

Maryland begins here!

the finer points

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

March 2007

Maryland, My Maryland

Marylanders offer reflections on the state they call home

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: MORE Marylanders Reflect, Q&A With Chris, Meet April Havens, Friends News and more!

With Maryland Day just around the corner, this is a natural time to remember what a very special place Maryland is. Since its founding on March 25, 1634, Maryland has grown and evolved exponentially. It has played significant roles in U. S. history, raised and educated its share of heroes and heroines, embraced and advanced emerging science and technologies, and overcome challenges presented by war, weather, and scandal.

For every Marylander, whether born and bred here or transplanted here, this is "home." Inspired by our state song "Maryland, My Maryland," we asked a cross-section of Marylanders, "What does YOUR Maryland mean to you?"

What they told us is that Maryland means different things to different people, but a common thread connects them: Maryland holds a very special place in all their hearts.

Martin O'Malley *Governor of Maryland*

What Maryland means to me is simple:

- One Maryland, where diversity is our greatest strength, both in landscape and our rich heritage.
- A strong Maryland, where our economic, educational, and communal systems are working efficiently to provide opportunities for growth and innovation for every family.



- A free Maryland, where our citizens' natural rights are protected, where people may worship freely, speak freely, and enjoy health, each other and the land and water we love.

It is with great veneration that we remember how this state was started as we look with humility toward our future.



Bruce Thompson *Assistant Maryland State Underwater Archaeologist*

My Maryland began in the late 1970s when I was fortunate enough to be taught how to sail on her waters. One of my first memories of was of Poplar Island, where in his day, Teddy Roosevelt would escape for some hunting and fishing. Walking the shorelines I discovered artifacts of his time on the island. I left Maryland to continue my education and after a decade of recording shipwrecks around the world, I returned in 1989.

Over the last 16 years I have searched for Maryland's history underwater. My Mary-

**The Friends of the
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It Was A Very Good Year

By Sheila Gibbons Hiebert

When my now-18-year-old grandson was a small boy, he observed his mother's love of old movies, noticing that the oldies were in black and white.

"Mom," he asked, "when you were little, were you in black and white, too?"

Like the movies, the *Finer Points* has evolved. With this issue it is being printed in color for the first time. It's one of the things we're doing to showcase the fine work of our Museum Division staff and deliver more reading pleasure to the Friends who support their efforts.

At our membership meeting February 11, I reported that, thanks to you, your board has approved a 2007 budget of \$73,300. We continue to underwrite the salary of a museum employee; provide matching funds for grants and special projects; and foster communication with the public through advertising and this newsletter.

Two outstanding events that generate income for us are the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival in July and the Murder at the Lighthouse mystery dinner theater in September. We're also happy to say that this year the Friends will again be a designated charity of Park Bingo.

Our museum stores continue to thrive. Our manager, Carol Cribbs, does a wonderful job selecting merchandise. She's commissioned a lovely scarf displaying images of our museum sites and other county landmarks. We're grateful to the volunteers who work in the stores and help sustain this important revenue stream.

Our membership stands at about 300 individuals, families and businesses. We're working hard to increase our numbers during 2007, and we hope you will, too. Remember, there's a membership form on the back page of this newsletter!

We welcome to the board John Madel and Pat Weiland. John succeeded Claudia McAuliffe last fall. A St. Mary's County native, John is retired from the Navy. He was also a manager at Eagan McAllister Associates, had his own engineering business and has been an active volunteer in several St. Mary's organizations. He and his wife, Annette, live in Avenue.

Pat takes the seat of Greg Callaway. Pat is a Washington, D.C., native who came to Southern Maryland in 1991. She worked in the travel office of the Army Map Service in Glen Echo and as a proposal writer/coordinator for Tracor in Rockville, where she met her husband, Bob. They live in Leonardtown.

We thank Claudia and Greg for their board service and their continued willingness to be involved in Friends activities.

And we extend deep gratitude to you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Thank you!

Division Manager's Notes by Debra Pence

This winter season brings many changes for the coming year. First, I salute Gerri McDonough and Richard Gould for their years of service to the Museum Division. Each has made countless contributions to our sites, to our visitors, and to our staff with their steadfast dedication and continued flexibility as the sites evolved through the years. Both Gerri and Richard have resigned for health reasons and we will miss them this coming season.

