



The Finer Points

A newsletter from Friends of the St. Clements Island and Piney Point Museums Newsletter

SPRING 2024

A Letter from the Board President

The mission of 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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Site Supervisor
Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum
and Historic Park
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St. Clement's Island Museum
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Tom Emery
Museum Technician

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

Let me start by stating the obvious...it's been a while...actually two years since we last shared stories of our growth and success with you in the pages of the "Finer Points" newsletter. And although we were away, you can rest assured that our commitment and efforts to support the programs, events, and sites managed by the Museum Division and funded by the Friends has continued...but not without a few "hitches"!

Well, we're back now...and with that, I would like to welcome Gretchen Hardman to the Board of Directors as its newest member, filling the vacancy left with the passing of our long time Director and Friend – John F. (Johnny) Wood, Jr last year. You may recognize Gretchen from her association with the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) and you can get to know a bit more in this issues spotlight.

We are also pleased to welcome Sara Saunders and Janet Cooper who have joined our staff as the Program Administrator and Administrative Assistant (respectively), bringing their much needed talents to support the mission of the Friends, and keep you current with regular updates through all of the familiar print and social media outlets along with supporting a growing list of fundraising, membership and commemorative events hosted at our Museum Division sites as well as with our many community and business partners throughout the County.

With 2024 well underway, the Friends Board and Staff are looking forward to another wonderful year working with the St. Mary's County Museum Division and staff on all of the exciting events, exhibits and programs we support. Please take a moment to consider joining/renewing a Friends Membership with one of the many options designed for your individual, family or business benefit, and help your Museum and programs continue to grow and serve St. Mary's County residents and visitors.

Thank you and best wishes for a wonderful new year.
Dale Springer, Board President

**2024
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

March 25

Maryland Day at SCIM

April 6

Rebels & Redcoats: A
Southern Maryland
Revolutionary War Family
Event at PPLM

April 13

First Landing Wine & Arts
Festival at SCIM

April 21

The Black Diamond Disaster
An American Civil War Event
at SCIM

June 1

Heritage Day at SCIM

July 23-26

Outdoor Adventure at PPLM

August 3-4

National Lighthouse Weekend
at PPLM

August 17

Children's Day at SCIM

September 14

FamilyFest on the Potomac
At PPLM

October 25-26

Haunting at PPLM

**Drayden African American
Schoolhouse Open Houses**

April 6

May 4

June 1, 15, 16 & 19

July 6

August 3

September 7

October 5



What is Going on at the St. Clement's Island Museum?

Karen Stone

Museum Division Manager

We have been steadily working away on the bid documents for the building. There are so many permits and federal requirements involved! The water taxi is out for bid. It is important that we have everything in order, from the budget to the grant requirements for bidding, before we send anything out to the public, but we are finally getting there! Believe me when I say we are all frustrated by how long everything is taking but by moving slowly we are ensuring that all of the t's are crossed, and l's are dotted in advance. We don't want any hiccups later! So please stay tuned and bear with us as we move forward on both of these exciting projects!

The Apprenticeship Program

Karen Stone

Museum Division Manager



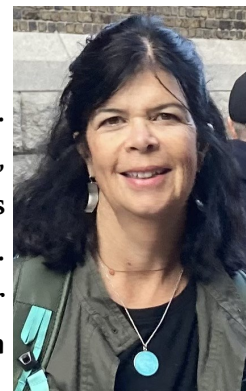
Most of you have probably met our apprentices, but you most likely did not realize it! For the past three school years we have had the pleasure of hiring students enrolled in the Dr. James A. Forrest Career & Technology Center in Leonardtown. The students get paid by the Museum Division for their work, while also receiving school credits for their practical experience. So far we have had apprentices from these tracks: Hospitality & Tourism, Graphic Communications, and Digital Media Production. While their main job is to serve as Museum Assistants, each apprentice also has a special project to work on. Our very first apprentice designed the interpretive panels for Lexington Manor Passive Park and

many of the exhibit panels at the Old Jail Museum and others have created event invitations and printed programs. A number of oral history interviews have been conducted by still others, who have also been creating marketing videos and tours of the sites. These are all projects that the Division has had on its to do list for quite some time but never had the time or ability to accomplish so we are very grateful for these students and this program.

