



THE CLAIBORNE CLARION

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CLAIBORNE
COMMUNITY
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JOHN SCOTT, SEPTEMBER EDITOR
BARBARA REISERT, CLARION FOUNDER AND EDITOR EMERITA * ROB TODD, PRESIDENT, CLAIBORNE ASSOCIATION



Hail to Rob Todd!, outgoing Claiborne Association President, for his outstanding commitment to our community. Hip Hip... Hooray!

September Birthdays

Steve & Mike Friedberg	6th
Tim McHugh	13th
Nancy Higgins	16th
Will Murdoch	16th
Adine Kelly	23rd
Shirley Cockey	24th
Karen Wright	24th

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -- Hello Claiborne Friends & Neighbors! Robb Todd

After two years as President of the Claiborne Association, I felt it was time to step down. At last month's annual picnic and General Meeting, members unanimously voted Kirke Harper to be the President for 2019-2020, and the Association could not be in better hands.

It was my pleasure to serve as President for the past two years and as an At-Large Board member prior to that. Looking back, it was a very busy two years. While continuing with potluck dinners, movie nights, and other Claiborne social events, we began an ambitious phase of construction at the Hall. We had just received approval for our site plan and building permit and were finishing up framing of the Annex in preparation for plumbing, electrical, HVAC, insulation, etc. And look at us now! We have a beautiful facility that is nearly complete.

We are very fortunate to have the Hall and the Association as a focal point in our village. Over the past couple of years, and just recently, I have been approached by people from outside of Claiborne who marvel at what has been accomplished and how residents of Claiborne come together as a community. And of course, none of this would have been possible without the work of the rest of the Board, the many people who contributed their expertise and countless volunteer hours, and the generous monetary donations by many in the Claiborne community.

However, it's easy for all of this to slip away. The Association, the Hall as a gathering place, potlucks, movie nights, the Clarion – it all takes tending to and a commitment by people willing to volunteer to do what's needed to keep it going. So, if you see an opportunity to pitch in, please don't hesitate. It can be a very rewarding experience and will help Claiborne continue to be a welcoming community in which to live.



Witnessed recently by Sarah and Phil Sayre, Will was also seen using a manual lathe (a giant pencil sharpener?) to make a "tree nail" or "trunnel" for the Maritime Museum's new replica of the Dove, one of the first English ships to arrive at the Province of Maryland in the early 17th century.

WORK AT THE HALL HAS RAMPED UP

On Friday, August 30 Will Murdoch and his almost able-bodied assistants, Jake Flory and Rob Todd, began work on the wheelchair ramp at the Hall. It is hoped that the ramp and a paved accessible parking space will be completed by the end of this Fall.



THERE'S A KERNEL OF TRUTH IN EVEN THE TALLEST OF TALES

Mike Wager*



Get involved, stay informed

Lots of things are happening for the Claiborne Association and you are always invited to hear first-hand what is being planned and to express your ideas. All are welcome when the Association Board meets; usually on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. **Association Board minutes are available at www.claibornemd.org/clai-board.php.**

(***Michael Wager**, member of the Order of Friends of Claiborne, is an anthropologist who has been observing and documenting indigenous Claiborne sub-cultures for over a quarter century. He currently resides in Bozman, Maryland.)

It was a dark and stormy night. No, really, it WAS a dark and stormy night.

On August 21st, a bare-bones crew of the Claiborne Ferry set out from Tilghman Creek for St. Michaels to compete in the Wednesday Night Races. For most of them, life as they knew it was about to change, but not for the stalwart Captain Phil Sayre, veteran worldwide sailor.

