

*Maryland begins here!*

# the finer points

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

Fall 2009

## Making Strides

*New Exhibits Launch as Other Projects Near Completion*

*By Kimberley Cullins*

*The Friends support historical interpretation, educational programs and special needs of the sites managed by the Museum Division of St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks: 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: Photo Album, Model Citizens, Friends News and more!*

It's always a great day when you can cross off something on the ever-growing "to do" list. For St. Mary's County Museum Division staff, it's especially great to see complex, multi-faceted, and labor-intensive projects reach completion – and see how museum visitors benefit from state-of-the-art exhibits, recreational resources, and modern interpretation methods that illustrate the unique and significant histories of our sites.

### Piney Point Lighthouse

Completed projects at the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park and St. Clement's Island Museum have already made a dramatic impact on the visitor experience.

At Piney Point, the Potomac River Maritime Exhibit building now offers guests professional exhibits that complement the collection of historic wooden vessels and the stories of the local watermen who worked on them.

Anchored by the immense 81-foot bug-eye is the "Working Boats of Yesteryear" exhibit. Here, visitors can view a rustic backdrop and

smell the sawdust of a simulated boat building project in progress. For months, museum volunteer and former boat builder Bob Kopel and museum technician Greg Mora meticulously measured and sawed, sanded and screwed, carefully piecing together the skeletal beginnings of a waterman's work boat. This project, one that began in the St. Clement's Island Museum Workshop, had to be disassembled piece by piece, numbered, and then reassembled for the exhibit at Piney Point.



Adjacent to the Potomac River log canoe is the "Harvest and Hauls" exhibit, complete with interesting text, beautiful illustrations and life-like manne-

quins that add a third dimension to the exhibit.

Also completed is the "Waterways of Southern Maryland" exhibit that gives visitors an orientation to their location in our

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*Photo: Museum volunteer Bob Kopel (left) and museum technician Greg Mora piece together boat ribs for the boat building exhibit at Piney Point. (Photo by Kim Cullins)*

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

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# That's What Friends Are For

*By Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, President*

Fall represents the winding down of the prime-time season at our museum sites, but it's also a wonderful period of community celebration and special events that call attention to the fine work done at our museums.

The Blessing of the Fleet, sponsored by the 7th District Optimists and held annually at the St. Clement's Island Museum during the first weekend of October, again attracted thousands for family-friendly activities during the two-day event that recalls Maryland's founding and early history.

In September, the annual interactive murder mystery dinner theater Friends fundraiser drew a crowd of museum supporters happy to ham it up for the evening as they solved a "crime" and bid on auction items. Also in September, the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge had lighthouse lovers racing from Piney Point to St. Clement's Island and beyond in a quest to visit as many lighthouses across the state as they could in a single weekend.

Looking ahead, December will bring us the 24th Annual Doll and Train Exhibit, which delights kids of all ages and brings an enormous number of visitors to the St. Clement's Island Museum.

These events draw patrons to the Friends-operated museum stores, the Crab Claw and the Lighthouse Lens, and generate income for the Friends, whose board works closely with Museum Division Manager Debra Pence to provide her with a supplemental budget to augment county support.

That's what Friends are for. Thanks for being able to count on you for your membership in the Friends and your support of our wonderful museums!



*Working hard for the money: Friends President Sheila Hiebert and Treasurer Paul Nelson display a hot live auction item, a preserved marlin for mounting, at "Murder in Miami," the Friends fundraiser held at the Olde Breton Inn in September. The marlin, caught off the Delaware coast in 1970, was donated to the auction by Friends Board member Patricia Cooke Weiland. (Photo by Mark Markovich)*

## **MEMBERS: 10% Off Museum Store Merchandise!**

*The Lighthouse Lens and Crab Claw Museum Stores are packed with unique gifts for everyone on your holiday gift-giving list:*

Sea Glass earrings and necklaces  
Blackstone Lighthouse Model (limited edition)  
Lighthouses of St. Mary's County Coffee Mug (New Item!)  
Keepsake Hourglass (you provide sand from a special vacation, favorite beach, or wedding site)  
St. Mary's County Flags (Show your county pride and fly it high!)  
Blue Crab Bar and Grill kitchen accessories...And more!



