

July 2024

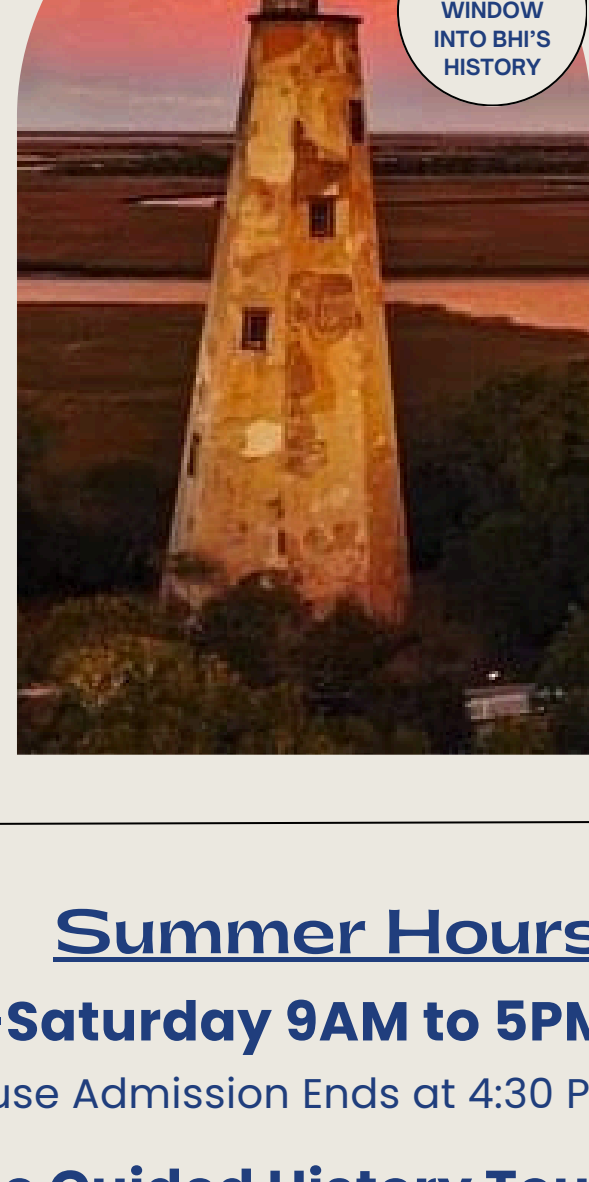
The Keeper's Times Newsletter

THE OLD BALDY FOUNDATION



This Issue

- 1 History Spotlight**
The Legacy of the Generator Society
- 2 New Collection Items**
Discovering Treasures: Latest Additions to Our Collection
- 3 Gift Shop Spotlight**
Treasure to Take Home Now Available
- 4 Upcoming Events**
Save the Date: What's Happening at Old Baldy
- 5 Supporting Old Baldy**
How you can help our efforts in protecting a legacy.



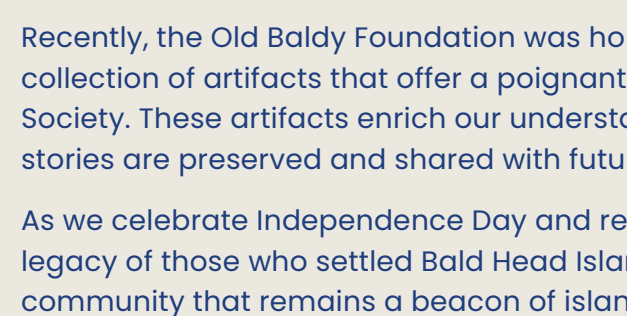
Summer Hours
Tuesday-Saturday 9AM to 5PM
 *Lighthouse Admission Ends at 4:30 PM

Island-Wide Guided History Tour
 Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday at 10:30AM

History Spotlight: The Legacy of the Generator Society

As we reflect on the history of Bald Head Island this July, we are privileged to delve into the remarkable story of the Generator Society—a pioneering community whose legacy continues to shape our island today.

