



The Finer Points

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

SUMMER 2017

Museum Store Grand Re-Openings

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

Lewie Aldridge, Jr., President
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Todd B. Morgan
Tressa Setlak
Dale Springer
John F. Wood, Jr.

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Acting Museum Division Director
Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and
Historic Park Site Supervisor

Christina Barbour
St. Clement's Island Museum Site
Supervisor

Rachel Harris
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

Though our doors may have been closed from January through March, there was nothing quiet about the winter months at the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums this year. Spearheaded by our Museum Store Manager, Jayne Walsh, and executed by our talented Museum Technician, Tom Emery, the museum stores at both the Piney Point and St. Clement's Island Museums underwent major renovations during that time.

Small Changes Make Big Improvements

On May 27th, guests were invited to the Grand Re-Opening of the Museum Store at Piney Point. As they entered, they were greeted by a sunlit room full of gifts and treasures for all ages on display. Shoppers were able to view jewelry and fine art at their fingertips as the glass barrier on the display counter has been removed. New driftwood slat wall was installed on all wall surfaces to help display the merchandise, both old and new. Standing in the center of the room was the new merchandise display full of Southern Maryland Word Cloud coffee mugs, trivets, business card holders, and more. At the event, author Karen Gruber was



available to sign copies of her book, *Postcard History: St. Mary's County*. Friends Board Member Judi Sterling was delighted to be the official representative of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

A New Room with a New View

After careful consideration by the staff of the Museum Division and approval of the Friends Board of Directors, the decision was made to move the current St. Clement's Island Museum Store from the rear of the museum to the front. To do so, the wall between the front desk and the new store was opened up to its original state to give staff easy access to both front desk operations and overseeing the store. Driftwood slat wall was then installed throughout the room, including a beautiful hand-painted Maryland Flag in one section of the store. Once the room was freshly painted and ready, new display pieces were added throughout the store. On June 3, the store celebrated its Grand Re-

See Museum Stores, Page 6

Shoppers view the new layout and merchandise at the new St. Clement's Island Museum Store.

2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3

Weekend Water Taxis begin, SCIM

June 10

Heritage Day, SCIM

July 8

Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, SCIM

July 22

Pirates on the Potomac, PPLM

August 5 & 6

National Lighthouse Day, PPLM

August 19

Children's Day, SCIM

September 16 & 17

MD Lighthouse Challenge, PPLM

October 7 & 8

The Blessing of the Fleet, SCIM

October 8

Lower Potomac River 10 Miler, PPLM

December

Holiday Exhibits, PPLM & SCIM

Interested in sponsoring one of our programs?

Contact Meg Leahey at

margaret.leahey@stmarysmd.com



EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Maryland Celebrates its 383rd Birthday

The St. Mary's County Museum Division's annual Maryland Day celebration was held on Friday, March 24, 2017 at the St. Clement's Island Museum at 2 p.m. The event commemorating the 383rd anniversary of the first landing of English settlers on St. Clement's Island, was attended by many invited dignitaries and members of the community. St. Mary's County Commissioner President, James R. Guy served as the Master of Ceremonies after a brief word from the Museum Division's Acting Director, April Havens. Fr. Andrew Lickteig of Holy Angels Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Church provided the invocation. The presentation of the colors by American Legion Post 221's color guard unit filled the room with a feeling of patriotic reverence, while Delegate from the Town of Leonardtown Hayden Hammett's resonant voice provided the National Anthem. Commissioner Guy regaled guests with tales of county history and his family's proud place in that history, after which he introduced special guest speaker Wendi Peters, Maryland Secretary of Planning. Represent-

ing Governor Larry Hogan, Mrs. Peters spoke about the long history of perseverance and preservation that the state of Maryland has had, all while making the



state into a flourishing community of which all residents should be proud to call home. Next, Justin Hayes read a proclamation from the Office of the Comptroller of Maryland and Rachel Jones presented the Museum Division with a Letter of Recognition from Maryland Senator Ben Cardin. Following a final benediction and the retiring of the colors, Commissioner Guy and Secretary Peters participated in a wreath-laying to commemorate the first landing with St. Clement's Island in the background. Dignitaries and community guests were then invited back into the museum for refreshments, an amazing Maryland-themed cake and to shop around in the recently updated museum store. Maryland Day 2017 partners and sponsors included Cullins Trucking, Inc., Guy Financial Services, Dyson Building Center, Winters Heating & Air and Bill Bailey of Bailey's Party Rentals.

