

The FRIENDS of *QUEEN ANNE'S REVENGE*

August 5, 2013

Dear Friends of *Queen Anne's Revenge* Board Members,

The *Queen Anne's Revenge* Shipwreck Project, now going into its seventeenth year, has been a complex and ever changing endeavor. Likewise, the role of the Friends of *Queen Anne's Revenge* (FoQAR) has shifted over the past four years. Since 2012, with no state-provided funding available for field and laboratory operations, the QAR project has successfully turned to private sources of funding and FoQAR has served as the recipient and distributor of those funds.

It is apparent that the continued success of the QAR project must now rely on an even more intensive fund raising effort, an effort that I do not have the experience, time, or commitment to be a part of. Therefore, by way of this letter, I resign from the board and my role as president of FoQAR.

In addition, I would like to express my concern over recent correspondence from Rick Allen regarding Nautilus Productions' intellectual property rights of QAR video footage. For fifteen years, Mr. Allen has provided countless hours and indispensable expertise, assistance, and support for the QAR project, mostly at his own expense. I highly respect Mr. Allen's abilities and experience as a videographer and value his friendship. When the current QAR documentary effort was proposed by Think Out Loud Productions and Wildlife Productions, we were told that Rick Allen would be a part of the documentary process. This apparently was not the case, and I regret any role that I and the FoQAR board had in creating this disagreement with Mr. Allen. I urge the Department of Cultural Resources to work with Mr. Allen to find a fair and amicable resolution to this dispute. Rick has worked too long and hard for the QAR project for our relationship with him to end in this manner.

The *Queen Anne's Revenge* shipwreck project involved nearly half of my professional career and remains dear to my heart. The information gleaned from recovered artifacts continues to shed new light on this important period of American history. The association of those artifacts with Blackbeard, history's most notorious pirate, is an invaluable treasure for the people of North Carolina. I wish the project the best of success.

Best regards,



Richard W. Lawrence

Cc: Secretary Susan Klutz
Steve Claggett