For school year 2024-2025 we will be continuing with the high school program but also participating in an intern program with the College of Southern Maryland. These students will also be working as Museum Assistants and on special projects, but their salary will be paid by the State of Maryland through a Department of Labor initiative. Our first one is a biology major who will be working with Sara Saunders on creating additional science-based programs for the museums.

Meet Board Member Gretchen Hardman

Gretchen Heinze Hardman is the youngest of seven children, currently residing in St. Mary's County with her husband Chris, stepson Matt Hardman and fur baby adoptees, Vandal, their loving foxhound, and Scout, their mischievous kitty. Gretchen says it was easy to accept Karen Stone's invitation to participate on the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museum Board of Directors, because of her background with growing up in an historic, 18th century farmhouse named Sarum Manor. The historic home sits proudly on a hilltop overlooking the Wicomico River.



Gretchen is a St. Mary's Ryken High School alumnae, has a Bachelor of Arts degree from a small Jesuit college, known as Spring Hill College, located in Mobile, Alabama. She lived and worked in Alexandria, Virginia for some years after college before coming back to Southern Maryland. For the last 30 plus years, Gretchen has worked in some capacity supporting and serving our local, county or state communities. Before landing in her current role as the Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives with the College of Southern Maryland, she was appointed by then Maryland Governor Larry Hogan as the Southern Maryland Intergovernmental Affairs representative.



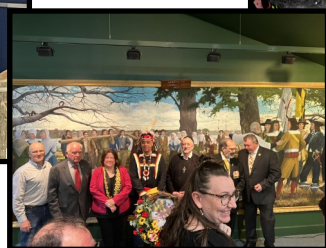
Second Saturdays



Stepping Stone Project



Outdoor Adventure



Maryland Day

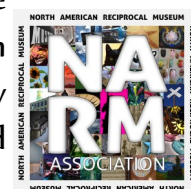


New Membership Program

Janet Cooper
Friends Administrative Assistant

I am excited to present to you what I hope you will find to be an exciting and updated membership program. We have added some new and motivating benefits that are members' only perks. As your new Program team, Sara Saunders and I look forward to planning and executing some new educational programs, fund-raising events, and members only events while maintaining the free events, free admission and NARM benefits.

On the next page you will find an outline of the levels of membership and their benefits. Review these and choose the level that fits your needs and renew today. Your membership aids us in achieving our mission of raising 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 of PPLM & SCIM Membership Levels & Benefits

	Individual	Family	Heritage	Patron	Benefactor	Benefactor Plus
	\$50.00	\$85.00	\$150.00	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$750.00
Free Admission for One Year	X	X	X	X	X	X
Membership Pin (First Time Members Only)	X	X	X	X	X	X
10% discount in museum stores	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quarterly copy of the <i>FinerPoints</i> Newsletter	X	X	X	X	X	X
Email Notification of Events	X	X	X	X	X	X
Free Admission for 2 Adults and all Children and Grandchildren Age 21 and Younger		X	X	X	X	X
Discounted Event Prices*		X	X	X	X	X
Annual Christmas Ornament			X	X	X	X
NARM Membership			X	X	X	X
Guest Passes			2	4	4	4
Water Taxi Pass			2	4	4	4
2 Free General Admission Jazz Festival Tickets					X	
25% off Jazz Festival upgrade to VIP **					X	
25% off Rental Prices at PPLM					X	X
2 Jazz Festival VIP Tickets						X
2 Hours free of a 4 hour Rental at PPLM						X
*Jazz Fest excluded						
** Must upgrade both tickets to VIP status						

Yes! I want to join/renew my membership with The Friends!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Membership Level _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Gift Membership/Memorial Gift/Donation in Honor of _____

Make Checks payable to: The Friends

Mail to: The Friends, c/o St. Clement's Island Museum, 38370 Point Breeze Rd, Colton's Point, MD 20626

Sign up Online at: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Recreate/Museums/Friends/>



Scan to sign up online.



