



Lord Baltimore is shown armed and mounted. The Latin inscription is, "Cecilius, Absolute Lord of Maryland and Avalon, Baron of Baltimore."



This shows Lord Baltimore's escutcheon, with figures of a farmer and a fisherman. The Italian scroll reads, "Strong deeds, Gentle words." The Latin border legend is "With favor wilt thou compass us as with a shield." (Psalms V, 12)

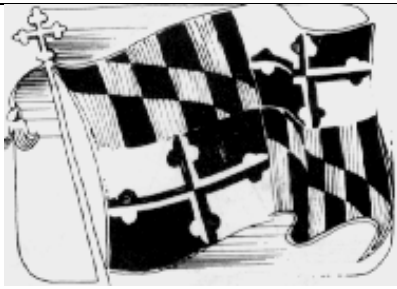
The Great Seal of Maryland is used by the Governor and the Secretary of State to authenticate Acts of the General Assembly and for other official purposes. The first Great Seal was sent from England shortly after settlement of the colony. Except for the period of crown rule (1692-1715) when different seals were used, the first Great Seal remained in use, though slightly altered, until the Revolution. The State of Maryland then adopted a new seal.

One hundred years later, Maryland readopted its old seal (1876). The reverse of this seal appears on official documents, while the obverse often adorns public buildings.

The front of the seal (called the reverse) consists of a shield, bearing the Calvert and Crossland arms quartered. Above is an Earl's coronet and a full-faced helmet. A farmer supports the shield on one side and the other by a fisherman to symbolize Lord Baltimore's two estates, Maryland, and Avalon in Newfoundland. Lord Baltimore thought the people of his colonies would be farmers and fisherman. The Calvert motto on the scroll is "Fatti maschii, parole femine," usually translated "Manly deeds, womanly words." The Latin legend on the border comes from the last verse of Psalms 5 from the Vulgate. The date, 1632, refers to the year the Maryland charter was granted by King Charles I, King of England, to Cecil Calvert, Second Lord Baltimore.

The other side of the Seal (called the obverse) shows Lord Baltimore as a knight in full armor mounted on a charger.

THE GREAT SEAL OF MARYLAND



MARYLAND'S STATE FLAG

Maryland's state flag also bears the arms of the Calvert and Crossland families. Calvert was the family name of the Lords Baltimore who founded Maryland, and their colors of gold and black appear on the flag.

Crossland was the family name of the mother of George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore. Her colors were red and white, with a Greek cross terminating in the foils.

It was officially adopted as the State flag in 1904. Maryland law requires that if any ornament is affixed to the top of a flagstaff carrying the Maryland flag, the ornament must be a gold bottony cross (1945).



MARYLAND'S STATE SONG

The nine-stanza poem, "*Maryland, My Maryland*," was written by James Ryder Randall in 1861. A native of Maryland, Randall was teaching in Louisiana in the early days of the Civil War, and he was outraged at the news of the Union troops being marched through Baltimore. The poem relates Randall's Confederate sympathies. Set to the traditional tune of "Lauriger Horatius" ("O, Tannenbaum"), the song achieved wide popularity in Maryland and throughout the South. "*Maryland, My Maryland*" was adopted as the State song in 1939.

MARYLAND'S STATE TREE

Maryland chose for its state tree the White Oak (*Quercus alba*). The magnificent specimen represented here is known as the Wye Oak, which was located in Wye Mills on the Eastern Shore in the State's smallest state park.

On the evening of June 5, 2002, Maryland's historic tree was toppled by a storm. The tree was approximately 460 years old, stood 106 feet tall, and was about 32 feet around its trunk. Scientists took some DNA material in the hope of cloning the tree.

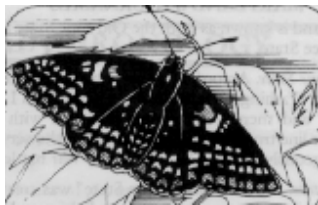




In 1964, the Chesapeake Bay Retriever, named after the famous bay region of the breed's origin was declared the official dog of Maryland. A working dog bred to recover waterfowl for hunters, the Chesapeake Bay Retriever is one of only a few breeds actually developed in the United States. Retrievers excel in field and obedience trials. These dogs are known for their versatility, strength, endurance, and devotion.

MARYLAND'S STATE INSECT

The Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas phaeton*) is the official anthropodic emblem of the state (adopted in 1973). It is blackish with basal patches and rows of orange and white spots.



MARYLAND'S STATE FISH

The state fish is the Chesapeake Bay striped bass or rockfish (*Roccus saxatilis* 2) (adopted in 1965). Often considered the most important and valuable fish in Maryland waters, this species has been protected since 1985. The Department of Natural Resources authorizes three "seasons" with creel and size limits. DNR & OTD operate a recorded information hotline (1-800-ROCK-FIS[H]) in season.

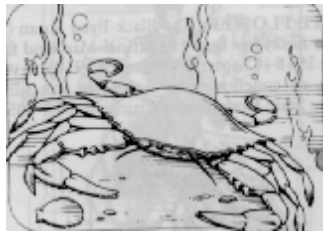


MARYLAND'S STATE FLOWER

The Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) has been the official Maryland flower since 1918. Technically a yellow daisy, or cornflower, this plant blooms from late July into early October. The flower contains 13 petals symbolic of Maryland's status as one of the original thirteen colonies. A wreath of Black-eyed Susan's upon entering the winner's circle adorns the thoroughbred and jockey who win the Preakness traditionally.