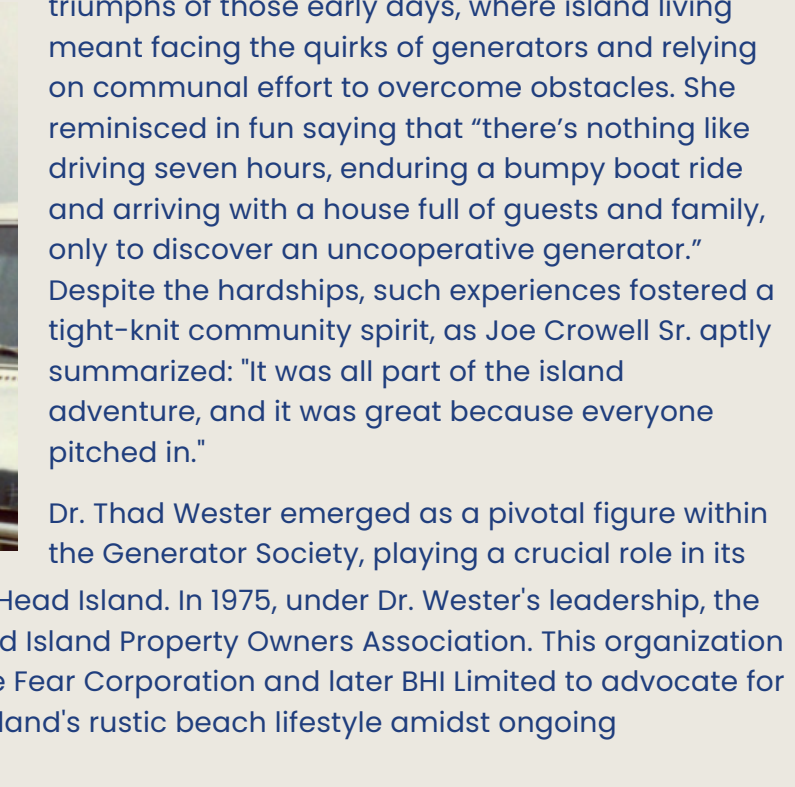
In 1970, the Carolina Cape Fear Corporation acquired Bald Head Island from Frank Sherrill, paving the way for its development. By the early 1980s, nineteen families had settled on the island, forming what would become known as the Generator Society. Living without electricity, paved roads, or modern amenities, these families embraced a simpler, yet challenging, way of life that embodied the spirit of adventure.



formation and subsequent impact on Bald Head Island. In 1975, under Dr. Wester's leadership, the Generator Society established the Bald Head Island Property Owners Association. This organization collaborated closely with the Carolina Cape Fear Corporation and later BHI Limited to advocate for conservation principles and maintain the island's rustic beach lifestyle amidst ongoing development.

Recently, the Old Baldy Foundation was honored to receive a donation from the Wester Family—a collection of artifacts that offer a poignant glimpse into the history and ethos of the Generator Society. These artifacts enrich our understanding of Bald Head Island's past, ensuring that their stories are preserved and shared with future generations.

As we celebrate Independence Day and reflect on our nation's history, let us also celebrate the legacy of those who settled Bald Head Island, embracing challenges with resilience and forging a community that remains a beacon of island life. Their contributions continue to inspire us as we work to protect and interpret the cultural heritage of Old Baldy and Bald Head Island.



Eleanor Cosgrove fondly recalls the trials and triumphs of those early days, where island living meant facing the quirks of generators and relying on communal effort to overcome obstacles. She reminisced in fun saying that "there's nothing like driving seven hours, enduring a bumpy boat ride and arriving with a house full of guests and family, only to discover an uncooperative generator." Despite the hardships, such experiences fostered a tight-knit community spirit, as Joe Crowell Sr. aptly summarized: "It was all part of the island adventure, and it was great because everyone pitched in."