Photo Credit to Clara Silva

Appraiser's Fair at St. Clement's Island Museum

Chris Barbour
Site Supervisor

Early in the morning on January 27, a line of people stood outside the St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point, Maryland with dolls, paintings, coins, sculptures, and jewelry eagerly waiting for the doors to open. People from Southern Maryland and a few from Washington, DC. arrived with their family heirlooms, yard sale finds, and personal treasures hoping to have their questions answered and their curiosity satisfied.

It was the day of the St. Clement's Island Appraiser Fair, an annual event sponsored by the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums. Among the appraisers were Bill Curry of Hammer's Antiques and Appraisals, Shari Mesh of Mesh Appraisal Services, Henry Hull of Commonwealth Antiques and Appraisals, Linda Neeley of the Black-eyed Susan Doll Club of Southern Maryland, and Bill Parron of the Parron Coin Company. The in-kind participation of these expert appraisers provided an educational and affordable program for the public to learn about their valued possessions.

Bill Curry, a certified appraiser, who has participated in the event for five years, said "I look forward to this event every year. I love the variety of items and the stories behind the pieces that come in." He recalls a woman with a silver tea set that may have belonged to her great-great grandfather. Upon closer inspection Curry found the set was solid silver and made by a well-known silversmith in Baltimore, Maryland during the early 1800's. It was worth more than \$30,000.

The St. Clement's Island Appraiser Fair will be held again in January 2025. Friends members will receive two free appraisals and will be admitted early before the doors open to the public.



Photo Credit to Clara Silva

Friends Museum Store News

In celebration of Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island Museum, the Friends Museum store is offering a First Landing special bundle to commemorate the 1634 First Landing of the colonists and the founding of Maryland. The special includes a First Landing St. Clement's Island Museum T-shirt (Size S-3XL) showcasing the *Ark & Dove* on the Potomac and the First Landing limited edition Christmas ornament. The design graphics are from the original stained-glass artwork on display at the St. Clement's Island Museum. The bundle price of \$33 is a 20% savings from the average individual retail price. Available beginning March 1st, while supplies last, at the St. Clement's Island Museum Store and online at <https://friendsmuseumstore.square.site/>

**First Landing
Maryland Day
Special Bundle
\$33**





July 12-14, 2024
Tickets now available

<https://www.potomacjazzfest.com/>



Jazz Notes



Jazz Cruises

Enjoy an exclusive two-hour cruise on the beautiful Breton Bay, right from The Wharf in downtown Leonardtown. Food from one of our local award-winning seafood restaurants will be provided, as well as your choice of soft drinks, beer and wine while you enjoy live jazz music!

Friday, July 12, 3:00-5:00, kick off with Marcus Mitchell live.

Sunday, July 14, 11:00-1:00, 2:00-4:00, 5:00-7:00 Marcus Mitchell will be performing live on all Sunday cruises.

New This Year: Saturday, July 13, 10:30-12:00

Enjoy an exclusive one-way sightseeing cruise from The Wharf in downtown Leonardtown to the Main Event venue at St. Clement's Island Museum. At the end of the night, the Leonardtown Trolley will return guests to Leonardtown (included in price). This is a great option if you are staying at the hotel in town! The Sweet Potatoes will be playing live jazz while you enjoy the cruise.

Advanced tickets required; no walk-on's will be allowed. Boarding will begin 15 minutes prior to departure.

