

Maryland begins here!

the finer points

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

June 2007

A Landmark Takes Shape Again

Construction begins on Blackistone Lighthouse

By Kimberley Cullins

The Friends support historical interpretation, educational programs and special needs of the sites managed by the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services' Museum Division: St. Clement's Island Museum, the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park, the Drayden African-American Schoolhouse, and the U-1105 Black Panther German submarine shipwreck preserve. A non-profit organization, the Friends sponsor special events, assist with acquisitions and publish this newsletter to broaden understanding of and interest in these important historic sites.

Inside: Treasure Hunting on eBay, Maryland Day, Friends News and more!

It's a dream come true. There *will* be another lighthouse on St. Clement's Island!

The Blackistone Lighthouse project was sparked by a bequest of \$5,000 to the St. Clement's Hundred by Josephine Mattingly, granddaughter of the longest-serving lighthouse keeper on the Island. A memorial plaque in her honor blossomed into the crazy notion of rebuilding the lighthouse so beloved by her and others in the community. Amid the enthusiasm, however, there were many who doubted the project would ever get off the ground.

The St. Clement's Hundred organization, led by its impassioned president Dick Gass, is reveling in the culmination of years of negotiations, hearings, applications and lobbying with politicians and local, state, and federal agencies.

In April, three barges from Maryland Rock Industries off-loaded more than 300 tons of building materials and earth-moving equipment

needed to dig the new foundation. It was a day of vindication.

"On Saturday, April 28, 23 volunteers reported for duty, some for 10-12 hours," Gass said. "The entire labor cost for the building foundation: zero. Our project team leader, Don Cropp of Colony Builders, did a superb job convincing tradesmen from engineers to concrete mixers to join the effort. People love lighthouses!"

On the first day of construction, all of the pieces of the very intricate puzzle were finally falling into place. Gass said his greatest emotion was gratitude: "Thank God for Maryland Rock and Don Cropp and his team of volunteers."

Maryland Rock donated the barges to the tune of \$30,000 per day, the crane to unload materials at \$5,000 per day, and an invaluable crew of employees who worked from dawn to dusk both weekends.



The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this summer. See photo essay, page 4.

**The Friends of the
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Piney Point Museums**

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Plaudits for Our Volunteers

By Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, President

We can't really quantify the value of our museum volunteers' dedication, intelligence, the gracious way they welcome visitors. Gifts from the heart truly are priceless.

But we can calculate how much we'd need to raise if they didn't give of their efforts freely. Each year, Independent Sector, a coalition of charities, foundations, and philanthropic programs, estimates the value of a volunteer hour in the United States. For 2006, that figure was \$18.77.

Based on the number of hours our volunteers worked last year, we received more than \$50,000 in labor from them – an extraordinary gift of time and energy for which we are very grateful. That figure includes your Friends Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees, plus these individuals, honored at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Fitzie's Restaurant in Compton, MD, in April:

Volunteers of the Year: **Agnes Shelton**, St. Clement's Island Museum, **Mary Jane Palmby**, Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park

President's Award: **Judy Groom**

Volunteers with More Than 100 Hours in 2006: **Eileen Amole, Duff Bailey, Richard Gould, Grace Hutchinson, Margaret Slingerland, Jane Turner**

Cumulative Hours/250 Hour Club: **Ann Davis, John Hankla, Ann Lawrence, Agnes Shelton;** *500 Hour Club:* **Duff Bailey;** *750 Hour Club:* **LeVert Queen;** *1250 Hour Club:* **Eileen Amole;** *1500 Hour Club:* **Richard Gould;** *1750 Hour Club:* **Jane Turner**

We also honored **Laura Roys** for her years as St. Clement's Island Museum's volunteer coordinator.

And we're also grateful for the up-and-comers, our junior volunteers: **Alison Bailey, Sydney Bailey, Nikki Fowler, Ellen Massie, Nathan Massie, Kaitlyn Russell, Molly Spalding** and our young adult volunteer, **Sarah Massie**.