Dr. Thad Wester emerged as a pivotal figure within the Generator Society, playing a crucial role in its formation and subsequent impact on Bald Head Island. In 1975, under Dr. Wester's leadership, the Generator Society established the Bald Head Island Property Owners Association. This organization collaborated closely with the Carolina Cape Fear Corporation and later BHI Limited to advocate for conservation principles and maintain the island's rustic beach lifestyle amidst ongoing development.

Recently, the Old Baldy Foundation was honored to receive a donation from the Wester Family—a collection of artifacts that offer a poignant glimpse into the history and ethos of the Generator Society. These artifacts enrich our understanding of Bald Head Island's past, ensuring that their stories are preserved and shared with future generations.

As we celebrate Independence Day and reflect on our nation's history, let us also celebrate the legacy of those who settled Bald Head Island, embracing challenges with resilience and forging a community that remains a beacon of island life. Their contributions continue to inspire us as we work to protect and interpret the cultural heritage of Old Baldy and Bald Head Island.

[CLICK HERE to read more stories about Bald Head Island's history on our website!](#)

DISCOVERING TREASURES: New Additions to Our Collection



GENERATOR SOCIETY CHARTER

GENERATOR SOCIETY CHARTER

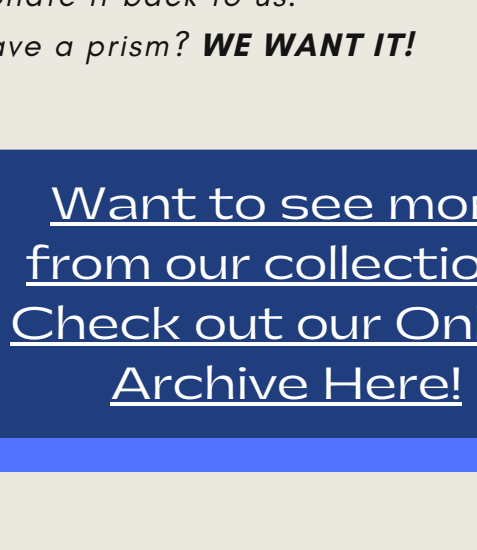
The 19 Generator Society families were honored with this commemorative handwritten "charter" on 17 May, 1980. The document distinguished them for enduring "inconvenience and privation in exchange for the privilege of being married to Bald Head". Of note, the "charter" not only lists the families' names, but where they resided off-island.

GENERATOR SOCIETY PLATE

The next artifact is a commemorative Generator Society plate. The decorated plate displays the Generator Society logo on the front, with the names of the families on the back. This plate is an accompaniment to the original Bald Head Island Inn plate that is also in our collection. Stay tuned to see them displayed alongside each other.



GENERATOR SOCIETY PLATE



GENERATOR SOCIETY STATIONERY

GENERATOR SOCIETY STATIONERY

This Generator Society stationery included in the donation symbolizes members' pride and identification. Its design subtly enhances the society's prestige, potentially influencing interactions with developers and property owners.

CAPE FEAR LIGHT STATION PRISM

One ongoing effort we undertake is to restore the Cape Fear Light Station First Order Lens back to its original brilliance (get it?). So far we've recovered over 300 prisms but are still looking for 700 more! This prism was donated by Leigh Blalock and features a nice little chip from "when my niece dropped it." Ms. Blalock informed us her mother purchased all her children prisms in the 1980s and was happy to donate it back to us. Have a prism? **WE WANT IT!**