# Worth 1,000 Words...

A look back at some exciting moments



1) Anita Kriner of Anita's Wedding Cakes poses with her Celebrate 375 birthday creation during the July Business After Hours of the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce. The Friends co-sponsored the Celebrate 375 event with Bruster's Real Ice Cream and SunTrust Bank. (Photo by Kim Cullins)



2) A "watchful" eye was had by all during the reptile show of the 42nd annual Blessing of the Fleet, especially when the 10-foot anaconda made his debut. (Photo by Kim Cullins)



3) Museum Division historic sites coordinator Lydia Wood gives Maryland Deputy Secretary of Planning Matt Power a tour of the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park. Secretary Power toured several Southern Maryland sites that have received Maryland Heritage Area Authority funds used to preserve, interpret and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the region. (Photo by Roz Racanello)



4) Museum volunteer Malcolm Reynolds affixes temporary tattoos to children attending the Children's Day event at the St. Clement's Island Museum in August. (Photo by Kim Cullins)



5) Sax man Jaared Arosemena plays up close and personal for a very appreciative audience at the 10th Annual Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival in July. (Photo by Kim Cullins)



6) Wes Stone, historical actor/interpreter, greeted visitors as Father Andrew White during the St. Clement's Island History and Heritage Day in August. (Photo by Kim Cullins)



7) A peek through the keeper's quarters window reveals a line of visitors to the Piney Point Lighthouse during the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge in September. (Photo by April Havens)

8) Only detectives Crockett and Tubbs (played by father/son team Joe and Jeff Janus) could help solve the murder at the "Miami Nice Inn" during the interactive murder mystery dinner fundraiser in September. Guests who accepted parts offered over-the-top, uproarious performances. (Photo by Mark Markovich)

# Completed Projects Enhance Visitor's Experience

*Strides, continued from page 1*

region and to the Chesapeake Bay. A sturdy viewing platform has been constructed between the skipjack and bugeye workboats to offer a deck-level view. Here you can almost feel the wind in your hair as you stand next to these vessels, each sporting partial sails of what once were massive wind catchers.

Two additional exhibits, "Watermen and Their Life" and "Seasonal Cycles" are scheduled for completion before the facility re-opens in spring of 2010. An eye-catching and colorful exterior building sign for the Potomac River Maritime Exhibit is being fabricated and installed as we go to press.

The Piney Point Lighthouse keeper's quarters building received a new roof and guttering system that preserves the integrity of the building.

A new recreational resource – a kayak launch – is being installed on the creek side of the park grounds. The decrepit pier, where the kayak launch will be installed, has already been removed. The kayak launch will serve as a recreational resource that will appeal to a new audience of museumgoers.

## St. Clement's Island

At the St. Clement's Island Museum the remodel of the Potomac River Room has greatly enhanced the visitor experience. Guests are quite intrigued with the new exhibit, "A Glimpse into the World of the Oyster Industry," which features authentic, antique oyster cans, a thematic backdrop with vintage photographs and details of the oystermen and packing plants that

fueled the local economy in the early 20th century.

The Potomac River Room is now equipped with a flat-screen television, Amish-made wooden benches and a 14-minute presentation on the history of St. Clement's Island. This orientation film offers a beautiful visual narrative that begins with the colonial landing in 1634, continues through the Civil War and steamboat eras, moving forward to the present day to include the re-construction of the Blackstone Lighthouse.

Perhaps not so visible, but equally important, are on-going preservation efforts and maintenance of the c. 1820 Charlotte Hall School that included a fresh coat of paint and the caulking of windows and doors.

