



The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the Claiborne Community

September 2, 2013 -- John Scott, Guest Editor -- Mary Gregorio, President, Claiborne Association -- Volume 7, Number 9



"Thanks for the memories"

Outgoing President's Message

A brief interview with Jim Richardson, former Grand Pooh-Bah

Since the Claiborne Picnic the outgoing president, Jim Richardson, has been hard to reach. But our intrepid guest editor was able to get a brief interview. Something seems to have changed -- whether its having shed the awesome responsibility ("It's hard being president" he once said), or whether he is just sad to have lost the limelight...who knows. I think I heard him say, through his tears, "...Thanks for the memories."

I told him to snap out of it and stop channeling Bob Hope -- that I was offering a chance to leave some serious words for posterity. Then he said, "You voted for Mary. Ask her for some serious words... Now go away and leave me alone. I just want to play with my boat." (So... See below)



"...now where is that tiara?!"

Incoming President's Message

Serious words from Mary Gregorio, current Grand Pooh-Bah

The Annual Picnic in Claiborne is one of my favorite events and, thanks to Shirley Cockey and family, this year's picnic was surely one of the best and most well-attended membership meetings ever!



As is tradition at the picnic, the Nominating Committee proposed the slate of officers for the Claiborne Association Executive Board and elections were held. I am honored to represent the Association as President and am happy to announce the election of officers:

Mary Gregorio, President
Kirke Harper, Vice President
Molly Bond, Treasurer
Terry Babb, Secretary

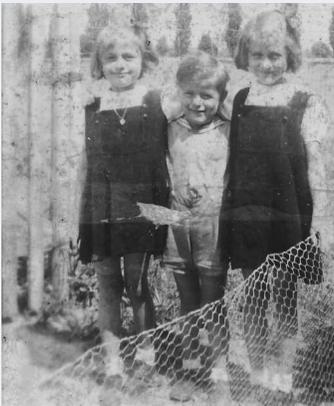
At large members:
Jess Murphy
Judy Harrald
Jake Flory

September Birthdays

- 9th -- Hope Pritchard
- 16th -- Nancy Higgins
- 16th -- Will Murdoch
- 23rd -- Adine Kellv



"Wow," said Barbara Reisert upon being presented with her well-deserved award for service to the community. "What a surprise! Thanks so much for choosing me as this year's recipient of the highly coveted "Claiborne Cup". I intend to take good care of it so that it can be passed along at the Claiborne Picnic in 2014."



Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00p at the Village Hall. Please feel free to attend any meeting, or to send items for discussion to the Board at claibornemd@gmail.com or to me at gregorio27@gmail.com

A special "thank you" goes to Jim Richardson for shepherding the Association through the past year and for continuing the work of improving the Village Hall, introducing cultural events, and encouraging broad participation in achieving the Association's goals.

Many "thanks" as well to the Program Committee, Martha Hamlyn, Pat Flory, Barbara Reisert and Shirley Cockey, for organizing and handling all the amazing events, from parades to pot lucks, contra dances to poetry readings and open-mike nights. Preparation and follow-up for these events depends on many hands and the Program Committee is grateful for those volunteers who joined in the effort.

This year we will continue to make improvements to the Village Hall both inside and out. Look for work on a new brick path to begin in the next month. If you haven't yet purchased your brick(s), or if you would like more information about the "walk of fame", please contact us at claibornemd@gmail.com. Improvements to the annex (Friendship Hall) are being developed with a focus on community resilience; we'll keep you posted about projects to be tackled in the upcoming months!

Looking forward to a very Claiborne year!
Mary

Why I Liked Being a Kid in Claiborne (an occasional series) By Bill Sewell (Resident Waterman)

When I was growing up in Claiborne I lived with my mother, grandfather and two sisters where Bea and Buddy Wharton live now.

One day, I made mom so mad she chased me around the house. Not wanting to get hit with a broom I dove under the house. Mom yelled you better stay under there. I hid like a scared cat looking out.