CAPE FEAR LIGHT STATION PRISM

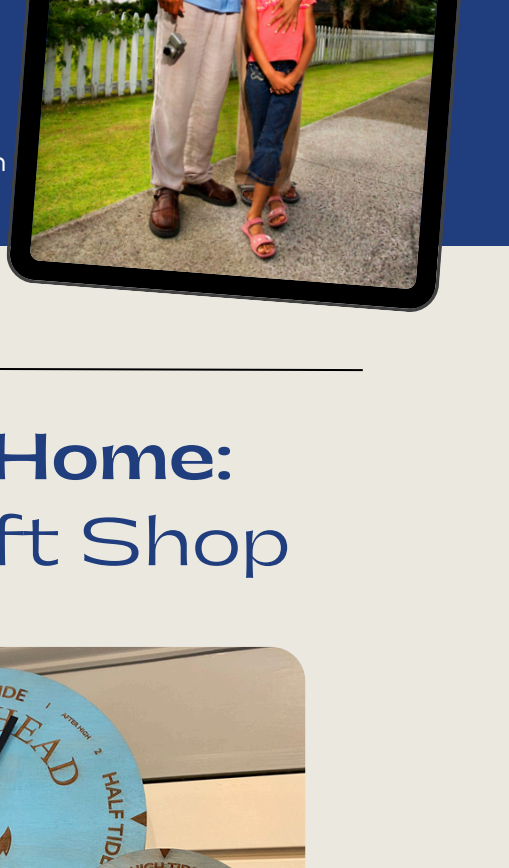
Want to see more from our collection? Check out our Online Archive Here!



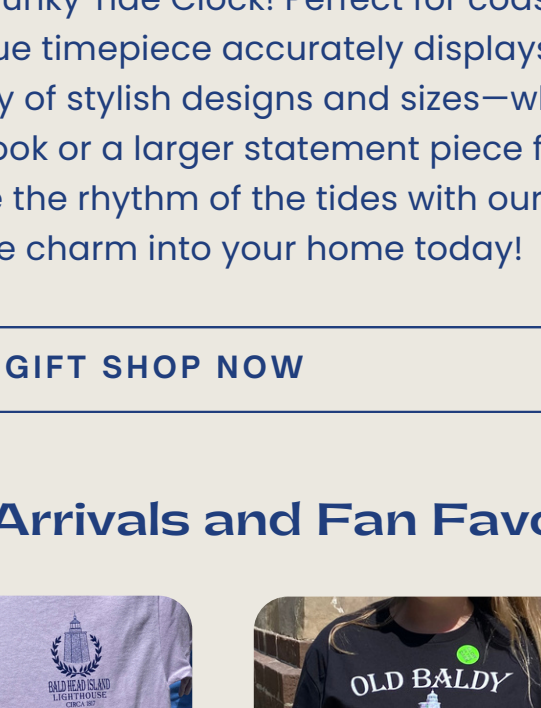
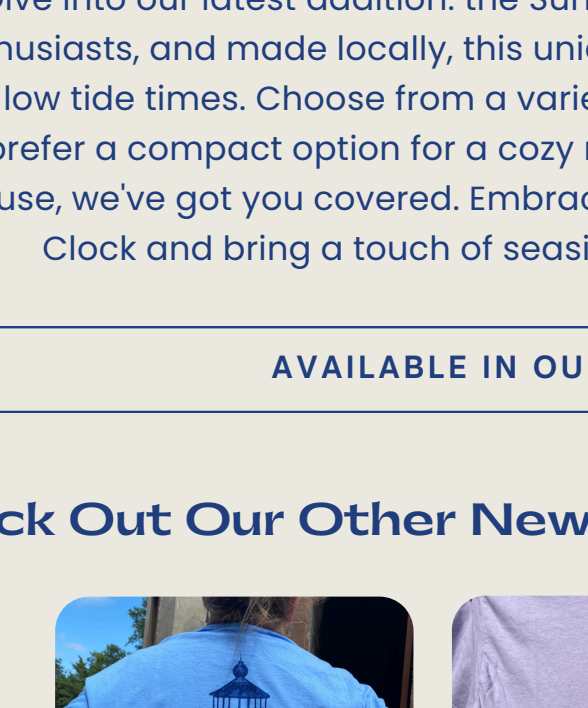
WANT TO SEE YOUR PICTURE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER? Share your picture with the hashtag #OldBaldy or tag us on our socials!

