

Smoke Signal



MOYAONE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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Members of the Moyaone community gathered on the lawn of Mount Vernon for a reception given by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. The event, held on April 30, celebrated the viewshed.

President's Note

—Ben Kirkup
moyaonepresident@gmail.com

In glorious weather and with a festive mood, many of the Moyaone met at the Colonial Farm pier on April 30, joined by others across the water on the East Lawn of the Mount Vernon estate. Conveyances streamed forth from the woods, down Cactus Hill and Bryan Point, lining up in the park in an orderly mess that suggests familiarity. The staff of the farm were also in a cheery mood, all smiles and handshakes. In a company from Accokeek and Virginia, food and drink were enjoyed on the Mount Vernon lawn, promises renewed, and the daylight passed. However, into the celebratory mood of the day, discussions of projected industrial development intruded.

The steady punctuation of the year with recurrent celebratory events—which each require mighty effort for all their apparent inevitability—provides themes woven on the warp of the Moyaone. Even the variations emphasize the theme, as memories take one back to past Oktoberfests or the lambs of last July and raise

comparisons, anticipation, and toasts. There are also echoes of earlier themes that no longer recur, and the tapestry is longer than memory. The Ham and Oyster Dinner at Christ Church is old, but also only in about its 95th year. Longer ago have been pancake suppers; and gone are the jousting, the dancing, and the orchestra. Marshall Hall in its time had rhythms, the Piscataway certainly once did.

Things that are past may linger. Tobacco is harvested only as a demonstration. The horses for jousting are no longer used daily for transportation and agriculture; riding, though still practiced in the Moyaone, is more choice than requirement, similar to painting and even film photography. The nature of the economy has changed, the place of technologies and practices has changed, *momento mori*.

Changes and threats of change naturally concern the stewards of our community, yet good stewardship is more than stalling change. There had been an earlier economy, built on the market for Maryland tobacco. The reduction of tobacco cultivation impoverished segments of the community, which faded until it was almost

—Continued on page 4.

What Would Mrs. Bolton Do About a Gas Compressor Station in Accokeek?

—by Judy Allen-Leventhal

First, an object lesson from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865):

A large rose tree stood near the entrance of the garden; the roses growing on it were white but there were three gardeners at it, busily painting them red. Alice thought this a very curious thing, and she went nearer to watch them, and just as she came up to them she heard one of them say, "Look out now, Five! Don't go splashing paint over me like that!" "I couldn't help it," said Five in a sulky tone, "Seven jogged my elbow." On which Seven looked up and said, "That's right, Five! Always lay the blame on others!" "You'd better not talk!" said Five. "I heard the Queen say only yesterday you deserved to beheaded!" "What for?" said the one who had spoken first. "That's none of your business, Two!" Seven flung down his brush, and had just begun, "Well, of all the unjust things—" when his eye chanced to fall upon Alice, as she stood watching them, and he checked himself suddenly; the others looked round also, and all of them bowed low. "Would you tell me, please," said Alice, a little timidly, "why you are painting those roses?" Five and Seven said nothing, but looked at Two. Two began in a low voice, "Why, the fact is, you see, miss, this here ought to have been a red rose tree, and we put a white one in by mistake, and if the Queen was to find it out we should all have our heads cut off, you know. So you see, miss, we're doing our best, afore she comes, to—" At this moment Five, who had been anxiously looking across the garden, called out, "The Queen! The Queen!" and the three gardeners instantly threw themselves flat upon their faces." (Lewis Carroll)

In our story of 2017 the cry is, "FERC! FERC!" (The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission); "Dominion Cove Point LNG! Dominion Cove Point LNG!" We are not in the Queen's croquet court, but rather in rural Accokeek facing a proposed gas compressor station and its two 50 plus feet high exhaust towers. The paint colors now are not white and red: camouflage has been suggested for the towers. This tale is not imaginary, but very real with threats of air, light, water, and noise pollution; degradation of wetlands; lowered property values; heightened safety risks.