(L) April Havens is presented with a proclamation from Justin Hayes
(R) Secretary Peters & Commissioner Guy lay a wreath in honor of the English settlers

Sit Back and Relax with Jazz and Seafood at the St. Clement's Island Museum



The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival has long been considered the most unique and intimate jazz experience in Southern Maryland. The event, now in its 18th year, is on Saturday, July 8 at the St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point.

This riverside event is presented by the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums and the St. Mary's County Museum Division and takes place on the lawn of the museum that overlooks historic St. Clement's Island, birthplace of Maryland. This year's festival lineup includes saxophone headliner Paul Taylor, contemporary jazz ensemble Urban Jazz Coalition and opening with jazz guitarist JJ Sansaverino.

Food vendors for the jazz Festival are: Chief's—Your Neighborhood Bar, Days Off Deli and Grill, New Orleans by Myra, Mrs. Moo's Corner and the Nutty Bavarian of Southern Maryland.

Tickets are selling fast! Members of The Friends can purchase up to four tickets for \$60. All additional tickets and public tickets are \$65 per ticket. To purchase at The Friends price, call 301-769-2222 or mail a check to 38370 Point Breeze Road, Colton's Point, MD 20626. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit the event website, www.facebook.com/PotomacJazzandSeafoodFestival.

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Bozick Distributors, SMDhotels.com by The Cherry Cove Group, Country Inn & Suites, Judy Smith of On Point Consulting, Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival, The St. Mary's County Arts Council, Brothers' Johnson, Inc., The College of Southern Maryland, Community Bank of the Chesapeake, JASINT Consulting & Technologies, LaQuinta Inns & Suites, Jazz Friends in the Shade, SMECO and the Whitten Laser Eye Center.

Spend Your Summer with the Museums



Heritage Day
June 10, 2017 | 10 AM—3 PM
St. Clement's Island Museum

Museum offers free boat transportation to Historic St. Clement's Island. Visitors can enjoy guest presenters,

Blackistone Lighthouse tours, watermelon and heritage games.



Pirates on the Potomac
July 22, 2017 | 9 AM—4 PM
Piney Point Lighthouse

Morning and afternoon sessions for pirates, ages 4-9 as they participate in pirate activities. All pirates receive

a pirate name, walk the plank, get tattoos and participate in the costume contest! Registration required. *Sponsors: Dyson Building Center, Kevin's Corner Cafe & Nationwide Insurance*



National Lighthouse Weekend
August 5 & 6, 2017 | All Day
Piney Point Lighthouse

The Piney Point Lighthouse welcomes over 200 guests each year to tour the museum grounds, climb the lighthouse, navigate through the Maritime Exhibit and visit the Craft Fair

being held inside the historic Keeper's Quarters.

Sponsor: Dyson Building Center



Children's Day
August 19, 2017 | 11 AM—2 PM
St. Clement's Island Museum

Over 400 adults and children attend Children's Day at the St. Clement's Island Museum with free admission and activities for kids of all ages. Communi-

ty participants offer free games, crafts, food, balloons, snow cones and a bike raffle.

Sponsors: ESI, Cullins Trucking, Inc. and in honor of George & Bobbie McWilliams

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome Aboard, New Members

Individual

Susan Erichsen, Leonardtown, MD

Tressa Setlak, Leonardtown, MD

Family

Anthony & Margaret Hammett, Colton's Point, MD

Membership Upgrades

Family: John & Etoila Leahey, Richmond, VA

Heritage: Stephanie Waikart, Piney Point, MD

Patron: Ellis T. and Rebekah E. Nottingham, Arlington, VA

Friends News and Thank You's

CHESAPEAKE BAY RUNNING CLUB

The Chesapeake Bay Running Club conducted the 13th Annual Lower Potomac River Marathon on March 12th with approximately 90 runners challenging the 26.2 mile course that wound its way through the scenic St. George Island, Piney Point, Tall Timbers and Valley Lee areas. The club generously donated \$1,700, proceeds from the race, to benefit the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park. This is the thirteenth consecutive year that the club has donated funds supporting the effort to preserve and interpret the history of the oldest lighthouse on the Potomac River.



Cold and dedicated Piney Point Lighthouse volunteers hand out water, Gatorade and gummy bears to a marathon runner in front of the Keeper's Quarters.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL:

A Community Arts Grant of \$1,000 was awarded to the Friends to support the July 8 Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival. Many thanks go to the Arts Council for their continued support of this very popular cultural event.

MEADOWS FARMS

Meadows Farms generously donated a \$50 gift card to The Friends to spruce up the grounds at the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park.

