

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

THE MOYAONE RESERVE • LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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President's Note:

Friends and Neighbors, Greetings,

Thank you to all our members who attended our May 6th Association meeting and/or arranged for a proxy to vote on your behalf. Your participation in our processes here is very much appreciated and demonstrates how our community comes together. Please welcome our new board members: Chris Aills, Vice President; Linda Witkin, Comptroller; and Bobby Gheen, At-Large Director. Jim Wickman and I are looking forward to working with the new board as we continue to serve out community in the coming year.

On May 25th, I had the privilege to attend a ceremony at the Accokeek Foundation designating Piscataway Park as the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area. This event was attended by Chief Mark Tayak and Elder Francis Gray of the Piscataway Nation, Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, and the US Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Shannon Estenoz. Many members of the Piscataway Nation were in attendance, as well as members of our Maryland Senate, House of Delegates, Commissioner Thomasina Coates, representing the Charles County District 2, which includes much of our Poplar Hill neighborhood, and staff members of our elected representatives from Capitol Hill and State Circle. The Maryland Dove arrived for the occasion and was tied up at the fishing pier. Chief Tayak spoke very eloquently of the connection of the Piscataway People of today with their ancestors who thrived on this land for over 17,000 years. Governor Moore gave a very inspiring speech challenging us to honor our past as a way to empower the future. More information about the launch of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area can be found online at the link below:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Celebrates-Designation-of-Southern-Maryland-National-Heritage-Area.aspx#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20Congress%20passed,Biden%20on%20January%205%2C%202023.>

The other great news received on May 22nd was that our pool had passed its inspection and would be open beginning on Memorial Day weekend again this year. This was

facilitated by the gargantuan efforts of our pool volunteers led by Alex Naar; Chris Aills; John Hollyfield; Rhonda Hanson; Micah Dixon, our new pool manager; Crystal and younger Garcias; Tina and younger Shotwells; Russ Strathern, and apologies to others whom I may have missed. Thank you all for your tremendous efforts and devoting your precious free time to make this happen. By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our annual Pool Potluck Social at the Commons during Memorial Day Weekend.

We continue to encourage our neighbors to pay their association fees. Currently, only 66% of our member households have paid their annual association fees. We received an influx of payments just prior to the May Association Meeting and will hopefully receive more payments with the opening of the pool. Please remember that the fees are due on February 28. We need every dollar in order to meet our budgeted expenses and keep the Moyaone up and running. Unlike Washington, the Moyaone Reserve does not operate under deficit spending, nor can we raise a debt ceiling borrowing threshold. We pay our bills. Please pay yours.

That is all for now. Thanks again for all you do to preserve the Reserve.

— John Rudzis
President, Moyaone Association
MoyaonePresident@gmail.com

Moyaone Association Board of Directors

President — John “JR” Rudzis
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Comptroller — Linda Witkin
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Director-at-Large — Bobby Gheen
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Pool Hours

The Moyaone Reserve swimming pool (2311 Bryan Point Road) opened Memorial Day Weekend and will be open through Labor Day (Monday, September 4).



The pool will be open on weekends, 11:00 am–8:00 pm for families. On Saturday, June 10, adult lap swim will be added, 9:30–11:00 am. Until June 12, weekday hours for families will be from 3:30–8 pm; after June 12, 11:00 am–8:00 pm.

Pool hours are reduced until school is out for the summer as staff members are still in school, so please check at the pool desk for updates. Hoped-for additions are adult lap swim, 7:30–9:00 am on weekdays; and adult swim on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 8:00–9:00 pm.

Seasonal pool memberships are available; the application can be found at <https://www.moyaone.org/pool/>. See also on this web page the rules and regulations for pool use.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smoke on Smokes

by Rose Kim

At the May Moyaone Membership meeting, there was contentious debate regarding a motion that was made to amend the Bylaws to permit the community to change this newsletter's name. This was not the first time the subject was addressed at a Moyaone Membership meeting. A community member brought this to a vote at a membership meeting before Covid struck. At that time it was overwhelmingly voted down. (I was one of those who voted against the change, but I've come to think about the issue differently.) Despite the disruptions and loss of voting members due to the length of the May 2023 meeting, the motion to change the Bylaws was neither passed, nor approved, as voting was split 50/50.