Museum projects, big or small, don't just happen. Museum Division staff work through bidding and procurement processes, permits, contractors, organizations and agencies. To make these projects possible at all takes funding.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our "Partners for Preservation" for making the above projects possible: Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Southern Maryland Heritage Area, Chesapeake Bay Running Club, The Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums, St. Clement's Hundred, Museum Trustee James Banagan, and the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners.



*The Potomac River Room at the St. Clement's Island Museum offers a new oystering exhibit and audio visual presentation of St. Clement's Island history. (Photo by Kim Cullins)*

*Wayne Mast and T.V. Long of Wayne's Signs begin installation of the very large and eye-catching exterior sign for the Potomac River Maritime Exhibit in Piney Point. (Photo by April Havens)*

# Model Citizens

Gene Tallarico and David Howe are enthusiastic members of the Institute of Maritime History (IMH), a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and documentation of archaeological remains related to maritime history. Their interest in the U-1105 Black Panther, a World War II German submarine submerged in the Potomac River, led them to create two models of the sub – one depicts the vessel in its prime and the other, as she is today, half buried in silt, in 90 feet of Potomac River water.

Tallarico and Howe presented their models as gifts to the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum on September 19, the anniversary of the scuttling of the German warship 60 years ago. The presentation coincided with the wildly-popular Maryland Lighthouse Challenge where many visitors were on hand to witness the accession of the models into the museum's collections. Both models are currently on display at the museum and will remain in the museum's permanent collections.

The U-1105 Black Panther was a significant warship of its time because of its black rubber coating that eluded sonar detection, a technological advance in stealth weaponry for the 1940s. After its brief service in the German navy (Kriegsmarine) it became a war prize of the United States, for study and experimentation, then was intentionally sunk in the Potomac River.

The U-1105 Black Panther is the property of the U.S. Navy and is Maryland's first historic underwater shipwreck preserve, a designation made in November 1994.



*Yesterday and Today: Gene Tallarico (left) and David Howe stand behind their models of the Black Panther U-1105, illustrating the German U-boat as "then and now."*



## *Take a Chance on this Tiny Treasure*

Donated by J. S. Guy, this miniature antique shop could be yours! Perfect for doll collectors or "miniature" enthusiasts! This piece measures 15" x 13" x 14". The detail is amazing!

The Friends are selling chances of \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will take place on Sunday, January 24, 2010. You need not be present to win. Call 301-769-2222 for more information.

## *A Letter From Debra*

Dear Friends,

It has been a successful summer and fall with successful events and several big projects nearing completion. Along with the usual activities, our Museum Division Board of Trustees took on a time-consuming but very necessary task of developing a five-year plan of goals for 2010 (FY 2011) through 2015 (FY 2016).

The document is, in essence, a checklist of goals and tasks to be accomplished in an effort to continue enhancing the professional offerings of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. All areas have been addressed, from administration to staffing, programs, exhibits, operations and fund-raising. Some of the highlights include completing all of our current exhibit and capital projects and initiating work to update the exhibit galleries at St. Clement's Island. The 10-page document will be available for review on our Web site by December 1, 2009.

The strategic plan, along with the new collections management facility, will be important assets as we initiate our re-accreditation with the American Association of Museums. As always, we appreciate your continued support as we strive to preserve, exhibit and interpret the history of our St. Mary's community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra D. Rance".

## ***Collections Building Advances Through Review Process***

The Friends' application for a building permit for a new Collections Management Facility to be constructed on the grounds of the St. Clement's Island Museum has cleared the final hurdle for official approval.

With the unanimous signoff of the Critical Areas Commission, which was followed by approval of the site plan by St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management, this much-needed project will now be able to get under way.

CMI General Contractors, Inc., of Charlotte Hall will schedule construction as soon as all the paperwork has been completed and the weather is right for breaking ground.

Many generous people have donated to this project. See page 7 for our thanks to the most recent round of donors.

### \*\*\*\*\*HELP WANTED\*\*\*\*\*

**Working with Artifacts:** St. Clement's Island Museum is looking for volunteers to help inventory and catalog artifacts, photographs and documents. Training is provided. Please call Collections Manager Chris Barbour at 301-769-4723 for details. It is a great opportunity for those seeking internships or needing to meet volunteer or community service requirements.