Our volunteer corps is the best – and they are always looking for new members! If you'd like to join, contact the volunteer coordinators: Jean Hoffman for the St. Clement's Island Museum, Shirley Leyland for Piney Point, and Christina Barbour for the junior volunteers, at 301-769-2222.



Something for Everyone

Piney Pt. Lighthouse Festival Kicks Off Spring

As spring invited us to leave our winter doldrums in search of outdoor fun, the Piney Point Lighthouse Waterfront Festival last month attracted more than 1200 people for just that. Many climbed the lighthouse tower, enjoyed outdoor exhibits and live music at the keeper's quarters, or lunched at a riverside picnic table. Some braved the chilly waters in the *Lower Potomac Tributary Team's Wade In* to record water visibility, while others strolled the beach for shells and sea glass. Kids enjoyed face painting and crafts. Adults chatted with duck decoy carvers and with our neighbors at Valero LP, now officially known as NuStar. Out-of-towners picked up valuable information from the St. Mary's County Tourism booth staffed by the effervescent Beverly Brown. If you missed it, we hope to see you next year, for all this and more!



Clockwise from top: Volunteer Marilyn Grace helps with kids' crafts; participants brave cold water in the Wade In; Beverly Brown at the St. Mary's County Tourism booth; A visitor studies the new exhibit inside the museum about the U-1105 German submarine shipwreck.



Maryland Day Thoughts on Courage, Commitment and Freedom

Museum supporters turned out on Maryland Day on March 25 to hear St. Mary's County Schools Superintendent Michael Martirano talk about courage, adventure and commitment.

A lifelong Marylander from a family of Italian immigrants, Dr. Martirano explained how the story of Maryland's founding resonated with him. "As I stand here today, I feel as if I am a kindred spirit with the early settlers. In many ways, we have many things in common. All the early settlers really wanted was a community that allowed them to raise their families successfully and happily, to earn an honest and decent living so they could have a better life than what was provided in their homeland, and to be able to practice religion freely. They wanted to be a part of a community predicated on these values. And today, these values continue to transcend our community."



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Blackistone Lighthouse Taking Shape



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Photo 1: Maryland Rock Industries donated the crane, barge, and manpower to deliver more than 300 tons of building materials to St. Clement's Island. **Photo 2:** St. Clement's Hundred president Dick Gass and Blackistone Lighthouse project manager Don Cropp spearhead the construction activities. **Photo 3:** Dick Gass and Bob Kopel hauled water needed to mix the concrete for the lighthouse footings. **Photo 4:** A crew of volunteers hand-mixed sand, concrete, and water in a grueling two-day effort to complete the lighthouse footings. **Photo 5:** Once mixed, the concrete was taken by wheel barrow and poured into the new lighthouse foundation. **Photo 6:** The lighthouse takes shape as expert masons meticulously place each cinder block. **Photo 7:** The cinder block cupola rises from the middle of the lighthouse structure and must be completed before the front wall can be erected. (photos 3, 4 and 5 by Ray Hiebert)

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Division Manager's Notes by Debra Pence

We are not at a loss for a myriad of projects this spring! Staff, volunteers and a variety of consultants are addressing projects ranging from the redesign of our site brochures to implementing a corporate image, to working on engineering specifications to the layout of walkways and parking areas at our Piney Point facility.

Some of the 07-08 projects will include: completing the wayside signage project for St. Clement's Island with at least five additional waysides; designing and producing a brochure to market our education programs; continuing the fabrication of exhibits for the Potomac River Maritime Exhibit building; completing the installation of the U-1105 submarine exhibit at Piney Point; expanding and furnishing collection storage space at St. Clement's Island Museum; continuing the exterior signage project for Piney Point Historic Park and initiating an oral history research project with residents of St. Clement's Island/Colton's Point and Piney Point communities.

We will move forward to achieve our goals of development while continuing to serve our many visitors and manage our many collections. The staff is looking ahead to our 08-09 projects and calculating the needs for another round of grants. Your donations, sponsorships and volunteer hours all help us meet the needed matches for each of our grant projects. As our members you represent the communities whose heritage we strive to preserve and whose citizens we are honored to serve.