Follow Us Today

Instagram @OldBaldyLighthouse Facebook Old Baldy Lighthouse and Smith Island History Museum



Treasures to Take Home: Spotlight on Our Gift Shop

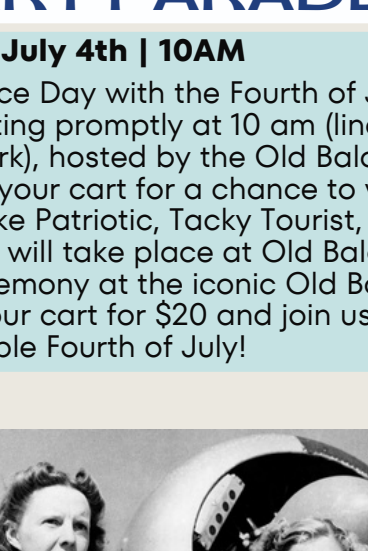
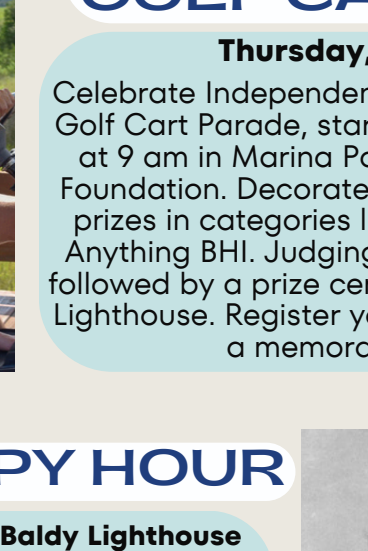
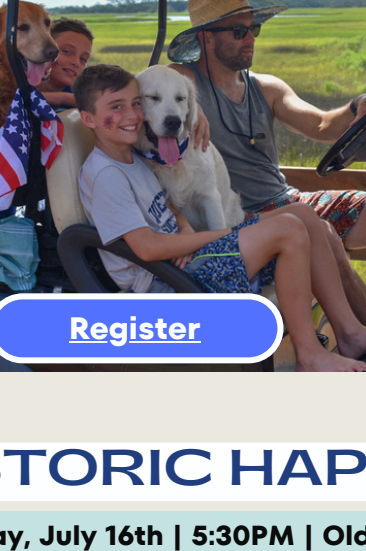


Tide Clocks

Dive into our latest addition: the Sun Junky Tide Clock! Perfect for coastal enthusiasts, and made locally, this unique timepiece accurately displays high and low tide times. Choose from a variety of stylish designs and sizes—whether you prefer a compact option for a cozy nook or a larger statement piece for your house, we've got you covered. Embrace the rhythm of the tides with our Tide Clock and bring a touch of seaside charm into your home today!

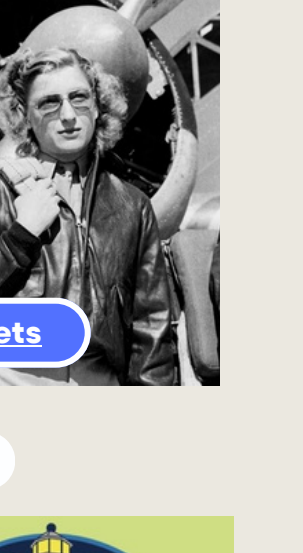
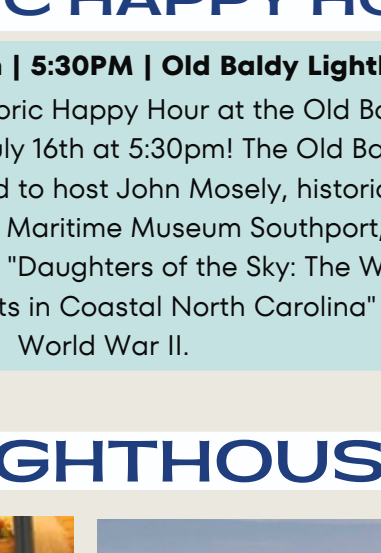
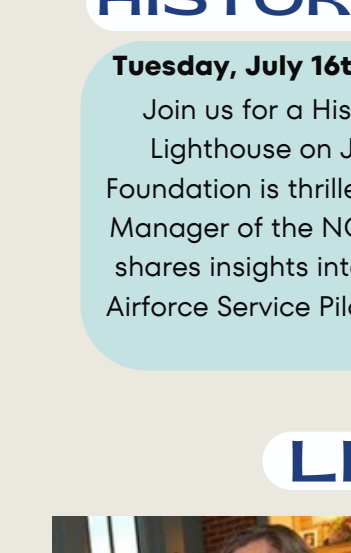
AVAILABLE IN OUR GIFT SHOP NOW

Check Out Our Other New Arrivals and Fan Favorites!



