



**Claiborne Clean-up Crew**

# THE CLAIBORNE CLARION

A Newsletter for the Claiborne Community  
June 2024  
Volume 17, Number 6

John Scott  
June 2024 editor

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## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Tom Babb	June 2
Kate Davitt	June 9
Pat Flory	June 16
Dustin Fellingner	June 22

If you'd like to add your name to the birthday list, please contact Pat Flory at [patflory@gmail.com](mailto:patflory@gmail.com)

Our fearless/peerless leader, Jim Richardson, has generously donated his space this month so that we might start a new, periodic series (we already have quite a few: "Growing Up In Claiborne", "How I/We Discovered Claiborne", "Claiborne's Got Talent", "Claiborne Volunteers", "Ask Norman", and a new one that the reader will note later in this issue, introducing "Renny Johnson, Entertainment Critic").

This month, in this valued space Jim usually occupies, Claiborne Clarion will start a photo series in memory of those who have gone before and those, who in their time, helped make Claiborne the special place it is.

In this issue we remember Mary Francis Sewell, mother of Bill Sewell. This photo of Bill and his mother, dated 2005, was not taken at Ground Zero but the demolition site of a former garage on their property.



## CAN'T TELL WHO'S MORE PROUD

Congratulations Ella Murphy (and dad, Jess) for graduating from St. Michaels High School. Look for Ella this summer as works and plays on the Eastern Shore and then help send her off this Fall to study political science and join the Mountaineers at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.



### 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 Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

For more about Claiborne and the Association, check out:

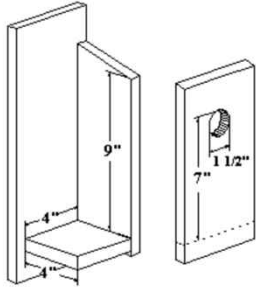
<https://www.claibornem d.org/>

## Ella Murphy



**Appalachian State University**

Major: Political Science



## HABITAT FOR BIRD-MANITY (Get it?)

On Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 Josh Galicki and John Scott will host an evening of bird house building for Claiborne's avian residents. Specifically: Bluebird, Wood Duck, and bats

Location: The Village Hall. Supplies and tools and will be provided (suggested \$10 donation per house)

Participants can choose to keep the houses for their own yards or donate them to the community for installation where they may be most appreciated by our feathered friends.

Please contact John by June 10<sup>th</sup> if you're interested so that we can have enough materials. [jcscott@cpsc.com](mailto:jcscott@cpsc.com)

## ADDITIONS TO CLARION'S REGULAR SERIES "GROWING UP IN CLAIBORNE", "CLAIBORNE VOLUNTEERS" and "CLAIBORNE'S GOT TALENT"

### "Growing Up in Claiborne": Carol Cockey Lyons:



Growing up in Claiborne was only boring when you were young enough to still need adult supervision, which we never thought we needed. We had to walk out our long lane to catch the bus for school and if you were late, Mrs. Jeanne would wait at the end of the lane for you to run all the way out so that you weren't left. If you tried to hide and miss the bus..... mom would toss you in the car and catch the bus at the next stop. During the school year we usually only hung out with friends on the weekends, riding bikes, playing tag in Mrs. Jarmin's yard, or playing hide & seek in the woods or the corn fields until they were cut. When it snowed we would find anything we could to use as a sled, including mom's cookie sheets, just to slide down the slight hill in our side yard into the cattails. One year Carl Griebel built a large sled and towed it around Claiborne behind his tractor until it finally broke. Probably from the weight of every adult and kid that hopped on when he went by.

