



The Finer Points

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

Winter 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.

Friends Board of Directors

Dale Springer, President
Judi Sterling, Secretary
Paul G. Nelson, Treasurer
Ann Davis
Anne Emery
Todd B. Morgan
Tressa Setlak
John F. Wood, Jr.

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

Piney Point Exhibit Sneak Peek

Piney Point Site Supervisor April Havens, has been busy for the last year working with the First Floor Graphics design team from Baltimore on a series of new exhibits for the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum. The new exhibits will go into the first and second floor of the main museum building. This will be the first exhibits on the second floor of the museum and will create a new space for visitors to learn about and become enchanted by the history of the Piney Point Lighthouse and surrounding area.

Stay connected with the museum to be updated on the new exhibits which will include permanent exhibits on the history of the Tolson Hotel, the lives of the lighthouse keepers and the ospreys that call Piney Point home. The Tolson Hotel exhibit will introduce you to the staff at the hotel, what you could have chosen to eat and the many different activities offered there. You will also learn of the important visitors that used to frequent the hotel. In the new exhibits depicting the lives of the lighthouse keepers you will learn of William Yeatman who kept the lighthouse for 12 years and whose yearly salary was only \$1,440. Did you know that every summer the osprey that call Piney Point home migrate all the way to South America in the winter and then come back to their same nests every year? Learn that and more in the new osprey exhibit.

Fresnel Lens Fundraiser

The Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums are working to raise funds to purchase a Fresnel Lens to have on display in the museum. The lens we are fundraising for is a replica of the original one that helped guide boats up and down the Potomac River and was visible for 11 miles out into the Potomac. Having the Fresnel Lens on display will help to better interpret the history of the first lighthouse on the Potomac (built in 1836) to our many visitors from around the county, state and world. Help us keep its history afloat.

Follow along on Facebook for videos and facts on the lens every Friday.

Facebook.com/FriendsofPineyPoint



5th Order Fresnel Lens

Use this link for more information and to donate today: bit.ly/BringHomeTheLight

2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25

Appraiser Fair at SCI

February 7

Community Day at SCI

March 25

Maryland Day at SCI

Summer hours and water taxi service begins

April 4

Smithsonian Museum Day

Live! SCI & PPLM

April 25, 26

Black Diamond Event

Weekend at SCI

April 26

Dinner and A Cruise

May 6

Special Nights at the

Museum at PPLM

May 17

Dinner and a Cruise

May 20

Special Nights at the

Museum at SCI

June 6

Heritage Day at SCI

June 7

Dinner and a Cruise

Drayden African American Schoolhouse open house:

April 4

May 2

June 6

June 20,21



A letter from the Board President

As 2019 closes and 2020 begins I would like to look back on 2019's successes with you. The year began with a sizeable growth in attendance at the Appraiser Fair at St. Clement's Island Museum and was soon followed by the excitement generated by the return visit of the "Iron Cross" to its birthplace on St. Clement's Island for the Maryland Day celebration, after 385 years at the Maryland Day Celebration. With each successive event throughout the year we saw where the commitment of staff, volunteers and partners to the execution of those plans yielded positive results. Our Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival logged a successful 20th anniversary year in cooperation with our friends at the Town of Leonardtown and Visit St. Mary's MD; we launched our new Retro Fest on the Potomac event at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park; had a large increase in attendance to our monthly Open Houses at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse; sold out every "Dinner & A Cruise" Series event at St. Clement's Island and nearby Morris Point Restaurant; and much more. Through these achievements we validated the success of our many new partnerships and the commitment to our community, to our sponsors, and to you, our membership. 2020 brings forth the challenge of replacing the physical structure of St. Clement's Island Museum in addition to continuing to deliver one of the best museum experiences for citizens and visitors alike. Nonetheless, we have a plan. It includes the patience, commitment and continued support and generosity of our entire museum community, its sponsors and its members. So, regardless of how you may choose to show your support, please know that we appreciate everything you give.

Best Wishes,

Dale Springer, Board President

Museums for All

The St. Mary's County Museum Division has joined *Museums for All*, an access program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Association of Children's Museums (ACM), that encourages people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum-going habits.

The program supports those receiving food assistance (SNAP) benefits and allows them to visit the museums for a minimal fee of \$3 per person for the museum and the water taxi (or free admission if just visiting the museum) at St. Clement's Island Museum and \$3 per person at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, for up to four people, with the presentation of a SNAP Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

"As part of our ongoing efforts to reach out to our local community, we are extremely excited to be participating in this program," says Karen Stone. "Everyone, regardless of background, should have easy access to the historic treasures in our care, and *Museums for All* helps us accomplish this goal."



Retro Fest on the Potomac

The Retro Fest on the Potomac is a new event that was held at the Piney Point Lighthouse and Historic Park on September 28th. This event combined all things retro including vintage cars, retro vendors, music and special museum exhibits with the beautiful setting of the Potomac River at Piney Point. The event was a success with over 200 people coming to enjoy the day. Plans have already started to make the 2020 event bigger and better.

The Friends had many partners that helped to make the day successful. The National Radio and Television Museum from Bowie was here with a traveling exhibit that was popular with our visitors. Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living ran the shuttle bus, without them we would not have been able to have our event. Pin up for Paws was here with a table, as well as the Baltimore Hon Hive. These booths brought great vintage energy to our event! The Leonardtown Lions helped out in the beer tent and many other volunteers, board members and supporters helped to make the day successful! Thank you to everyone who helped make our first event a success.



