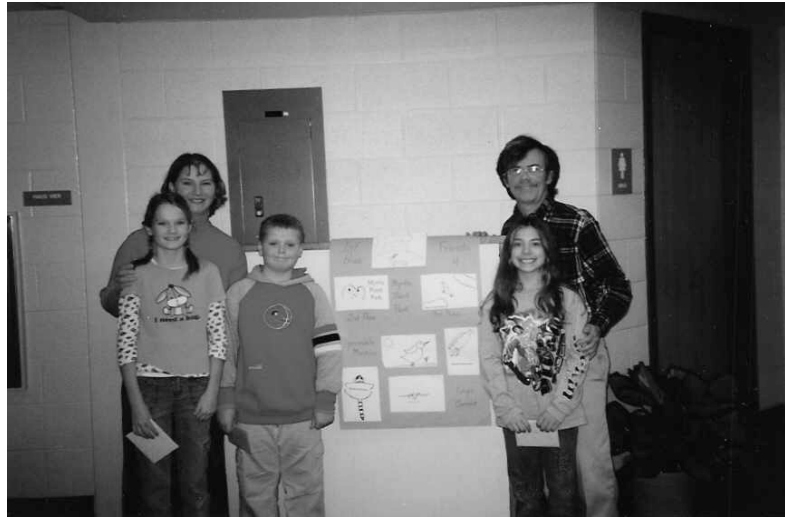


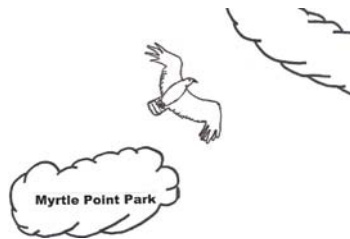
To The Point Spring 2006

Newsletter of the Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc.



Ms. Amy Downs, Art Instructor at Hollywood Elementary School,
Mr. Robert Boxwell, President of The Friends of Myrtle Point Park
with Logo Contest Winners: Kelsey Hageman – First Place; Kayla
Yates – Second Place and Zach Hudgins – Third Place.

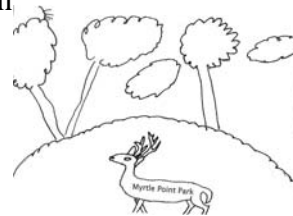
FOMPP NEW LOGOS!!!!
1ST ANNUAL STUDENT CONTEST
held at
HOLLYWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR 2006!!!



First Place – Kelsey Hageman



Second Place - Kayla Yates



Third Place - Zach Hudgins

Thank you to all of the Fourth Grade Students of Hollywood Elementary
who participated in the FOMPP Logo Contest and to Ms. Downs for her
help and support!! Friends of Myrtle Point Park

FOMPP Board of Directors - 2006

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robertjohnboxwell@yahoo.com

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FOMPP Website:
www.myrtlepoint.org

The President's Point

Here it is Friday and thoughts of the weekend are trying to creep in. Not the usual nice, how late can I sleep or what college basketball game is on. Rather my mind turns to weather. With the threat of snow in the forecast I recall some of the season adventures at Myrtle Point. Trips in the snow in the winter, sunny days in the summer. If you think you know a place, visit it at a different time of year. You'll be surprised at how different it looks and feels.

That's why I like winter (the real thing not this global warming induced fraud we are experiencing). Everything is more stark and easy to see. No leaves blocking your vision, cold clean air to breathe, no biting insects, and lots of ducks in the water. Maybe it will show up yet.

Regardless I look forward to Mary P. and my field trip on the 18th. We will be looking for the elusive waterfowl and other winter birds, seeing what plants are ready to bust out in blossom, listening for the early frogs croak and peeping. I'm not sure what we will find, but that is the joy of any outdoor experience. You don't know. So spice up things a bit and go out and visit the park. (Ignore the closed sign. The park is open, the parking lot is closed.) Good for the body, good for the soul.