The summers were always the best because you couldn't keep us out of the water. Mom would fuss at me for swimming back and forth to Maple Hall as she was sure a crabber would run over me as they baited their lines coming in the creek. Of course I was sure that would never happen, I mean we were invincible right? On Wednesdays we would get out of the water from swimming off the dock, just to ride our bikes to Mrs. Burling's pool to swim and enjoy the cookies and bottles of soda that they bought from the Claiborne store. We spent many hours on the beach in Claiborne as we would go from the Griebel's to the jetty and out on the point to sit on the rocks and joke around. When we finally got big enough we would sit on top of the pilings at the ferry wharf like all the

big kids did before us. We would often walk up and down the road watching the side of the road and ditches for soda bottles that were thrown out, just to return them at the store hoping to get enough change to buy a soda to split between us. 4th of July was always a great time with swimming in the duck pond and off the wharf at Maple Hall and then running all the boats to SM to watch the fireworks on the water, and then back to Maple Hall often to set off their own that night or the next night.

As kids, my sisters and I would ride horses down to the Claiborne store for a candy bar or soda. Someone would have to wait outside to hold them while the others went in to get something. We would ride thru the trails in the woods across the road from our lane, I spent more time on the front of Kate's horse with her than anything as I always knew she wouldn't do anything crazy like jump a log. When I got big enough I was finally allowed to ride to Claiborne on mom's horse, which I claimed as my own, however I was never tall enough to get on Will without help or climbing up on something so I couldn't get off until Martha and Jim put up the fence near the front door that I could use as a ladder. By the way, thank you for that!

Every fundraiser we had at school, we would go door to door asking for a couple dollars towards it. Mrs. Harrison was always the sweetest lady when we would go to her house. She would always donate a couple of dollars and invite us in for a drink and cookies. She would always invite us back to visit so we would frequently stop by for a chat and a snack. She was always happy when a bunch of us would be out in her front yard playing tag, goofing around or sitting in the shade under her tree. The friends and family we gained as a community created some of the best childhood memories. I am glad my children have had the chance to experience a similar experience as they have grown up in Tilghman. Small town living is definitely the best way of life.

### **“Claiborne Volunteers”:** Maura Bollinger & ShoreRivers

Shortly after Marty and I bought our house in Claiborne a friend introduced us to ShoreRivers and the importance of both testing for water quality and growing oysters for Bay restoration. So, we likewise committed to raise oysters off our pier and to become Creekwatchers for the Miles River and Eastern Bay.

Overtime my Creekwatcher volunteering shifted away from water quality monitoring towards monitoring submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), or Bay grasses. I have now been monitoring and surveying SAV in Tilghman Creek and up Tilghman Point for over five years. SAV is not only an important marker of a healthy Bay, but also provides numerous benefits to fish and crabs. So, when it gets stuck in my rudder, I remind myself of its benefits and try not to curse it 😊.

To survey the grasses, I will go out at least twice a season in my kayak, named SAV-Y of course, and mark locations where SAV is present: noting density of the beds, the species and whether seeds are present.



Often times Maryland DNR and ShoreRivers will organize a group to harvest SAV from thick healthy beds. This is a good fun, wading in cool waist-deep water collecting grasses. The grass seeds are then extracted using ShoreRiver's turbulator in Chestertown, dried, and prepared for planting to re-establish SAV throughout our waterways. SAV surveying also documents the areas where grass is growing to help DNR define SAV Protection Zones where hydraulic clam dredging is prohibited.

Joining grasses as another hard-working organism cleaning our Bay are, of course, oysters. For over ten years I have been fostering baby oysters (spat) off our pier. Every year in September ShoreRivers distributes oyster spat on shells which we then place in cages tied off our pier. Over the winter and spring, I will occasionally give them a good shake to keep the sediment and algae off them. Around May, we deposit them in the sanctuary off Drum Point on the Wye River. It is always a pleasant cruise over to gently drop the oyster spat into their new home. Last year the icing on the cake was encountering a pod of dolphins on our way back.