**Visitor Services:** Got time? The St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse Museums are looking for personable people to greet guests, assist with adult group or student tours, or help in the museum stores. Please call St. Clement's Island Site Supervisor Chris Barbour at 301-769-4723 or Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Site Supervisor April Havens at 301-994-1471 for details.

**Christmas Trees:** The Piney Point Lighthouse Museum is seeking artificial Christmas trees for a special holiday exhibit. Artificial evergreen trees, around 6 feet in height, are preferred. Also looking for Victorian ornaments and vintage Christmas children's books. Please contact April Havens at 301-994-1471 if you have a tree to donate or share.

## **UP AND COMING . . .**

### ***Set a course for these exciting events***

***Visit [www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums](http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums) or call 301-769-2222 for more information on these events.***

#### **24th Annual Christmas Doll and Train Exhibit – December 2 through January 3, 2010**

A seasonal favorite, the Christmas Doll and Train Exhibit will once again bring the warmth and excitement of the holidays to the St. Clement's Island Museum. The museum continues the *Celebrate Maryland's 375* tourism promotion with this year's exhibit theme "Christmas in Maryland," which will illustrate the official symbols of Maryland. Visitors will also enjoy an array of antique and collectible dolls, toys and working miniature trains. Don't miss the Crab Claw Museum Store packed with unique gift items perfect for everyone on your holiday gift-giving list. Museum hours are noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday but open daily December 21 through January 3 (closed New Year's Day).

#### **St. Clement's Island Museum Christmas Open House – December 12**

Come one, come all! The museum will be open with FREE admission to view the Christmas Doll and Train exhibit, refreshments, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus from noon to 2 p.m. Bring your camera! Take a chance on a free boy's or girl's bike donated by the Optimist Club of the 7th District – need not be present to win.

#### **Piney Point Lighthouse Christmas Open House – December 13**

Attention lighthouse lovers! Don't miss a holiday visit to the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum with FREE admission, complimentary refreshments, warm staff hospitality and unique items inside the Lighthouse Lens Museum Store. Don't miss the selection of lighthouse models, home décor, jewelry, ceramics, books, clothing and more!

Friends members get a 10% discount! Proceeds benefit museum programs so shop where your dollars make a difference! Open noon to 4 p.m.

#### **Appraiser's Fair – January 23**

Determine the value of your antiques and collectibles! Appraisers for jewelry, furniture, glassware, pottery, artwork, music boxes, dolls and coins will be available at the St. Clement's Island Museum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dolls, coins and jewelry will be \$5 for the first two items and \$10 per additional item. Fine arts items are \$5 per item with a two item limit. Only bring items that can be hand-carried. Items will be viewed on a first come, first serve basis. Members of the Washington Conservation Guild will be available to address any preservation questions you have. There will be a free soup tasting sponsored by the Chincoteague Seafood Co.

# Member News

## Welcome Aboard New Members!

### Senior

Claire D. Farquhar, Washington, D.C.  
Richard Fulper, Jr., Fort Washington, MD

### Individual

Kathleen Weiner, Lexington Park, MD

### Family Level

Glen and Barbara Ives, California, MD  
Timothy and Leanne Mertz, Rockville, MD

### Heritage Level

Colton's Point Marina, Colton's Point, MD  
Juliana and Thomas Cordell, White Plains, MD  
Angie and Shawn Wathen, Colton's Point, MD

## Sponsor Thank Yous!

**Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Sponsors:** This July festival has truly become the "signature" fund-raising event for the Friends. The Friends thank the following for their generous sponsorships: St. Mary's County Arts Council, The Show Place Arena, Bozick Distributors, W.M. Davis, Inc. General Contractors, Lenny's Restaurant/Sleep Inn & Suites, Maryland Life Magazine, Gutter Helmet Systems, Café des Artistes, Community Bank of Tri-County, and the Law Office of A. Shane Mattingly. We are grateful for their continuing generosity which was essential to the success of this event.