When John Rudzis broached the subject of this change at the May meeting, he did so after thoughtful consultation with Angela Barnes, the new Executive Director of the Accokeek Foundation and a member of the Piscataway Tribe. She spoke about the power of words and the Native Community. Angela pointed out that Native words like Moyaone, Piscataway, and Potomac honor the Native People using their own language, but terms like "smoke signals" smack of disrespect and caricaturization.

It was pointed out that different cultures have used smoke signals as a means of communication for thousands of years. They are absolutely right. However, if you do a quick Google search of "smoke signals," the images associated with the term are predominantly Native American images ranging from a painting by Frederic Remington to cartoon caricatures to a movie entitled *Smoke Signals* (by and about Native Peoples).

At the May Meeting, it was pointed out that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) uses the name *Smoke Signals* for a publication used to communicate Western fire issues to Native Communities. The BIA stopped using that name several years ago and the publication is now called *Timber Notes*. But more notably, *Timber Notes* is produced by a predominantly Native American staff for Native American Communities, whereas the Moyaone's *Smoke Signals* newsletter was created by white people almost 70 years ago; the contributors are predominantly white; and it is distributed to an overwhelmingly white community. Yes, smoke signals have been around for millennia across cultures. But here and now, they're perceived by native people as referencing Native People, which is (for me) all that matters.

Words are powerful and as a community whose homes are built on Piscataway land in Piscataway National Park — which has just been designated a Southern Maryland Heritage Area — we have an opportunity to consider this small, positive change as we look to the next 70 years of the Moyaone community.

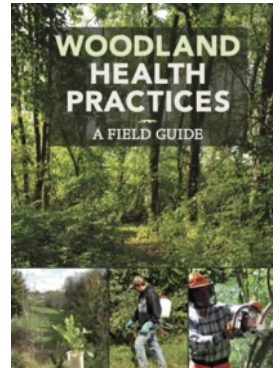


Visitors to Chapman State Park enjoy a journey through time in Southern Maryland. Park visitors also discover the Mt. Aventine Mansion, the historic home of the prominent Chapman family, who were closely tied to the families of George Washington and George Mason. Standing in front of the Chapmans' grand estate, looking down the Potomac River and Virginia shoreline, is one of the most striking views in the region. Preserved in 1998 by the State of Maryland's Program Open Space (POS), Chapman State Park stretches from the Potomac River to Mattawoman Creek, in western Charles County. The park is a dramatic reminder of the great woodlands that once cradled the Potomac tidewater region.



Sources Available for Woodland Owners

A recent press release from the University of Maryland Extension Service alerts woodland owners to information on land-care practices in the new *Woodland Health Practices Field Guide*, now available for purchase for \$7.50 from Penn State Extension at: <https://extension.psu.edu/woodland-health-practices-field-guide>.



This 76-page full-color pocket field guide provides hands-on techniques to assist the user with implementing land-care practices to create and enhance natural areas for a variety of objectives. Material includes converting lawns to natural areas; modifying or improving wildlife habitat; improving privacy, beauty, and recreational opportunities; and controlling undesirable plants and insects.

Other publications available from Penn State Extension are:

The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home. This self-assessment manual will guide small-acreage owners through the process of implementing proper forestry and wildlife habitat improvement practices to enhance a property's natural resources. \$15.00. <https://extension.psu.edu/woods-in-your-backyard>

Woodland Health Practices Handbook: A Practitioner's Guide for Creating, Enhancing, and Maintaining Natural Areas. This handbook outlines small-scale natural areas management services that green industry professionals, such as arborists and landscape architects, can adopt to expand the services their business offers. Also useful for small-acreage woodland owners. \$15.00. <https://extension.psu.edu/woodland-health-practices-handbook-a-practitioners-guide-for-creating-enhancing-and-maintaining-natural-areas>

Woodland Health Assessment: Checklist & Management Actions. The checklist assists property owners in assessing a variety of conditions on their property. Free download. <https://go.umd.edu/3qeoBqt>



Even the Goats Love Art!

