



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 2021

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.

Friends Board of Directors

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Christina Barbour
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Supervisor

Andrew Ponti
Marketing Manager

Kristina Arnold
Education Programming Coordinator

Tom Emery
Museum Technician

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301-769-2222

New St. Clement's Island Museum Building Set to Open in 2022



This spring, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved the revised budget for the new building for the St. Clement's Island Museum and the county has signed a contract with contractor. We are very excited to have this project moving forward again.

The initial meetings with the contractor and design team will be held this summer and design work will be completed by the end of the year. Demolition will be done in early 2022, and we will be in our new space by the end of that same year. Once we get going, it is going to progress quickly so we will not be without a museum for very long.

During the time we are without a building, we will still be able to run the water taxi and will have a smaller Museum Store available in one of the other buildings on site. We will continue to update everyone as the design work progresses and the schedule moves along. Thanks for your patience with this very important project!

- Karen Stone, Museum Division Manager

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 hillary.neben@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!

2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 21

Children's Day at SCIM

August 25

Chamber of Commerce
Business After Hours at
PPLM

September 18

RetroFest on the Potomac
at PPLM

October 2 and 3

Blessing of the Fleet at
SCIM

October 31

Water Taxi ends at SCIM

November 1

Fall/Winter hours begin at
all 3 museum sites

November 28

PPLM Holiday Open House
PPLM Holiday Exhibit
begins

December 1

SCIM Christmas Doll and
Train Exhibit begins

December 5

SCIM Holiday Open House
Drayden African American
Schoolhouse Open House

September 4

October 2

Leonardtown First Fridays,
Old Jail Museum open until

7 pm

September 3

October 1

November 6



A letter from the Board President

Dear Friends,

Let me start by recognizing your Museum Division and Friend's dedicated staffs for continuing their efforts to develop new community and business partnerships along with a broader marketing presence to share our story—all while working within the challenging social, health and safety compliance guidelines imparted by COVID. As we continue to emerge from our "COVID" influenced lifestyle of 2020, and because of their dedication, we were able to hit the ground running with an expanded slate of events and programs for the 2021 season which kicked-off with a well-attended and choreographed Appraisers Fair in January.

In addition to the rest of our busy schedule, we've unveiled the new "Fresnel" Lens, Tolson Hotel and Corinthian Yacht Club exhibits at Piney Point, opened our new "Old Jail Museum Store", added additional dates for our popular "Dinner and a Cruise", hosted the inaugural "First Landing Wine & Arts Festival" and (by the time you read this) we will be celebrating the return of our award winning "Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival"... and judging by the response so far ...it is evident that our members, sponsors, patrons, supporters and guests are all anxious to get out and visit with our Museum experiences once again.

Finally, while "ZOOM" served us well for the COVID interim, the Board of Directors was able to physically meet for the first time since March 2020, giving us the opportunity to formally introduce and welcome Hillary Neben as our new Friend's Fundraising and Membership Coordinator, replacing Amber Puschinsky who will be returning home to Minnesota with her husband and family. We wish them well and thank Amber for her excellent work in broadening our sponsorship and fundraising activities as well as growing the Friends membership.

Hope to see you soon,

Dale Springer, Board President

Blue Star Museums

The St. Mary's County Museum Division has joined Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families each summer. The program begins on Armed Forces Day in mid-May and ends on Labor Day. Typically, more than 2,000 museums across America participate in Blue Star Museums each summer. The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as Active Duty and Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps and up to five family members.



Museum Store News

The Friends Museum Store new arrivals include a "Paddle On Southern Maryland" T-shirt and hoodie sweatshirt featuring a cool kayak graphic. We love to celebrate the many water trails St. Mary's County has to offer and each of our sites have a special connection to outdoor water activities. T-shirts and sweatshirts are a unisex JERZEES brand with a 66% poly 34% cotton lightweight blend, great for year round wear. The tees are available in navy blue or red, the hoodie in navy blue, and both have the front graphic kayak and a unique subtle left shoulder name drop of your favorite museum locations, St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse or the Old Jail Museum.

Sizes range from small to 3X and are available at each Friends Museum Store location or order online at friendsmuseumstore.square.site

Make sure to check out all three of our museum stores throughout the year. We have many items made locally in St. Mary's County including, jewelry, candles, baby items and more! Check out our selection of St. Clements Island State Park and Piney Point Lighthouse merchandise including shirts, mugs, magnets and more! You can also visit our museum shop conveniently located at the Old Jail Museum in downtown Leonardtown. We have everything you need to express your love of Southern Maryland and remember – Members get 10% off!