The evening started out placidly enough, with the usual banter on the way out to the race start, all under bucolic blue skies and high August clouds. Crewmembers, Tenny, Rob Todd, and Mike Wager discussed crew

positions under the watchful gaze of the stoic Skipper, confidently manning his helm. Rob was to take the mains'l, with Mike handling the jib winches, while Tenny manned the foredeck. Though short crewed, optimism was high that this was to be THE night, a night that would be heralded at the Claiborne Hall in epic song for many winter nights to come, before the movie and replacing episodes of "Moose and Squirrel. "



After rounding the Oak Creek mark, the crew stared aghast, trembling in terror at the black skies now ahead of them. Ignorance was bliss on their way down the river, unaware of this impending threat. An angry malevolence of wind and rain now threatened their way to home, and safety, and Tenny's post-race gin and tonics. "It's going to be a rough'n," was all the grizzled salt at the helm said to his crew. "Man up, boys!" Ten minutes later, the torrent of rain raked the decks of the Ferry with Trumpian fury. Wind gusts climbed to over ninety-three and a half knots. Visibility reduced to a quarter of a meter. The crew, cowering in fear and soaked to the bone, looked back at the stern, and, behold, there was a visage of hope incarnate—Captain Phil, steadfast at the wheel, his normally wild hair now aglow, crowned with St. Elmo's Fire, sensing out a horizon no other boat's skipper could discern. "To the Chesapeake Bay

Maritime Museum, lads!” he bellowed above the roar of the squall. “It is there that we shall seek safe harbor!”

When it was all over and the Ferry was safe, the crew was silent until one said meekly, “Thank you, Captain Phil.”

WORTH THE WAIT

Mike Kuperberg



It was cool and breezy in the fall of 2017 when Jeanne and Mike took their Shamrock 20 out for a cruise. The bay was choppy as they headed to Bloody Point Light. A particularly large wave came along, burying the bow and coming over the windshield. As Mike looked at his drenched wife, he is reported to have said, “We’re gonna need a bigger boat”.

They asked a lot of questions and did a lot of research, ultimately deciding that a trawler best met their boating desires and budget. Since that time, Jeanne has become an expert on older trawlers in the 30-40 foot range. She has stalked hundreds of boats on-line, and the two have toured many of them around the Eastern Shore. They all seemed too big (or too small), too old (or too expensive). On a whim one Sunday in late June, they called about a Nordic Tug 32 at David Walters Yachts in Port Annapolis. The broker was out of town, but had a colleague visiting from Florida who agreed to show them the boat. They met Randy Greenfield, saw the Tug, and everything clicked.



They splashed her for sea trials in July and took ownership of Carisma (soon to be Karisma) in early August. The Flory's accompanied Jeanne and Mike on their maiden voyage from Annapolis to Piney Narrows, where the boat stays during the week. The Kuperbergs talk about the typically-Claiborne reception their new boat has gotten. Jake gave Mike his first docking lesson, Les provided follow-on training and everyone has offered advice and support. They have begun to learn the boat and explore our end of the Bay. They have entertained a number of Claiborne neighbors for short cruises (and promise to get to the rest of you as soon as they can).

An interesting side note is that the Kuperbergs have become close friends with their broker and the former owners. Randy continues to be a wealth of information and was truly interested in helping them find the boat they wanted. George and Kathy were long-time cruisers who had decided to end their boating career. They seem to be thrilled to have passed the torch, and their boat on to another generation. George is always available to answer questions and Kathy has been filling Jeanne with ideas about living aboard. The Kuperbergs look forward to many adventures aboard their new vessel.

OUR LADY OF THE LEPIDOPTERA

Sarah Sayre has been nurturing black swallowtail caterpillars which appeared on her parsley. Her net house has all the stages of metamorphosis. One chrysalis opened Saturday and she released the butterfly to a flower.



Sarah's chrysalis



MAKING CLAIBORNE A BEE SANCTUARY, ONE YARD AT A TIME

Sam Droege, Head of the USGS Native Bee Laboratory (and member of the Order of Friends of Claiborne)



Making your yard into a bee sanctuary turns out to be easy, but first, let's go over a little bee background to set the context.

Everyone has heard about the decline in bees, though the details of the who, what, where, and why are sparse. For example, if we look at honey bees they are clearly in trouble, being impacted by a suite of diseases and pathogens that entered the country recently. Ask any beekeeper and they will tell you that it is much more difficult now to successfully keep a colony going than it was in the past. However, while honey bees get most of the press, it is our native wild bees that do most of the work. No surprise if you think about it, wild bees have been here for eons, splitting into over 450 species just in Maryland alone.