This fall we welcomed our new Site Supervisor for the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park, April Havens. April is a retired Maryland Park Service Ranger and very familiar with our tri-county region of parks, museums and cultural institutions. April brings a strong background in interpretation and program development. We also are pleased to welcome Jessica Christian, Brian Abrams, Carmen Hayes, Shawn Howeth and David Krug as our new Museum Assistants.

With new staff we will expand visitor services hours and begin an active group tour program at our Piney Point site. We are pleased to announce that Piney Point will open on April 13 and our public hours will be from 9 to 5, Friday through Monday. Group tours can be arranged for any day of the week.

Please be sure to visit all of our sites this spring. Many of our grants have facilitated new interpretive signage, exhibit enhancements and other site improvements for your comfort and enjoyment. It is your continued support that allows the Museum Division



to continually strive for a higher-quality experience for our many visitors.

Meet April Havens!

Before being hired in the fall of 2006 as the site supervisor for the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park, April served 20-plus years as Park Ranger/Natural Resources Police Officer with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources State Forest and Park Service. This DNR division has jurisdiction over

Point Lookout, Calvert Cliffs, St. Clement's Island, Greenwell, St. Mary's River, Southern Maryland Recreational Complex, all parks in Charles County, and other state parks.

She has a B.S. degree in Outdoor Education from Frostburg State University and is a graduate of the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy, DNR's Ranger School, and the Maryland Natural Resources Police Academy.

April was born in Florence, Ala., and raised in North Carolina and Virginia. She has lived in Maryland for 23 years and currently resides in Dameron with her husband and two sons.

Why did April apply for this museum position? "I have always had an interest in the outdoors, parks, history and genealogy," she said. "I have been involved with educational programs in both historical and environmental facilities for the past 20 years. Working in a museum with a diverse environment such as Piney Point allows me to continue to enjoy working in all of the areas I find so interesting."

MEMBERSHIP MULTIPLIER

When you renew your membership in the Friends, at the same time consider giving a membership to a family member or friend. Just use the form on the *Finer Point's* back page. It's a great way to help us grow!



Yes, Virginia, there IS a Mrs. Claus...

Mrs. Claus (aka Margaret Hammett of Colton's Point, MD) was busy assisting Santa at the St. Clement's Island Museum Christmas Open House in December. Here, little Virginia Barbour of Abell, MD, takes in all the sights and sounds of the holidays offered during the museum's Annual Christmas Doll & Train Exhibit that delighted more than 1,200 children and adults during its 5-week run.

land is her past and the descendents — watermen, shipbuilders, museum staff, preservationists and conservationists — who today are the protectors of that history.

Page 1 photo: Working with Howard Wellman (Chief Conservator for the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory) and volunteers Steve Pratt, Ron Chambers (not shown) and Chris Maple (not shown), Bruce and friends recently reconstructed an early 19th century canoe excavated in 1992.

Dana McGarity

President, St. Mary's Caring, Inc.

Even though I was born and raised in the Deep South, I have lived in Maryland more than half my life and I do believe it is America in microcosm. We have the ocean, the bay, mountains, farms and rural hamlets, bustling cities and suburbia, all packed into a relatively small state. The citizens of Maryland are equally diverse and, by and large, engaged in the life and well-being of their communities. I also appreciate the rich history of Maryland and its people, and I feel very fortunate to live here.



Dana McGarity (left), is shown here with Leonardtown High School Student Emily Salanon, who organized a toy drive for less fortunate children in St. Mary's County. She collected, wrapped and labeled more than a hundred gifts distributed at the St. Mary's Caring soup kitchen.

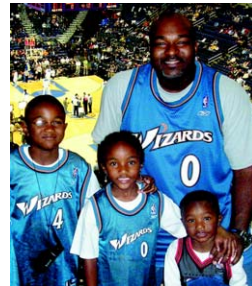
Bruce Nwadike, D.V.M.

Small Animal Surgeon, Mid-Atlantic Animal Specialty Hospital

My wife, Valinda, and I have moved at least 13 times among seven different states in the past 14 years as we pursued education and training for our careers. We have since settled in a beautiful Southern Maryland community. Our

three children have been extremely resilient adjusting to our many moves, but while on a Christmas vacation in England, my then 5-year-old daughter asked, "Daddy, when are we going home? I miss our home."

