



# The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the Claiborne Community

**March 2022**

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Rob and Suzanne Todd, March Editors  
Barbara Reisert, Clarion Founder and Editor Emerita \*  
Mary Gregorio, President, Claiborne Association

## March Birthdays

9 – Ted Jones  
9 – Suzanne Todd  
12 – Kevin Garber  
13 – Mike Kabler  
14 – Rebecca Cockey Parks  
14 – Penny Rhine  
15 – Baba Groom

## Project Clean Stream 2022 Comes to Claiborne

*by Maura Bollinger*

Please join me on Saturday, April 2 for a clean-up of the areas around Claiborne Landing as part of Project Clean Stream.

We will be part of thousands of volunteers picking up trash from local streams, rivers, and parks in all six states of the Chesapeake watershed as organized through Alliance for the Bay and ShoreRivers. They will provide the supplies and we (hopefully) will provide the volunteers. If you are interested, please send me an email ([mauraecb@verizon.net](mailto:mauraecb@verizon.net)), I

## Hello Claiborne Friends and Neighbors!



Spring is in the air! quickly followed by a deep freeze and perhaps a blizzard... but trust that we'll soon be enjoying a string of actual Spring days. The Claiborne Association held its Winter Membership Meeting

during the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on the second Thursday in February. A small group joined and supported the decision to reopen the Village Hall to some activities. With continued attention to safety, Ladies' Night (Mondays at 5:00p), Movie Night (Wednesday night-to be announced), and Yoga (with Mike Keene) have resumed. Masks are required for the time being, but it's wonderful to gather in person once again. (Editor's note: Thanks to Anne and Greg North for the new large movie screen.)

These activities, fundamental to the mission of the Claiborne Association, are open to the whole community and serve to combat the debilitating effects of social isolation. Join us!

One consequence of social isolation is the increase in the number of people who have fallen prey to scams. The past two years have seen a significant uptick in scams of all types. The Talbot County Department of Social Services reports a scam involving fraudulent bank activity at least once a week. Unfortunately, many more go unreported because victims are embarrassed or fearful about reporting. So, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Never, ever, ever give out Social Security, Medicare, or bank account numbers over the phone or via the internet unless you are certain that you are on a secure site. One of the newest scams has to do with the handy QR codes that

will need a count, so I have enough gloves, grabbers etc. for everyone.

The plan is to meet at the landing at 10:30am and go from there. Our rain date will be April 16. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions.



**We have a star in our midst.** Our very own Koa Cureton was in The Country School's production of The Sound of Music this past weekend. We're proud of you, Koa!



*Photo of Bluebird: Rob Todd*

**Hello Spring!**

you might see on restaurant menus and business signs. Legitimate QR codes are super handy, but a fraudulent code can hijack personal data. And for all the Facebook fans, please don't respond to the "quizzes" that ask for personal information.

The very good news here is that we happen to be part of a smart, interesting, and engaged Claiborne community filled with folks who will help out in a heartbeat! Happy Spring... soon... maybe... eventually! — Mary

Lastly, my thanks to Gina Gregorio for sharing this piece today. It's exactly what I needed.

### **SMALL KINDNESSES**

*Danusha Lameris*

I've been thinking about the way when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you" when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die" we are saying. And sometimes when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead – you first," "I like your hat".

### **Keep an eye on your Oaks!**

*By Terry Babb*

We got some sad news this fall about one of our HUGE oaks. Over the years that we've been here we have had Bartlett Tree Experts cable a section of the tree and come back to trim it several times. Then late this fall the tree company identified the problem as Ambrosia Beetle, very bad news. One sign of Ambrosia Beetle is the sawdust from the beetle circling the trunk. It acts like cholesterol build up blocking water uptake to the tree. The only positive was that it was on one side and had not gone all the way around the trunk. It was sprayed that day – along with other oaks nearby. We were told to keep it watered through the fall and we would see what happens in the spring.

Coincidentally, shortly after this there was an article in the Washington Post on November 25: *Across the Mid-Atlantic, giant oak trees are dying* portends a sad



We welcome Mary Eileen Russell and Ellie back from their long-awaited adventure in London!

Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, and the Victoria and Albert Museum to name a few of the stops on their journey.

And congratulations to Elena



Maria Vidal (a.k.a. Mary Eileen) on the release of her new book:

*My Queen, My Love*

A Novel of Henrietta Maria



Happy St. Patrick's Day – March 17

fact: Oaks are dying throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Link to full article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/11/25/oak-trees-dc-mid-atlantic-dying/>

It seems to be a combination of extreme weather, old age, and construction. In our case a line was dug nearby from a new septic system to the drain field. That disturbance likely stressed the very old tree. It is also believed that record rainfall in 2018-2019 followed by a “flash drought” summer in 2019 kicked off the decline. “The anaerobic conditions of flooded soil are not good for oaks”.

The article says it has been estimated that most of the dying trees in the region are between 80 and 120 years old. Claiborne has so many beautiful old trees.

### **Creating a New Ferry and Rail Hub: Putting Claiborne on the Map**

by Marty Bollinger is the fourth in a series of articles illustrating the complex history of ferry operations in Claiborne.

The Claiborne Clarion has been presenting a series of articles written by Marty Bollinger on the history of ferry operations in our community. The first three articles covered some of the less well known and smaller ventures. It is time to now address the two major operations that really shaped our community.

These last two articles are longer and thus each will be included as an attachment to the Clarion email. The article attached to this Clarion email describes the history of the ferry line that, quite literally, put modern Claiborne on the map. This is the history of the Baltimore & Eastern Shore ferry and railroad operations, later subsumed into the Baltimore, Chesapeake & Atlantic Railroad. The article to be included in the next Clarion will cover the Claiborne-Annapolis Ferry and its successor, the Chesapeake Bay Ferry System. Enjoy.

### **Who knew gulls could read signs and count?**