Friends, your membership provides important funding for St. Mary's County Museum Division projects and events. We are committed to the support and enhancement of these sites which are vitally important to telling the story of Maryland. Thanks to your participation, the Friends sponsor and underwrite educational exhibits and assist in expanding museum collections. Your membership helps to fund community events such as Maryland Day and St. Clement's Island Heritage Day. The Friends also support bringing arts and culture to Southern Maryland by hosting community fundraising events such as the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival and Retro Fest on the Potomac. We depend on your support to preserve St. Mary's County history, so please renew your membership today!

Introducing Two New Staff Members



Two new faces have joined St. Mary's County Museum Division since the last publication of the Finer Points.

Kristina Arnold (right) is the new Education Programming Coordinator for the St. Mary's County Museum Division. Kristina has worked in education for 4+ years and recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History, with a minor in Psychology. Her hobbies include fishing, boating, reading and traveling. Kristina strives to push STEAM education and to meet modern education standards. She has started family cruises, an outdoor adventure program, and a digital education project with the public schools. Kristina's focus is to look for new and innovative ways to bring the rich culture of our region out of the museums and into our community.

Hillary Neben (left) is the new Fundraising and Membership Coordinator for the Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums. Hillary previously trained as an academic Historian and was formerly a PhD Candidate in History at the University of Delaware. She obtained her MA in History from New York University and her BA from the University of Minnesota. Hillary loves cooking, using her charcoal grill, walking her Pug dog, Pearl, jazz music and history. Hillary works with local Southern Maryland businesses to raise funds to support educational programming, museum exhibits, and the needs of St. Mary's County Museum Division sites. As the new Fundraising Coordinator, she worked to plan the 2021 Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival and hopes you will join her for Retro Fest this September!

1st Annual First Landing Wine & Arts Festival



Visitors experienced a full day of fun at St. Clement's Island Museum with St. Mary's County wineries on the First Landing Wine Trail, as well as local artisans and crafters, at the first annual First Landing Wine & Arts Festival that happened on April 10, 2021.

The festival featured food from Chief's, free wine tastings of locally-grown wine from Port of Leonardtown Winery, Generations Vineyard and Xella Winery & Vineyard, browsing local crafted items and more on the scenic shores of the Potomac River.

Visitors were encouraged to learn the story of the first landing and the beginnings of Maryland in the museum or take a water taxi ride over to the St. Clement's Island State Park where the original "First Landing" took place in 1634 for an entire day of fun!

The festival was a great success despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are looking forward to hosting this festival again in 2022.

St. Clement's Island Heritage Day

St. Clement's Island Heritage Day, a family event on June 5, 2021 at St. Clement's Island Museum and on St. Clements Island State Park, encouraged the public to visit St. Clement's Island and become acquainted with the island's past through activities regarding the history, culture, heritage and ecology tied to the island.

Visitors celebrated the history and heritage of St. Clement's Island with tons of fun and free activities and programs out on beautiful St. Clement's Island. The public experienced a day of history, wildlife and art, and participated in activities that included games, lighthouse tours, traditional music and much more. In addition, free water taxi rides out to the island were offered for all visitors attending the festivities.

(Right): Dr. Thomas Gerard, the first owner of St. Clement's Island (played by Mike Barbour) offered insight into colonial living. He talked about pieces of eight as a form of currency. Children that visited all the presenters to do all the activities got a replica coin like Dr. Gerard's.





The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, one of the mid-Atlantic's signature jazz events held along the shores of the beautiful Potomac River and in the charming Town of Leonardtown in St. Mary's County, Maryland, featured fantastic jazz artists during the three day jazz weekend in 2021.

On Friday, July 9, 2021, the festivities kicked off with a free, jazz era concert/kick-off party in historic Leonardtown with jazz music and performances from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. along Fenwick Street. The evening was a celebration of jazz throughout the 20s (jazz age), the 30s-40s (swing era), and the 50s-90s (modern and Latin jazz).

Saturday, July 10, 2021, the "Main Event" of the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival happened on the grounds of St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point. Two nationally acclaimed jazz acts, opening with local favorite Latrice Carr and ending with the headlining act, Marion Meadows, performed during the afternoon and evening. A plethora of local food vendors offering a wide variety of seafood and other Southern Maryland fare were available throughout the day.

Sunday, July 11, 2021, the Town of Leonardtown once again hosted various jazz-themed activities, including jazz brunches at several in-town restaurants, jazz events at Port of Leonardtown Winery, and much more. Exclusive jazz cruises on Breton Bay rounded out the weekend for those looking to end the festival in style.

Proceeds from this event go toward funding the Friends' mission of supporting the museums and historic sites under the care of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. The event's major partners included the Friends, St. Mary's County Museum Division, Town of Leonardtown and Visit St. Mary's MD.

