



# The Finer Points

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

FALL 2017

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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April Havens  
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Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and  
Historic Park Site Supervisor

Christina Barbour  
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Supervisor

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Tom Emery  
Museum Technician

### The Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums

38370 Point Breeze Road  
Colton's Point, MD 20626  
301-769-2222

## NEW AND IMPROVED

This Spring, the Charlotte Hall Schoolhouse was to undergo renovation of the handi-capped ramp on the structure. However, upon removal of the ramp, structural issues were discovered that needed to be taken care of immediately. Fortunately the hard working construction team was able to complete the timber repairs quickly and the schoolhouse was able to be opened again to the public. The handicapped ramp will be completed sometime this Fall. While the repairs were being done at the schoolhouse, the pedestrian walkways and fencing surrounding the St. Clement's Island Museum were completed just prior to the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival.



The public pier at the Piney Point Historic Park has recently had structural repairs done. The pier was temporarily closed to the public, but open in time for the Memorial Day crowds! The renovation at the main building of the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum has been completed. Upstairs you will now find new exhibit space, offices, and a staff kitchen and bathroom. Meg and Jayne with The Friends have already moved into their offices upstairs! As things slow down this fall we will continue to move up the store merchandise storage area and the museum's internal storage area. April plans to work on the new exhibit scope of work this fall/winter.

1. Pier repairs at Piney Point; 2. New fence overlooking St. Clement's Island; 3. Walkways from parking lot at the St. Clement's Island Museum; 4. Charlotte Hall Schoolhouse and fence; 5. New staff kitchen overlooking the creek at the Piney Point Museum.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 16 & 17**

MD Lighthouse Challenge,  
PPLM

**October 7 & 8**

The Blessing of the Fleet,  
SCIM

**October 8**

Lower Potomac River  
10 Miler, PPLM

**November 26**

Museum Store Sunday,  
SCIM & PPLM

**November 26**

Holiday Open House, PPL

**December 3**

Holiday Open House, SCIM

**December 1 through**

**January 1**

Holiday Exhibits,  
PPLM & SCIM

**January 27, 2018**

Appraiser Fair, SCIM

Interested in sponsoring  
one of our programs?

Contact Meg Leahy at

[margaret.leahy@stmarysmd.com](mailto:margaret.leahy@stmarysmd.com)



Stay up to date with everything  
going on at the Museum Division,  
by following us on Facebook at:

**FriendsSCIPP**

**PotomacJazzandSeafoodFestival  
SMCMuseumDivision**



# A LETTER FROM APRIL

**Dear Friends,**

WOW! What a summer our staff has had at the Museums! We have been very, very busy and I hope you have been following our activities on Facebook! Our dedicated seasonal staff, volunteers, Friends Staff, Friends Board members and Board of Trustee members have helped tremendously! Some folks volunteered their time under the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival Sponsor tent while others filled raffle baskets. Some judged pirate costume contests and when the heat of the day hit, Captain Blackwell stood his ground!

Please check out the photos of our great summer events! If you missed any or thought "I should have attended", you are in luck because we still have some great events coming up! I hope to see you there!

The past year has been one of excitement and change and it has been a pleasure to serve as the Acting Museum Division Director during such a time. However, I am pleased to announce our new Recreation, Parks and Museum Director is Arthur Shepherd and our new Museum Division Manager is Karen Stone. I have enjoyed working closely together with Arthur for the past 6 months and I look forward to welcoming Karen to her new museum home on September 5th.

Thanks to all of our Friends for your continual support of the museums!

Sincerely,

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Joe Friess, St. Clement's Island Museum Volunteer**



Joe Friess and his wife Cordia moved to Colton's Point 50 years ago. They remember when the St. Clement's Island Museum first opened in a small cottage in 1975.

In 2007 Joe had heard that the museum needed someone to open the pier gate on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Joe approached the staff and generously offered to open the gate while walking his dog. Joe continued to do this for 8 years. On the rare occasion he could not come, he would send a family member in his place. Cordia said, "Joe enjoyed doing this for the museum."

