406	32,207
Facilities & Equip & Depreciation	309,121	310,305	249,378
Administrative	451,845	408,663	374,441
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,231,450</b>	<b>\$1,062,942</b>	<b>\$954,405</b>
<b>Operating Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$143,310)</b>	<b>(\$131,279)</b>	<b>(\$64,455)</b>
add back depreciation expense	142,285	142,160	99,828
<b>Operating Net Income(Loss) before Interest</b>	<b>(\$1,025)</b>	<b>\$10,882</b>	<b>\$35,373</b>
Interest Expense	(\$39,465)	(\$40,422)	(\$19,895)
<b>Operating Net Income(Loss) after Interest</b>	<b>(\$40,490)</b>	<b>(\$29,541)</b>	<b>\$15,478</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
Assets	\$1,570,727	\$1,652,935	\$1,541,047
Fixed Assets:			
Land	7,765,550	7,750,950	7,735,150
Buildings & Equipment	4,295,808	4,422,655	4,458,023
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$13,632,085</b>	<b>\$13,826,540</b>	<b>\$13,734,220</b>
Total Liabilities	\$1,065,880	\$1,125,928	\$1,217,583
Equity	12,566,205	12,700,612	12,516,637
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$13,632,085</b>	<b>\$13,826,540</b>	<b>\$13,734,220</b>

# 2014 BHIC Operations Revenue Chart

