

Maryland begins here!

the finer points

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

Spring 2011

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: Message in a Bottle, Geocaching, Friends News and more!

Caring to Clean Up Museum Division Supports Ecology Efforts

By Kimberley Cullins

The Alice Ferguson Foundation (www.fergusonfoundation.org) conducted the 23rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean Up in April with 428 sites participating from West Virginia to Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania to Maryland. The St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum staff and volunteers proudly joined with community volunteers to clean up parts of the Potomac River that flow through their neighborhoods.

The morning of April 9 was drizzly and gloomy, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the people who opted out of sleeping in to do something good for the environment. Volunteers from Community Bank of Tri-County, NuStar Energy LP, Boy Scout Troop #7, Girl Scout Troop 4949, and the St. Clement's Hundred, armed with gloves and trash bags, scoured the shorelines of Piney Point, Colton's Point and St. Clement's Island. The effort netted many bags of trash and debris, plastic beverage bottles, and other

discards that were able to be recycled. It was a very good day but also a sad reminder of how careless or thoughtless people can be even as environmental initiatives like Save the Bay, Earth Day, Reduce. Reuse. Recycle., and thinking "green" raise awareness among others about caring for our planet.

The little things we do every day add up. At our museums, staffers collect paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum, glass, and other materials and deliver them to a county convenience center for recycling. Lights in the restrooms and exhibit galleries are turned off whenever possible to save on energy. Electrical devices not in use are unplugged to eliminate the "energy vampire" that sucks energy from power sources.

On a larger scale, the Museum Division recently rolled out the Piney Point Lighthouse "Bay-Wise" site enhancements and "parksaping," all designed to reduce runoff

See Clean Up, page 4



Photo: Volunteers on St. Clement's Island scoured the river shoreline and entire island perimeter picking up trash and leaving only their footprints. (Photo by Chris Barbour)

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

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Finer Points, Spring 2011
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Clement's Island and Piney Point
Museums

Corporate Giving Helps Us Thrive

By Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, President

Our museum's big season is getting under way! As we see more visitors coming through the St. Clement's Island Museum and the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park, the Friends are grateful to you, our members, who help us underwrite programs and projects and build interest in these special places.

In this economy especially, we know you have to make choices about where your donor dollars go. We are deeply grateful when you choose to invest in the Friends. For every membership renewal and gift we receive, we can increase our support for our museums and the experiences they offer their guests.

Happily, our renewal rates are steady. It's exciting when a renewal comes back from a member who jumps to another membership level. Recently a couple with a Family membership renewed at the Benefactor level, much to our delight! Members who upgrade to another membership level will receive the great shopping tote with our logo that I'm holding in the photo.

We haven't raised dues for many years to keep membership affordable for current members and attractive to new ones. Consider introducing a friend or a family member to our museums with a gift membership.

The Friends offer these benefits to members:

- Free admission to the museums;
- A 10 percent discount at our museum stores, the Crab Claw and the Lighthouse Lens, which offer themed merchandise in apparel, home and personal accessories, and books;
- Discounted tickets to our Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival in July and our interactive mystery dinner theater in September and free admission to certain other events. Heritage, Patron and Benefactor members receive additional benefits – for details, visit <http://www.co.saint-marys.md.us/recreate/friends.asp>
- A subscription to this newsletter, the Finer Points.



Please visit soon and experience the excitement your investment helps provide!

In Memoriam _____



Ann Kiker



*Vivian Kay
Zimmerman*

The Piney Point Lighthouse Museum lost two loyal volunteers who passed away in early 2011, Ann Kiker and Kay Zimmerman. Ann and Kay were volunteers for many years and had given tremendous amounts of time and talent to their beloved Piney Point Lighthouse. Their contributions were invaluable. We will miss them very much.



A message first launched by Elizabeth Hunsinger is on the third leg of its journey after a stop at the Piney Point Lighthouse.

Message in a Bottle

The NuStar Energy volunteers who combed the shore near the Piney Point Lighthouse during the Potomac River Clean Up discovered something they decided should not go into the recycle bags with the rest of the debris they found that April morning. It was a large, clear bottle, well sealed, with rolled-up paper inside.

