

THE OLD  
BALDY  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



910-457-7481  
[WWW.OLDBALDY.ORG](http://WWW.OLDBALDY.ORG)





# WELCOME

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019 was a welcome change from the challenges of 2018 and Hurricane Florence. Expansion of the Foundation's staff has allowed us to focus our efforts towards advancing the Foundation's mission more so than in years past. With Travis Gilbert, our Educator and Collections Coordinator on board we have made great strides in identifying and securing our archives and artifacts. This allowed us to display new artifacts in the museum as well as at public events. Additional improvements and additions were made to our exhibits and audio tour enhancing the visitor experience.

Mission based Special Events remained a central focus in 2019. Abby Overton, Development and Communication Coordinator, creatively combined entertaining activities with a historical twist, while successfully raising funds for the organization. Additionally, the staff made a conscious effort to expand community outreach and volunteerism in 2019. All of these activities contributed significantly to broadening our support base. 2019 saw many record setting numbers for the Foundation due to the hard work and diligence of an energetic staff. The Old Baldy team is dedicated to the ongoing mission of the Foundation and continually looks to the future to expand the impact of the organization's mission.

Chris Webb









# YEARLY STATISTICS

## LIGHTHOUSE CLIMBERS

**24,023**

People took a step back in history by climbing to the top of Old Baldy experiencing the grueling tasks of the Lighthouse Keepers' and toured the Smith Island Museum of History

## HISTORIC TOURS

**1,041**

Guests enjoyed a comprehensive, island wide, guided historical tour learning about over four centuries of our Maritime history

## AUDIO TOUR

**1,737**

People took advantage of our audio tour featuring multiple oral histories that bring the Smith Island Museum of History to life

## CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR

**65**

This walking tour was added to our programming in 2019 for visitors to learn about this specific era of our island's history



# SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

2019 marked an important year as we introduced special programming. This allowed our organization to present unique topics and share more in depth perspectives of the island's maritime history.

## HISTORIC HAPPY HOUR SERIES

This event series allows us to explore specific topics about our island's history in intimate groups

- March 2019- General Bald Head History  
Hosted at Tails Piano Bar- 60 attendees
- May 2019- Military History on Bald Head  
Hosted at Old Baldy- 27 attendees
- June 2019- History of Blockade Runners-  
Guest Speaker Lori Sanderlin of the  
North Carolina Maritime Museum  
Hosted at Old Baldy- 38 attendees
- July 2019- Palmetto Island with  
Living Historians  
Hosted at Bald Head Association-  
72 attendees
- August 2019- Captain Charlie History  
Hosted at Old Baldy- 32 attendees
- September 2019- Hurricanes on BHI  
Hosted at Old Baldy- 25 attendees
- October 2019- Bald Head Ghost Stories  
Hosted at Old Baldy- 23 attendees
- December 2019- Civil War with  
Living Historians  
Hosted at Old Baldy- 62 attendees

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2019, our History staff traveled to different community and civic groups to help educate on the man-made histories of Bald Head Island and the Cape Fear Region to a broader audience.

- March 9, 2019: Presentation at Flora's Bluff Community Social
- March 25, 2019: Presentation "Hurricane Florence: Lessons Learned" at North Carolina Museums Council Annual Conference
- May 25, 2019: Activity at NC Maritime Museum - Southport's National Maritime Day Festival
- June 22, 2019: Presentation at Bald Head Island Yacht Club Social
- July 10, 2019: Presentation "U.S. Life-Saving Service on Bald Head and Oak Island" at NC Maritime Museum - Southport's Lecture Series
- August 1, 2019: Guest on StarNews' Cape Fear Unearthed Podcast "Long Live Old Baldy"
- August 13, 2019: Presentation "Highlights from the Old Baldy Foundation's Collections" at Southport Historical Society
- September 21, 2019: Activity at Maritime Museum - Southport's Civil War Living History Event
- November 15, 2019: Presentation "Hurricane Florence: Lessons Learned" at North Carolina Preservation Consortium Annual Conference
- November 22, 2019: Presentation "Eulogizing Blackbeard" at Edward Teach Brewery
- December 3, 2019: Presentation "Four Centuries of BHI" at North Brunswick Kiwanis Club





# OLD BALDY COLLECTIONS

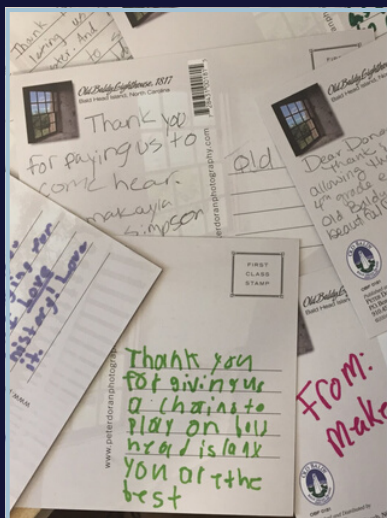
The Old Baldy Foundation is proud to hold in the public's trust over 2,000 artifacts and manuscripts that tell the history of Bald Head Island. In order to preserve these artifacts for generations to come, the Old Baldy Foundation is digitizing the collections so the original material may remain protected in a climate-controlled environment, yet the material is accessible to the community for educational purposes.



- 952 archival photographs were digitized
- 385 objects were accessioned into the Permanent Collection and digitized into an online database
- 42 ceramic sherds excavated from lighthouse grounds were identified and researched
- 1,656 pages of subject files were digitized
- 2 objects from Permanent Collection loaned to North Carolina Maritime Museum – Southport
- Circa 1882 lighthouse keeper's uniform was cleaned and repaired by textile conservator Lynn Lancaster Gorges of New Bern, NC
- Cape Fear Life-Saving Station Wreck Report Log was digitized at East Carolina University's Joyner Library Special Collections

# SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Generous donors allow the Old Baldy Foundation to award funds to qualifying fourth grade classes. This subsidizes transportation costs to come to the island for an unforgettable educational field trip through the Lighthouse Learners Scholarship Fund.



- In 2019, 350 students enjoyed a field trip to Bald Head Island and Old Baldy subsidized through the scholarship fund
- The students all came from title one schools spanning three different counties in NC
- Pictured on the left are thank you notes from students to the donors who made their trip feasible
- Pictured on the right are students walking through the Maritime forest to see Old Baldy for the first time



# OLD BALDY FOUNDATION 2020

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Professor Meredith College
- Randy Jones  
Director of Tourism and  
Public Information Officer City  
of Southport
- Julie Showalter  
Jules Salty Grub and  
Island Pub Owner

## STAFF DIRECTORY

- Mary Chris Webb  
Executive Director  
director@oldbaldy.org
- Travis John Gilbert  
Educator and Collections  
travis@oldbaldy.org
- McAllie Givens  
Gift Shop Associate  
McAllie@oldbaldy.org
- Jessica Woodard  
Retail Manager  
jess@oldbaldy.org
- Abby Overton  
Development and Communications  
abby@oldbaldy.org

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