That our children long to be home where they have begun building strong friendships; that they are thriving in an excellent school, and involved in local sports and church; that my wife and I have



secured productive employment here; and that we look forward each year to participating with our neighbors and friends in the River Concert Series, the Potomac

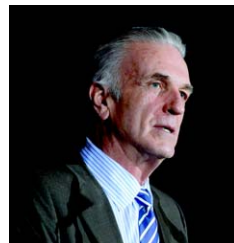
Jazz and Seafood Festival, the St. Mary's Hospital functions, and Leonardtown activities, to name just a few — I know that we have made our final move. After all these years, I can earnestly say we are finally "home" in Maryland.

Bruce is pictured above with his children Nicholas, Brittany and Daniel.

John R. Griffin

Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

My Maryland is a place where the beauty and purpose of our natural world evoke deep emotion, inspiring us to life-long advocacy, hopeful action and stewardship. It is a place where people take responsibility for the resources that bless our shores by preserving our rural landscapes and open spaces, supporting our farms and forests, valuing our wildlife and aquatic life, and restoring the health of our waterways. In my Maryland, we will address the significant challenges ahead — growth, sea level rise and the need for renewable energy — with foresight, innovation, energy and passion.



Dan Patrell

President, Great State Publishing, LLC and Publisher/Editor, Maryland Life Magazine

I'm not originally from Maryland. I'm a "come here" who came here in the late '80s. But this is it. This is home. This is my Maryland. It's the people, it's the pride everyone has in the Free State, it's the embodiment of the phrase, "America in Miniature."

There couldn't be a better way to describe our state's footprint, which stretches from the mountainous west all the way to the Chesapeake Bay, onward to the ocean, encompassing bustling big cities, small towns filled with historic charm, and endless countryside. My Maryland is a special place; I celebrate it with my family — my wife and daughter, born here — every chance I get.



Steny Hoyer

Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, Maryland's 5th Congressional District

As we look forward to celebrating Maryland Day, we are reminded of what makes our state so great. I take incredible pride in Maryland's rich history, including St. Clement's Island, the site of the first landing by English settlers, and St. Mary's City, our state's first capital. It was at these sites in St. Mary's County that the colony of Maryland was established, and the ideals of religious tolerance and other basic freedoms were cultivated. I am thankful for our magnificent natural resources, including the Chesapeake Bay, one of the country's most valuable natural treasures. And, I am grateful for the hardworking men and women who have made Maryland so prosperous and such a welcoming place. Truly, our state offers a lot for which we can be both proud and grateful. I know



there is no other place on earth I would rather call my home.

Congressman Steny Hoyer is pictured above at the annual Osprey Gala hosted by the St. Clement's Hundred, a fundraiser to benefit St. Clement's Island.

Viola Gardner

Proprietor, Brambly Inn; member, Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame; former Museum Division trustee

My Maryland means that I don't want to leave St. Mary's or Maryland. It means a great deal to me. This is home. I've been honored by the county for my volunteer work. I'm just in love with the county.



Above: Viola (far right) in deep discussion with friends Arlene Cullins and Laura Roys at the St. Clement's Hundred Osprey Gala.

Michael Martirano

Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools

I am a lifelong resident of Maryland. I was born and raised in the rolling mountains of Western Maryland, I lived in the expansive Central Maryland region, and now I am blessed to work and live in beautiful Southern Maryland, specifically St. Mary's County. I am also a graduate of the University of Maryland. I am a true Marylander – 100 percent. My Maryland means to me natural beauty and wonderful people who still care enough about you to say hello.



Above: Dr. Martirano reads to students at the Lexington Park Elementary School during Book Character Day.

Robin Melton

Manager, Point Lookout State Park, DNR

I'm not a Maryland native, but I've lived in Maryland for almost 20 years. Maryland's resources are unique: you can travel from the mountains to the ocean in a few hours, something that is impossible in many other states. My children have grown up in this state and will call it home for a lifetime. As a paddler, I know firsthand how the many and varied waterways within Maryland provide wonderful adventures. I've paddled so many scenic areas, each one showing a different picture of the amazing resources that this state offers. I am pleased to call Maryland home.



Roz Racanello

Executive Director, Southern Maryland Heritage Area

I drive around the three counties of the Heritage Area a fair amount, rushing, like everyone else, from meetings to errands and back to the office. But there are a couple of spots on quiet back roads in St. Mary's County where I suddenly feel lifted up, and can see the rolling fields dotted with barns and livestock, a windmill alongside a rambling farmhouse, and off in the distance the glittering waters of the Chesapeake or one of its many creeks. An Amish wagon may come clopping along on the shoulder of the road, or rows and rows of wash hanging from the clotheslines wave like mad in the wind. It's a breathless suspension of time that rushes toward me like a scene from a dream. It really doesn't matter what else I have had on my mind all day. At that moment, Southern Maryland comes home to me in a way that no other place on earth ever could.