Piney Point Lighthouse site supervisor April Havens unsealed the bottle, retrieved the paper, and read an intriguing message. “Dear Anybody, My name is Elizabeth Hunsinger. I am 11 years old. I live in Tall Timbers, Maryland. If found, please contact me.” April called Elizabeth and found out that she had launched the bottle Oct. 27, 2010. Elizabeth was surprised and delighted her bottle had been found six months later and gladly accepted April’s invitation to re-launch the bottle from the Piney Point Lighthouse pier, this time including the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum’s name and number for the next “finder.”

Elizabeth re-launched her bottle on April 9 in Piney Point. The next day, April received a call from a gentleman in Valley Lee who had found the bottle! He promised to add his information and re-launch the bottle on the next outgoing tide. So the message in a bottle floats on to destinations unknown. Waiting for a call....

New at the Museum Stores!



Check out these new items available at both the St. Clement’s Island and Piney Point Museums! Custom antique brass and enamel ornaments, 3” round and designed in 3-D! \$17.95 each. Friends members get a 10 percent discount! Call Carol Cribbs for more info!

A Letter From Debra

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to tell you that the staff made good use of the winter season when visitation is a bit slower. Time was spent preparing for events and conducting staff and volunteer training. A lot of work takes place for every event and major program we offer to the public as well as the day to day operations.

We generally must set event dates as early as 12 months in advance to be promoted in state publications and St. Mary’s County tourism publications. Once the date is set, permits have to be submitted and work orders prepared for tents, stages, trash receptacles, house keeping and landscaping needs. Event coordinators contact partners, sponsors, vendors and volunteers. Then local advertising is addressed, signs updated, fliers produced and distributed or invitations prepared and mailed. Staff and volunteers are recruited or assigned tasks. For every hour an event is in action, the staff and volunteers spend approximately 25-30 hours of preparation time. If it is a new event that number can increase significantly!

Our staff and volunteers spend many hours each year in a variety of training sessions. Everything is covered from First Aid, CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training to site safety monitoring, emergency response and evacuation. We also address operational procedures like customer services, running the cash registers, managing disruptive guests and giving tours.

These are just two areas that we address in the winter months to be better prepared for our visitors each spring and summer. Not only does staff participate in the event planning and trainings but numerous volunteers dedicate hours of their time to the same planning meetings and safety and customer service trainings.

The museum division strives to maintain the highest level of service with the resources we have to better serve our membership and our visiting public.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Pence

Clean Up

Continued from page 1

that pollutes coastal waters. The installation of a bio-retention pond and rain garden are illustrative of our environmental commitment, about which we offer information to visitors that we hope will inspire them to take preventive action at their own homes. Parkscaping meant planting many indigenous plants and shrubs to ensure soil retention and filtration. Please come to the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park to learn more and see the beautiful results!

The Museum Division is passionate about its role as steward of our ecology and environment. We hope everyone will join us in this effort to keep our world healthy!



Volunteers pick up trash near the Piney Point Lighthouse (left) and comb the river's edge in search of trash and debris behind Piney Point Lighthouse. (Photos by April Havens)

What is Geocaching?

In essence, it is a high-tech form of hide and seek. Geocaching is a fun outdoor activity in which participants use a GPS (Global Positional System) receiver to hide and seek containers called “geocaches” or “caches” anywhere in the world. A typical geocache is a small, clear, waterproof container containing a logbook and pen or pencil. Larger containers often include items for trading, like tiny toys or trinkets of modest value. Some items are moved from cache to cache, called “hitchhikers,” and are logged and followed online. Geocaches are never buried but are hidden from sight so that a passerby might not find it and remove it.

The St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse Museums are home to geocaches but we're not telling where they are! To find them, you'll have to become an official geocacher!

If you like technology, adventure, and the outdoors, this might be the perfect activity for you! To get started, simply find a website like www.geocache.com, where you can sign up for free membership and access geocache locations locally or around the world. The St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks also offers information and access to geocache locations. Check it out at www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/geocaching.asp.



Volunteer Coordinator Shirley Leyland colorfully participates in Piney Point Lighthouse events. (Photo by Kim Cullins)

Farewell to Shirley

It all started when Shirley Leyland and her husband Walt moved to Tall Timbers and Shirley looked for a way to get involved in the community. She discovered the Piney Point Lighthouse nearby and it was love at first sight.

Shirley began volunteering at the lighthouse in 1998. She probably never dreamed on that first day where this adventure would take her. In the years that followed, Shirley became not only the Volunteer Coordinator but also a member and later president of the Museum Division Board of Trustees, an appointment by the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners. She used skills honed from her teaching experience to lead, advocate, coordinate, and inspire everyone around her. But it was her thoughtfulness, sensitivity, enthusiasm, compassion, infectious smile and amazing chocolate chip cookies that made everyone love her.