CORRECTION: Last month's Division Manager's Notes incorrectly listed the hours of the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum & Historic Park. Correct hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Monday.



STUDENTS *Lend a Hand*

St. Mary's Ryken Volunteers: Students from St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown, MD, volunteered at the St. Clement's Island Museum in April to satisfy community service hours.

The 10th-graders cleaned the glass shelves in the museum store, assisted with collections management inventory, pulled weeds, cleaned the kitchen, picked up trash, and folded 600 membership brochures.

Pictured left to right: Paula Spear, Samantha Moretz, Micah Revel, Tara Pappas, Erin Leddy, Katie Love, Samantha Meinhardt, and Leslie Pifer. Thank you, students, for a job well done!

Carol's Guide to Hunting for Treasure on eBay!



Think of it as a high-tech yard sale in the comfort of your home or office! There are items of all kinds to be found on the eBay Web site. The thrill is finding a prized item, bidding on it — and winning!

Museum stores manager Carol Cribbs treasure hunts frequently for the museums and has bought and donated quite a few interesting and significant items. Her interest began innocently enough when the museum staff expressed interest in finding labels specific to the tomato canning factory that used to operate on St. Clement's Island. She hasn't found any labels yet, but the other items she's found are quite intriguing.

So far, Carol has donated four postcards. Two date from the 1930s-40s era and glorify

the fishing found at Piney Point; another offers a 1950s aerial view of the Piney Point Resort and Marina. The oldest postcard, postmarked July 4, 1908, has a photo of a jousting tournament held at Piney Point Hotel.

She's also donated a small model of the "Black Panther" U-1105 German submarine, a 1950s brochure of the Piney Point Resort and Marina and a 350th Anniversary plate celebrating the landing on St. Clement's Island. These memorabilia offer real insight and valuable information about St. Mary's County history.

Recently, she bid on a postcard depicting a steamboat docked at Piney Point, but she was outbid. A tenacious Carol says, "That was a real disappointment, but I'll continue the search for eBay treasures." So if you see Carol's eBay screen name, **cribbs12250**, anywhere on the eBay Web site, don't bid against her unless you intend to donate your find to the museums!

Volunteers Pitch In for Potomac River Cleanup

The need to take care of Mother Earth is a message resounding across the nation. Toward this effort, the Potomac River Watershed Clean Up Program was implemented at the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park on Saturday, March 31.

Under the direction of April Havens, site supervisor at the Piney Point site, volunteers combed the beach and creek areas to collect trash, debris, and any unsightly, unhealthy or environmentally unsafe objects. There were three Piney Point Lighthouse Museum volunteers, a five-man crew of NuStar Energy L.P. employees, nine St. Mary's College students from the Intersociety Christian Fellowship Club, and April's oldest son, Glen.

The effort netted 193 recyclable items, five crab pot floats, several five-gallon buckets, a large pile of tree limbs, trimmings and brush, and a pick-up truck load of trash bags packed to the gills! A big thank you to these hard-working and environmentally-minded volunteers for a job well done!

Top photo: Student volunteers from St. Mary's College remove debris; bottom photo: NuStar (formerly Valero L.P.) volunteers after the clean up.



UP AND COMING . . .

Set a course for these exciting events

Visit www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums or call 301-769-2222 for more information on these events.

July 14 - Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival

A "must do" for the summer season, the festival has grown into one of Southern Maryland's premier musical events. Use your membership to purchase reduced-priced tickets! \$30 for museum members, \$35 in advance to the general public and \$40 at the gate. The lineup for this year includes the Mike Stephens Project at 4 p.m., the Visions of Jazz at 6 p.m., and national Smooth Jazz recording artist Eric Darius at 8 p.m.

An array of seafood specialties and cool beverages are available for purchase to enhance your relaxing evening on the lawn of the St. Clement's Island Museum. Bring

your blanket or lawn chair and relax riverside!