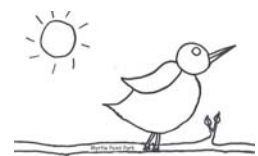
Bob Boxwell

Logo 2006 Honorable Mention Winners Hollywood Elementary School - Fourth Grade



Myrtle Point Park

Samuel Morgan



Hailey Dodges



Elisa Mattingly



Myrtle Point Park

Mairyn Branaman

The Trails at Myrtle Point Park

The Friends of Myrtle Point Park have had many conversations about the best way to work with the trails at Myrtle Point Park. We have discussed the issue with Recreation and Parks staff. We stopped working on the trails because we believe it is necessary to consult with those who are experts with trail design and maintenance. Our concerns are:

- ▲ How can we retrofit existing trails for better handicap access?
 - ❖ What is the best way to create better access for wheelchairs to the beach and at least some of the forest?
 - ❖ How can we create a sensory trail?
 - ❖ How can we provide trails with close to the ground boardwalks through some of the wetlands and around the tidal pools?
- ▲ The soils in the area are highly erodible, is that a major consideration for trail development?
- ▲ Should there be new trails away from the cliff area, away from critical beach area destruction?
- ▲ How wide should trails be? To the gas line, perhaps 15 feet, where do emergency vehicles have to drive?
- ▲ How do we preserve the nature park as a natural treasure while encouraging people to come and visit, to enjoy the benefits of a natural area?

During our lengthy discussions concerning the trails we always reach the same conclusion – we need the guidance of the experts. Finally, Bob Boxwell has found access to professional training where one member from the organization could attend. Once he receives the training he will be able to schedule planning and work sessions for those who are interested.

Time and trained volunteers are precious. Untrained volunteers can create problems that are costly from a biological, financial and safety standpoint. Legal mistakes can be made such as cutting trees, shrubs and vines in the critical area on a slope over a beach to provide a nice view. Lack of training and with no one to oversee their work could close the Park. Fallen trees in a nature park are nature doing its thing. Go around or step over it, and wait for volunteers with better training and skills to make sound decisions and not just mow and cut wherever and whenever.

We hope you will stay with us as we strive to preserve this park in a natural way.



Come, Join Us For A Winter Outing **Saturday, February 18, 2006** **10:00 A.M. To Noon**

Join FOMPP President and Outings Leader Bob Boxwell (410-394-1300) in a heart healthy hike around Myrtle Point Park to celebrate the Valentine's Day the natural way.

We will be looking for winter wildlife in the park and waterfowl on the creek and river.

This is a relatively easy hike with some minor hills. Considering the season dress in layers and wear appropriate footwear (paths may be a little muddy).



Around the Birdfeeder

Spring is fast approaching and if you are a backyard birdfeeder you are probably beginning to see some really exciting visitors to your feeders. Spring is NOT the time to stop feeding birds. While the winter around here has been milder than others, the insects have not come out in sufficient numbers to sustain the insect eating bird population. So keep feeding, or, even better -- start.

I feed only black oil sunflower seed and put out a suet cake -- I just haven't gotten to the thistle yet, but I will. The songbirds love the black oil seed and you will be amazed at the variety of birds that will come to your feeder. In the past two days I have seen a white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatch, chickadees, house finches, gold finches, cardinals, titmice and even a female Baltimore Oriole (I was stunned by this one, but there she was!). The white throated sparrows and doves munch out on the ground below and both male and female downy woodpeckers love the suet.

So, share your home with our migratory and backyard birds. Invite them to stop by and you will be rewarded beyond measure. Put up a nest box in the proper place and with the proper opening for the species you wish to attract and they just might choose your place to call home!

Remember to keep your birdfeeders clean and full of fresh feed to avoid spreading disease to these charming visitors. And, put out plenty of fresh water in a safe birdbath - even non-seed eaters need water!