Joe's volunteer service alleviated the need for staff to make a special trip on weekend and holiday mornings to open the gate. Due to health reasons, Joe had to give up his volunteer duties. The museum would like to thank Joe for his dedicated service.

**Become a part of history by volunteering with the Museums!**

# GOVERNOR'S CUP

By Jayne Walsh

Held annually in August, the Governor's Cup Yacht Race is the oldest and longest overnight race on the Chesapeake Bay. This year marked the 44th running of the race from Maryland's current capital in Annapolis to its first capital in St. Mary's City.

At the finish line on Saturday August 5th, race participants were greeted to shore by The Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museum Stores. Store Manager, Jayne Walsh & Board Member, Tressa Setlak set up three tables under a tent to help promote awareness of our St. Mary's County Museums, expose the artistic talents of our Consignment Partners and raise funds through the sale of merchandise. We had a windy but busy day selling mugs, magnets, artwork and more. Our outreach for the Museums from 9am- 5pm procured over \$400 in sales and a lot of goodwill and exposure.

We look forward to our next off-site outreach opportunity at the U.S. Oyster Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds the weekend of October 21st. Stop by the Museum Store table and say hi if you're there!

ST. MARY'S COUNTY MUSEUM DIVISION  
· HOLIDAY ·  
**Exhibits**  
NOVEMBER 26, 2017  
Museum Store Sunday  
Piney Point Museum Open House  
DECEMBER 3, 2017  
St. Clement's Island Museum Open House  
Sponsored by The Enterprise &  
somednews.com

## Marilyn Grace, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park Volunteer



Marilyn Grace first came to the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park in 1998 when she and her husband Rene moved to the area. At their first visit to the lighthouse, she heard a speaker talking about the discovery of the sunken U-1105 Black Panther. Marilyn was fascinated by the history of the area and thought that she could use her love of history and volunteering to meet people in her new home town.

Since then, Marilyn has spent over 19 years providing historical tours of the lighthouse and museum, dressing as a pirate for Pirate Day and helping to prepare the museum for any upcoming programs and events. Her favorite part of volunteering is meeting the people that visit the lighthouse. She is intrigued by the distances that the visitors travel from around the country and also overseas.

Marilyn's favorite memory from volunteering was meeting the children of the Wrightsons, the last Piney Point Lighthouse Keeper's family who lived in the Keeper's Quarters. She loved their stories as they reminisced and was impressed with how so many children in one family peacefully shared one bathroom!

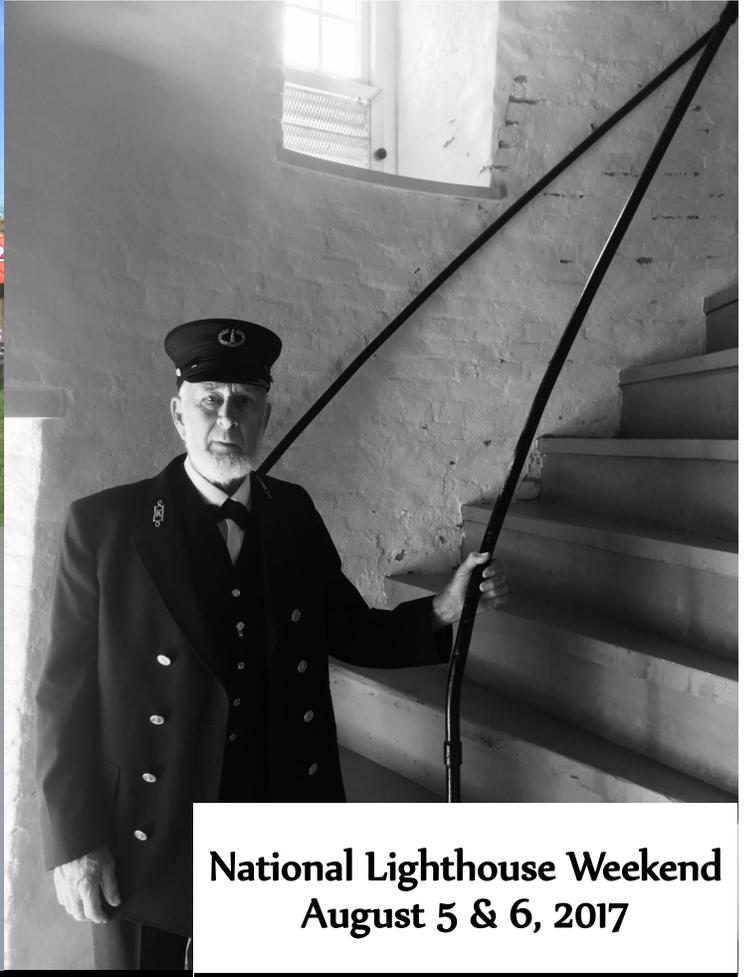
In her spare time, Marilyn loves to volunteer during the tax season, spend time with her family and work on genealogy with Piney Point Lighthouse Site Supervisor, April Havens!

