

To The Point

Summer 2004

Newsletter of the Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc.

Sara Leeland, Editor

IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEARING --- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

June 21st – 7:00 p.m. ----- Public Hearing with Planning Commission
to look at 5 -10 year plan for land use and recreation and parks needs. We can make
a strong statement of our desire for Myrtle Point to *remain* a nature park...
At the Higher Education Center (across from airport)
Central Hall at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, 44219 Airport Road, in California.

JUNE 26 -- 10 a.m. – 2p.m. FUN DAY

Come—and invite your friends and neighbors! Program will include:

nature study with seine nets on the beach - Mary Piotrowski
sandcastle building - Betty Molinary **bird talk & walk** - Bob Boxwell **big tree hike** - Ed Dowgiallo
kids' fishing --- **outdoor arts and crafts**

We'll have water or lemonade and a membership table with brochures and maps. Bring your own picnic!
In preparation for the day, we'll have a trail weed clearing on **Wednesday, June 23rd at 4:30.**
If you'd like to help with something on the day, contact Bill Burruss at 301-373-8305.



View of Bridge from Park

FOMPP Board of Directors 2004

President: Burruss, Bill 310-373-8305 (billymilkweed@starpower.net)
V-P: (Position currently vacant)
Secretary: Lindsley, Dudley 301-373-2551 (dlindsley@erols.com)
Treasurer: Rogers, Nancy 301-862-3284
Boxwell, Bob 410-394-6153 (bobboxwell@hotmail.com)
Dowgiallo, Ed 301-994-0529 (eddow@erols.com)
Dudderar, Chip 301-863-5520 (chip.dudderar@jhuapl.edu)
Fox, Frank 301-884-8027 (ff725@yahoo.com)
Hanks, Jay
Lang, Peg 301-863-6530 (plang@ameritel.net)
Piotrowski, Mary 301-472-4091 (blbear@erols.com)
Triantos, David 301-997-1409 (mtriantos@erols.com)
Witten, Jack 301-373-5445 (jfxw@erols.com)
Wilkerson, Oran 301-863-8069
(Meetings: 3rd Mondays, 7:00 PM)

FOMPP Action Teams

Education/Recreation: Peg Lang, Bob Boxwell,
Mary Piotrowski

Membership: Suzie Meteyer, Dudley Lindsley

Publicity/Newsletter: Frank Fox,
Ed Dowgiallo, David Triantos,
Molly Jones-Quinn

Park Support and Vision: Bill Burruss, Chip
Dudderar, Jay Hanks, Nancy Rogers

Editor's Comment

2004 marks Calvert's celebration of its 350th anniversary as a county separated out from St. Mary's. Arthur Storer, a friend of Isaac Newton and the first astronomer in the colonies, was an early Calvert resident.

On August 14, 1682, looking westward at dawn over the Patuxent, he appears to have been the first to see what is now known as Halley's Comet (after the person who predicted its return), but was for years called 'Storer's Comet'. His notes say the comet stayed visible until Sept. 18, 1682.

In 1680 Storer gave his most poetic description of an earlier comet: "It was a very great amazement ...to see a long bright stream in form like a sword streaming from the horizon about 30 degrees in altitude...so nearly after sunset."

His naked-eye discoveries point to the clarity of air over the Patuxent River – and challenge us to care for that clarity today.
–Sara Leeland

Membership Notes

Accept the Challenge!

Help us preserve, maintain and enhance what is special about Myrtle Point Park. Join the Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc. for 2004.

Give a Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc. membership for any occasion. [See form on page 7] An appropriate acknowledgement will be sent to the person. Send the contribution and information to: Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc. P.O. Box 1433, California, MD 20619 ---Dudley Lindsley

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Sara Leeland, Acting Editor

seleeland@earthlink.net

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FOMPP Website: www.myrtlepoint.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT –

Dear Friends of Myrtle Point Park:

We are now a little over one year old and have become resolute in our mission to see Myrtle Point as a nature park. This past year, we held hikes, presented nature study programs for kids, removed invasive species, had cleanup days, and attended public meetings relevant to the Park's future. The County Commissioners will be considering a master plan for the Park [following a request for lacrosse fields, they have budgeted \$25,000 to pursue a plan]. We need to work to see our vision for the Park become a reality.

