



# The Finer Points

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

Fall 2018

**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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Maggie Hammett  
Todd B. Morgan  
Tressa Setlak  
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## Friends Staff

Amber Puschinsky  
Fundraising Coordinator  
amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com

Jayne Walsh  
Gift Shop Manager  
jayne.walsh@stmarysmd.com

## Museum Staff

Karen Stone  
Museum Division Manager

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

Christina Barbour  
St. Clement's Island Museum Site  
Supervisor

Andrew Ponti  
Marketing Specialist

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

## Bench Dedication

During the 2018 Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival, a dedication ceremony took place to unveil two specially made benches honoring Kim Cullins. Kim worked with the Museum Division for 14 years and coordinated the annual music festival as well as other museum events. Her warm heart, southern hospitality and contagious, joyful spirit attracted thousands of music lovers over the years and helped the Jazz Fest to become the largest annual fundraiser for the Friends.

Pictured above are Kim's daughters Cassie and Leah unveiling the bench as Kim's mother Marjorie watches. Below is a picture of the plaque at the Piney Point Lighthouse which is located on the porch of the Keepers Quarters. More on the Jazz Fest on Page 7.



## St. Mary's County Operated Museums Receive National Recognition

The St. Mary's County Museum Division has once again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums, for all county-run historic sites. These include the St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point, MD, the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park in Piney Point, MD, the Drayden African American Schoolhouse in Drayden, MD and the U-1105 Black Panther Historic Shipwreck Preserve in the Potomac off of Piney Point, MD.

"Being accredited by the American Alliance of Museums is like getting the 'Good House-keeping Seal of Approval,'" says Karen Stone, St. Mary's County Museum Division

Manager. "It demonstrates to the world we are doing things properly in caring for the collections and buildings entrusted to us by the public and shows other museums we will treat loaned objects with care. I am very proud of this achievement, which took the help of many staff members and volunteers alike."

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only 1,070 are currently accredited. The sites cared for by the St. Mary's County Museum Division (including the division itself) represent five of seven currently accredited in Southern Maryland (Historic St. Mary's City and the Calvert Marine Museum being the others). There are only 23 total accredited sites in Maryland.

# 2018/2019

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 14**

Lower Potomac River  
10 Miler, PPLM

**November 12**

Holiday– sites open

**November 22**

Holiday– Sites closed

**November 23**

Holiday– Sites open

**November 25**

Museum Store Sunday at  
both museum stores

**December**

Holiday Exhibits,  
PPLM & SCIM

**January 26**

Appraisal Fair at SCIM

**February 8**

Community Day at SCIM

**March 24**

Maryland Day at the  
Draden Schoolhouse

**March 25**

Maryland Day at SCIM

Water Taxi running

**April 27-28**

Black Diamond Event at  
SCIM

**June 1**

Heritage Day at SCIM

**July 13**

Potomac Jazz and Seafood  
Festival at SCIM



# A letter from the Board President

I first met Lewie Aldridge when my high school (Ryken -72) rock-n-roll band was hired to cut a jingle for a radio ad for their Aldridge Ford dealership in Lexington Park...and I'll never forget the first time I heard it play on WKIK. As time passed, Lewie and I would have occasion to meet over several car deals, or at social gatherings, or maybe just in a restaurant parking lot...either way, there was always his hand shake and friendly hello. When Sheila Gibbons Hiebert extended the Board's invitation for me to join in 2011, there he was again, (not long removed from serving two terms on the Museum Board of Trustees) welcoming me to the Friends. In March of this year Lewie quietly announced he was stepping down from the Friends Board after 16 years, the last six of which he served as its President. Lewie came to St. Mary's County during the early days of NAS Pax River and invested in the county he grew to love and call home. It's safe to say that we have been one of many benefactors of that "investment" through him lending his experience, leadership and friendship to the Museum Division and the Friends and for that we thank him.

We are also pleased to welcome Anne Emery as our newest board member. Anne and her husband Tom are residents of Colton's Point where Tom is also employed with the Museum Division. Anne is an attorney with her private law firm based in Leonardtown where she has practiced for over 18 years. Welcome aboard!

Rounding out the Friends team is the addition of Amber Puschinsky as our Fundraising Coordinator replacing Meg Leahey who left at the end of 2017. You will be hearing a lot more from Amber as she embraces our membership, corporate sponsor, and general fundraising programs. We think you'll be pleased. We were also pleasantly surprised by yet another Kim Cullins contribution as a named beneficiary of proceeds from some of her investment funds sales. Proceeds such as these add to the endowment funds to help secure the future funding of larger projects and overall support of the mission of the Friends. And special thanks to Kim's family for their continued support.

