

Maryland

HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE

The Calvert Garden Club, PO Box 3068, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

For Immediate Release

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Historic Homes Offer Rare Glimpse into Calvert's Past

A rare glimpse into Calvert County's past is an opportunity offered when the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage sponsored by the Calvert Garden Club opens on May 17. Among the 11 sites on the tour are several historic 17th century homes, early farmhouses and two 1800's one-room schools. The tour will benefit the restoration and preservation of an historic garden at *Point Farm* at the Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.

One of the highlights of the tour will be *Spout Farm*, situated high on a bluff overlooking a deep-water harbor on beautiful St. Leonard Creek in Calvert County just off the Patuxent River. From its beginning as a 600 acre land grant from the English king in 1649, *Spout Farm* has witnessed much history: the Revolution; the birth of the state of Maryland; naval battles in the war of 1812; port-of-call for sailing ships from England and the colonies, steamships, and bugeye boats dredging for oysters. It has also been a tobacco farm, a store, a post office and a hunting lodge.

Driving up the mature red cedar allee to the white clapboard house, one is immediately aware of the double pent chimneys, an unusual architectural feature and the only example in the county. Then walking up to the house on paths between mature boxwoods, one is transported back to - another, more gracious era. Outside and inside the results of thirty-plus years of dedicated restoration by the owners are apparent.

Inside, the dining room reveals the original one- room- and- loft colonial log cabin beginnings of the house with its massive fireplace. Subsequent additions over the years have made the house a dwelling and plantation worthy of important Marylanders.

Spout Farm is authentically furnished with exquisite, mostly American antiques. The owner's knowledge and taste are expressions of her years as proprietor of antique shops in Georgetown

and New Market, MD. A particular favorite is the walnut grandfather clock with a rare brass face made by noted Frederick, MD clockmaker, John Fessler , circa 1810.

The paint and fabric colors the owners have chosen, the rugs and mirrors and early American paintings each a treasure and the gorgeous window treatments all make *Spout Farm* a must-see for anyone interested in early Maryland décor and architecture. Equally impressive is realizing one is standing on the scenic spot where so much of our Maryland history has transpired.

Other key stops in the tour will be historic Maryland farmhouses: *Windy Hill Farm of Bowenville* with its smoke house, barn and extensive gardens; *The Cage* held through generations of the original land grant owner, William Parrott; and the *Tynewydd Farm*, circa 1782, filled with English country antiques and treasures.

Tour proceeds will go to the *Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum* for the restoration and preservation of the unique gardens at the Patterson home. Both the home and museum are on the tour. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 on site. A gourmet box lunch for \$15 may be pre-ordered and must be paid for by May 1. For information, contact: www.mhgp.org or www.calvertgardenclub.com . Tickets are available in Calvert County at: Dickinson Jewelers and Dunkirk Florists & Gifts in Dunkirk; Second Looks Books or Dickinson Jewelers in Prince Frederick; or Carmen's Gallery and Lotus Kitchen in Solomons.