July 21 – Black-eyed Susan Day on St. Clement's Island

Bring your camera and a picnic lunch for an afternoon of scenic splendor! With 4,000-plus Black-eyed Susans in bloom, the scenic vistas of the Island, and the rebuilding of the Blackistone Lighthouse, there will be much to see and enjoy! Free water taxi transportation from 11 am to 3 pm from the St. Clement's Island Museum pier.

August 4 – Children's Day

Kids young and old are invited to the St. Clement's Island Museum to meet their community heroes, play heritage games, enjoy demonstrations and

crafts. The Optimist Club will provide all food items for 50 cents each! The first 100 kids get a free t-shirt! Kids get free water taxi transportation to St. Clement's Island! Event hours are from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

September 8 – Murder Mystery Interactive Dinner Theater

Save the date! It's the return of high society reporter Crystal Ellington to solve yet another murder at the Piney Point Lighthouse! Enjoy a gourmet meal, live auction, and the antics of chosen dinner guests who play characters in this outrageous "whodunit." Tickets are limited. Table of 8 can be reserved by calling in advance. The murderer could be **YOU!**

Member News

Welcome Aboard!

The Friends welcome these new members:

Individual:

Hal Cole Real Estate, California, MD
Karen Garner, Research and Engineering Development, Inc., Lexington Park, MD
Laurel James, Tri-Co. Youth Services, Waldorf, MD
Peter Verburcht, California, MD

Family:

Duke May Insurance, Hollywood, MD
Chuck Rosenfeld, The Rosenfeld Group at Smith Barney, Waldorf, MD

Heritage:

D. H. Steffens Company, La Plata, MD

Corporate Patron:

Brick Toria Cottage, Charlotte Hall
Dean's Okinawan Martial Arts, Hollywood, MD
Dorsey Management Company, California, MD
Grasso Realty Group, LLC, California, MD
Mehaffey & Associates, Leonardtown, MD
Quality Built Homes, Prince Frederick, MD
Quality Street Kitchen and Catering, Leonardtown, MD

In Memoriam:

The Friends are saddened at the passing of lifetime Friends member Lloyd Neal Unsell of Colton's Point. A distinguished World War II veteran and former President/CEO of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, Lloyd was widely recognized as one of the most influential oil industry lobbyists in Washington. We would like to thank those who have contributed to the Friends in Lloyd's memory:

Michael Barbour, Abell, MD
Tom Bell, Luray, VA
Katherine & Robert Boyle, Churchton, MD

Dick Gass, Avenue, MD
Dewey & Audrey Hammonds, Tulsa, OK
Louis Holden, Avenue, MD
Denise & Leonard Smith, Bowie, MD
Christopher & Helen Schaefer, Appleton, WI
William Spencer, Nashville, TN



Victor Papagno of the Chesapeake Bay Running Club accepts a plaque and the heartfelt thanks of Debra Pence.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY RUNNING CLUB: The Friends are grateful to the club for their generous donation of \$4,800 to support projects at the Piney Point Lighthouse. The donation is part of the proceeds of the annual Lower Potomac River Marathon that takes place in the Piney Point/St. George Island area in March.

MARYLAND DAY: The Friends and museum staff gratefully acknowledge the following for generous donations or services that made Maryland Day an outstanding success: **Delegate John F. Wood, Jr., Board of Commissioners for St. Mary's County, Robin Guyther and the Geezer Band, Production Products – Chris and Susan Gass, Bailey's Party Rentals – Bill Bailey, Mike Huseman, Helen Dorsey, Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, Checkers Drive-Thru Restaurant, American Legion Post 221, Dr. Michael Martirano, Father John Barry, Pastor Keith Schukraft**



The Friends Board thanks you for all your support! Front row: Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, President; Patricia Weiland, Sharon Balenger. Second row: Lewie Aldridge, Jr., Vice President; Debra Pence; Museum Division Manager; Ann Davis, Secretary, John Madel, Paul Nelson, Treasurer. Back row: Delegate Johnny Wood and St. Mary's County Commissioner Tommy Mattingly.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

__MC __Visa Card #: _____ Expires _____

Make checks payable to Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums. Your membership is tax deductible.

__New Member __Gift Membership



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- Corporate Benefactor (\$500)

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