**Contact St. Clement's at 301-769-2222 or Piney Point at 301-994-1471.**

# EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS



**Pirates on the Potomac  
July 22, 2017**



**National Lighthouse Weekend  
August 5 & 6, 2017**



**Children's Day  
August 19, 2017**



# MEMBER NEWS

## Welcome Aboard, New Members

### *Individual*

Marie Guidry, Colton's Point, MD

### *Family*

Michael & Lisa Blackwell, Tall Timbers, MD

### *Patron*

Tony Jones, Lexington Park

### *Corporate Patron*

Murray, Wamsley & Schrader, LLC, Lexington Park, MD

## Friends News and Thank You's

### BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

On May 24, The Friends hosted the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours inside the Maritime Exhibit at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum. This year's theme was Pirates on the Potomac. Chamber members were greeted by Captain Havens, taught how to talk like a Pirate and presented with grub 'n grog for their enjoyment. A special thank you to our event sponsor, Curtis Homes and to Sean Hawks of Rock Bay, LLC. who donated his 50/50 winnings to The Friends.



**Adam Mawyer with St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development is sent to the stocks at Business After Hours!**

### IN MEMORIAM

Thank you to Robert & Mary Jane Palmby for the generous donation in memory of Walter Leyland, Jr.

### WEST VIRGINIA PHOTOGRAPHY DONATION

The weekend of July 29, a group of photographers from West Virginia paid a visit to the Piney Point Lighthouse to photograph it at sunset. The group generously gave a \$50 donation to The Friends as well as provided us with stunning photographs of the lighthouse at sunset.



**Piney Point Lighthouse at sunset (photo credit: April Havens)**

### EVENT SPONSORS

The events hosted by the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums (pictured on pages 4 & 5) are made possible by the generosity of our Southern Maryland neighbors. Thank you for your support!

**Heritage Day:** Great Mills Trading Post

**Pirate Day:** Sterling Insurance, Chick-fil-A, Chief's Bar/WJ Dent & Sons, The Enterprise & somdnews.com, Dyson Building Center and Kevin's Corner Kafe.

**National Lighthouse Weekend:** Dyson Building Center

**Children's Day:** Chick-fil-A, Mike Barbour, The Enterprise & somdnews.com, ESM, Cullin's Trucking and a donation made In Loving Memory of George & Bobbie McWilliams and Hilda & Bob Arnold., 7th District Optimists, Chesapeake Custom Embroidery and Hometown Karaoke and DJ services .