As we move into 2019, the Drayden schoolhouse renovation projects have been largely completed and Piney Point is well on its way to new exhibits, which leaves us facing the much needed renovation of the St Clements Island Museum. The R&D work has already begun (as was recently unveiled at the Business-after-Hours event hosted at the St. Clements Museum) and although the Commissioners of St Mary's County have budgeted its funding, the reality remains that we will have a new, exciting and clean slate to support telling an expanded story at St. Clements Island which will no doubt need the Friends financial support. We expect that we will not be the only organization seeking your help surrounding this project but we ask that your generosity and contributions to the Friends continues.

Dale G. Springer

Board President

# Sharing the Mission

The Friends have had information tables at a variety of events so far this year. On May 9<sup>th</sup> we participated in the Business Showcase event with the Chamber of Commerce. We were lucky enough to partner with Pax River Naval Air Museum, Historic St. Mary's City, and Sotterley Plantation to share a booth space in this very popular event.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> we held an information booth at the Fox5 Zip-Trip event at Lancaster Park. This event brought together many non-profits from the Lexington Park area and was broadcast on Fox channel 5 during their weekly Zip-Trip program. The next day was the Juneteenth program also at Lancaster Park. This was our first time at this event and we were well received by attendees who came to our booth to register for 2 tickets to the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival and to gather information about the Museum Division sites around the county.



**Pictured above:** Ellen and Jennifer, Museum Assistants with Amber Puschinsky and April Havens at the Fox 5 zip Trip event.

## Heath Fair

The Friends set up a booth at the Heath and Wellness Fair on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 3:30. This event was put on by the St. Mary's County Department of Aging, and was held at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. Many community organizations participated. Many community members that stopped at the booth had never been to the museums. They all went home with literature on the museums. The Friends offered a discount on individual and family memberships.

## A new way to spread the mission

A new business membership program is starting this fall. This will include the past perks that were a part of the corporate membership as well as options to sponsor programs throughout the year. There are expanded options to suit every business's needs and expanded advertising benefits as well. Current corporate members will be getting an informational packet and letter explaining the changes.

The Friends organization seeks to serve as a link to the past by bringing the rich cultural heritage of the area to life by supporting the educational programs, special events and updated exhibits. With this program we aim to expand our program sponsorships creating opportunities for new and expanded programming deepening our connections between our diverse community and their history.

For more information on this new program please email Amber Puschinsky at [amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com](mailto:amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com)



The Friends hosted its annual Business After Hours event with the Chamber of Commerce at the St. Clement's Island Museum on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a great event with over 50 participants, many of whom said they had never been to the museum. Information was provided on the future plans of the museum and upcoming exhibits.

The next Chamber event is in February at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum.



# MSA Conference 2018

By Jayne Walsh

This year's Museum Store Association Conference was practically in our own backyard. My wife and Friends Board member, Tressa Setlak, joined me. We drove to the Branch Avenue Station to take the Metro to the Renaissance Hotel & Conference Center in Washington D.C. for MSA Forward 2018.

This is my 2<sup>nd</sup> MSA Conference and I was excited to visit many Museums and stores in our nation's capital. We immediately dropped off our luggage and headed to the National Portrait Gallery just a few short blocks from our hotel. I had never visited this Smithsonian Museum but was excited to see the Presidential Portraits, especially the newest Obama portraits. Those areas were very crowded but there was much more to see in this historic art museum. Portraiture of scientists, inventors, activists, and performers give us a historic glimpse into our nation's identity. There were two museum stores on site with a large selection of merchandise including art books, souvenirs, postcards and stationary. But I went right for the socks. They had Rosie the Riveter socks I couldn't resist.

We returned to the hotel in time to hit the Members Mixer. Networking with other museum store managers and buyers always provides an opportunity to meet fascinating people in our field. I met the Store Manager from Storm King Art Center in New York State. She was excited to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in D.C. because her museum also has an environmental sculpture by Maya Lin titled *Storm King Wavefield*. It's an Eleven acre earthwork within their 500 acre museum site in the Lower Hudson Valley. Wow!