Grants Received by the Friends

The St. Mary's County Museum Division and the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums were recently awarded \$100,000 and \$6,700 in grant funding, respectively, by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA).

The grants will go toward a new museum building at the aging, 25 year old St. Clement's Island Museum as well as for replacement of outdated and faded interpretive signage at sites overseen by the St. Mary's County Museum Division, which include St. Clement's Island Museum, St. Clement's Island State Park, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park, Drayden African-American Schoolhouse and the U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center in Lexington Park, MD.

"We are truly honored that our important projects were selected for this grant funding," says Karen Stone. "A brand-new, state of the art museum building featuring fresh exhibits regarding the birth of Maryland, along with updated interpretive signage at all of our sites will go a long way at better telling our important stories with the aim of drawing increased visitation – both local and tourist – to St. Mary's County as a whole."

These grants are just two of 109 matching grants totaling \$5 million awarded to Maryland nonprofits, local jurisdictions, and other heritage tourism organizations by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. These grant funds support heritage tourism projects and activities that draw visitors to and expand economic development and tourism-related job creation in Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas. In FY19, the Hogan administration doubled the funding for the MHAA grants program.

Stay connected with the Friends for more updates on these exciting happenings at the museum division.



Member News

New Member Perks for 2020 event calendar have been worked out and we think you will be excited to attend the various events we have coming up this year!

Appraiser Fair, January 25

RSVP to beat the lines! Get into the popular event from 9:30 to 9:55 a.m. and also receive 2 free appraisal tickets.

Maryland Day, March 25

RSVP and show up on the day of the event to receive a pack of our commemorative pennies from our Penny Press.

Black Diamond Disaster Event, April 25, 26

RSVP to get preferred seating at the Civil War concert

Drayden African American School House, Date TBD

Receive special merchandise

St. Clement's Art Kids

Receive a free week of classes

Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival, July 11

Discount on tickets

Lighthouse Weekend, August 1, 2

Receive special Merchandise

Dinner Cruise, Various Dates

Receive a discount of \$5 off individual tickets and \$10 off couples tickets

Retro Fest on the Potomac, September 19

Buy one ticket get the second free

Please contact Amber Puschinsky at amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com with any questions or to RSVP to any event. More information will go out on our Facebook and our email newsletter closer to each event.



The Museum Division is now a part of the North American Reciprocal Museum Program. This program allows anyone at our Heritage level or above to enjoy benefits at over 1,000 other arts/cultural institutions throughout North America. More information on this will be coming in March when renewals take place. Please take a look at their website for more information. www.narmassociation.org

Dinner and a Cruise

A new event series this year was the Dinner and a Cruise series. We held a Dinner and a Cruise in April, June and August and October. During the 20 person cruise the boat picks up participants at Morris Point Restaurant, goes on a narrated tour around the St. Clement's Island, stops at the mainland for a visit to the museum and then travels back to Morris Point Restaurant for dinner. The events were such a success this year that we are going to add one more event in May of 2020. This has been a great additional fundraiser for the Friends. If you attended one of these events please reach out to amber.puschinsky@stmarysmd.com and let her know what you thought of the experience.

Heritage Day Expanded

The Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,200 from Maryland Humanities. With the grant funding we were able to expand the free Heritage Day program to include more partners from around Southern Maryland.

Joining us for the first time this year members of the Piscataway Canoy Tribe who spoke about their rich heritage. They had a wigwam for guests to visit and offered them hands-on activities. The Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron shared information about navigation techniques used by sailors before the advent of GPS. We also expanded our activities for kids to include identifying local fish in a fishing game, building an oyster and helping animals find their homes in a habitat game.

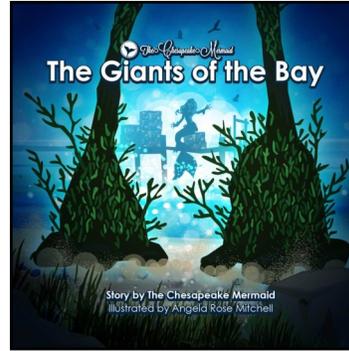


Wish List

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.

Museum store News

We are pleased to announce our newest children's books from "The Chesapeake Mermaid". The Chesapeake Mermaid is a traveling nature show run by real environmental volunteers. Their goal is to encourage new audiences to join them in conservation programs throughout the Chesapeake Watershed region. The Chesapeake Mermaid has published two children's books for ages 6 and up now being carried at the Friends Museum Stores. Available in paperback (\$10) and hardback (\$20) these are the perfect gift for the children and grandchildren in your life.



Make sure to check out both 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. Clement's Island State Park and Piney Point Lighthouse merchandise including shirts, mugs, magnets and more! We have everything you need to express your love of Southern Maryland and remember— Members get 10% off!

Our Penny Press Machine is located at the St. Clement's Island Museum and has 4 different designs unique to us.



2019 Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Wins Annual Statewide Tourism Award



The 20th Annual Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival was honored with the "Maximizing Opportunities Award" at the 39th annual Maryland Tourism & Travel Summit on November 7th, 2019. As the only event in Maryland to win one of four statewide awards, we were recognized for successfully taking advantage of an existing event to generate overnight stays. The festival expanded from a one-day Saturday event into a three-day weekend celebration by partnering with the St. Mary's County Museum Division, the Town of Leonardtown and Visit St. Mary's MD.

Pictured holding the award are board members Commissioner Todd Morgan, Board President Dale Springer, Treasurer Judith Sterling and Tressa Setlak.

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!



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