### KIM CULLINS MEMORIAL

In February of 2015, St. Mary's County lost a beautiful soul in our very own Kim Cullins. The Friends are working closely with Kim's family to create a memorial for her on the grounds at the St. Clement's Island Museum. We are requesting ideas from those who knew her best on how we can recognize Kim in her own unique way. Please email Meg at [margaret.leahey@stmarysmd.com](mailto:margaret.leahey@stmarysmd.com) with any input.

### Wish List

- \*Blackstone Island Canning Factory photos and labels
- \*Photos of St. Clement's Island or Blackstone Island Lighthouse prior to the 1950's
- \*Photographs, documents, artifacts or personal experiences from the Graves Hotel or the Shirley K hotel

*\*Scanned photos or documents are also appreciated*

# HELEN'S TUNE

Hello, I'm Helen Tune. I was appointed acting keeper of the Piney Point Lighthouse in March 1877. I am still learning about my past and will share bits of information with you each time we get together. I believe I was born in Vermont in 1860 and am not sure how I arrived in St. Mary's County, Maryland. In July of 1877 I became the permanent keeper here at Piney Point. After 6 long years I resigned from my duties. But enough about me.

I am so excited to tell you about my visitors during National Lighthouse Weekend at Piney Point. Several months ago Mr. Jack Graham and his wife Tobi contacted me about visiting my lighthouse! Jack and Tobi have visited and worked at many other lighthouses in the north east. During their visits they enjoy "pretending" to be lightkeepers! Isn't that just silly! Lighthouse keeping is hard work! They decided they wanted to be Mr. and Mrs. Yeatman. (More on the Yeatmans another time.) Anyhoo they dressed up in wonderful keepers clothing, much better than what I am used to wearing mind you. Mr. Yeatman had a complete keepers uniform with an efficiency badge! They greeted visitors, told stories and had a jolly good time. I was sad to see them leave but understand their interest in visiting other lighthouses.

I am not one to gossip mind you, although it can be quite lonely down here at Piney Point, but I have heard a rumor of a new Museum Division Manager starting on September 5th. I do hope they come prepared! Just last month we had 4 inches of rain which flooded the picnic area!

Did I mention I am planning to take a much needed respite in September to visit my cousin, Emily Fish? She is the lighthouse keeper at Point Pinos Lighthouse in California. It shall make for an exciting trip!

It is time for my daily weather reading before I weed the front flower beds. With all this rain it has been hard weeding the walkways and maintaining the lighthouse grounds. I must go now but look forward to our next chat.



ON JULY 8, 2017, THE FRIENDS CELEBRATED THE 18TH POTOMAC JAZZ & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL AT THE ST. CLEMENT'S ISLAND MUSEUM WITH MUSICAL PERFORMANCES BY GUITARIST JJ SANSVERINO, URBAN JAZZ COALITION AND PAUL TAYLOR ON THE SAXOPHONE.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF WHO HELPED TO BRING PEACE, LOVE AND JAZZ TO OUR LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN ON THE POTOMAC RIVER.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT: ADF BINGO, BOZICK DISTRIBUTORS, SMDHOTELS.COM BY THE CHERRY COVE GROUP, COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND, COUNTRY INN & SUITES, JASINT CONSULTING AND TECHNOLOGIES, ON POINT CONSULTING WITH JUDY SMITH, REHOBOTH BEACH JAZZ FESTIVAL, THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL, BROTHERS' JOHNSON, INC., COMMUNITY BANK OF THE CHESAPEAKE, CURTIS HOMES, LAQUINTA INNS & SUITES, JAZZ FRIENDS IN THE SHADE, SMECO AND WHITTEN LASER EYE CENTER.

**SAVE THE DATE: JULY 14, 2018**



### Membership Levels

- Individual (\$40)
- Family (\$60)
- Heritage (\$125)
- Patron (\$250)
- Benefactor (\$500)
- Corporate Patron (\$250)
- Corporate Benefactor (\$500)

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 Membership Application

- New Member
- Membership Renewal
- Gift Membership

Name/Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Thank you for your support!**

#### Proud Corporate Benefactor:

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