

## 2016 Executive Director Report

### Looking Back on 2016 and Looking Forward to 2017

As we look back on 2016, I would first like to thank Suzanne Dorsey for her 10 years of dedicated service to the Bald Head Island Conservancy. During her tenure, the Conservancy strengthened its ability to carry out education and conservation science programs through substantial growth in revenue and infrastructure, including the Barrier Island Study Center that now serves as the centerpiece of the Conservancy's future. We wish her the best of luck in Maryland.

My tenure as Executive Director began in August, and I quickly realized just how many dedicated and talented people are needed to ensure that the three tenets (education, conservation, preservation) of the Conservancy's mission are fulfilled. The sum of the efforts of the Board of Directors, staff, and countless volunteers is substantial, and this collective dedication sustained the Conservancy in 2016 and propels it into 2017. There is no way to adequately thank everyone who helps make the Conservancy an incredibly special place, but below are a few highlights of those who played a special role for us in 2016.

### Thanks to our Board

Conservancy Board members serve the organization in numerous ways including oversight and guidance of the budget, operations, programs, and staff. Sheila May served as our Board President with passion and pride in 2016, and she also helped organize the Picnic and our wonderful fall Fishing School. Al Buzzard's service as Vice President came to an end in 2016, but we are happy that he will continue to organize volunteer efforts for our Turtle Trots. The ebullient support that Martha Anderson displays in her service as Secretary is much appreciated and Larry Lammert continues to provide insightful financial oversight and advice as our Treasurer. Dick Johnston, Alice Horton, Nanette Watjen (incoming VP), and Marianna Fitz-Hugh all made monumental contributions to Conservancy fundraising efforts via finance/development support, including their commitment to our Annual Fund campaign. Conservancy finances will also benefit from Howard Walker's leadership of the Engagement Committee that has provided great ideas for broadening the reach of Conservancy summer programs and increasing our visibility during these times of changing island demographics. Melanie Robbins and Shawn Smith have revitalized SILT and we have received great news of an impending major property donation that will be finalized in early 2017.

An aspect of the job that I especially enjoy are the 1 on 1 conversations with board members where we share ideas that help shape the vision for the Conservancy's future. It has been wonderful to get great advice in this capacity from Ted Richman, Paul Butler, and Kelly Witter, and I have gained some important perspective on the complex nature of the SILT-Conservancy relationship from conversations with David Fischer. We are also indebted to Kathy and Bob Ketels (previous Board President) who are always generous with their time and commitment to the Conservancy, especially with their help in planning our Picnic. Speaking of the Picnic, Renee Mencken's time and effort was also invaluable in making the 2016 event a success.

Time is a precious resource for folks with busy lives and we appreciate the willingness of Ken Reckhow and Hunter Jenkins to serve on our Conservation/Education Committee, Jock Clark who served on the Development Committee, and Paul Mugge who provided input as a member of our Operations Committee.

Turtle Central serves as the Conservancy's 'welcome window' to many island visitors and is also a key financial support mechanism for us. We are obliged to Vivian de Rivero Barreto and Geri Monty who spend considerable time doing whatever is needed to help TC operations. Lastly, a special note of gratitude to Board member Susan Baker who helps oversee Turtle Central's volunteer network but who also allowed me to stay in her island abode when I first arrived on Bald Head. Susan is a kind and generous soul and we are lucky to have her support!

### Thanks to our Staff

To borrow a phrase from the USMC, we are The Few, The Proud, The BHI Conservancy staff. The remarkable group of people that are the staff must wear many hats, often at the same time. Poul Lindegaard serves as our Assistant Director and is in charge of campus operations, overseeing programming, and also serving as our HR director. In his spare time, he has successfully gained funding for Conservancy activities such as an Institute of Museum and Library Sciences award and research grants with university researchers. Further, Poul oversaw a successful 2016 Sponsorship effort and has been a tremendous help getting me up to speed on all facets of Conservancy business. Mike Thomasen is an essential cog in our operations and has spent countless hours making repairs on our vehicles, alarm systems, and campus buildings. Mike is also a major player in island public relations for the Conservancy due to his gift of gab and friendly demeanor. Caroline Shepherd is our CFO

overseeing all aspects of the Conservancy's finances, in addition to serving as our liaison to SILT handling the legal and financial aspects of property donations. I am appreciative of her patience in teaching me the details of the Conservancy's financial operations. Pam Cunningham is another important member of our financial apparatus, in addition to helping organize our membership campaign and handling communications for the Adopt a Nest program and memorials. Amber Walters is our Communications and Marketing guru and has done a fantastic job helping the Conservancy gain brand identification. She keeps the outside world informed of Conservancy activities by producing the Conservancy Corner and handling our social media network, not to mention helping secure sponsorships and organizing Turtle Trot logistics.

