



# PIRATE'S REVENGE

FOURTH EDITION

MARCH, 2009

## Message from Peggy...

We are facing a most exciting prospect as we enter the Spring of 2009. As many of you have been watching and waiting expectantly to see, the 1960's addition that served as a kitchen facility until 1989 will be removed with great care by qualified professionals.

Once the original 1920's architectural features are uncovered on this façade, facing the State Historic Site Visitor Center, we are expecting David Hoggard of Double Hung, LLC, Greensboro, NC. He is the best in the field as you can see from the window restorations from 2007 & 2008. His team will work with local craftsmen, state historic professionals, and town officials upon removal of the old kitchen, to

bring this facade's features back in keeping with the desires of our community.

The Historic Bath Foundation is participating with a grant to: *Aid in the purchase, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of structures and sites in Bath that have special historical, architectural, or aesthetic value.*

We support their mission, as our own. The historic BHS complex is well suited for local, state and national resources. As heritage tourism guests and our local citizens see this continued visual improvement, it demonstrates more than words that our joint efforts are meeting with success.

*Hail to our dear Bath High School  
Honor and glory we'll show to you.*

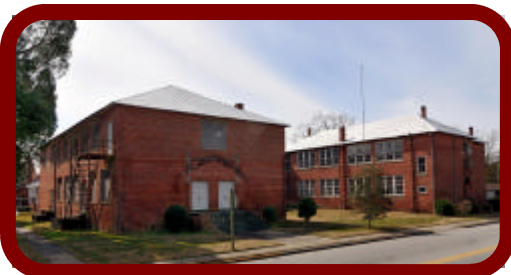
## Then....

With 3,373 graduates from 65 graduating classes we continue to march on toward higher goals. Since 2005 much progress has been made. Our goals for this year is to see the cafeteria gone and the original doors and windows in place.



## ...And Now

*Proud of our past, excited  
about the present, looking to  
the future for our community  
and making a contribution to  
Historic Bath.*



*Hail to our dear Bath High School  
Honor and glory we'll show to you  
Marching on toward higher goals  
We're striving to meet some future role.  
We'll never falter, We're not afraid,  
Even though sometimes we are  
dismayed.  
We are working, striving, seeking  
Ever to honor you!*



## Calendar of Events

- **April 7, 2009** - BHSP Board Mtg.
- **April 18, 2009** - BHSP Opening Workday, every Sat. 9 am until
- **May 5, 2009** - BHSP Board Mtg.
- **May 16, 2009** - Bath Fest Booth, & BHS Tour - 11-4:00 pm
- **May 26, 2009** - Window Plaque Deadline
- **June 2, 2009** - BOD & Election Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Raffle Tickets available
- **July 7, 2009** - BHSP Board Mtg.
- **July 18, 2009** - BHS Class of 59 Open House 3-6 p.m.
- **Aug. 4, 2009** - Annual BHSP Membership Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- **Aug. 15, 2009** - BHSP Annual Raffle Drawing
- **Sept. 1, 2009** - BHSP Board Mtg.
- **Sept. 5, 2009** - Deadline for Newsletter Articles
- **Sept., 2009** - 5th Ed. of *Pirates Revenge*
- **Sept., 2009** - Annual Golf Tournament - 10-4 p.m.
- **Oct. 6, 2009** - BHSP Board Mtg.
- **Nov. 3, 2009** - BHSP Board Mtg.
- **Dec. 1, 2009** - BHSP Board Mtg.
- **Dec. 5, 2009** - Washington Christmas Parade - 11:00 a.m.
- **Dec. 6, 2009** - Bath Christmas Parade - 2:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 13, 2009** - Historic Bath Open House & BHS Tour-1-4pm

BHSP Board of Director's Meetings are 1st Tues., at 7 pm at Bath Christian Church.

## Look inside for...

Three Buccaneers	2-3
Membership Information	3
Memorial Gifts; Gifts in Kind	3
Accomplishments	4
Highlights of 2008	4
2008-09 Donor Levels	Insert
Restore a Window Contributors	Insert



The essence of leadership is to know where you are going, and ultimately arrive together at the same destination, despite your differences. This is the shared philosophy of the Buchanan-Cox-Modlin trio who reconnected in 2005 at one of the first town council meetings where other BHS alums and friends fought to save the school from demolition. They've been working together ever since. Usually, all three are at BHS for workdays every Saturday from spring through the fall, many Sundays, and other days throughout the year. They estimate their combined labor at 6,000 hours—or 250 days. While the three came to the BHS project via different paths, they're each motivated by their memories and the building's historical significance.