The other ShoreRivers volunteer activity I do for the waters off Claiborne is testing Claiborne beach and the beach by the landing for bacteria. Once a week during the summer, you will see me or my stand-in donning gloves and dipping the collection bag into the water and then delivering it to the ShoreRivers' office in Easton. The staff then analyzes the samples and reports the level of *enterococci* bacteria found at each beach (as well as 50 other sites on the Sassafras, Chester, Miles-Wye and Choptank Rivers). Unfortunately, our beaches quite often fail—meaning that swimming or eating fish caught there is not recommended. The results are posted on Fridays on the ShoreRivers.org website. And true to form Claiborne Beach failed this Memorial Day weekend :(

Another rewarding volunteer opportunity is with the ShoreRivers Education Department. In the spring and fall they run field trips to University of Maryland's Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge for 9<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. As a volunteer I will either take the kids canoeing or seine-netting to see what critters we can find in the water. It is so satisfying to see the kids connect with the river.

And while Marty is hoping that I join the NAVY (Never Again Volunteer Yourself), I still raise my hand when opportunities arise from tree plantings and clean-up days to underwater videoing the Tilghman Point oyster reef.

I have very much enjoyed getting to know all the staff and interns while volunteering with ShoreRivers; knowing that I am doing my small bit to make sure we have fishable and swimmable waters is an added bonus. If anyone is interested in getting out on the water to document SAV, wants to be an oyster foster parent, or has questions about any of the other volunteer opportunities with ShoreRivers, I am happy to talk with them about my experience.

## “Claiborne’s Talent”: Liz Fellingner



For those of you who do not know me, my name is Liz Fellingner. I am the daughter of Terry Boos and John Fellingner and the granddaughter of Cecilia and Bernard Boos. While I may not have lived in Claiborne full-time until a few years ago, I have and will always continue to claim Claiborne as my true hometown. John Scott asked me to write an article about my recent graduation from Virginia Tech, and my new career. My graduation took place two weeks ago and I earned my degree in three years.

Graduating a year early has its pros and cons. The pro is that you save your parents a year of out of state tuition and living expenses. Most would say the con is that you have to enter the real world a year early. However, I disagree. After graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology, I was more than ready to see what the real world had to offer.

While I began my job search back in November, I didn't gain traction until my spring semester. For the months of February and March my calendar was full. I was scheduling four or five interviews a day around my already heavy course load. Now, this was partially my own fault. I had been



applying to any meteorology job that would accept my resume. This meant I was interviewing for research, broadcast, government positions and everything in between. In my defense, I didn't think I would be interviewing for everything at the same time. Yet, this strategy paid off when I got an email from the Chief Meteorologist at CBS in Albuquerque NM requesting an interview.



To give a brief rundown of news media market rankings, the lower the number, the larger the market. New York City is ranked #1 as it is the largest market. Baltimore is #26 and Salisbury is #135. Most fresh graduates land markets like Salisbury who have rankings between #100-200. They are called starter markets for a reason. Albuquerque is market #44. Landing a market of that size straight out of college is virtually unheard of.

Originally, I applied to Albuquerque under the position of Morning Meteorologist. A position that required at least seven years of industry experience... that I did not have. At the end of the first interview, the Chief told me that he was incredibly impressed with my resume, demo Reel, and interview. While I wasn't qualified for the morning position, he still wanted me on his weather team. He informed me of the Noon Meteorologist position that hadn't yet been opened to the public. If I was

interested, he would schedule another interview for me to meet the News Director. That second round must have gone incredibly well as I was offered the job less than 24 hours later.

Before going into round two of interviews with Albuquerque I had already received numerous job offers everywhere from Louisiana to Alaska. Albuquerque was my top choice and it was the only station I didn't have an offer from. But it's funny how things have a way of working out. In fact, I was on the phone with my Dad upset as I had convinced myself that I wouldn't get the job in Albuquerque when I got the call from the News Director telling me I did.

I have always been told what is meant to be will not pass me by. Albuquerque was meant to be. This is why whenever someone asks me if I am scared to move out west I can truthfully answer no. I get to experience a new place while working in my dream job. Of course I will be sad to leave my family, Claiborne, and the Chesapeake Bay. But the pride I feel outweighs the sadness. I landed a top #50 news market straight out of college. I received the first job placement in my graduating class of meteorologists. I have the highest news media market placement of any graduating broadcaster in the history of the Virginia Tech Meteorology program. I am proud of myself. And I hope to make Claiborne proud by bringing our Eastern Shore charm to New Mexico.