A good way to start is to come to our Fun Day on Saturday, June 26th. We will have activities appropriate to a nature park: birding walk, tree hike, beach strolling, nature study, outdoor art, kids' fishing, picnicking, relaxing in the outdoors. Activities will go from 10:00 am 'til 2:00 pm, with picnicking around 1:00. Bring family and friends and meet others who share your love for this Park.

Many of you are veterans of the struggle to have the County acquire this property and the subsequent battle to prevent the placement of a sports complex on the site. You were successful through attending and speaking at public hearings, writings letters to the editor, talking to commissioners, and building support among your friends and neighbors. We will have to make this effort once again, perhaps with even greater diligence. So come to the Park; bring your friends and family; and stay tuned for calls to work on behalf of Myrtle Point Park.

I look forward to seeing you and your friends on June 26th.

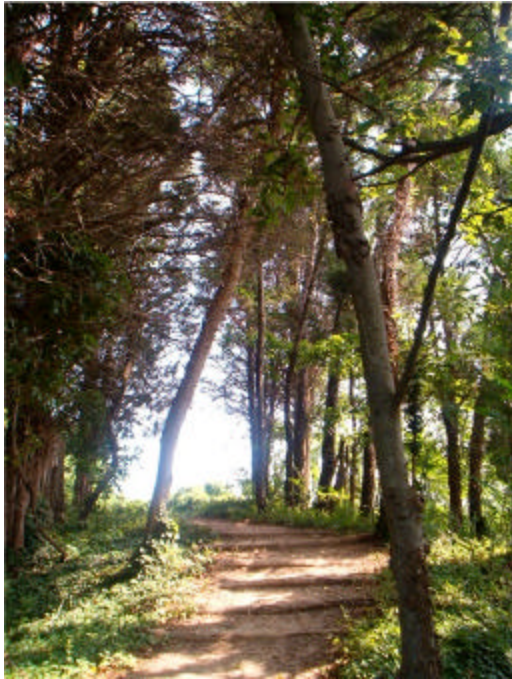
Bill Burruss, president



MPP Great Willow Oak near Waterfront Entrance

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Friends of Myrtle Point Park were well represented at the Annual Earth Day Celebration held in the Leonardtown Square on April 18th, 2004. FOMPPP members not only staffed our exhibit but were scattered throughout the entire array of environmental organizations – that's how active our folks are in this business.



We thank the great guys at Corner Critters (the totally cool exotic pet, fish, reptile, bird store) on the corner, who allowed us to set up under their canopy. Without the shade the little animals we brought would have overheated. It was the first really beautiful spring day and our enticing tanks of tadpoles, spring peepers, five-lined skinks, Northern Brown snake, juvenile marbled and red-backed salamanders attracted a lot of attention! Our table was always full. The favorite was obviously the leech – at least for adults. Kids still love tadpoles and salamander eggs.

We were surprised to note that many of the 125-150 folk we spoke with had never heard of Myrtle Point Park, so this outreach was important. We exchanged numbers with several teachers, explaining how they could set up field trips. Due to the heat we left a little early, but counted this as one of our more successful public events.

Thanks go to member Peg Lang who manned the FOMPPP info all day and to a friend, 3rd grade teacher, Tammy Adams of Hollywood Elementary School who learned a lot about these critters and Myrtle Point real fast! They worked, that is, talked all afternoon; non-stop, Thank you!

--- Mary Piotrowski

Annual Wade-In

Hollywood Elementary School enjoyed its Annual Wade-in on June 1st at Myrtle Point Beach. Fourth graders from Jen Demko and Tina Calais's classes were treated to music and poetry of the Chesapeake from Tom Wisner. Butterfly chasing, poetry writing, watercolor painting and origami were part of our celebrations. Seining on the Patuxent River followed the traditional toe watching as we all waded in to test the clarity of our waters. Special thanks to our friend former Senator Bernie Fowler who has done so much for our children.

--- Mary Piotrowski



Lacking photo from 2004, we use one from 2002