The story I like to tell about my sisters is the day they were playing house. They were baking cookies and had fed me three of them before mom put an end to that. The problem was they were mud cookies. I am here to tell you a little mud won't kill you.

My grandfather and I spent a lot of time together when I was growing up. In the spring we would always go asparagus hunting around Claiborne and Rich Neck Farm. The one with the most ticks after the hunt won.

My father built me a 12' scow and grand pop and I would row out to the edge of the Claiborne Flats and fish using hand lines. Grandpop would give me "the look" if I dropped something on the bottom of the boat because it would scare the fish. "The look" was passed on to me and I passed it on to our own kid.

It was no problem for Grandpop and me to wade the Claiborne Flats in the summer and catch all the crab, hard and soft, that you wanted to eat. In the winter I would hunt wild game and trap muskrat in the Claiborne marshes. A lot of what I did growing up was to put food on the table.

There were lots of fun times too. Swimming at the ferry wharf and on the raft that was anchored off the Claiborne beach. I guess there were about a dozen or so kids of all ages growing up in Claiborne then. A lot of early evenings we would play games of hide and seek.

My dad was the Quarter Master on the Claiborne Ferry so I took many trips across Eastern Bay and back. The ferry's cook, Hayward Henry, made the best ham biscuits you ever wanted to eat and I did. On weekends the ferry would be loaded with "reach the beach" traffic. Before landing the ferry's horn was blown as a signal for mothers to



get their kids off the streets. Cars would speed thru town passing one another trying to get ahead.

There were lots of good times growing up in Claiborne. Then came the Navy, DuPont and marrying my best friend, Alice. We have two great children who passed on "the look" to their children.

Well, to hear the rest of the stories you'll have to join me and my best friend on our deck. I'll have a beer and rocking chair ready for you.

Your Neighbor and Friend,

Bill Sewell.

Editor's note: About 18 years ago I sailed my boat to Claiborne from the western shore where Susanne and I had kept it before buying our house in Claiborne. I had decided to moor her in Tilghman Creek and the best place I could find was just off Bill's mother's house. At first, before I tied the boat up, I dropped a cinder block tied to a cheap float to see if anyone would be upset with me mooring there. After a couple of weeks with no sign of a problem (I had visions of coming back to a buck shot-laced mooring ball), I dropped the permanent mooring and tied my boat up to it. As luck would have it, the day I chose to do it Bill was working on his boat "Alice" (his other best friend), just a stone's throw from my mooring. "Oh S__!" I said to myself. I'd only heard of Bill, but had not met him. I timidly introduced myself across the water. I said I was a newcomer to Claiborne and I wished him a good morning, not knowing what trouble I was going to be in. "Welcome to the neighborhood" was all he said, in the kind, soft-spoken voice characteristic of Bill....and we've been friends ever since.

Update on County Action on Claiborne Jetty

By Kirke Harper



Mary Gregorio, Dawn Lednum, Mimi Holt and I attended the County Council meeting on August 27. Following a postponement from August 13 the Council took up Bill 1250 that would have amended a 2006 bill authorizing \$25,000 for parking construction on the Jetty by authorizing the use of that \$25,000 plus authority to borrow \$80,000 from the State to construct a living shoreline on the Wharf side of the Jetty. In the public hearing portion Dawn testified and very clearly explained her concerns about the potential impacts of a living shoreline on their property.

The County Attorney then told the Council that they should not approve Bill 1250 because it did not meet a County requirement that the title should explain the contents of the bill. The Council then voted to defeat the bill and told the staff to redraft it. The earliest a new bill could be considered would be in October.

Mary, Dawn, Mimi and I then met with Ray Clark, the County Engineer and Director of Public Works, on the morning of August 28 at his invitation. Ray had begun redrafting the bill to authorize construction of a living shoreline. He invited us to make suggestions for the new bill.





Tom Babb



Renny Johnson



We told Ray that, rather than assuming that we knew what should be done to protect the Jetty, we would prefer a bill that authorized a study of how to protect the Jetty as well as authorized borrowing for construction of a living shoreline project if that was the best solution. He seemed to agree with us. We then talked about the need for a larger study of Claiborne that would look at the marsh, wharf, storm water management, parking, invasive plant species and other related issues. He invited us to submit ideas and to work with him to design a study. We will keep you informed as this project progresses.