A SPECIAL DONATION

On the eve of The Friends' Annual Meeting, our President, Lewie Aldridge, Jr. received a card and a donation from our very own Kim Cullins with the following note: "...to The Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums Endowment Fund to further the mission and support of the Museums that have meant so much to me." - Kimberly Ann Rubala Cullins.

IN MEMORIUM

Thank you to Marilyn Baggett for the generous donation in memory of her husband, John V. Baggett.

On March 14, 2017, long-time member and Friend, Walter Leyland, Jr. passed away. Walter and his wife, Shirley have been members of The Friends for over 20 years and Shirley served as President of the Museum Board of Trustees for seven years. The Friends would like to extend a warm thank you to the following people who contributed a donation to The Friends in memory of Walter: Lewie Aldridge, Jr., Frank Allen, Pamela Baake, Roger & Diane Ball, Mike & Christina Barbour, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Groom, April Havens, Catherine Lanna, Althea MacWhorter, Mick & Kate Mauck, Beverly McCampbell, Fred & Shirley Morton, Sally & Bruce Whiteman, Nancy Lucy Williams, Elaine & Tony Williams and Clifford & Lydia Wood.



Wish List

Blackistone Island Canning Factory photos and labels

Photos of St. Clement's Island or Blackistone Island Lighthouse prior to the 1950's

Meet Your Newest Board Members

On December 8, 2016, The Board of Directors voted in Tressa Setlak to a seat on the board.



Tressa began volunteering at the museums when her wife, Jayne, was hired in June of 2016 as the Museum Store manager. This past year Tressa supported Museum Store outreach at the 2016 Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, Children's Day at St. Clement's, National Lighthouse weekend at Piney Point, the October 2016 Oyster Festival weekend, and the Holiday Open Houses at both locations. Tressa said, "I enjoy being a part of the Museum team effort and watching families explore the history and beauty we have to offer."

Tressa Setlak has served as the Director of Public Safety at St. Mary's College since November of 2015. She looks forward to connecting the college community with the Museums to further the growth of the Friends organization. The move to Southern Maryland from Lancaster County Pennsylvania has inspired Tressa and Jayne to become involved in local groups and non-profits. Tressa shared, "We want to find ways to give back to our new community and to get to know people with similar interests and concerns." She feels the two County Museums and lighthouses are treasures to be shared with visitors from near and far.

Tressa attended the Museum Store Association XPO & Conference in April with Jayne in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As a new board member she is very interested in finding new sources to assist the Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums in their fund raising efforts.

In her free time Tressa enjoys antiquing, hiking, biking and kayaking. She is eager to explore more of Southern Maryland's trails and waterways this spring and summer.

On March 9, 2017, the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums hosted the 2017 Annual Meeting of The Friends. Due to a recent vacancy on the board, Board President Lewie Aldridge opened the floor to nominations. We are pleased to announce that The Friends have voted in longtime volunteer with the St. Clement's Island Museum, Maggie Hammett.



Maggie Hammett has been volunteering at the St. Clements Island Museum for nine years. Her favorite time, of course, is Christmas! During the annual Doll and Train show, Maggie shares her 1932 Doll House, a second "Santa's Workshop" dollhouse, and a huge and detailed train exhibit belonging to her and her husband, Anthony. She and her husband

also volunteer their time as the local Santa and Mrs. Claus, and have been enjoying that privilege for 13 years! Maggie retired from the Federal Government in 2008 with 36 years of service in the computer field. Among her numerous hobbies, she loves gardening and antiquing. Maggie lives down the street from the museum, with her husband and two spoiled rescue cats!



(L) Tressa Setlak at the MSA XPO; (R) Maggie Hammett; (Bottom) Anthony & Maggie Hammett as Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

Staff Visit to Fire Museum

by Rachel Harris

On Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017, staff of the Museum Division set off on a journey north to the Fire Museum of Maryland in Lutherville, just outside of Baltimore. On the drive up, we talked shop, county history and so many other things in between. Tucked back in an area that was somewhat industrial, but mostly a business park was our destination, complete with a working antique red fire lamp outside.

We first met the small staff of this large museum and received a brief overview of their operations. Some of their systems are quite different than our museum group. For instance, their schedule is somewhat restrictive for the casual museum-goer and their lack of a formal group backing their efforts sure made us thankful for The Friends. Overall, they are a small museum, not unlike ours, just trying to bring heritage, history and fun to their visitors.