**Marti Buchanan**, class of '57, still wears BHS maroon and white. She feels she has "come full circle" from her days there when Annie Rae Jefferson and Dicey Respass recognized her talents and gave her outlets to develop her creativity: blank paper and charcoal for drawing, for which she later won prizes, and piano and voice lessons that sparked her career in performing arts. Despite the lack of formalized arts programs at BHS, her teachers adapted their schedules to motivate and nurture her aspirations. Most importantly, she credits her successes to the sacrifices of her parents, and their support and contributions to BHS.

Her first acting role at BHS was as the lead in "Queen of Hearts", a Valentine's Day production in the 3rd grade. Her teachers then encouraged her to write, cast, and direct her own play when she was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She still thrives on behind-the-scenes involvement. Before she devoted her efforts to restoring BHS, her many activities included working for the U.S. government in public relations and international affairs in DC and Maryland, a charter member of the Beaufort County Arts Council, Pamlico Playhouse, Inc., and the Turnage Theater Foundation and holding many positions for these groups. After the theater's gala opening in 2007, Buchanan directed the first public production in the facility. She was instrumental in the 10 plus years success of **Blackbeard: Knight of the Black Flag**, its resurrection for the Bath Tricentennial and designing the souvenir program. Her other historic preservation work includes an elementary school and Spanish residence in Maryland, Washington's

Atlantic Coast Line depot and the Turnage Theater.

Buchanan is most proud of helping save BHS from demolition, and after pushing for three years, seeing the roof repaired in the fall of 2008 so the interior would be protected. She is also pleased with the results of the window restoration, her exertions pulling thousands of nails out of the cafeteria floor, rescuing and cataloging items in the school library, scraping paint, meeting with contractors, and coordinating the design of new stationery for BHSP. She has spent countless hours on research, collecting memorabilia of BHS's 65 graduating classes, and creating displays to support the school-wide reunion in July of 2007, which notably fell on her 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Buchanan is inspired, too, by this year's 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school's construction, which was ultimately made possible by the Bath Town Council of 1920, the first all-female governing body in U.S. history.

**Jim Cox**, class of '68, received his B.S. and M.A. degrees in History from ECU with a concentration in Public History. He currently teaches electrical trades and career management at Plymouth High School. Although all his teachers had an impact, he best remembers Ethel Eborn for teaching him phonetics in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and learning of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in his 8th grade classroom across the hall from the school office.

For Cox, the restoration isn't just personally significant. He says of the building: **"Historically, it was nuclear; architecturally, it is singular."** As one of the first consolidation era schools, it **"brought all the crossroads to Bath."** **"It was how you came to know who you knew. No matter the districts and churches we came from, BHS was one thing we all had in common. It was a place to get a good education. We came together here for classes and social events."**

For Bath alums, seeing the interior is like time-travel, but people with little or no personal connection can appreciate the building for itself. In 1921, it was a sign of progress in the midst of the post-WWI depression when agricultural and lumber industries declined. Architecturally, it is one of only two surviving schools of its age and design left in the state, yet it is unique. The other is in the mountains, one story tall and made of stone, while BHS's two stories of brick are bonded with mortar mixed with oyster shell, and built from lumber that came from the Bath sawmill. However,

## Three Buccaneers:

### Marti Buchanan, Jim Cox, and Susan Modlin

By Leanne E. Smith

the two auditoriums are virtually identical. A "remarkable piece of Americana," Cox says, it is still a dominant feature in Bath and a monument to "village-sized America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century."

Cox has been a member of the Beaufort County Historical Society, Pamlico-Tar River Association and various other church and civic organizations. His thesis, ***The Pamlico-Tar River and Its Role in the Development of Eastern North Carolina (1989)***, chronicles the impact of waterway transportation systems on local history. He also helped construct museum quality exhibit cases for the grand opening of "Humber House" in Greenville, which serves as the regional office of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

**Susan Modlin**, a Beaufort County native, attended other schools, but came to BHS for performances, graduations and special events. She saw Cox's class graduate, but they didn't meet each other until a few years later. At the encouragement of family friend Dr. Herbert Paschal Jr., author of ***A History of Colonial Bath (1955)***, she received her B.A. degree in History and Anthropology from ECU with a specialty in Archaeology, holds an A.A.S. Paralegal degree, and has completed Master's level course work at ECU in Public History with emphasis on Historic Preservation and has over 30 years hands on experience in historic restoration.