Ladies, gentlemen, friends, neighbors, leaders of environmental and outdoor education foundations, be warned: painting these exhaust towers camouflage and falling flat to the floor of our national park and rural area will not mollify the "Queen." We must act. Contact your local and state representatives and voice your concerns. Urge your senators to block the appointment of FERC commissioners until Congressional hearings are held. More information about the proposed project is at docket number CP17-15 at www.ferc.gov. The FERC Environmental Assessment is to be available at the end of June 2017. For more information, see: www.dom.com/easternmarket, and www.ampcreeks.org



A Year Without Water: Destruction of a Beaver Dam in Piscataway Park

—by Karen Miles, Alice Ferguson Foundation

Almost exactly a year ago, on May 29, 2016, a large and valuable beaver dam along Accokeek Creek in Piscataway Park was vandalized and destroyed, with more than half the dam displaced and destroyed. Not only was the act a federal offense, but the removal of dam has had a huge impact on the flora and fauna in the area. With the dam gone, water drained from the highly biologically diverse section of land. What water remained began evaporating quickly in the hot summer days, leading to an eventual exodus of animal species that could not survive in the area without ready access to water.

A year later, we have seen some of the damage reversed at the Alice Ferguson Foundation, as new beavers have moved in to begin reconstructing their dam along Accokeek Creek near our property. Beavers and their dams provide numerous ecological benefits, not the least of which is slowing water down so it can seep through the soil to the water table below. The flooded areas provide areas where dozens of species can thrive that otherwise could not. Fully 50 percent of the bird species found at Hard Bargain Farm are seen in and around the emergent wetland at the bend in Bryan Point Road. Eagles, osprey, green and great blue herons and other birds, large and small, perch on the large tree snags. At least seven turtle species bask on the dead logs in the marsh, and at least ten kinds of frogs and toads use this area for breeding. Untold benthic (bottom dwelling) organisms make this wetland their home.

The rich diversity of animals benefits nearby humans too. The reptile and amphibian species that live in these beaver-constructed environments keep the populations of mosquitoes and other biting insects down. And these emergent wetlands—or wet meadow as some call it—are the centerpiece of our on-site education program at Hard Bargain Farm. Each year, thousands of students explore the boardwalk and protected viewing areas to see firsthand the natural wonders of the area and its incredibly rich biodiversity.

All this thanks to a small, industrious critter with a flat tail.

TAILS ON TRAILS

Accokeek Foundation



Tails on Trails at Piscataway Park

The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park is hosting an exciting event on Saturday, June 3 for National Trails Day called Tails on Trails.

Celebrate National Trails Day with your pooch at Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, from 10 am to 2 pm. Enjoy guided trail walks, a Pooch Play Zone tennis ball pit, an agility course, cooling pool, and pooch portrait caricatures. Plus, pamper your pooch with DIY dog treats and paw care products. \$5 per person, with one VIP (Very Important Pooch) pass. Additional dogs, \$5 each. All dogs must be on leash.

For more information, contact Anjela Barnes, Accokeek Foundation (301-283-2113; abarnes@accokeek.org).

Registration link: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07edy5nj0ac6f01f7&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Moyaone Beer Tasting: Fun and Successful

—by Mary Lee Phelps

Over 60 friends and neighbors attended the Moyaone Beer Tasting on Saturday, May 20. The beautiful evening was certainly a plus. We thank our brew masters, Danilo Boquin, Nathaniel Davis, Charles Gaumond, and JJ Jackson, for the wonderful selection of beer to try. Samples of Robust Porter, Dry Stout, Milk Stout, German Bock, Hefeweizen, Weissenbock and English Brown Mild were available.

The community support of this event was terrific, and we are proud to announce that we raised approximately \$600 to support bringing electricity and water to the cook shack and pavilion at the Wagner Community Center.

Celebrating Spring on Hard Bargain Farm

—by Varya Zhigilei

The first weekend in May, the Alice Ferguson Foundation's (AFF) Hard Bargain Farm was excited to open its doors to the community for this year's Spring Farm Festival. Though the morning started out rainy, the weather cleared up by the afternoon, and folks got a chance to visit the different tables and activities, browse the plant sale, go on a hayride and grab a bite to eat.

This year's live music featured Ryan Thompson, NCB, Good Gravy, Lynn Hollyfield, and the barnyard band. Kids enjoyed face painting, a critter touch tank, an interactive rain runoff activity, live blacksmithing demonstrations, Junior Ranger Activities by park rangers from Fort Washington National Park, and a variety of crafts and art.