<https://www.potomacjazzfest.com/>



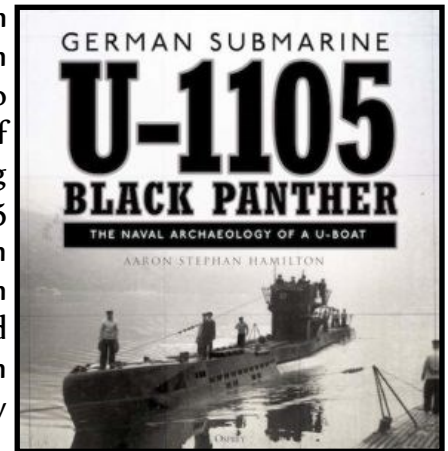
New Exhibits at Piney Point

Karen Stone
Museum Division Manger

The U-1105 “Black Panther” is a German submarine, brought to this country for study by the United States Navy after the Second World War. It was intentionally scuttled in the Potomac River in 1949 and became Maryland’s first Historic Shipwreck Preserve in 1994. This U-boat was important for its many innovations, including the snorkel, the advanced sonar system and the rubber sheathing on the hull which is what gave it the nickname Black Panther. The U-1105 was the only one of its kind to conduct a wartime patrol. Learn more about it by visiting the U-1105 exhibit at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park.

This year is the 75th anniversary of that final sinking, so the Museum Division has partnered with Aaron Hamilton, author of the most definitive book on the subject, to update and redo the exhibit at Piney Point. While writing the book Aaron was able to meet members of Captain Murphy’s family. It was Captain Murphy that sailed the U-boat from England to the United States. The family has loaned a number of items to the Museum to include in the exhibit. Other new additions include a much larger, 100% correct model of the submarine and a working model of the snorkel ball valve. Both of these models were donated by Aaron Hamilton and the Battle of the

Atlantic Research and Expedition Group. Video interviews of Aaron talking about the U-1105 and the objects in the exhibit are in production and will be available on a kiosk in the new exhibit.



A second exhibit dealing with the U-1105 is set to open on the second floor. It focuses on the current condition of the submarine and its status as a Historic Shipwreck Preserve. It contains a model showing the vessel as it sits on the bottom of the Potomac River in the mud, along with a rusty, shell encrusted anchor. (The anchor is modern and has been completely preserved to prevent the rust from continuing to eat away at it.) Both are used to show what happens to man-made things that “live” underwater for extended periods of time.

*Keep posted for new information regarding a partnership with Social Coffee House & Cocktail Bar!



If you would like to receive this newsletter in your mailbox for the next edition, please make sure to renew your membership.



bitly

A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event

REBELS & REDCOATS

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH, 2024
Piney Point Lighthouse • 10 am - 5 pm

Join us at this special event honoring the Battle of St. George's Island, a highlight of Southern Maryland's history, when local soldiers turned back a fleet of British war ships attempting to land. **Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event** is the kickoff as we build to America's Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, of Maryland and of Southern Maryland.



This event/program is part of the Southern Maryland 250th Semiquincentennial, Maryland 250th, and America's 250th celebrations, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding.

In 1776, history was made when Marylanders repelled the British army on St. George's Island.
Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event

FREE!

ALL AGES! FOOD, FUN, PROGRAMS AND MORE!

Family and Kids Activities *** Live Music
Historic/Educational Programming *** Refreshments and Food
Period Reenactor Encampment *** Museum /Lighthouse Tours
Beer Truck *** And More!

DON'T MISS THE FIRST MARYLAND REGIMENT!
Interact with members of The First Maryland Regiment, costumed history reenactors who will be staging an encampment demonstrating Colonial era drilling, weapons, cooking, living quarters, music and more.



SOUTHERN MARYLAND
1789-2024

www.museums.stmarysmd.com - bit.ly/RebelsRedcoats2024

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park • 44720 Lighthouse Road, Piney Point, MD 20674 • 401-994-1471
This semiquincentennial event is made possible by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