**Children's Day Sponsors:** This community event attracted more than 400 parents and children who enjoyed a full program of fun, food, music, games, crafts and hands-on activities. The Friends would like to thank the following who sponsored this event and provided funds for 100 free t-shirts, a magic show, and necessary items for children's activities: Delegate John F. Wood, Jr., Cullins Pool Water, Chesapeake Custom Embroidery, Colton's Point Marina, Combs – Drury – Reeves Insurance Agency, Avenue Flags and Flagpoles, PNC Bank, and Tidewater Dental.

## Memorial Gifts

The Friends thank Museum Division marketing specialist Kim Cullins for making a donation in memory of her beloved friend, Arthur "Biggie" Goode, Sr., who passed away in May. Biggie was a founding member of the St. Clement's Island Museum's board of trustees when the facility opened in 1975.

A generous donation was received from Robert and Karen Van Dyken in honor of Karen's mother, Mary Smith, who was a valuable and much-beloved museum volunteer. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Robert and Karen! Your donation makes a difference, as Mary made a difference!

## Collections Management Facility Building Campaign . . .

# Thank You, Donors!

Donations came in all season for the Collections Management Facility Building Campaign. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone listed below. Their names, the names of donors previously acknowledged, and those to come will be displayed on a plaque at the site of the new building and on the Museum Division's web site. Please help us build this urgently needed facility by making a donation today! Mail your check, payable to the Friends, to the Collections Building Campaign, c/o St. Clement's Island Museum, 38370 Point Breeze Road, Colton's Point, MD 20626. Thank you!

### Gable

#### (\$500 and up)

Lewie Aldridge, Jr. and Judy Groom

Bo and Louanne Bailey  
Christina and Michael Barbour  
Downs Plumbing and Septic, Inc.  
Paul and Mellie Nelson

### Beam

#### (\$250 - \$499)

Anne and Tom Emery  
Sabre Systems

### Plank

#### (\$125 - \$249)

Sue Bosma  
Ann Davis  
Karen Gard  
Jefferson Glassie  
Dr. and Mrs. J. Roy Guyther  
George and Barbara McWilliams  
Phil and Ada Schmitz

Taylor Gas Company  
Sharon Wrightson and Sean Odenthal

### Foundation (up to \$124)

Tom and Bettie Broadhurst  
Arlene and Russ Cullins  
Kim Cullins  
Roy Dyson  
Betty Freund  
B. Marie Gardiner  
Rose E. Guyther  
Eleanor Keegan  
George Kennett  
Loraine Leonard  
Diane Lucas  
Olde Town Insurance Agency  
Debra Pence  
Herbert Redmond, Jr.  
Edward and Louise Sanders  
Eleanor Simpson and Suzanne Raper  
Eleanor Duke Storck  
SunTrust Bank

## Murder Mystery Donors

The interactive murder mystery dinner fundraiser was a huge success. We thank those who generously donated to the live and silent auctions: Carol Cribbs, Fenwick Used Books and Music, Sheila Hiebert, Mary Hyatt, Rosemary Jarvis, Julie Kirkner, Maerten's Fine Jewelry and Gifts, Maryland Life Magazine, Morris Point Restaurant, Nekadesh Farm Bed and Breakfast, Mary Ida Rolape, the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs Professional Baseball Team, the Port Tobacco Players, Shelby's Specialties, and Pat Weiland.

## Outreach Program Donations

St. Clement's Island Museum Site Supervisor Christina Barbour presented an outreach program to the Major William Thomas Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in October. The group presented her with a \$50 donation which she passed on to the Friends. Thank you Christina!

## 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

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Senior (\$25)

Individual (\$35)

Family (\$50)

Heritage (\$100)

Patron (\$200)

Benefactor (\$500)

Corporate Patron (\$200)

Corporate Benefactor (\$500)



PROUD CORPORATE BENEFACTOR

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