Next, we embarked on a tour. Our guides not only gave us the basic tour that they would give any group, but also gave us a behind the scenes peek into their preservation efforts, procurement of artifacts and how they handle donations that don't quite fit their mission. This museum is filled with ornate antique fire equipment in American firefighting, historical accounts of the great fires in Baltimore city, working communication systems from the past and recently retired vehicles that have undoubtedly saved countless Maryland lives. In addition, the Fire Museum of Maryland has a small party room available for rentals and an area specifically for children. April even took a ride on the kid's fire truck toy.

Outside of the regular tour, some of our staff visited the museum's workshop to see how maintenance and restoration of the vehicle collection is done. We also got an inside

Museum Stores

Continued from Page 1

Opening with a ribbon cutting by Friends Board Member and County Commissioner Todd Morgan and a Book Signing by author, Ellynne Davis, and illustrator, Joyce Lemontree Judd.

See for Yourself

The museums are now open everyday from 10 AM—5 PM. Bring your Friends Membership Card to receive free admission to the museums and 10% your entire purchase at the Museum Stores.



look at some of the outreach programs the staff does to increase attendance when groups cannot make to the museum. The Museum Division is looking at finding new ways to market its outreach programs. We parted ways with the Fire Museum of Maryland's staff with some great ideas and a promise to give them the same hospitality we received when they make the drive down to Southern Maryland so we can return the favor.

Before we took the long drive home, we stopped in at Ed-mart Delicatessen in Pikesville, a traditional Jewish deli, complete with huge kosher dill pickles, knishes, brisket and Baltimore staple Berger cookies. The owners made a special place for us to sit and enjoy the tastes and atmosphere. We all left with full bellies, snacks for later and our photo posted to the deli's Facebook page. Overall, this was an educational and fun way to spend a day learning, bonding and thinking of new ways to make our museums as visitor-friendly, informative and fun as we want them to be.



(top) April Havens rides the fire toy at the Fire Museum.
(bottom) New displays at the Piney Point Museum Store.

A LETTER FROM APRIL

Dear Friends,

This spring has been somewhat challenging as we move into our busy season. As I continue in the Acting Museum Division Manager's role, the job announcement for the Division Manager has been posted. With this in mind, the accreditation process continues with the assistance of several Board of Trustee members working on the Strategic Plan.

At Piney Point, the upstairs museum renovations continue to be implemented. We will breathe a sigh of relief once it is completed and staff can relocate to their new offices. Our next step in the process is to write a scope of work for the new exhibits.

The Charlotte Hall Schoolhouse has been temporarily closed for safety reasons. The project for replacing the ramp and walkway has been put on hold as we assess and determine the structural needs associated with rot and damage to timbers which attach the schoolhouse to its foundation.

Thank you to our staff for multi-tasking, working with our volunteers and partners in order to continue to provide the public with a lasting experience at our museums. To our Friends, your support of the museums during these times is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



MSA Conference 2017

by Jayne Walsh

This April, I attended The Museum Store Association's 62nd Annual Conference & Expo in Pittsburgh with my wife, and Friends Board member Tressa Setlak. We arrived Friday afternoon just as the Expo opened and immediately took advantage of the discounts and show specials. I placed a reorder with Channel Craft, a longtime vendor of our museum stores best sellers. Getting to see some of their merchandise in person inspired me to try a few new items too. Channel Craft also sponsored a River Cruise that night which was a perfect opportunity to mix and mingle with other Museum Store Managers and Expo Vendors.

Saturday's breakfast included a keynote address from Mike Tougias, author of "The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue". This was an interesting speaker given our ties to Coast Guard history at the Piney Point museum. The rest of the day was spent in small learning sessions and another trip to the Expo hall with several purchases for the store. Saturday evening ended with a networking event at the Andy Warhol Museum. I enjoyed scoping out the store and am proud to say our new store renovations mirror the upscale styling of the many museum stores we visited.



Sunday was a mix of sessions and a visit to the Carnegie History and Art museum stores. I attended the Membership Meeting and Awards Lunch where we learned that the 2018 MSA Conference will be held in Washington DC. Later I met with the regional MSA Mid-Atlantic members and volunteered to participate on the host committee next year. I look forward to helping shape next year's Conference and its close proximity will make it very affordable to attend. The MSA is a valuable resource for our museum stores and many of the sessions I chose to attend were geared toward small museums like ours. The trade show exposed me to several new vendors who fit our needs. I am working on several custom products that will be new and exciting additions to our stores. I am grateful to the Friends Board for approving my first MSA conference experience.

Jayne Walsh attends the 2018 Museum Store Association Annual Conference and Expo in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Membership Levels

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

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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.

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