### **“Claiborne’s Got Talent”: Shirley Cockey”**



When my husband died in 2009 my mother was living with us and needed someone with her. I needed to go back to work. I was told about selling embroidered shirts and hats at horse shows. I found the machine I



thought would serve my purpose and asked my daughter, Carol, to join me. Carol stayed with me for a few years and left to be a medical assistant.

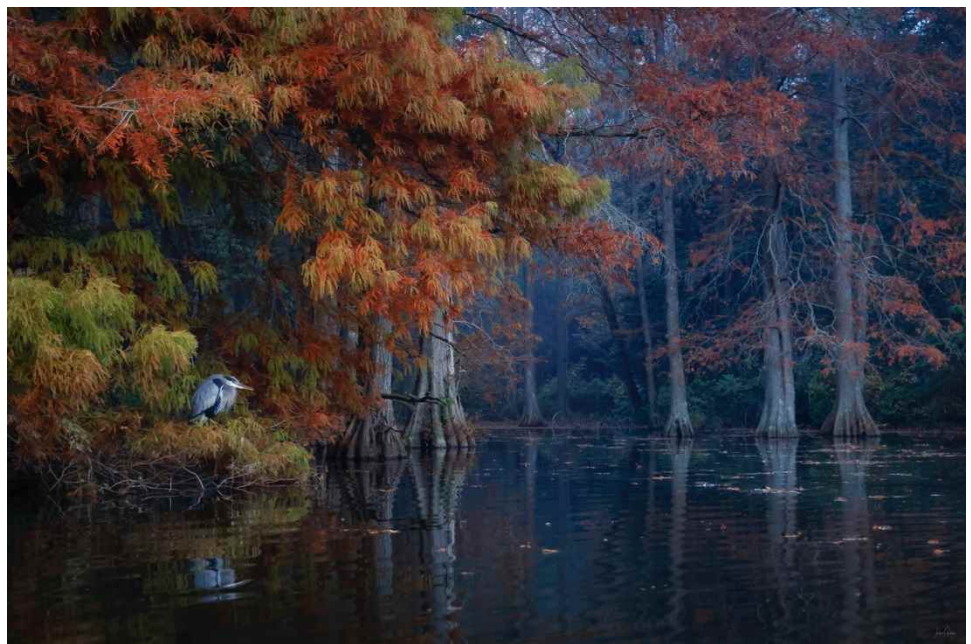
I enjoy building a design when a client says "Do what you think!". I embroider hats, shirts, jackets, saddle pads, stable sheets, towels and anything I can fit into a hoop on the machine. I love the challenge. To embroider a design I start with the program on my computer and draw the design. I work with it until I like the way it looks. The design is then put on a flash drive and the flash drive plugged into the embroidery machine where it is then transferred to the program on the machine. Next I have to center the design and set the sequence the needles will sew.

Sometimes I have to sew out the design several times until it suits me. (I am my hardest critic!) The design can take several minutes to a couple of hours to sew out, depending on it's size.

I really enjoyed making the little Claiborne ornaments we sold at Christmas. They were more than one challenge. First I had to think of a design, then it took weeks of sewing out and testing. The other one that was a favorite was a quilt I made for friends. I had not made a quilt before and each block had to be hooped twice then sewn together.

I embroider caps and shirts for a variety of businesses. Seafood businesses, riding schools, catering businesses, yacht clubs and clothing stores to name a few. I have made Christmas stockings, tree skirts, monogrammed clothing and towels for my family.

### **"Claiborne's Got Talent": Josh Galicki**



I have an interesting story to tell of a Great Blue Heron photo I took not far from here this past Fall. The image is of a resting heron along the

shoreline of Trap Pond State Park in Delaware during peak Fall color. This body of water is home to the northernmost, contiguous stand of bald cypress trees in North America. It feels like being in Louisiana when you experience it in person and nothing like a typical Delmarva setting. I took the image while floating by in my kayak just after sunset and was completely blown away by the entire scene, so I made sure to include the entire surrounding environment. The cool tones on the right side of the frame created by some burning campfires nearby combined amazingly with the warm tones of the foliage that evening. It also has the feel of a Japanese garden to me for some reason.