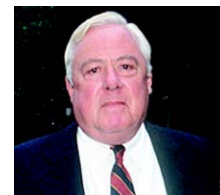


Roz Racanello, pictured above,

Thomas Penfield Jackson

U. S. District Court Judge for the District of Columbia, retired

Virginia's celebration of the 400th anniversary of Jamestown's founding this year is receiving worldwide attention. People, especially Marylanders, should remember and remind one another that a mere 27 years separate the founding of Lord Baltimore's colony across the Potomac and Jamestown's troubled origins. The Maryland colonists encountered the same native inhabitants, the

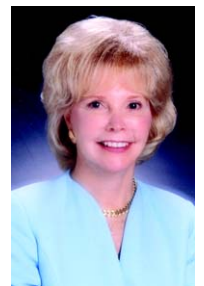


same climate, and the same personal hardships as the Virginians, but with far less hostility with the natives and a good deal more harmony with one another. I hope the country gives us due credit when our time comes.

Nancy Grasmick

Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

My Maryland is a place that has truly committed to the world-class education of its children, with high standards, unprecedented funding, superior teachers and school leaders, unparalleled innovation, and uncompromising accountability. My Maryland has secured the public and political will to give every child the opportunity to achieve. In January, *Education Week*, the nation's leading education newspaper, said children in Maryland have the country's fifth-best chance of becoming successful adults. My Maryland is a place that won't rest until that No. 5 ranking is a No.1.



Q&A

with
Chris

Q. Who owned St. Clement's Island?

In 1636 Cecil Calvert, Maryland's Lord Proprietor, granted Dr. Thomas Gerard 1,030 acres of land which included St. Clement's Island. Gerard gave his daughter, Elizabeth, the Island and a portion of his property for her dowry. Nehemiah Blackistone acquired St. Clement's when he married Elizabeth in 1669. The Island remained in the Blackistone family for 162 years until Richard Miles purchased it in 1831. John Goldsmith, who would lead a Confederate raid on the Island's lighthouse during the Civil War, bought it in 1836 and sold it to Benjamin Harris in 1850.

A month later, Dr. Joseph McWilliams purchased the island through a land swap with Harris, and operated a successful vacation resort. After Dr. McWilliams' death, the property continued to pass through a number of owners — Fenton Dennison in 1896, Mary and Charles Swann in 1898, Edward and Annie Chase in 1904 and Frank and Mary Butterfield in 1909.

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.

Lower Potomac River Marathon – Sunday, March 11

The Museum Division, as community partner with the Chesapeake Bay Running Club, encourages all to come out and cheer on the runners of the 26.2 mile course that begins and ends at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Education and Training in Piney Point. The course's route enters the St. George Island area, winds down Lighthouse Road to the Piney Point Lighthouse, and extends up and down the Route 249 corridor. Runners of all ages and abilities will brave the grueling distance to complete the course. The shotgun start begins at the Paul Hall Center at 8 a.m. For more information, contact race director Liza Recto at lizalasnaga@hotmail.com

Maryland Day – Sunday, March 25

Happy 373rd Birthday, Maryland! Join us at the St. Clement's Island Museum for a special commemorative riverside ceremony to celebrate the landing of the first Maryland colonists on March 25, 1634. Enjoy music by the Leonardtown High School Ladies Fayre choir, remarks by the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners, and keynote address by St. Mary's County Superintendent of

Public Schools Michael Martirano. The program will conclude with a wreath-laying at the St. Clement's Island historical marker followed by refreshments inside the museum. The program begins at 5 p.m.

St. Clement's Island Museum Summer Hours – March 25

The St. Clement's Island Museum begins summer hours of operation: Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends noon to 5 p.m. through the month of September.

Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park Opens with New Hours – April 13

Enjoy a spring visit to the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park with an early opening and extended hours. The facility will be staffed for public visitation and tours Fridays through Mondays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$1.50 for children 6 – 18, and kids 5 and under are free! Admission includes access to the museum, Potomac River Maritime Exhibit, and a climb to the top of the lighthouse. The grounds are always open free to the public from sunrise to sunset, 7 days a week.