For fun, keep a list of the birds you see. Sometimes you get a very rare treat that even the most experienced birders don't see! A good field guide by your watching window and a pair of binoculars will help you identify most any bird who dines at your feeder.

Written by: Linda Fadely and published in: The Century 21 Life@Home Newsletter



PAX River Christmas Bird Count

Birds Counted at Myrtle Point Park, January 1, 2006

Common Loon
Scaup Sp.
Bufflehead
Ring-billed Gull
Belted Kingfisher
Northern Flicker
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Swamp Sparrow

Horned Grebe
Long-tailed Duck
Turkey Vulture
Herring Gull
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Carolina Wren
Northern Cardinal
White-throated Sparrow

Canada Goose
Surf Scoter
Bald Eagle
Great Black-backed Gull
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Blue Jay
Eastern Bluebird
Northern Mockingbird
Savannah Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco

Greater Scaup
Common Goldeneye
Sharp-shinned Hawk
American Crow
Downy Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk
Gray Catbird
Cedar Waxwing
Song Sparrow
American Goldfinch



Myrtle
Point
Park



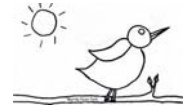
From our Sightings Log in the Park

Wildlife Sightings , Breeding Season:

Prairie Warbler	Summer Tanager
White-eyed Vireo	Great Blue Heron
Yellow-breasted Chat	Blue Grosbeak
Kentucky Warbler	Indigo Bunting
Red-eyed Vireo	Amphibian eggs
Black Snake	Common Yellow throat
Osprey	



White-tailed Deer
Eastern Box Turtle
Copperhead
Praying Mantis
Pileated Woodpecker
Fowler's Toad



Wildlife Sightings, Winter:

Bald Eagle	Savannah Sparrow	Brown Thrasher
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Wild Turkey	Falcon
Cedar Waxwing	Great Horned Owl	White-throated Sparrow
Common Loon	Eastern Towhee	Northern Flicker



Comments:

"Stamp out litter."
"Clean up as you go."
"It is very clean."
"Wonderful Park!"
"Our three-legged dog enjoyed it very much."
"A beautiful park. Please, leave it wild."
"Great hike!"

"Check yourself for ticks."
"Very nice."
"Great place to relax."
"Keep it wild."
"Lovely walk – keep it wild."
"Loved it. Nice Park!"
"We love the walk. Walked all about the shore."
"We loved how everyone is keeping things up."

"Fight litter problems."
"Always wonderful."
Good trails – wish they were longer.
"No ball fields or other high impact uses. Thanks."
"Keep it wild all over."
"Leave it wild!"
"Leave the park the way it is."
"Great walk! Leave the park the the way it is."



Annual Cleanup at Myrtle Point Park Saturday April 8, 2006 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Come out in join in our effort as part of the annual Patuxent River Cleanup. We will be meeting at the picnic area at the park. A person will be stationed there with bags and gloves (bring your own if you have them the supply is limited). She will direct to the various sites we will be working on throughout the park. This is a great opportunity to do something positive for the park, the environment, and yourself. Please contact Bob Boxwell at 410-394-1300 if you have any questions.



Patuxent Riverkeeper - Kayaks Ordered for 2006
www.paxriverkeeper 301-249-8200

The Patuxent Riverkeeper recently obtained funding support to acquire 12 new touring kayaks which will be available for rental beginning in the Spring of 2006 for use on the Patuxent and the growing "Paddle Path" on the river. The Paddle Path is a joint effort of Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, the State Department of Natural Resources, The Patuxent River Commission and others. The Paddle path features historical sites, wildlife, sightseeing and other attractions to be seen on the Patuxent, which is one of our State's more placid, scenic and paddle friendly waterways. The Riverkeeper will provide custom interpretive tours by kayak launching from Queen Anne and vicinity down to Jug Bay. Self-guided kayak tours will also be available. The Patuxent Riverkeeper also plans to sell used kayak stock at the end of each season and order new boat models each year. Stay in touch with us or watch the Riverkeeper web site for details about tours, rentals and sales.