Shirley has helped staff prepare for and clean up after hurricanes, educate and coordinate volunteers for lighthouse tours, staffed water stations for marathons and 10-mile races, judged lighthouse art shows, and coordinated many other special events and projects. She has been an ardent advocate for policies and resources that allow the Museum Division to achieve and maintain the highest standards of professionalism. Shirley touched many lives with the countless hours she spent working with volunteers, board members, museum staff, and every visitor she ever met at the Piney Point Lighthouse.

Shirley and Walt will be moving to Williamsburg, VA, to be closer to family. She leaves us with precious memories, and we send with her the fondest affection from the hearts of the museum family she leaves behind. We won't say “Good-bye,” just “Until next time, Shirley, we'll leave the ‘light’ on for you!”

Volunteers Honored For Dedicated Service



It's one of the best events of the entire year. Museum Division staff and Board of Trustees members, Friends board members, and members of the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners gather to honor the volunteers at the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums for their many hours of service. In April, everyone gathered at The Riverview Restaurant at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course for a delicious luncheon and awards ceremony.



Honored for volunteering more than 100 hours in 2010 were Eileen Amole, Duff Bailey, Buddy Beauverd, Bettie Broadhurst, George Brstilo (over 200!), Marilyn Grace, Grace Hutchinson, Mary Hyatt, and Jane Turner. Friends President Sheila Hiebert presented the President's Award to Mary and Larry Hyatt for their invaluable assistance with project management of the Collections Management Facility, volunteerism, and board service. Volunteers of the Year awards went to Jane Turner of St. Clement's Island Museum and George Brstilo of the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum.



You'll see our volunteers in the museum stores, at the front desk, in the lighthouse tower, on the water taxi, at special events, with a group tour, or staffing an exhibit at another museum or organization's event. They are passionate. They are devoted. They are invaluable. They are always there when we need them. Thank you!

Photos: (Top) President's Award winners, Larry and Mary Hyatt with Friends President Sheila Hiebert. (Middle) Commissioner Dan Morris, Shirley Leyland, Commissioner Jack Russell, George Brstilo, Delegate Johnny Wood, and April Havens. (Bottom) Chris Barbour, Commissioners Dan Morris and Jack Russell, Jane Turner, Delegate Johnny Wood, and Jean Hoffman. (Photos by Kim Cullins)



MURDER at the County Fair

September 9, 2011
6:30 pm-9 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

The Friends' Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner

Olde Breton Inn
Leonardtown, MD

The MURDERER could be **YOU!**



Image reprinted with permission of Winter Gallery

2010 Annual Appeal Donors -- Thanks!

Our heartfelt thanks to these donors who contributed \$4,845 to our Annual Appeal.

Karen Abrams and Jim Kenney
Frank and Christina Allen
James and Donna Attick
Timothy and Caroline Baldwin
James Banagan
Robert and Patricia Bowes
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John Hanson Briscoe
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Stephanie Waikart
Alvonne Wimmer
Johnny and Barbara Wood
Christine Wray and John Felicitas
Robert and Anna Yates

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.

June 11 –

St. Clement's Island Heritage Day

The St. Clement's Island Museum will offer FREE boat rides to St. Clement's Island State Park, site of Maryland's first colonial landing in 1634. Meet and learn from a colonial militia expert and enjoy a guided tour of the reconstructed Blackistone Lighthouse! Don't miss a chat with costumed interpreter Dr. Thomas Gerard and his little daughter, Elizabeth, portraying the first owners of the island. Kids will enjoy playing a variety of heritage games. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Boat transportation is weather dependent. Please call the museum at 301-769-2222 for more information and/or to confirm boat transportation.

July 9 –

Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival

If you've never been, this is the year to go! The dynamic lineup on the grounds of the St. Clement's Island Museum includes trumpet master Joey Somerville from Atlanta at 3 p.m., the electric urban style of Toronto-based 480 East at 5 p.m., and British sax man Paul "Shilts" Weimer at 7 p.m. Use your Friends Member discount to purchase tickets for \$50 (\$55 non-member price) before they sell out. Tickets go on sale June 1. Friends members should look for their flyer in their mailbox! Jazz, seafood, riverside setting...it's an irresistible combo! Bring your lawn chair or blanket. No coolers, please. Vendors will provide a tasty selection of food, beverages and desserts. For more information,

call the St. Clement's Island Museum at 301-769-2222.