Stand Up Paddle Boarding: The world-wide craze reached Claiborne
By Tom Babb, kite surfer, wind surfer, kayaker, paddle boarder extraordinaire

SUP is a fast growing "lifestyle" watersport that you must try. It is easy to learn and enjoy. It is relaxing and fun while being on the water. You can paddle surf style-shaped boards or boards that are flat water specific - boards for the surf or the bay.

SUP is all about fitness and recreation - you can paddle and explore at your own pace alone or with friends in an upright standing position - enjoying the ride and the scenery. A short lesson on board stance and paddle technique and off you go- this is THAI CHI on a board with huge rewards.

All you need is a board and a paddle - so go try it and see what all the buzz is about - health - adventure- fun and freedom.

Nearby SUP shops:

- Easton Cycle and Sport (410-822-7433)
- Shore Pedal and Paddle, in St. Michaels (410-745-2320)

Local surfer girl, and Friend of Claiborne, DD McCue, teaches SUP classes in St. Michaels and other local spots. She says, "Stand Up Paddle Boarding is a sport that almost anyone can do. It is a low impact, fun form of exercise that strengthens the core, tones every muscle, improves balance, provides cardio conditioning, mental stimulation and relaxation all while getting you out on the water and enjoying nature."

With proper technique and equipment SUP offers something for the whole family especially the chance to get out and enjoy doing something together.

Anyone wanting more info about DD's classes can find her at wahesup@gmail.com. She also suggests an article "The Amazing Health Benefits of Stand Up Paddle Boarding": <http://www.isupworld.com/health-benefits-of-stand-up-paddle-boarding/>

Fireplace safety: When was the last time you checked your chimney?

Chimney Safety Institute of America

Fireplaces and wood stoves are designed to safely contain wood-fueled fires, while providing heat for a home. The chimneys that serve them have the job of expelling the by-products of combustion – the substances given off when wood burns.

As these substances exit the fireplace or wood stove, and flow up into the relatively cooler chimney, condensation occurs. The resulting residue that sticks to the inner walls of the chimney is called creosote. Creosote is black or brown in appearance. It can be crusty and flaky ... tar-like, drippy and sticky ... or shiny and hardened. Often, all forms will occur in one chimney system.

Whatever form it takes, creosote is highly combustible. If it builds up in sufficient quantities – and catches fire inside the chimney flue – the result will be a chimney fire. Although any amount of creosote can burn, sweeps are concerned when creosote builds up in sufficient quantities to sustain a long, hot, destructive chimney fire. Certain conditions encourage the buildup of creosote, restricted air supply, unseasoned wood and cooler-than-normal chimney temperatures are all factors that can accelerate the buildup of creosote on chimney flue walls.



Air supply: The air supply on fireplaces may be restricted by closed glass doors or by failure to open the damper wide enough to move heated smoke up the chimney rapidly (the longer the smoke's "residence time" in the flue, the more likely is it that creosote will form). A wood stove's air supply can be limited by closing down the stove damper or air inlets too soon and too much, and by improperly using the stovepipe damper to restrict air movement.

Burning unseasoned firewood: Because so much energy is used initially just to drive off the water trapped in the cells of the logs – burning green wood keeps the resulting smoke cooler, as it moves through the system, than if dried, seasoned wood is used.

Cool flue temperatures: In case of wood stoves, fully-packed loads of wood (that give large cool fires and eight or 10 hour burn times) contribute to creosote buildup.

Condensation of the unburned by-products of combustion also occurs more rapidly in an exterior chimney, for example, than in a chimney that runs through the center of a house and exposes only the upper reaches of the flue to the elements.

(Editor's note: Thanks to the Chimney Safety Institute of America for this information. There are several chimney sweeps in our area. To avoid advertising they are not listed here. Anyone interested might want to get in touch with Tom Beaver who has one he recommends)