Check out the upcoming events below.

Paint in the Woods at AFF Amphitheater, May 27

A painting activity at the AFF Hard Bargain Farm amphitheater will mix art, painting, wine, fun, and socializing. Meet neighbors, make new friends, and create a piece of art under the guidance of artist Vicki Marckel (<http://vmarckel.com/gallery/>).

Join us at the theater in the woods (2001 Bryan Point Rd.) on Sat., May 27, 3–6 pm. \$35 per participant. Painting supplies are included in the ticket price; wine is extra.

Buy your tickets online or at the door, but note that the workshop has a maximum of 40 participants. Register online: <http://fergusonfoundation.org/events/paint-in-the-woods-wine-design>

Yoga & Mimosas

Join us for this class and a glass event at the AFF outdoor amphitheater for an afternoon of community, yoga, and wine with yoga instructor Sean Fraser. The event takes place on Sun., June 18, 10 am–12:30 pm, 2001 Bryan Point Rd.

The \$35 event price includes: 60 minute all-level yoga class taught by Sean Fraser; bottled water and snack; one mimosa and keepsake wine glass. Schedule: check-in, 10–10:30 am; yoga, 10:30–11:30am; chill with mimosas, 11:30 am–12:30 pm. Register: <http://fergusonfoundation.org/events/yoga-mimosas/>

AFF Hosts “Pinot on the Potomac” on June 24

AFF will host its 4th annual Summer Garden Party and Wine Tasting on Sat., June 24, 6–8:30 pm. The event will showcase local wines, delicious food, live music, views of the Potomac, and tours of our beautiful farmhouse and gardens (2001 Bryan Point Rd.). All proceeds will benefit AFF environmental education programs.

Tickets start at \$75 per person, and include food by Equinox Chef Todd Gray (locally-sourced hors d'oeuvres), and a selection of local wines from The Urban Winery. The first glass of wine is included in the ticket price. Live music will be provided by Eric Scott.

Purchase your tickets by June 18. <https://alicefergusonfoundation.networkforgood.com/events/2286-pinot-on-the-potomac>



President's Note

—Continued from page 1

replaced by an oil shipping terminal—which in retrospect would have had a relatively short useful life, particularly given shifts in the energy economy such as those currently driving the externally proposed development of a natural gas compressor station.

Ours is a multi-generational community that develops both organically and reflectively. At the annual meeting, a number of issues were raised and meetings or forums to act upon them announced. When considering threatening issues, particularly those impacting critical community infrastructure and systems such as transportation, energy, education, and fire hazards, it is natural to focus on the crisis of the moment with emotional intensity and dour aspects. However, counter-intuitively, the purpose of the association meetings is best served by including celebration as an element. A celebratory component gives an opportunity to draw from our roots, provide welcome mental relief, and improve the mood of all, thus encouraging wise decisions. Celebratory elements shift attention to positive daily experiences and draw attention to the further horizon, where vision may be bold and constructive.

Thus, circling back to the April 30 event at Mount Vernon, foreboding necessarily intruded on the celebration and usefully drew attention to our shared interests. But as the community addresses sober concerns in meetings and discussions, I cheerfully anticipate the intentional inclusion of celebration—may our neighborhood culture thus be remembered fondly as both welcoming and far-sighted.

Annual Membership Meeting

At the annual membership meeting of the Moyaone Association on May 6, the following officers were elected: Ben Kirkup, President; Jon Gillespie, Vice President; and John Mitchell, Director-at-Large. Nancy Weiman was elected Financial Trustee for a 3-year term, joining Financial Trustees Nick Wasylczuk (in 3rd year of term) and Michael Cohn (in 2nd year of term). Jamie Kucab continues as Treasurer. A secretary was also elected, but is unable to serve for personal reasons. Until a new secretary is found, Kent Hibben will temporarily fill that role.

Special guests at the annual meeting were Christine Smith, National Park Service, Superintendent, Fort Washington, Piscataway, Oxon Cove, Fort Foote, Harmony Hall Parks; and Captain Green, U.S. Park Police.