MULTIPLE COLOR OPTIONS!

GLOWS IN THE DARK!



AN OLD FAVORITE!

SAVE THE DATE: WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OLD BALDY



FOURTH OF JULY GOLF CART PARADE

Thursday, July 4th | 10AM

Celebrate Independence Day with the Fourth of July Golf Cart Parade, starting promptly at 10 am (lineup at 9 am in Marina Park), hosted by the Old Baldy Foundation. Decorate your cart for a chance to win prizes in categories like Patriotic, Tacky Tourist, or Anything BHI. Judging will take place at Old Baldy, followed by a prize ceremony at the iconic Old Baldy Lighthouse. Register your cart for \$20 and join us for a memorable Fourth of July!



Register

Book Tickets

HISTORIC HAPPY HOUR

Tuesday, July 16th | 5:30PM | Old Baldy Lighthouse

Join us for a Historic Happy Hour at the Old Baldy Lighthouse on July 16th at 5:30pm! The Old Baldy Foundation is thrilled to host John Moseley, historian and Manager of the NC Maritime Museum Southport, as he shares insights into "Daughters of the Sky: The Women Airforce Service Pilots in Coastal North Carolina" during World War II.



LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND



Book Kevin Duffus Tickets

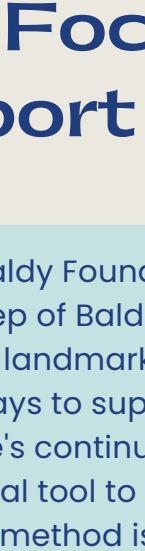


Race Information and Signup



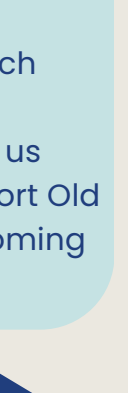
Saturday Aug. 3rd | 5:30PM | BHI Association Building | \$75 Seafood Boil with Kevin Duffus

An evening dedicated to maritime history and delicious food! Join us for a Seafood Boil hosted by **Cape Fear Boil Company**, featuring guest speaker and author Kevin Duffus. He will delve into the story of the 1768 Charleston Lighthouse and its connection to Bald Head Island. **Specialty drinks from Codigo 1530 Tequila** as well as Cook's Mill and Flying Machine Brewery.



Sunday, August 4th | Old Baldy Lighthouse

Run for the Light is a scenic **5K/10K and 1 Mile run** near coastal dunes and through the maritime forest on Bald Head Island, NC. Enjoy the views while running at dusk toward the light of The Old Baldy Lighthouse. Make your participation in this race an entire day trip your whole family can enjoy by taking part in an afternoon celebration by National Lighthouse Day featuring **music, food, and family fun.**



Foundation Focus: How You Can Support Old Baldy



The Old Baldy Foundation plays a vital role in the preservation and upkeep of Bald Head Island's historic lighthouse, a cherished landmark with a rich maritime history. There are several ways to support the foundation and ensure the lighthouse's continued maintenance and use as an educational tool to the thousands of yearly visitors. One impactful method is by **donating to the annual fund**, which directly contributes to ongoing restoration projects and educational initiatives. Check out our website or contact us today to find out more about other opportunities to support Old Baldy like donating your time through **volunteering**, becoming a member, donating items to our collection, and more!

JOIN US in preserving this legacy and ensuring that the light of history shines on Bald Head Island for years to come.

2024



Sponsors

