

## *BHA Board Candidate for 2025*

# William Bourne



**Profession and Education:** Business Owner/Partner, Penelo, LLC, farming operations and solar developer, Tarboro, NC, Educator, NC Public Schools (20 years, retired)Rocky Mount, NC, Partner, B&K Chevrolet, Tarboro, NC

**What is your history with Bald Head Island that has brought you to ownership and now a candidate for BHA?** For eighty-two years my family owned a home on Cape Lookout, North Carolina, one of eight on over forty miles of beach until it became a National Park. I grew up as a “generator society” child and learned first-hand of the beauty of nature and what island life was all about. We first visited BHI in 1983 with friends and when it came time to leave Cape Lookout, we rediscovered BHI and purchased our first home in 2013. We love the ferry and the true separation we get by being “on island time.” We spend four to five months here every year (May to September) and at other various times. We enjoy riding bikes, walking and of course sitting on the beach, visiting friends and entertaining often.

**What professional skills and life experiences do you feel would be most valued as a member of the BHA Board?** Managing businesses and classrooms has given me first-hand experience in problem solving, planning, critical thinking and organization development. My service on multiple boards and committees (ARC-A for six years, BHIC House Committee, Tarboro Art Commission – past President, Hilma Country Club past board member, and many church committees) has provided me with numerous opportunities in conflict resolution, diplomatic communication skills and the ability to foster a unified voice for organization membership.

**As a BHI property owner, what aspect of Island life is most important to you as a key to BHI’S future and, if elected, how would you help craft that future?** Having been on ARC, the committee we all hate, I have grown to understand its purpose and have grown to see the vision that the developer had for BHI. That vision brought us all here and has kept us on the island. History and rules and regulations are important, but sometimes modernizing the processes by which we do things gets lost. I would be a voice for creating new processes, streamlining and modernizing the system YET bowing to the historic rules to keep our island a village community as it was intended. I also would be a strong advocate for non-resident homeowners, as one myself, there are times where I feel we have no voice nor anyone representing our wants and needs.