In April 2016, Brooke Milligan was hired as Coastal Scientist and has been a wonderful addition to our staff. Brooke oversees all Conservation work including Village projects such as creek water quality monitoring, invasive species removal, forest health, and the ongoing deer management program for which she has been instrumental in gaining collaborative partners with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission and NC State University. Will Benfield, our Coastal Specialist, also works on our Conservation team and coordinates much of our field operations. He is always willing to do the 'dirty work' required to get our projects completed. Emily Hardin served as our Christine Briggs Sea Turtle Biologist in 2016 and oversaw our turtle monitoring program that successfully helped 9000 baby turtles reach the sea! Emily has also done a tremendous job electronically organizing our 30 years of turtle nesting data and I expect this work will pay huge dividends as we expand our connections with the turtle research science community. Amy Eldredge leads our education program and is currently working hard to expand our connections with Columbus County and Brunswick County schools. Amy is working on a couple of proposals that will be submitted in early 2017 that could change the future of our off-season education activities at the Conservancy.

Last, but certainly not least, Pam Smith has done wonders with Turtle Central. The store has never looked better and she works incredibly hard to pick the right inventory and maximize profit which supports all other Conservancy activities. Additionally, when there is a Conservancy function that needs a special decorative touch, she comes through every time (The Volunteer Shrimp Boil in November was fantastic!). Our Turtle Central staff members are outstanding liaisons between the

Conservancy and island visitors and we are grateful for the hard work and friendly smiles of Keith Gilley, Charlotte Hundley, Sharon Eisele, and Carol O'Donnell.

### **Thanks to our Volunteers**

We appreciate the efforts of all our volunteers for their assistance at Turtle Central, with the Picnic, with Turtle Trots, as Nest Monitors, teaching at Fishing School... We also want to extend a special thanks to these folks: John May for his work on the Picnic and Fishing School, Mary Jo Walker who helped organize a wonderful Silent Auction as well as the August star gazing party, Suzi Buzzard and Tonya Lee for their dedication to sea turtle nest monitoring, Donna Patterson who served as Turtle Central Volunteer Coordinator, and the rest of the TC regulars Gianca Helgesen, Judy Porter, Elyse Armitage, Betty Robinson, Pat Johnston, and Art Morris. To celebrate the work of all of our volunteers, we were thrilled to hold our first Shrimp Boil this past November. We do plan to make this an annual occasion, while recognizing that this event is only a small token of our sincere appreciation for your dedication to the Conservancy's mission!

### **Thanks to our Members and Financial Supporters**

We have big plans for the Conservancy, but none of our operations would be possible without the loyal Members, Donors, and Sponsors that provide the funds that we need to operate. We rely on generous donations for everything, from simply turning on the lights, to maintaining touch tanks for all the future marine biologists, to protecting the baby sea turtles. We work very hard to make sure that all financial donations are used to support the Conservancy's mission of conservation, education, and preservation. Special thanks to our new Life Members in 2016: Spencer & Susan Carney, Geoff & Catherine Chatas, Vivian & Oswaldo de Rivero Barreto, Brent & Amy Jacobsen, Carmen & Paul Mugge, Mary Murrill & John Oakes, Pam & Gaither Shaw, Howard & Mary Walker, Thomas & Nanette Watjen.

### **Special Lifetime Thanks to Thad and Lee Wester**

Finally, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Thad and Lee Wester for their 30+ years of service and commitment to establishing and growing the Bald Head Island Conservancy. Unfortunately, the Westers moved off of BHI near the end of 2016, but we promise that we will continue to build on the legacy that they established more than three decades ago!

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR YEAR 2016

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year-ended December 31, 2016 with comparable totals for 2015 and 2014

	2016	2015	2014
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Educational Programs	199,519	225,413	199,670
Conservation	179,423	250,301	270,308
Membership (excludes Life)	121,270	128,895	113,254
Annual Campaign / Adopta's	131,369	170,322	137,589
Development	203,735	155,709	174,750
Turtle Central (Net)	182,559	173,041	192,569
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,017,875</b>	<b>\$1,103,681</b>	<b>\$1,088,140</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Education Programs	125,471	111,872	108,493
Conservation	122,819	80,975	231,270
Membership	6,229	6,327	10,066
Development	113,826	111,641	120,655
Facilities & Equip & Depreciation	302,290	308,947	309,121
Administrative	483,654	456,944	451,845
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,154,289</b>	<b>\$1,076,706</b>	<b>\$1,231,450</b>
<b>Operating Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$136,414)</b>	<b>\$26,975</b>	<b>(\$143,310)</b>
add back depreciation expense	144,535	143,848	142,285
<b>Operating Net Income(Loss) before Interest</b>	<b>\$8,121</b>	<b>\$170,823</b>	<b>(\$1,025)</b>
Interest Expense	(\$31,661)	(\$36,583)	(\$39,465)
<b>Operating Net Income(Loss) after Interest</b>	<b>(\$23,540)</b>	<b>\$134,240</b>	<b>(\$40,490)</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
Assets	\$1,490,572	\$1,435,480	\$1,570,727
Fixed Assets:			
Land	7,789,950	7,775,550	7,765,550
Buildings & Equipment	4,047,137	4,174,260	4,295,808
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$13,327,659</b>	<b>\$13,385,290</b>	<b>\$13,632,085</b>
Total Liabilities	\$791,722	\$842,789	\$1,065,880
Equity	12,535,937	12,542,501	12,566,205
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$13,327,659</b>	<b>\$13,385,290</b>	<b>\$13,632,085</b>

# 2016 BHIC Operations Revenue