Also a motion was passed, with the full support of those present, for the Moyaone Association Board of Directors to consider legal action against the building of the Dominion Power compression station (on Barrys Hill Road, near Marshall Hall Road). For a fact sheet from Dominion about the Charles County compressor station, see the website: <https://www.dominion.com/library/81ada61726db4196847bcda7ece065d8.ashx>

SEND NOTICES FOR SMOKE SIGNALS TO:

Ruth Gaumond, 301-292-1189; moyaonenews@gmail.com

Next DEADLINE: June 20 for July 2017 issue of *Smoke Signals*



Osprey nest, viewed from the Accokeek pier.

Concerts in the Woods, Friday, June 30

Roses and Rye—Lynn Hollyfield, Annette Wasilik, Nicole Belanus and Kevin Dudley

Four award-winning singer songwriters combine forces and create a super group, with tight harmonies and instrumentation and pods? What?

To answer that question, come and hear for yourself on Friday, June 30, 8–10 pm—and bring a friend. Part of the proceeds of the show go to support the Environmental Education Programs at the Hard Bargain Farm.

Concerts in the Woods take place at the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF) Amphitheater, 2001 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek. Tickets for members of AFF are \$12; non-members, \$15.

Aircraft Noise Continues:

Please Keep on Registering Your Concerns

Over the past three years the aircraft noise has increased dramatically. We need to get the FAA et al. to give us the same consideration they give to folks north of the airport. However, they only gave that consideration after many people complained and elected officials got involved. We are under way with raising the awareness of our area's need for consideration, with tip-of-the-hat to John Mitchell, who is our local representative to the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA).

To get the attention of local politicians and the MWAA we need to continue registering complaints, to solidify our data-sets. MWAA tracks noise complaints and reports on them so it's important that you make yourself heard. To register DCA fixed wing aircraft excessive-noise complaints: <https://complaints.bksv.com/dca> (You can submit multiple complaints by hitting the back arrow on the link, once you've entered your first complaint. That resets the template for your next report.)

You can also see near real-time (1 hour delay) flight and path information via this link: <http://webtrak5.bksv.com/dca>

Additional members are always welcome to help the Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition to press the case for fairer skies. Contact the SMFS Chair: KentLHibben@Gmail.com



The artist's rendering above shows the proposed intersection of MD 210, northbound, with Kirby Hill Road/Livingston Road passing overhead. Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, Prince George's County.

Route 210 Construction Updates Available Online

There is information online on the Maryland Dept. of Transportation State Highway Administration website regarding the construction on Indian Head Highway: <http://apps.roads.maryland.gov/WebProjectLifeCycle/ProjectDocuments.aspx?projectno=PG7005116#>

The March 2017 Construction update fact sheet lists the project improvements:

- Remove the at-grade intersection of Kerby Hill Road/Livingston Road at MD 210 and replace it with a grade-separated interchange.
- Elevate and realign Kerby Hill Road with Livingston Road over MD 210.
- Construct a new service road to access the Wilson Towers Apartments and Brookside Park Condominiums.

- Remove the traffic signal at the intersection of Wilson Bridge Drive and MD 210.
- Add new facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Construct noise barriers along MD 210.
- Upgrade drainage systems and construct new stormwater management facilities.
- Install new landscaping in the project area.

Under "Project Documents" selecting the header "Schedule" tab will give more recent updates. Currently, the website gives a status report for May 15, 2017. Selecting the "Maps" header will show artists' renderings of the completed project, including views of the overpass that will carry Kirby Hill Road/Livingston Road over Route 210.

Computer Problems?

Zack is ready to help. No problem is too big or too small. From cracked smartphone screens to computers not booting and more. I can address all computer and phone problems.

Call Zachary Tesi

home: 301-283-6452 (preferred)
cell: 301-848-0078 (preferred)
e-mail: gamerdarkranger@gmail.com

Please call Monday–Friday.

Moyaone Association Board

<i>President</i>	Ben Kirkup MoyaonePresident@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Jon Gillespie MoyaoneVP@gmail.com
<i>Comptroller</i>	Jamie Kucab MoyaoneComptroller@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	--currently vacant-- MoyaoneSecretary@gmail.com
<i>Director-at-Large</i>	John Mitchell john@interactionlaw.com

Inurnment and Memorial for Jane Klemer to Take Place Sunday, June 25

Jane Klemer was a long-term friend of many in the Moyaone community. She passed away last fall with no known relatives. Her ashes are scheduled to be interred in the cemetery of Christ Church, Accokeek, on Sunday, June 25 at 3:30 pm, under the direction of the Reverend Father Brian L. Vander Wel, Rector. There will be a memorial for Jane at the Wagner Center at 4:00 pm, where we can share stories and memories of Jane. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Charlie Gaumond (charles.gaumond@gmail.com; 301-292-1189) if you would like to bring some beverages, cookies, or hors d'oeuvres.