August 6 – Children's Day

Bring the kids and the camera for a fun-filled time at the St. Clement's Island Museum from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.! The first 100 kids get a free t-shirt! Enjoy games, crafts, music, and entertainment. Kids up to age 12 get a free water taxi ride to St. Clement's Island. The 7th District Optimist Club will provide a kiddie tractor pull, bike giveaways, and food everyone can afford! Meet our community heroes from the fire department, rescue squad and Sheriff's Department! If you or your business would like to be an event sponsor, please call Kim Cullins at 301-769-2385.

Member News

Welcome Aboard, New Members!

Senior

Frank Maio, Great Mills, MD

Family

Carlton and Deborah Tolsdorf, Colton's Point, MD
Sean and Eileen Wallace, Bowie, MD

Patron

Ellis and Rebekah Nottingham, Colton's Point, MD
Peter Verburtg upgraded to Patron, St. Leonard, MD

Benefactor

John and Tara Quinnette upgraded to Benefactor
Alexandria, VA

Friends News and Thank You's!

Memorial Gifts

The Friends are most grateful to these donors for their gifts in memory of Piney Point Lighthouse volunteer Ann Kiker: **Ellen Culp, River's Edge Restaurant, Marion Hudspeth, Sheila Hines, Shirley Leyland, Bettie Broadhurst, Carmella Marroli, H. Maxwell Mitchell, Jr., J.F Taylor, Inc., and Jon Sunderland.** The Friends also gratefully acknowledge memorial contributions for Piney Point Lighthouse volunteer Kay Zimmerman from **Bettie Broadhurst, Lydia Wood, and Shirley Leyland.** The Friends also thank **Louanne and Bo Bailey** for their gifts in memory of Frank Rubala and Carrie Angel Aldridge Murray.

Donations

Many thanks go to **Southern Maryland Electric Co-op (SMECO)** for donating two color network printers for the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse Museums. These printers will be a great asset for the many projects used for marketing, promotion, reports and more! The Friends thank the **Chesapeake Bay Running Club** for its generous donation of \$3,500, proceeds from the Lower Potomac River Marathon in March. CBRC has been a longtime supporter of the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park.

Upgrade Membership, Receive Gift!

New for changes to membership in 2011! When you upgrade to a higher membership level, the Friends will send you a reusable shopping bag with the Friends logo. Thanks to the members named on this page who recently upgraded! Your bag is on the way!

Rollins Headlines Annual Membership Meeting

St. Mary's County Parks and Recreation Director Phil Rollins was the guest speaker at the 2011 Friends annual membership meeting. Phil provided an overview of Rec & Parks initiatives. He noted the substantial improvements at the Piney Point Museum, Lighthouse and Historic Park. Future improvements there will include siding the museum building and finishing out its second floor. At St. Clement's Island, he anticipates in future fiscal years a robust maintenance program, restroom upgrades, and changes to the exhibit galleries. At this meeting, the Friends welcomed new Board Member **Dale Springer** and re-elected Board members **Ann Davis, Johnny Wood, and John Madel.** The membership also approved bylaw changes that permit the Board of Directors to schedule the membership meeting at their discretion but not later than May 1; require the board to meet each calendar quarter but not less than four times a year; and would also permit the Board to amend the bylaws.

Like a Good Neighbor

The Friends would like to thank **Lydia and Carlton Wood**, who like a good neighbor, were there to offer a helping hand. Special thanks for donating their time and bucket truck to replace the broken rope on the museum's flag pole. Now Old Glory is flying high again! Another good neighbor and community partner, **Community Bank of Tri-County**, provided volunteers to assist with the Potomac River Clean Up and also donated \$100 to feed all the volunteers who participated at the St. Clement's Island location. Thank you!



GOT TIME? Become a Volunteer!

The St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Lighthouse Museums welcome those looking to make a difference, make new friends, and share a rewarding experience serving their community.

Volunteer opportunities vary at each museum but can include greeting guests, giving tours, staffing the museum stores, working special events, and acting as a lighthouse guide, water taxi ride-on assistant, or behind-the-scenes helper. Call the museum of your choice for info! SCIM 301-769-2222 or PPLM 301-994-1471.

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 BENEFACTORS



*Stephen and Renee Bisciatti
Foundation*

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



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