



Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums
38370 Point Breeze Road
Colton's Point, MD 20626

The Finer Points

A newsletter from the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums

Summer 2020

The mission of The Friends of The St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums is to raise funds in order to support historical interpretation, education programs and special needs of the sites managed by the Museum Division of St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks.

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**The Friends of the St. Clement's
Island and Piney Point Museums**
38370 Point Breeze Road
Colton's Point, MD 20626
301-769-2222

A note from Division Manager Karen Stone.

What a strange year this has been. We started out with wonderful plans for a full schedule of really great events, but the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shutdowns altered those plans in more ways than we could have imaged. Nonetheless, we were not deterred in our efforts to stay out in front and give the public alternative ways to interact and stay engaged with us. We have been creative, gotten some things done that we'd been putting off, and taken advantage of this time to reflect on where we want to go as the St. Mary's County Museum Division.

The first thing we did – thankfully, just before the shutdown – was get the online version of the Museum Stores up and running. We had been talking about this idea for quite a while and were able to get it done just in time. That new offering has allowed us to bring in some income from online store sales, continue to receive donations and even accept membership renewals online for the first time ever. See page 3 for more information on the store.

At Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park, we took advantage of the absence of visitors to lay down new flooring on the first floor of the main building, paint the new exhibit areas on both levels and install a new temporary exhibit. The permanent second floor exhibit installation is also getting underway this month, so when we do reopen there will be a lot of new things to see!

The new building for the St. Clement's Island Museum got put on a hold for a short while this year but is back on track and beginning to move forward again. The project was just awarded a grant by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority to help with the fresh, innovative exhibits in the new building. In the meantime, we are running the water taxi to St. Clement's Island State Park every day, with a reduced number of passengers and a new set of safety precautions so that visitors can feel confident when coming to see us. The Museum Store is also open for people who want to shop while waiting for the taxi.

This summer, the Museum Division also took on and opened its fourth and newest property – the Old Jail Museum in downtown Leonardtown. This county-owned property will be open during the same hours as our other museums, plus special hours during Leonardtown events, once we can reopen again. This will give us a prime location to welcome visitors downtown and become more involved in Leonardtown happenings, especially as operation of the site is in partnership with the Town of Leonardtown, where the location will also serve as the official Leonardtown Visitor Center. In the meantime, it is being used as office space for staff and is scheduled to be open during Leonardtown's First Friday events. A Network to Freedom grant was just received for new exhibits being developed there, dealing with its role in the Underground Railroad.

We hope you have been following our Facebook pages and enjoying the weekly history videos and the highlights of fascinating objects from the museum collections. Online, you will also find some coloring pages, a video tour of the Blackistone Lighthouse and a whole lot more.

So, although we've been closed to the public, we have not been idle! We miss seeing you and look forward to sharing the new exhibits and the new site with you all when we return.



Membership Levels

- Individual (\$40)
- Family (\$60)
- Heritage (\$125, includes N.A.R.M. benefits)
- Patron (\$250)
- Benefactor (\$500)

Business Membership is now available with extended year round advertising benefits. Contact amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com for information.

Friends Membership Form

- New Member
- Membership Renewal
- Gift Membership

Name/Business Name: _____

Point of Contact: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Membership Level: _____

Payment Method: Checks should be made out to *The Friends*.
Please call 301-769-2222 to pay via VISA or MasterCard.

Thank you for your support!

A letter from the Board President

To all of our members, sponsors, patrons, volunteers, friends and neighbors...here is hoping that this letter finds you safe and well during this unsettled time. While COVID-19 continues to challenge many of us both professionally and personally, finding ways to cope, adapt and to safely meet those challenges has kept our Museum and Friends staff's quite busy, safe and focused on the mission. We hope the same is true for you.

While Maryland Day would have typically kicked off our 2020 Museum season, this year it marked the beginning of cancellations of most of the Friends' fundraising events, although the Museum Division did manage to officially add the "Old Stone Jailhouse" site to its fold before the mandated closures commenced. And while we have been mostly successful to-date in our continued efforts to secure State, Federal and local grants and funding to support the continued development of educational programs, new exhibits and to offset some COVID related expenses, the Friends are yet to realize the full impact of the closures to our revenues. So we have been busy...despite the circumstances.

The addition of the Old Jailhouse site brings up another subject we felt you may have an opinion about. Originally formed in 1984 as "Friends of the St. Clements Island Museum, Inc." and later changed to add "and Piney Point Museum" to the name, the Friends organization currently supports seven distinct historic sites/structures acquired over time and currently managed by the St Mary's County Museum Division however; our legal name only reflects two of those. The Board is considering a request to change our name to better reflect the entirety of the assets and potential for future growth. Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts.

We are also very pleased to announce the addition of Mr. Brian Williams as our newest Director replacing Maggie Hammett. Brian and his wife (Barbara) are dual residents of Colton's Point and Washington, D.C. where he works. When we first talked, I recall how Brian expressed their love affair with the area when they first visited it and they have been supporters of the Friends ever since. Welcome aboard Brian!



Dale Springer, Board President



Friends Membership Survey

Included in this newsletter is a survey. We would love to get your opinion on changing our organizations name. Please take the survey and mail back to us. We also sent out an electronic version of the survey in an email newsletter earlier this month if you prefer to do it electronically. Please email amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com to put your name on the email list. Your opinion and support means the world to us! Thank you.

Operational Updates

Public Water Taxi operation to St. Clement's Island State Park is now available 7 days a week at 4 times per day. The Blackstone Lighthouse on the island is closed. Please call ahead at 301-769-2222 to make sure the taxi is running.

WATER TAXI OPERATIONAL
MUSEUM CLOSED
PIER & GROUNDS OPEN



The kayak launch at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum is now OPEN to the public. You must reserve the launch ahead of time as the museums are still closed. Visit <http://ow.ly/PFp950AgEEI> for more info, call 301-994-1471 or email April.Havens@stmarysmd.com.

The St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Museum and Historic Park are temporarily CLOSED until further notice. The pier and outside grounds, paths and picnic areas are OPEN to visitors from dawn until dusk at both locations. PLEASE: Observe social distancing best-practices while visiting.

Friends join North American Reciprocal Museums program

St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum recently joined over a thousand other institutions across the country as members of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). The organization is one of the largest reciprocal membership organizations in the world.

NARM is an affiliation program that connects arts, cultural, and historical institutions along with botanical gardens, children's museums, science and technology centers and more that offer their individual NARM qualified members reciprocal benefits.

Individuals who join a participating NARM Institution can receive reciprocal benefits such as free admission and shop discounts at all other NARM-affiliated locations. Joining the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums at the Heritage level (\$125) allows you to take advantage of member benefits at these locations.

Please visit www.narmreciprcal.org for more information and for participating organizations. Locally there are 17 participating locations in Maryland, 23 in Virginia and 14 in Washington D.C. Stay connected with us through our Facebook pages and email newsletters for more information on the other local organizations you can take advantage off.

Membership cards at the Heritage level and above will now have the NARM insignia on the back so when you visit a participating organization just show your membership card and enjoy your reciprocal benefits!