After working out of state for 25 years in commercial/mortgage banking and real property law, Modlin had just returned to Beaufort County in 2003 when Hurricane Isabel hit. The next day, when she drove by the school and saw water pouring from under the doors, she knew the building needed help. Three years and numerous negotiations later, one of her top thrills was removing the plywood from the Office Wing entrance to find the original doorway in good condition and discovering the original steps hidden intact under a false floor. The project is like "indoor archaeology" for her when she uncovers more of the building's secrets, like the remains of original window and door casings in the "new" cafeteria, which further aids accurate restoration. She hopes that the hours she, Cox and others spent on hands-and-knees to make the office area a showcase for the

(continued on page 3...)



2007 reunion proves what "a little bit of spit and polish can do" and will help disperse any "doubts about the possibilities of the preservation/ restoration efforts." She says, *"What we're doing here will be history for future generations. All I want to do is save this building so it can be used for the potential that it has."*

Modlin and Cox are currently working towards a certification in Historic Preservation Trades at Edgecombe Community College, where they are learning how to replicate historical construction methods. Buchanan is also attending some of the classes. This group also coordinates the Oral History Project using videotaped interviews of teachers and classmates to preserve personal memories and school history. Under Buchanan's leadership they have contributed their various talents to holding the first oyster roast, building blue-ribbon-winning BHSP parade floats, and decorating the building for tours and other special events. Buchanan and Cox are members of the Board of Directors and serve on the Building Committee. Modlin holds positions as Historiographer, Secretary and Building Committee chair. She continues to expand on her first project: researching a comprehensive history of the construction of the building.

In their "spare" time, the three have varied interests. Buchanan enjoys photography, creating memorabilia books, sailing, skydiving, and spending moments with Wendy, Paolo, Madison and friends. Cox is active in church activities, likes to hunt, read and is devoted to his family. Modlin also loves sailing, reading, music, and the company of her children, extended family and friends.

As the BHS project gains momentum, more help is needed. You don't have to be alums, have knowledge of preservation practices, or even do physical labor to contribute. Cox says, *"There's no required number of hours, and you don't have to be a skilled craftsman."* Modlin adds, *"There's no job too big or too small."* Buchanan says, *"It's fun. We have a good time. The building gives a welcoming feeling with lots of positive energy."* Whether it's to "give back" to the building because of personal memories or helping a structure worth saving for its historical character, the Three Buccaneers' perpetual passion for the restoration is inspiring.

BHS was the heart of a wide community for over a half century. Since being left sitting vacant and unused since 1993, the Three Buccaneers now enjoy hearing the heartbeat begin again. They have already envisioned themselves walking the corridors of the completed project and being entertained in the renovated Auditorium. It's a shared mission.

## Memorial Gifts

**Polly Mason Strickland**

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brooks Tankard*

**Marilyn Mason Bowen**

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brooks Tankard*

**Susan B. Routt**

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brooks Tankard*

**Giles & Linda Cutler**

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brooks Tankard*

**David H. Elliott, II**

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brooks Tankard*

**Tom & Ida Faye Cutler**

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brooks Tankard*

**Claude & Sandra Dupree**

*In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brooks Tankard*

**Loretta Sawyer Brooks**

*In memory of Sue Wallace Tyer*

*In memory of Jesse Tetterton*

*In memory of Wiley Waters*

*In memory of David C. Everett, Sr.*

**BHS Class of 1959**

*In memory of Edwin "Eddie" Hugh Perry*

*In memory of Diana Kinion*

## BHSP 2008-2009 Membership

(Annual Membership runs from June to June.)

Yes, I (we) want to make a special tax deductible contribution to restore the BHS building.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ BHS Class of \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership/Donor Levels

- ☐ Swashbuckler \$25 - \$74.99
- ☐ Maroon/White Pirate \$75 - \$149.99
- ☐ Buccaneer \$150 - \$299.99
- ☐ Crossbones \$300 - \$499.99
- ☐ Blackbeard \$500 - \$999.99
- ☐ Friends of T.A. & Molly Brooks \$1000- \$4,999.99

☐ Restore a Window Program \$250.00

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Window donations are tax deductible and are separate from the operating budget of BHSP. They are for window use only.