These wild bees do most of our pollination, moving pollen around in our wild plants as well as in our gardens and orchards. The problems facing this group are little different than their domesticated kin, their problem is a loss of wildflowers. All bees feed their young pollen. No flowers equals no bees. We know little about wild bees because they don't produce honey; they largely are solitary, one female making one nest at one time; and they essentially are stingless, not defending their nests and often incapable of stinging us if they wanted to. Because pollination, until recently, was always a given there was little need by the average person to think much about what bees were providing.

Wild bees vary from large (think bumblebees ... did you know that there were 14 different kinds of bumblebees in Maryland?) to very small; smaller than a grain of rice. Go for a walk in the neighborhood and look at the flowers blooming at this time of year and you will find these bees and you will notice that different bees occur on different kinds of flowers and that some flowers don't have any bees at all. In fact, each of your

yards has bees nesting in the ground that you walk over on a daily basis. They hide their nests and don't defend them so you would never know. Each bee has its own favorite flowers, some so specialized that they only visit a single group of plants. For example, there are bees that only go to blooming Willow trees in the spring, others will only go to Goldenrod, others Asters, and so forth.

So, here now we circle back and see that the key to saving bees is planting flowers... A diversity of flowers... even better, a diversity of flowers native to the region. For you see native bees evolved with the local native plants, specializing, over time more and more. So, while planting clover in your lawn is an excellent way to bring bees into a place that bees generally are not interested in (bees do not collect grass pollen), clover alone does not do the trick for most species. You need that diversity of blooming native plants, particularly perennials and blooming shrubs.

Where to get those native plants? Well you can simply swap with your neighbors, take some up from along roadsides, go to locations that sell native plants (Adkins Arboretum is an excellent location); many nurseries carry native plants now, so they're not difficult to find. A good resource is from the Maryland Native Plant Society, they have a list of nurseries specializing in native plants (<https://mdflora.org/nurseries.html>).

How many kinds of bees could you attract? Each of your yards has the potential for over 100 bee species, they are already living in the region and just need the right type of plant to gather pollen from. An interesting example of this is Poplar Island. If you been out there you will see that the landscape is mostly just dikes with weedy plants growing along them, nothing special and certainly far away from the mainland. However, in 2015 we did a simple study of the bees on that island and found, despite the distance and lack of variety of plants, about 100 bee species, some of which were quite rare. Those same bees could be in your yard if you just think about shifting some of that lawn you mow every week into flowerbeds.