If any of you attended my photo presentation at the Village Hall this past November, I featured this shot and conveyed my excitement after taking it just a few days beforehand. Since then I'm happy to report this image recently won 1st prize in the environment category at the annual Festival de l'oiseau et de la nature photo contest in France. This is a global photo contest that's been around over 30 years with some of the best nature photographers in the world, so I was shocked when I first heard the good news. James and I were subsequently invited to the awards festival last month in Saint-Valery-sur-Somme, which is a region in the northeast part of the country on the shoreline of another large estuary similar to the Chesapeake Bay in some ways. It was an amazing experience packed with great entertainment and incredible food. I was fortunate enough to have an interpreter when describing the photo on stage and surprised at the interest the photograph sparked to our local area. Most couldn't believe the shot was taken north of Florida and were curious how our wildlife are coping with changing weather patterns and sea level rise. By the way, Claiborne sounds great when pronounced in a French accent.

We were also able to take a few days on the backend of the festival to visit Omaha Beach in Normandy. My uncle was one of the first to land on June 6th, 1944 with the Big Red One and earned a silver star for taking out a German bunker with a rocket launcher. It was surreal to walk in his footsteps there and it gave me gratitude for all of the sacrifices made. Next week marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day.





## **CARPE DIEM -- SUCCEDIT ITERUM**

Renny Johnson, of Siskel, Ebert and Johnson - Claiborne Clarion's chief entertainment critic - gave Sunday's performance at the Village Hall the following rave review:

*The Ferry Hall stage in the Claiborne Hall was the hottest Boogie Woogie place on the Delmarva Peninsula on Sunday evening... Great Music Fun!*

Thanks again to Busy Graham and her Carpe Diem Arts who treated us to Daryl Davis and Seth Kibel. Daryl grew up surrounded by Chicago blues and the folks who invented it. He's played with Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Percy Sledge, The Drifters, Muddy Waters' Legendary Blues Band and more. Seth Kibel is a woodwind specialist and has collected 28 Wammies over the years, including Best World Music Instrumentalist