Membership/Donor Level \_\_\_\_\_

Restore a Window \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to BHSP and mail to BHSP, P.O. Box 149, Bath, NC 27808.

## Pirate Spirit Lives On

### Gifts In Kind

*Country Classics –  
Vernell Douglas '54  
Bath Harbor Marina, Inc. –  
Paul Minor  
Filmmaker – Kerry Cox  
Mike Godley  
Larry Boyd  
Letterhead Stationary &  
Note Cards – Whiting Toler  
Marti Buchanan*

## BHSP Officers

**President**  
*Peggy Daw*

**Vice President**  
*Bobby Roberson*

**Sec./Historiographer**  
*Susan Modlin*

**Corresponding Sec.**  
*Sue B. Conway*

**Treasurer**  
*Mike Godley*

**Publicity**  
*Marti Buchanan*

**Board of Directors**  
*Harold W. Cutler, Chair*  
*Jack Wallace*  
*Jim Cox*  
*James Russell Boyd*  
*Claudia W. Alligood*  
*Marti Buchanan*  
*Ronald Moore*

**New Location for BHSP Merchandise**  
Santas and other merchandise may be purchased at the following new locations:  
**Bath Visitors Center**  
**Board of Realtors, 110 Main St., Bath**

*Pirate's Revenge* is a bi-annual newsletter developed by Bath High School Preservation members to provide pertinent information on the progress of our organization in preserving our heritage at the BHS building. To submit articles or receive future issues, please send an e-mail to [queenb35@yahoo.com](mailto:queenb35@yahoo.com) and include "*Pirate's Revenge*" in the subject line.

252-756-5528 or 252-943-9818  
[www.BHSPreservation.org](http://www.BHSPreservation.org)

## Editorial Staff

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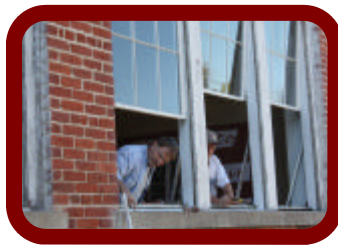
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*Betsy Gray*

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**Permit #18**

***Pirate's Revenge***  
**P.O. Box 149**  
**Bath, NC 27808**

## Highlights from 2008...

### Window Restoration



### Open House December 14, 2008



### Christmas Parades 2008



### Accomplishments

- **July 19, 2008** – Roof repaired
- **August 23, 2008** – Open house – began history by Jim & Kerry Cox & Marti Buchanan
- Raffle Drawing – Blackbeard's Slice & Ice
- **September 27, 2008** – NC Preservation Trade Work Shop at Coolmoor Plantation – Toured historical houses in Tarboro – Marti Buchanan, Jim Cox, Susan Modlin
- **September 30-October 1, 2008** – Beginning door project by Joe Diggs & John Griekspoor
- **October 15, 2008** – West Wing windows by Double Hung Windows, Inc.
- **September 20, 2008** – BHS open for class of 1948 – 60<sup>th</sup> reunion.
- **October 18, 2008** – BHS open house for class of 1958 – 50<sup>th</sup> reunion
- **November 6, 2008** – BHSP letterhead, stationary & note cards – Whiting Toler & Marti Buchanan
- **December 6, 2008** – BHSP float in Bath Christmas parade – 1<sup>st</sup> place blue ribbon
- **December 14, 2008** – BHSP open house coincided with NC Historic Bath open house



## 2008-2009 Levels

We are pleased to recognize the 2008-2009 donor levels. These accomplishments have been made possible because they believed in the BHSP mission. We apologize if we misspelled or left off anyone's name.