Slim Pickin's on a Blustery Day

—by Jane Klemer

Tufted Titmouse forages

Amongst Potomac rushes,

At low tide.



Sarah Jane “Sally” Berninghausen

Celebration of Life on Saturday, June 3 at 1 pm

Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Rd., Accokeek

Sarah Jane “Sally” Berninghausen, of Accokeek, born December 2, 1949, died at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC, on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, due to the effects of long-term diabetes and ultimately heart failure. All who knew her loved her and will miss having her in their lives, just knowing she was there as she was for so many in numerous ways.

Sally leaves behind her loving companion of ten years, Carl “von Baron” Harlow, who was as a husband to her. She also leaves behind her two beloved dogs, Rufus and Binky. Family members include her brother Tom Berninghausen and his wife, Nancy Cook of Missoula, MT; as well as her brother Mark and his wife Barbara Berninghausen of Brasher Falls, NY, their three children and their families, which include Sally’s nephew Charles and his wife Megan Berninghausen; grandnieces and nephews Jacob, Liam, Alexis, and Kinleigh, all of Ft. Belvoir, VA; Sally’s niece Hope Janelle Jones and Matt Jones, her husband, of Sacramento, CA; and Sally’s nephew, Marshall Berninghausen of Brasher Falls, NY. Sally also leaves behind numerous cousins, chiefly among them her loving cousin Kay Porter Westendorf, as well as others spread far and wide.

Sally was predeceased by her father, William Harry “Bernie” Berninghausen, and her mother, Jane Elizabeth Porter Berninghausen, as well as all of her aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

Sally loved life. She wanted to live. And while she lived she went where she wanted to go, she did what she enjoyed doing, saw sights, and experienced places and things throughout the United States and Europe, including England, where she lived for a few months. Eager to see the world, Sally traveled to Europe soon after high school, on her own, with a Eurail Pass and abundant curiosity. Later on in life she went to Italy with her cousin Kay Westendorf. Soon after her mother’s death, Sally met Carl Harlow and they

shared their love of adventure, traveling with The Ski Club to Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, and northern Italy. Even though her eyesight failed due to macular degeneration, Sally still loved to go places to see what she herself could still see and to see the rest through the eyes of others. Sally and Mark continued to go to the movies together with Mark whispering to her what was on the screen when she couldn’t make out the images.

Sally loved her dogs. Wherever she lived she always had dogs, usually two at a time so they would not be alone while she was at work. Sally was a Licensed Social Worker, with a Masters of Social Work from George Mason University. She worked for the Child & Family Service Agency in Southwest DC, in the Adoption & Guardianship Subsidy Unit. This was job she loved and one she long fought to keep, even as her failing eyesight made it difficult for her. When Sally could no longer legally drive, her neighbor, Lona Powell, took her to the bus and they rode the bus to work together. Sally retired from employment December 31, 2015.

Sally loved music, movies, art, theater, the Great Outdoors, travel, her animals, dogs and geese. She loved talking to friends and family, always curious and caring to know what was going on with those she knew.

Those wishing to send cards or letters of condolence may send them to Carl Harlow, 1201 Laurel Drive, Accokeek, MD 20607 or to Mark Berninghausen, 437 Hurley Road, Brasher Falls, NY 13613. In lieu of flowers, please donate something to benefit someone else, as Sally did. Become an organ donor, as Sally was. Subscribe to a concert series, as Sally did. Do something for someone else, as Sally always did.

A party in celebration of life will be held on June 3 at 1 pm. Please bring your stories and your supportive smiles to the Moyaone’s Wagner Community Center, 2311 Bryan Point Road in Accokeek, down the street from where her parents built the house she graced for so many years. We loved Sally for all she stood for — she ceaselessly showed us who she was by all she so bravely accomplished.