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The Battle Continues.....

Bob Boxwell, Robert Willey and I met in the main parking lot to continue the battle of Invasive Plant Removal on Saturday, December 3rd. We worked in an area that is planned to become a demonstration plot. This section of the Park will be used to educate others about the invasive plant problem. The goal is to remove the invasives and then replant with native plants. The demonstration area will also be used to determine the most effective way to remove the invasives. It is an interesting project and we would welcome more help.

Bob and I concentrated on expanding the original area, while Robert continued his work of opening up the new section. Robert came equipped with his chain saw, which proved to be the most effective tool. We pulled down more of the overhead branches. We tried to remove the multiflora rose that is entwining with the Japanese honeysuckle. Both Robert and I tried to save a small holly tree by clearing an area for it. When we go back in March we will see if it continues to survive.

Dudley Lindsley



Bob pulls the multiflora rose entwined with the honeysuckle and ivy.

Robert uses his chainsaw to clear an area of multiflora rose.



Calendar of Events

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Saturday, February 18, 2006 - 10:00 A.M. To Noon

Join FOMPP President and Outings Leader Bob Boxwell (410-394-1300) in a heart healthy hike around Myrtle Point Park to celebrate the Valentine's Day the natural way.



Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc. Annual Meeting: Friday March 24th, Asbury

Community Auditorium in Solomon's Island, 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. We are still waiting for confirmation of a couple of our speakers and will send out the information as soon as we have a definite program. Please, mark the date!

Annual Cleanup at Myrtle Point Park

Saturday April 8, 2006 - 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Come join in our effort as part of the annual Patuxent River Cleanup. We will be meeting at the picnic area at the park. A person will be stationed there with bags and gloves (bring your own if you have them the supply is limited). She will direct to the various sites we will be working on throughout the park. It is a great opportunity to do something positive for the park, the environment, and yourself. Please contact Bob Boxwell at 410-394-1300 if you have any questions.

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center Herb Sale,

Saturday, May 6th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Native Perennials from Lower Marlboro Nursery, Nature Art Show & Sale. Call 410-535-5327 for information.

Summerseat Sanctuary & Farm Annual Plant Sale,

Saturday, May 6th, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Vegetables, Perennials, Annuals, Herbs, Shrubs, Baked Goods, Crafts and Other Surprises. Call 301-373-6607 for information. Summerseat is located just north of Route 247 (Loveville Road), watch for the signs.



Earth Day on the Square in Leonardtown: The date for Earth Day on the Square in Leonardtown has been set for Sunday, April 23, 2006 from 12:30 until 4:30. For information contact: Dudley Lindsley, 301-373-2551

Friends of Myrtle Point Monthly Meetings: The regular monthly meetings of the Friends of Myrtle Point, Inc. are held on the third Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Leonardtown Branch of the St. Mary's County Memorial Library. The meetings are open to the public. **Note: The Library is closed on February 20th, please, call Dudley Lindsley, 301-373-2551 for location of that meeting.**

Membership Notes:

Help us preserve, maintain and enhance what is special about Myrtle Point Park. Join the Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc. for 2006

Give a Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc. membership for any occasion. [See form on last page.] 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, Maryland 20619 – Suzanne Henderson, Membership Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

Return to:
Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc.
P.O. Box 1433
California, Maryland 20619-1433

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership: _____ Individual(s) - \$10.00 (check to Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc.)

_____ Families - \$15.00 (check to Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc.)

Interests:

_____ Historical/Archeological

_____ Invasive Plant Removal

_____ Trail Maintenance

_____ Education

_____ Public Relations

_____ Species Identification

_____ Other: _____

Friends of Myrtle Point Park, Inc.
P.O. Box 1433
California, MD 20619

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR:
FRIENDS OF MYRTLE POINT PARK, INC. MEMBERSHIP.**