Saturday's conference began with Crystal Vilkaitis's presentation on retail social media strategies. Crystal is a Social Media Mentor for retail businesses and provided new insight into how we can use our museum Facebook & Instagram accounts to share our wonderful St. Mary's County Museums. Watch for more live feed video from the Museum Store and a new Trip Advisor page dedicated to the Friends Museum Stores.



The rest of the morning was spent in education sessions that included Visitor and Customer Service Standards, Product Development and ended with a member luncheon. Tressa and I met back up after lunch to walk to the US Holocaust Museum. It was a beautiful day on the Mall and we passed many of the Smithsonian Museums we have visited in the past. What can I say about our visit to the US Holocaust Museum? It was powerful, moving, heart wrenching and emotionally draining. So why do we go to museums like this? They represent history we must remember so we never repeat. I thought a lot about the history of our own Drayden African-American Schoolhouse. Segregated education is not something we celebrate but rather something we need to reflect upon.

We arrived back in time for a quick visit to the trade show floor where I strategized Sunday's full day of buying opportunities. Saturday evening we attended the MSA Gala and met more remarkable people in the industry.

Sunday was a full day of buying for the store. I took advantage of the many discounts and free shipping offers to fill our store with new merchandise that will be arriving soon. We made a late afternoon excursion to the International Spy Museum and the National Building Museum.

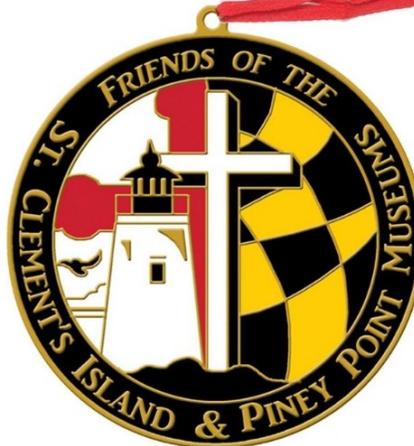
Monday started with a Panel discussion on Museum Store Sunday. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Museum Store Sunday will be November 25<sup>th</sup>. Save that date-lots of great ideas! After another education session my MSA experience came to a close. Visiting the museum stores is always my favorite part of MSA. I can't always carry the same merchandise but the ideas I get for merchandising and visual presentation are incredible. I want our visitors experiences to be full and abundant. I want every visitor to take home a small piece of what makes our St. Mary's County museums so special.

# Museum Store Sunday

Be a Patron! On Sunday, November 25, 2018, The Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museum Stores join over 700 Museum Stores to offer relaxing, inspired shopping inside your favorite St. Mary's County museums. Museum Store Sunday offers a special shopping experience in our one-of-a-kind stores, showcasing a broad assortment of unique, mission-specific gifts. From books to jewelry to children's products to home accessories as well as local artisan's and author's offerings, there is something for everyone. Shop knowing you are supporting the missions and programs of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse museums.

NEW this year, pick up your limited-edition Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museum Store ornament, a holiday piece you won't want to miss. Friends members receive a special price beginning on Museum Store Sunday. If you're looking for one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list, our museum stores are where you should look! Friends members discounts do not apply to the ornament.

Become a Friend of  
THE ST. CLEMENT'S ISLAND AND  
PINEY POINT MUSEUMS



*Holiday  
Ornament*

\$10 Friends Members  
\$13.95 Regular Price

# Penny Press Machine

The Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums are now raising money to purchase a Penny press machine. Initially the penny Press Machine would be housed at the St. Clement's Island Museum in the entryway across from the welcome desk. When the museum undergoes its renovation it would be moved to the Piney Point Museum. Eventually we would love to have one at each location. There are 4 designs in the works that will include; images of the Blackstone Lighthouse, the Piney Point Lighthouse, Drayden African-American School house and a St. Clements Island "Maryland Starts Here" design. This is a great opportunity for the museums to create a cost effective souvenir for our county's and regions families and youth.

There are many ways you can support this fundraiser. Donate on Facebook at Facebook.com/FriendsSCI and hit the donate button. There are also collection jugs at both museums to collect your spare change or you can drop off or mail a check made out to the Friends of the SCI and PPL Museums with Penny Press in the memo section. We are looking to raise \$1000 along with finding a corporate sponsor. Email amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com for more information.

## Penny Press Fund Raiser



Donate Now on Facebook

St. Clement's Island Museum  
Souvenir Penny Press Machine

Do It For The Kids!