Piney Point Lighthouse Waterfront Festival – May 12 and 13

Fun for the whole family! All are invited to discover and enjoy the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park with free admission, tours of the lighthouse and keeper's quarters, demonstrations, children's activities, food, and more! Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.



Water Taxi Tours – May 26

The St. Clement's Island Museum will resume water taxi service to St. Clement's Island State Park on weekends through September. Water taxi tickets may be purchased inside the museum for \$5 per person. A discounted admission is available if a museum tour is included. Enjoy the peace, solitude and natural beauty of Maryland's birthplace! Take a picnic lunch and dine under the pavilion or shade tree. Bring your loved one for a romantic walk on the beach or the whole family for a reunion, birthday party, or cookout!

In 1919 the United States Navy purchased the Island from Francis Butterfield, son of Frank and Mary Butterfield, and made it part of the Dahlgren Proving Grounds in King George County, Virginia. The Federal government already had ownership of 2 3/5 acres of the Island for the Blackistone Island Lighthouse. Other property owners with smaller lots included the Kopels, the Rauterbergs and the Edgertons. In 1962 State of Maryland gained ownership of the Island. Today it is operated by the Maryland Park Service, Department of Natural Resources.

Doctor's diary, the *Columbia*, and the *Express* visited his wharf regularly to pickup his Island-grown produce and bring city dwellers from Washington and Baltimore to his Island resort.

Boat schedules for the steamer J. W. Thompson appeared in the St. Mary's Beacon newspaper in 1883 with Blackistone Island (St. Clement's Island) as one of its destinations.

Q. Did steamboats make stops at St. Clement's Island?

Steamboats began making stops on St. Clement's Island after Dr. Joseph McWilliams built a wharf there in 1868. According to the

Christina Barbour is the Historic Site Manager at the St. Clement's Island Museum and serves also as Education Curator and Collections Manager.

2006 Annual Appeal

Your generous response to our Annual Appeal raised \$5,555. Thank you!

Karen Abrams
Dorothy Bailey
Dorothy Barclift
Janice Bitetti
Robert & Thelma Boteler
John Briscoe
Sam & Vicki Brown
Cynthia Broyles
Elliott & Rita Burch
Robert & Lynn Burton
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Mary Dobbs-Fleming
Helen Dorsey

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John Freeman
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Gerald & Helen Grady
Gene & Shelby Guazzo
Guy Distributing Co.
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Elizabeth Harden
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Jim Ingle
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Bob & Inky Kopel
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Paul & Mellie Nelson
New Tower Trust
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Steven & Deborah Osvatics
Barbara Wise Quade
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Frank & Marjorie Rubala
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Louise K. Snell
Becky & Tomlin Stevens
Eleanor Duke Storck
Richard & Mary Thomas
Francis & Jeanne Toth
Herb & Francine Walling
Thomas Watts
Wentworth Nursery, Inc.
Rebecca Wolf
James Lawrence Wood
Margaret Wood

Member News

Welcome Aboard!

The Friends welcome these new members:

Senior:

R. Helene Farrall, Avenue, MD

Patron:

Pam Harmon & Tim Muris, Oakton, VA

And a Special Thanks to the following...

Shirley and Walt Leyland for their gift in honor of volunteers Steve (also a Museum trustee) and Pat Dunlap on the occasion of their retirement. The Leylands' \$70 gift represents a dollar for each year of the Dunlaps' combined years of service in their fields.

Mary Jane and Robert Palmby for their \$25 gift in memory of longtime Friends member volunteer Grace Sheaffer. Grace was also remembered by Walt and Shirley Leyland, who donated the \$150 prize for their second- and third-place awards at the Leonardtown Festival of Trees.

Chuck Kimball of Chesapeake Stafford Restaurant (Honkers), Tall Timbers, for his \$200 donation. Chuck purchased the Christmas tree decorated by the Friends and raffled off by Callaway Retail Enterprises. Former Friends board member Greg Callaway donated the tree and board officers Paul Nelson, Lewie Aldridge, Ann Davis and Sheila Hiebert donated the ornaments.

The Optimist Club of the Seventh District, which donated a boy's and girl's bike to the Christmas Open House at the St. Clement's Island Museum in December.

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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Associates

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MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

- Senior (\$25)
- Individual (\$35)
- Family (\$50)
- Heritage (\$100)
- Patron (\$200)
- Benefactor (\$500)

- Corporate Patron (\$200)
- Corporate Benefactor (\$500)

The Friends of the
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Colton's Point, MD 20626



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