### **SWASHBUCKLER**

#### **\$25.00-\$74.99**

*Patsy Alligood  
Sylvia Brooks  
Marti Buchanan  
Betty Burgess  
Bobbie Cox  
Polly Cox  
Steel Cox  
Sandie C. Evans  
Surry Everett  
Bernard & Barbara Grant  
Edwin & Betsy Gray  
Vernetta R. Lange  
Susan Modlin  
Jerome & Linda Naylor  
Jimmy P. Taylor*

### **Maroon/White Pirate**

#### **\$75-149.99**

*Miquel E. Acevero  
Dick Adams  
Claudia W. Alligood  
Gene Aston  
Mary Linda Batchelor  
Dianna T. Boyd  
James R. Boyd  
Julie Chesson  
Karl Chiang  
Joanne Tuten Childs  
Sue B. Conway  
Kerry Cox  
Jim Cox  
Tom & Kay Davis  
Peggy Daw  
Charles & Carolyn Duckett  
Sandra Dupree  
James & Melba T. Edwards  
David Elliott  
Scott Ellis  
Robert & Catherine Godley  
Jack & Joyce Godley  
Michael Godley  
Tom Hales  
Sandra Harrison  
Elaine Harrison*

#### *Forrest Jarrett*

*Ben & Amy Johnson  
Billy Jones  
Bea Latham  
Deborah & JohnLoGelfo  
Gracie Mason  
Paul & Deborah Minor  
Paul & Laura O'Brien  
Harold & Nelda Ormond  
Gordon Pippin  
Dallas Riddle  
Jerry Rogers  
David & Karen Sayer  
Wallace Selby  
Lindsey Smith  
George & Linda Sullivan  
Mike & Linda Swanner  
Rachel Swindell  
Sylvia Timmons  
Steve Waters  
Walter Williams  
Nancy Windley  
Steve Woolard  
Horace Woolard  
Scott Woolard  
Pat & Michael Mansfield*

### **Buccaneer -**

#### **\$150-299.99**

*Fenner Ambrose  
John & Kris Carroll  
Jeffrey Robb*

### **Crossbones -**

#### **\$300-499.99**

*James & Connie Bond  
The Rich Company  
Starlon Credle  
June Wallace  
Jack Wallace*

### **Blackbeard -**

#### **\$500-999.99**

*Ronald Moore*

## Restore a Window Contributors

*In memory of Ray Tuten by Joanne Childs  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Giles Cutler  
By the Children of Mr. & Mrs. Giles Cutler  
In memory of Walter C. Latham by Lou Latham Miller  
In memory of Emily Padgett by Emily Albera  
In memory of Paul A. Douglas by Betsy Gray  
In memory of Janice Lee Harrison - Class of 1954  
By Sandra Harrison  
In memory of my brother, John Smith & our class of 1936  
by Polly S. Cox  
In memory of Lola & Fenner Ambrose  
Mr. & Mrs. Fenner Earl Ambrose  
In memory of Max & Mabel Minges  
by Jimmy & Connie Bond  
In memory of my husband, Bill Cox By Polly Cox & Children  
In memory of O.J. & Pauline Gaylord  
by Nelda & Harold Ormond  
In memory Harold B. Ormond by Helen Ormond  
In memory of Roy Campbell & Helen Waters Brooks  
By Dr. Frederick M. & Florence B. Richardson  
In memory of our mother, Dorothy Brooks Tankard  
By Eunice Tankard Robbins & Bill Tankard*

*Melba Edwards  
John Latham  
Anna & Bruce Biggs  
George Elliott, Jr.  
Karl Chiang  
Joseph P. Miller  
Irene Johnson  
Classes of the 1980-s  
Eric Waters & Yvonne Selby  
Kerry Cox  
Cori Selby Fritz  
Rodney & Jean Bowen  
Asa M. Harrison  
Elaine C. Harrison  
Sandra E. Harrison  
Fenner Earl Ambrose  
Ester Malmbeldt  
Walter & Marie Williams  
Ellen & Jay Hardin  
Adolphus Spain  
Ronald Moore  
Nancy Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Tetterton  
Martha Buchanan  
Starlon A. Credle  
Jack & June Wallace  
Joyce Godley  
Peggy Daw & Dorothy Mills  
Surry Everett  
Jade Harris  
Bobby Swindell  
The Dallas & Alla Rae Foreman Family  
Jerry Waters  
Polly Mason Strickland  
Karen Sayer  
Miquel Acevero*

If you prefer your name printed differently from the format above for the window plaque, please contact Mike Godley (252) 943-9818 or email Mike Godley at [mike@godleyfarms.com](mailto:mike@godleyfarms.com).  
Deadline - May 26<sup>th</sup>.