



It's spring and the pollen is abundant - by Margaret Enloe

The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter For The
Claiborne Community

May 2022

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Pat Flory, Editor

Barbara Reisert, Clarion Founder/Editor Emerita
Mary Gregorio, President Claiborne Association

Note the Dates:

Thursday, May 5– Cinco De Mayo at the Village Hall.

Thursday, May 12, 7 PM - Claiborne Association Board Meeting.

Saturday, June 4, 7 PM – Crab Alley (with Chris Noyes) in Concert at the Hall

July 4 - Parade and Ice Cream Social at the Hall

August 27 - Claiborne Picnic

May Birthdays

Abby West	2
Peter Bruns	2
Tom Beaver	5
Lynn Marr	7
Jane Nigra	9
Alice Sewell	11
Beth Ellen Dawson	13
Barbara Reisert	14
John Fellingner	17
Carrie Gould-Kabler	26
Jesse Greenspan	28

Claiborne News

Get involved! Express your ideas and learn what is being planned for our community! Everyone is welcome when the Claiborne Association Board meets whether in person or via Zoom. Please contact Mary Gregorio at gregorio27@gmail.com if you plan to attend the May meeting. Meeting minutes are available on the Claiborne website at [Association Board Meeting Minutes](#).

Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Pat Flory, Barbara Haddaway and Mike Kuperberg) if you are interested in serving on the Claiborne Association Board. The slate of nominees is presented to the board in June, and elections take place at the August general meeting for terms that run from September until the following August. Your support is appreciated.

To add your name to the Claiborne birthday List contact patflory@gmail.com

The Clarion needs guest editors for the June edition and anytime in 2022. If willing, please contact Pat Flory at patflory@gmail.com or [443-472-6800](tel:443-472-6800).

And Pollen #2



Stick Stuck in a Pollen Puddle – Martha Hamlyn

Program Committee

After the disappointment of the postponed potluck last week, we are holding out hope that our scheduled Cinco de Mayo get-together will happen as planned.

Keep an eye out for a confirmation email that we will send out by Thursday morning. All we need is decent enough weather so that we'll all be comfortable outside for an hour or two on Thursday evening, starting at 5:00. Libations and snacks will be served, so don't bring anything!

Crab Alley Reunion Concert



Claiborne is honored to host the Crab Alley Band on Saturday June 4th at 7 PM.

Jefferson Holland, Janie Meneely and Claiborne's own Chris Noyes, the original Crab Alley trio, have reconnected after a hiatus of twenty-five years. Joining them will be international touring musician Rob van Sante (guitar and vocals), traveling from his home base in Whitby, England.

Please join us at the Claiborne Hall. And remember to bring a beverage of your choice.

Welcome New Neighbors



Josh and James recently moved to Claiborne from Washington, DC. They plan to reside here most of the time.

Josh Galicki is originally from Mocanaqua, Pa, a small former coal mining town on the Susquehanna. Josh works for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as its director of procurement. He's also an avid wildlife photographer. Please click on this link to see his work: <https://www.joshuagalicki.com/>

James Vatne grew up in Fairfax, Virginia. He's an attorney for NASA at Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

They're both excited to be part of the Claiborne community. Stop by and say hello!



Karen and Alan moved to Claiborne in April and plan eventually to live here fulltime. Their blended family was born when two single, custodial parents – Alan Farr (Natalie & Miles) and Karen Thomas (James & Ben Ridgeway) -- combined households in Howard County to become FarrThomasRidgeway. The boys were 4, 5, and 6; toonly girl, 9. FTR has grown to include six grandchildren ranging in age from six months to nine years living in Maryland, New Jersey, and Weybridge, England.

Alan has a long professional life in sales, currently as the Chief Revenue Officer at Posner Industries in Capitol Heights, MD. Karen devoted 25 years to journalism before earning a law degree; she currently works for the State in Annapolis.

Their Claiborne story starts with Suzanne and Rod Todd's youngest daughter Emily, with whom Karen shared her and Alan's desire to relocate to the Eastern Shore. Emily described her parents' love of the small community, so Claiborne was added to a long list of Shore neighborhoods. Karen said. "Our first "drive-through" was in late October 2020, and we were compelled to exit the truck to explore the church and landing by foot. For 18 months, we did exploration weekends, but nothing ever compared to the sense of "home" we felt in Claiborne. When Ralph's place hit the market, we jumped."

Native Plants For the Spring Garden by Janet Friedberg



Golden Ragwort



Wild Columbine



Pussytoes



Baptisia australis

Talbot Spring is finally here and for those of you itching to start playing in the dirt (soil), here are a few plants you may want to consider for your landscape that grow in Claiborne.

Packera aurea (golden groundsel or golden ragwort)

If you are looking for a 6-12-inch-high evergreen ground cover that is covered in clusters of yellow daisy-like flowers in April, is deer and rabbit resistant, blooms well in sun or shade, THIS IS IT! The yellow flowers turn into fluffy seed heads as the flowers fade that will self-sow and naturalize.

However, they are easy to pull out if they get too happy or simply cut off the seed heads before they disperse. The plants will require more moisture in sun but are fairly drought tolerant. It will also do well in wet areas. In addition, it is an important early spring nectar source for our native bees and insects.

Aquilegia canadensis (wild columbine)

This shade loving plant has red, cup shaped flowers with yellow centers that blooms in April and May. It grows from 1-3 feet tall and will also self-sow but is not aggressive. They are more like fun, unexpected surprises. They may also go dormant in the heat and drought of summer but will reappear in late winter. Our native columbine is also a nectar source for bees and hummingbirds.