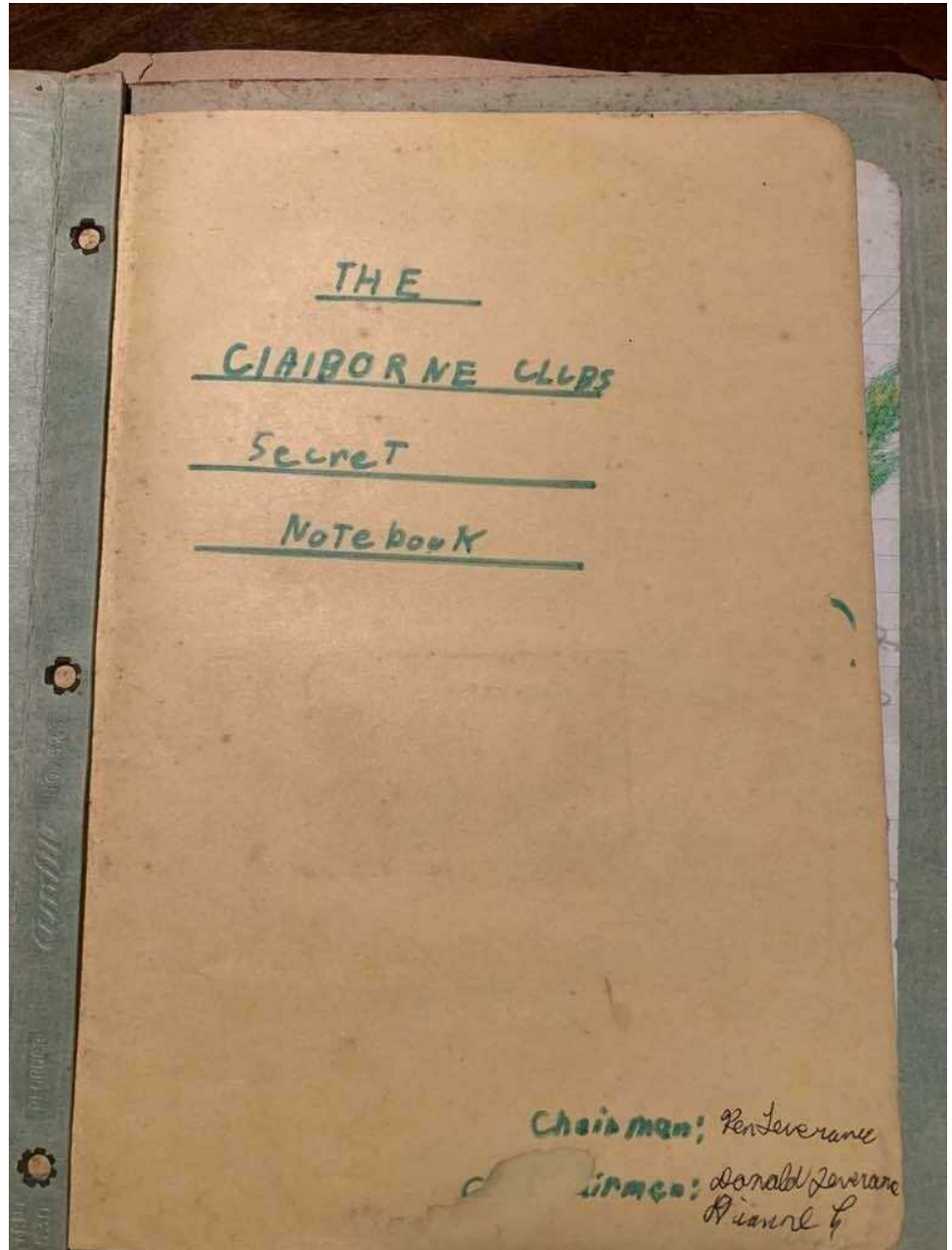
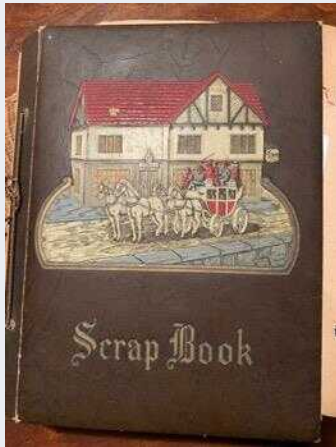
Interested in more information about bees? Well you can take a look at pictures of the great diversity of bees in Maryland here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usgsbiml/collections> and you can follow the bee lab on Instagram, Tumblr, and Flickr where we present super close up pictures of bees and talk about their lives @USGSBIML. We also have a Facebook group that gets into even more detail: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usgsbiml>.

Oh, one more thing. If you think you have to make your yard into a grand pollinator extravaganza (actually, why not?) to be doing anything useful, you would be wrong. For all it takes for the average bee is the pollen and nectar from five flowers to provision the food for a new baby bee. So, friends, one clump of perennials makes a difference to the planet, and your yard will be a better place for bees. Oh, also, cutting down flowers has the reverse effect! Just sayin'...

A CLAIBORNE TREASURE UNCOVERED

If you haven't met Deborah DeYoung you will soon. She's one of our newest newcomers to Claiborne having recently purchased the former Leverance home, on Miracle House Circle, behind Will and Lida.



During her move, Deborah found several items that document the Leverance family's time in Claiborne and events around that time. One of them is a large scrapbook. When asked if these materials could be shared Deborah said, of course and, "I have a big stack of more paper to go through that includes lots of notes from the owners' granddaughter, Crystal, when she was very young – how much she loved the house, along with her grandparents. There are probably more photos – I've just had to focus on getting through the big stuff..." So... more to come...