# MEMBER NEWS

## Welcome Aboard, New Members

### Family

Alvonne Wimmer

Pam Howe

Mary Jean David

Clarke and Claudia Guy

### Heritage

Bryan and Tiffany Barthelme

## Membership Upgrades

### Family

Tressa Setlak and Jayne Walsh

### Heritage

Eugene and Shelby Guazzo

### Patron

John and Tara Quinnette

## IN MEMORIUM

In the spring of this year, long-time supporter and Friend Chandler Johnson passed away. The Friends would like to extend a warm thank you to the following people who contributed to the Friends in memory of Chandler: Liz Wather, Susan Richardson, Bill Cullins, Sharon-Kay Redmon, Jane Martin and L. Stuart Dunaway, Patricia Martin and John Y. Tergodd, Ruth Wegner, Susan Wegner Gilman, Dorothy Peterman and Matthew Dyson, Richard Beard, Margaret Ogg, Elis and Dudley Olsson, Samuel Bailey.

## FRIENDS NEWS



The Friends were awarded a \$500 grant from the Leonardtown Rotary Club to purchase supplies for the St. Clement's Island Museums Art Kids program for the summer of 2018. The program was a success and this grant will allow supplies to be purchased next year also. Pictured is teacher Ellen Duke Wilson demonstrating to participants during the sculpture class.

Be sure to visit  
the *Little*  
*Free Library*  
in front of the  
Schoolhouse



Thanks to our friends at the St. Mary's County Library's both the St. Clement's Island Museum and the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum now have Little Free Libraries. Bring a book to trade and find your new favorite!

## EVENT SPONSORS

The wonderful events hosted by the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums are made possible by the generosity of our Southern Maryland neighbors. Thank you for your support!

**Maryland Day:** Old Line Bank

**Pirate Day:** Sterling Insurance, Chick fil-a, Chief's Bar/WJ Dent & Sons, Dyson Building Center

**National Lighthouse Weekend:** Dyson Building Center

**Children's Day:** Chick fil-A, Cullin's Trucking and a donation made In Loving Memory of Patsy Ann Bailey and Joe Windsor Dickerson, Sr. District Optimist Club, Hometown Karaoke and DJ Services, Chesapeake Custom Embroidery and Mike Barbour

## Like us on Facebook at:

The Friends of the St. Clements Island Museum  
and

The Friends of the Piney Point Museum

## Follow us on Instagram at:

St Clement's Island Museum  
and

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

## Wish List

Photos of St Clement's Island prior to the 1950's

Photos of cans and labels from the Blackistone Island Canning Company

Photos from the Shirley K and Golden's Hotels

## Thank you to all of our sponsors of the 2018 Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival.

### Gold Level:

The St. Mary's County Arts Council

Bozick Distributors

Country Inn & Suites

ADF Bingo

Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival

College of Southern Maryland

JASINT Consulting and Technologies

### Silver Level:

Old Line Bank

LaQuinta Inn & Suites

Brothers Johnson, INC

Guy Financial

Whitten Laser Eye Center

SMECO

### A Note From the Board President.

Our new Friends team, including the Museum Division staff, volunteers, sponsors and a beautiful afternoon/evening of weather hosted yet another successful Jazz Festival for a nearly sold-out crowd in July. The Artists were well received and played to a very discerning and well-traveled group of jazz fans. I'm always amazed by the number of first time attendees and also those returning customers that refer to our "hidden gem" and "perfect venue" when asked why they come back each year. Special thanks to the "Candidates" from the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training (Piney Point) who volunteered to assist with parking for the nearly 800 guests. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you next year.

**Dale G. Springer**



The Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival was held on July 14th at the St. Clement's Island Museum. It is the biggest fundraiser for the Friends of the Museums bringing in over \$19,000. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters who continue to support this amazing cultural event here in St. Mary's County.

The event was a success with vocalist Tracy Hamlin starting out the day at 3, Jackiem Joyner a saxophonist playing at 5 and guitarist Nick Colionne ending the night with a show stopping performance at 7.

127 attendees participated in the narrated boat ride around the St. Clements Island and we raised over \$600 in the raffle basket and 50/50 fundraisers.

Follow the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival on Facebook to receive updates on how we are expanding the festival for the 20th anniversary on July 13th, 2019.



### Membership Levels

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

Business Membership is now available with extended year round advertising benefits. Contact [amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com](mailto:amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com) for information.

### 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 should 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**

Best Refrigeration & A/C Co., Inc. | Bruce, Lisa & Aryona Truesdell



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