Antennaria plantaginifolia (Pussytoes)

This is one your neighbors probably won't have. This little plant can handle full sun and dry soil. It has silver-grey low growing foliage, but in bloom is up to 12 inches tall. The flowers are white and look like little cotton balls. Likes lean soils but will still grow in regular garden soil. It forms a mat-like ground cover that will suppress weeds. Pussytoes provide nectar for a wide range of pollinators and is the host plant for the American Lady butterfly.

Baptisia australis

This is another tough plant that prefers full sun. It has a deep tap root which helps it tolerate drought. It produces tall spikes of blue, pea shaped flowers in May and June. It will take three years to fully establish but will then be a 3-4 foot high and wide multi stemmed plant that looks more like a shrub in the summer garden. It has blue-green foliage all summer and produces ornamental seed pods towards fall that are used in flower arrangements. It is loved by pollinators and is a host plant for the hoary edged and elfin winged butterflies and the black spotted prominent moth.

Spring Cleaning by Maura Bollinger

Spring cleaning has been in full swing, and Claibornites have been out and about helping to clean up our lands and waterways. On April 2 our team for Project Clean Stream picked up over a dozen bags of trash, several tires and even a couple portable toilets (?!) from the beach, jetty and landing. This effort was part of a Chesapeake watershed-wide cleanup organized by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and coordinated locally by ShoreRivers.

Speaking of cleanups, we need to give a shout out to those other hard workers cleaning our waters—oysters and SAV (submerged aquatic vegetation). SAV help oxygenate the water, filter sediment and reduce erosion from waves. Over the years where SAV beds have grown those areas have seen an increase in water quality. However, it is a delicate loop: SAV can help build water quality, but itself needs water clarity and clean water to grow. There are two types of SAV we see around Claiborne, horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*) which is growing now and widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) which comes later in the summer. If you are interested in being a citizen scientist and help track SAV in our waters, ShoreRivers is looking for volunteer SAV monitors to go out in a kayak or other shallow draft boat twice a season to map the SAV in the area of their choosing. I (Maura) am happy to come out with you to get a feel for what is required to do this, just drop me an email: mauraecb@verizon.net.

The other workhorse for Chesapeake Bay--the oyster is getting a local boost. At the State of the Rivers presentation at the CBMM April 20, Elle Bassett, our Wye-Miles Riverkeeper, announced that Eastern Bay is the focus of new oyster reef restoration efforts and funding. We are happy to welcome more of those delicious oysters to help expand their populations and do their work to filter our local waters.

Elle also reported on the results of 2021 water quality testing and bacterial testing. The quality and clarity in Eastern Bay was good, however as we move up the creeks of Eastern Bay, Wye and Miles and up the Miles-Wye themselves the health of the water deteriorates.

In terms of bacteria in the waters of Broad Cove and Claiborne Beach in 2021, Broad Cove had the notorious distinction of failing 66% of the time, the most times of any site surveyed in the Miles-Wye watershed. Some steps we can take to reduce bacterial contamination in Claiborne is to pick up after our pets and keep septic systems in good shape. ShoreRivers will be testing again this summer, so be sure to check the TheSwimguide.org before taking a dip in the water. As a general rule heavy rains and outgoing tides are more likely to flush unhealthy levels of bacteria into our waters, so good times to avoid swimming.



The Crew



The Trash

If you are interested in learning more about the water quality conditions in the Miles and Wye Rivers and Eastern Bay and how you can get involved to help, Elle will be presenting again at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville on May 19, 5:30pm-7pm.

Beverages and oysters are on the menu and the event is free and open to the public

NEWS FLASH – *Reported by Kirke Harper*

The Talbot Council voted to approve a \$44 million project to connect Claiborne and other Bay Hundred villages to the St Michaels, rather than the Tilghman, sewage treatment plant.

If Maryland Department of the Environment agrees to fund it, we could have sewer in Claiborne by 2028.



"Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm"

John Muir

The Claiborne Ferry: What's Left

- by Marty Bollinger

It has been 70 years since the ferry came to Claiborne, and the days of our community as a rail and ferry hub are long gone. However, a surprising amount of the evidence from that era remains with us: on the water, on the shoreline and on the land. The article attached to the Clarion email describes "what's left," from the time when a railroad and five different ferry operations once called upon Claiborne.

Please contact Marty at if you have questions, comments, or just want to say thanks for the information. He can be reached via email at mjb87@verizon.net

Earth Day – Every Day by Suzanne Todd

Ever wonder how to cut back on all the plastic you use? Less plastic in the landfill has got to be a good thing as not all can be recycled. Here are some items that you might consider.

SimpleBeing - 100% Biodegradable trash bags made from plants – I've always been concerned that these wouldn't be strong enough, but they're great! Not as thick as the ones for yard use but fine for kitchen trash.

Power Pebbles by Earth Breeze – dishwasher tablets. I just got these so haven't tried them yet. I was impressed with the packaging, totally recyclable.

TruEarth laundry detergent – scented or unscented small sheets.

Wool dryer balls – a one-time investment that does away with dryer sheets which end up in the trash.

Shampoo bars – I've been getting these from Naples Soap Company, but there are many more companies that make these. I also use a conditioner bar that will outlast me.

Bamboo toothbrushes – We order these Sprmal or Daletu.

The Earthling Company makes wood and natural bristle brushes for washing dishes.

Reusable shopping bags and net bags for produce. Not a new idea but a good one, if you can remember to take them into the store with you.

If you order any of these online, I suggest you order from the company rather than through Amazon. When I first ordered the shampoo bar, it came in a plastic container. When I questioned the company about this, they said that when you order directly from them, they ship the products in totally recyclable materials. This is true.