Although rainy weather limited attendance, Accokeek Artist Alliance (AAA) members had fun at their three booths set up at the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Spring Festival on May 13. We especially enjoyed goats and cows sneaking up behind the booths to check us out. Thanks to everyone who stopped by!

There will be an AAA member meeting on Sunday, June 11 at 2 pm at the wonderful Bellevue historic estate in Accokeek. Residents Gene Mirus and Patrick Heydt have been working hard on improvements and there are new features to explore. Members will also talk about their 'in progress' projects. This event is for paid members only, so join up if you want to attend. Please RSVP to accokeekartistsalliance@gmail.com.

This year's Accokeek Foundation Fairy Trail will have many fairy houses constructed by AAA artists. Fairy houses will have themes corresponding to local trees. Be sure to visit it at the National Colonial Farm, 3400 Bryan Point Rd. The trail opens on June 24.

The opening reception for the AAA art show at the Harmony Hall Gallery will be Saturday, August 19, 2-4 pm. Save the date! Harmony Hall is located at 10701 Livingston Road in Fort Washington.

You can support the arts in our community by joining AAA. Just visit our website: accokeekartistsalliance.com and click "Join Us."

Plein Air Events

Saturday, June 10. Join plein air painters for a day of painting at scenic Chapman State Park. The gate will be open at 8 am, and the park will be open until dark. Drive to the mansion and park in the field there. Bathrooms are available in the mansion and on the grounds. There is no charge to enter the park or the mansion. Text Barbara Stepura at 301-643-1931 with any questions. Chapman State Park, 3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head.



AFF Spring Fest a Success; Looking Ahead to Summer Camp, Pinot on the Potomac

Thanks for joining us at Spring Fest!

Not even the rain could ruin the fun during the Alice Ferguson Foundation’s Spring Fest on May 13! More than 200 attendees joined us in the great outdoors for a day filled with hands-on activities, live music, local goodies, and so much more. See the photos above.

Special thanks to local musicians Lynn Hollyfield, Chris Aills, and talented members of the Charles County Youth Orchestra for their exhilarating performances. In addition, we appreciate the Accokeek Artists Alliance partnering with us for the event and sharing their artistic masterpieces with festival guests.

Looking forward to next year’s Spring Fest on May 4, 2024.

Spring with Prince George’s County fifth graders!

The Alice Ferguson Foundation recently wrapped up its spring overnight programs with fifth graders from Prince George’s County Public Schools, returning for the first time since fall 2019. Throughout the last few months, 301 students from 10 elementary schools, their teachers, and chaperones visited for one-night experiences at Hard Bargain Farm. Groups were immersed in the wonders of the great outdoors as they took a nature hike, discovered our daily impact on the watershed, tested their skills on the confidence course, and so much more. The Foundation looks forward to hosting more fifth grade overnights in the fall!

Alice Ferguson Foundation
2001 Bryan Point Road
fergusonfoundation.org

Upcoming Events at Hard Bargain Farm

There’s still time to join us in the great outdoors! On Saturday, June 10, join us for a morning paddle while taking in the scenic views of the protected Mount Vernon watershed and in the afternoon, become an “egg”-spert of all things eggs as you meet, pet, and feed chickens of various breeds.

June 10 at 9 am: Piscataway Kayaking Adventure

June 10 at 4 pm: Fun on the Farm – “Egg”-citement!

[SAVE YOUR SPOT](#)



Pinot on the Potomac

Mark your calendars! Pinot on the Potomac is September 9. In partnership with the Maryland Wineries Association, this year’s event will feature wine tastings from the prestigious Maryland wine trails, a local brewery, live music, and so much more. More details are coming soon.



Register Today for Summer Adventure Camp

Are you looking for a summer experience that will ignite your child’s curiosity, foster their love for the great outdoors, and create lifelong memories? Look no further! Spots for our Summer Adventure Camp are filling up, so register today to secure a spot for your young explorer.

[REGISTER HERE](#)