

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

TO: Media

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### **2011 Spirit Award goes to Bobby Boykin**

Preservation of Wilson held its annual benefactors appreciation Garden Party on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at the home of Marshall and Sharron Dildy on Watson Drive. For the third year in a row, the organization announced the recipient of the Preservation Spirit Award at this event.

With over 250 people in attendance, the 2011 Spirit Award was given to Bobby Boykin by Preservation of Wilson President, Garland Homes, Jr. Boykin has been very active through the years in the Wilson County Historical Association and the Wilson County Genealogical Society. He has been president of Preservation of Wilson and the North Carolina president of the Jamestown Society. He has been the president of the International Society of the Appraisers of Antiques and is a member of the First Families of North Carolina. He has attended many regional and national Preservation meetings and is well known throughout the region as a recognized voice in Preservation. He is active in the Wilson community in many other roles and boards, but the one that Preservation of Wilson recognized is his important role as a founding and driving force of the creation of Preservation of Wilson.

The Preservation Spirit Award is presented to individuals that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to promoting historic preservation in Wilson County, North Carolina.

In 2009 Gaynell Stallings was the first recipient in recognition for the valuable contribution she has made to the Old Wilson Historic District by saving a circa 1902 threatened structure.

Stallings purchased and completed important stabilization work on the Victorian style Darden-Douglas House located at 315 West Green Street. Gaynell is the owner of Park Place Consignment Showroom located in the Roscoe G. Briggs House at 111 Park Avenue. Stallings is no stranger to restoration projects and has been passionate about historic properties since living in Savannah, GA and Annapolis, MD.

The recipients for 2010 were the Grigas family, Paul, Andrea and Michael, with the purchase and renovation of two bungalows; the J. Will Gardner House and the Joseph J. Best House on Bragg Street. The Grigas family is also working on the future renovation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary's Convent also located on Bragg Street. These historic structures are located in the Old Wilson Historic District. The Grigas family is from Nashua, New Hampshire and discovered Wilson during a lunch stop while traveling on I-95. Before the afternoon was over, they purchased their first historic home in Wilson and have since followed it with three others.

The Garden Party was also the opening reception of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Preservation of Wilson Fine Art Show. This year 17 artists exhibited new work with inspiration drawn from historic places in Eastern North Carolina. Artists included Oona Lewis, Pegi Sharp, John Braswell, Kim Benton, Susan Fecho, Lu Glover, Alison Hesmer, Nancy Ping-Robbins, Sarah Bowers, Karen Gliarmis, Wendy Ferguson Whitehead, Agnes Cherry, Susan Harris, Cynthia Whalen, Deenie Purinai and Sherri Bridgers.

Preservation of Wilson is a nonprofit corporation that provides leadership in the revitalization efforts of Wilson County's unique architectural properties. For information about available properties or to become a restoration partner, call Kathy Bethune at (252) 234-7694 or visit [www.preservationofwilson.com](http://www.preservationofwilson.com).