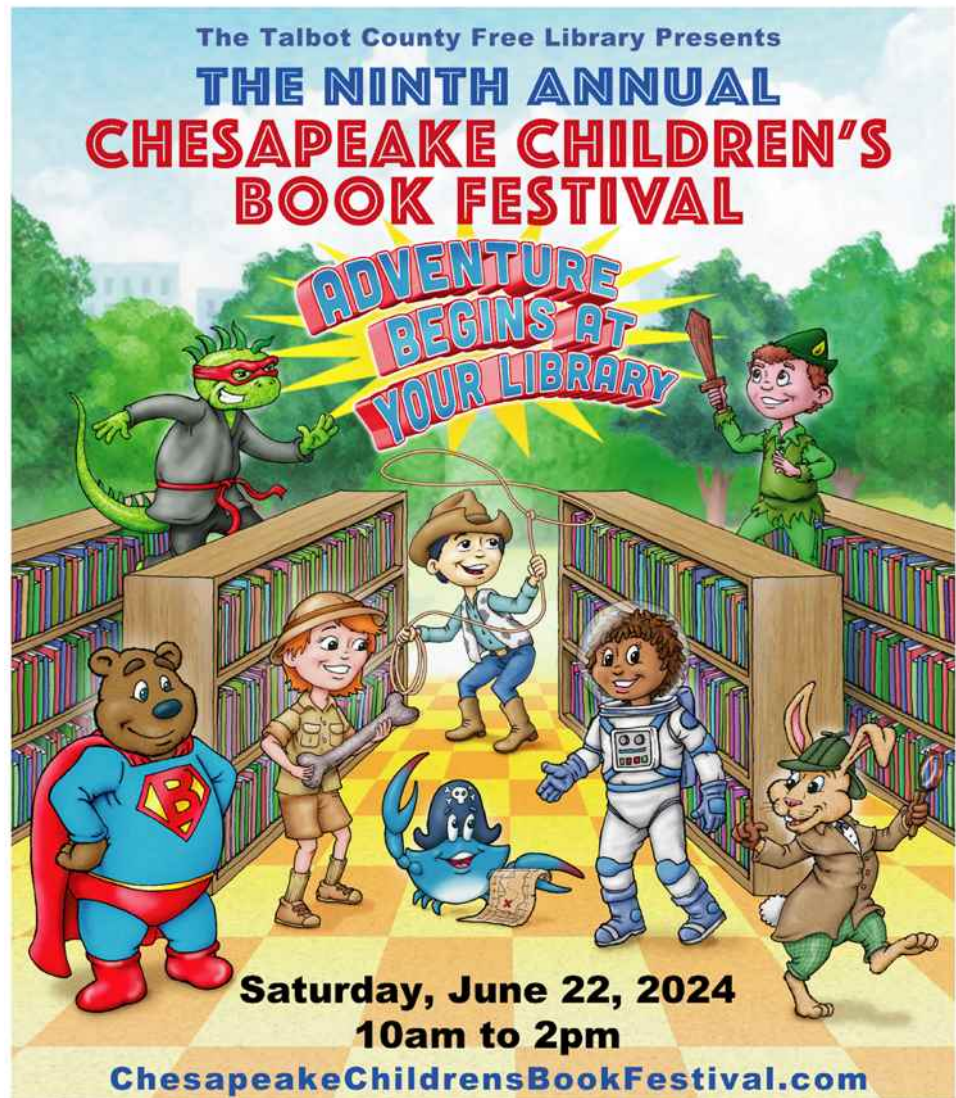


## **CALLING ALL PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND GREAT GRANDPARENTS**

### **The 9th Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival Saturday, June 22nd, 2024**

On Saturday, June 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Talbot County Free Library, in Easton, will host the 9th Annual Chesapeake Children's Book Festival. The Festival is a one-day, rain or shine, free event that celebrates children and the joy of reading. CCBF9 is the kick-off event for the library's Summer Reading Program. Children who sign up and attend the festival will

receive a voucher good for one free book (while supplies last) from the attending author of their choice. There will be 22 children's book authors and illustrators. Some authors will give readings from their books and there will be crafts, displays, entertainment, and giveaways. It will be a fun-filled day for all.



### CLAIBORNE ROAD BOWLING CHALLENGE

This month's Clarion editor challenges the Claiborne Association's president, Jim Richardson to a road bowling match. Perhaps, in the process, starting a community games tradition.

Should Mr. Richardson accept the challenge, the course would start at the Claiborne Ferry Landing and proceed through town to Old Claiborne Road, out to Claiborne Road and back through town



to the Ferry Landing again (a short course). Supporters and detractors welcome to watch, while Renny Johnson and Mike Kuperberg are nominated as Honorable Judges.

Irish road bowling, a traditional sport rooted in the countryside lanes of Ireland, is a unique and exhilarating pastime that blends skill, strategy, and camaraderie. Originating in County Armagh in the 17th century, this sport involves rolling a steel ball, or "bowl," along a predetermined course of winding country roads, typically covering distances of several miles. Players, known as bowlers, use a distinctive underarm throwing technique to propel the bowl forward, aiming to cover the route in the fewest throws possible.

Part of the allure of Irish road bowling lies in its simplicity and accessibility, requiring minimal equipment and infrastructure. Yet, beneath its rustic charm lies a fiercely competitive spirit, with participants strategizing each throw to navigate the twists and turns of the road while avoiding obstacles such as stone walls and hedges. The sport's popularity extends beyond Ireland's borders, with enthusiasts organizing tournaments and events in other countries, fostering a global community bonded by a shared love for this centuries-old tradition.

For more on this sport, check out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAKuNLF-OEE>

(Not since the canoe race competition of 2007 have these two engaged in mortal combat.)