MARYLAND'S STATE DOG



MARYLAND'S STATE BIRD

The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) is the official Maryland bird. Special

provisions have been made for its protection. The oriole's plumage of black and yellow, the same colors as in the Calvert shield, led to its early association with the name of the proprietor. In 1698, "Baltimore Birds" were among the "Beasts of Curiosity" ordered sent from Maryland to grace the royal gardens (adopted in 1947).

MARYLAND'S STATE SPORT

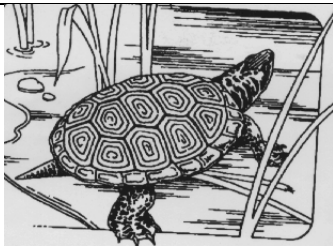
The oldest equestrian sport in the world, jousting, now reigns as the official sport of Maryland. During the Middle Ages it was a form of waging war, but with the invention of gunpowder, the art of jousting a man bodily from his horse, became outmoded as a battle strategy. The tournament field became a place of sport – and knights turned their lances to the more skillful task of spearing small metal rings. Jousting became a civilized game of sportsmanship and keen horsemanship with the development of "The Ring Tournaments" The state sport was adopted in 1962.

MARYLAND'S STATE CRUSTACEAN

In 1989, the Maryland Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) was designated the State Crustacean. Summertime steamed crab feasts are a popular Maryland family tradition involving paper covered table, wooden mallets and often, cold beer.

MARYLAND'S STATE BOAT

The skipjack was designated the State Boat in 1985. Skipjacks, named for a leaping fish, are the last working boats under sail in the United States. In winter, they dredge oysters from the floor of the Chesapeake Bay.



The Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) is the State Reptile as well as the official mascot of the State's flagship university at College Park (adopted in 1994). Chesapeake colonists ate terrapin prepared Native-American fashion, roasted whole in live coals. At one time abundant and easy to catch, tremendous pressure was placed upon the species in the 19th century when the citizenry came to appreciate this delicacy. Chesapeake diamondbacks are predators whose preference for unpolluted salt water make them indicators of healthy marsh and river systems.

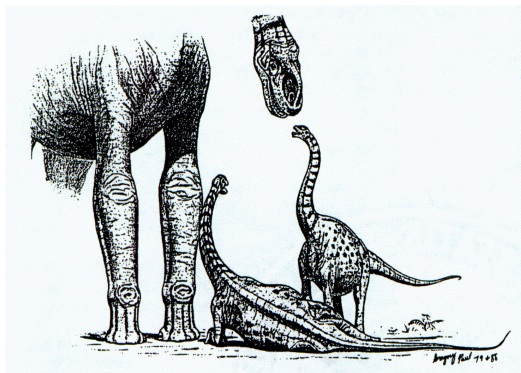
MARYLAND'S STATE FOSSIL



The *four-ribbed snail's* name is in reference to the presence of four strongly developed protruding "ribs". The name "*Wilson*" denotes the person who originated the species name.

Maryland's state fossil shell was first designated by legislature in 1984 as *Ecphora quadricostata* (*four ribbed snail*), an extinct snail, or gastropod, found in the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. In October, 1994 the fossil shell was reaffirmed as a state symbol due to a change in nomenclature to *Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae* **Wilson**. While other species of *Ecphora* may be found in all three of Maryland's Miocene formations, findings of *Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae* **Wilson** is known only to occur only in the Windmill Point unit of the Upper St. Mary's formation (Calvert Cliffs north of Little Cove Point to Chancellor Point, St. Mary's River.)

MARYLAND'S STATE DINOSAUR



Astrodon johnstoni, the Maryland State Dinosaur. Adult height more than 30 feet; length at least 50-60 feet. (Original drawings by Gregory Paul 1979, 1988)

In May of 1998, with the urging of many state schoolchildren, Maryland adopted a dinosaur called the Astrodon johnstoni as a new symbol. The fossil remains of this house-sized, plant-eating creature called a sauropod were first found in 1858 in clay deposits near US Route 1 in Prince George's County, making it the first identified dinosaur in Maryland and one of the earliest in North America.

MARYLAND'S STATE REPTILE



MARYLAND'S STATE FOLK DANCE

Square dancing is the State Folk Dance. In 1994, Square Dancing was designated the State Folk Dance. This dance form grew from dances of various cultures: the Morris and Maypole dances of England, ballroom dances of France, Church dances of Spain, and folk dances of Australia, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Russia, and other nations. Square Dancing has been a popular folk tradition since 1651. This unique American art is now performed on an international level, primarily due to the placement of US military installations across the globe.

MARYLAND'S STATE THEATERS

In 1978, Center Stage in Baltimore was named the State Theater of Maryland. By the same act, Olney Theater in Montgomery County became the state Summer Theater of Maryland.

MARYLAND STATE DRINK

With little fanfare, the Maryland General Assembly enacted into law that milk become the state drink. The Act became effective on October 1, 1998.



Maryland State Cat

Maryland's state cat was designated by legislature in 2001. The Calico cat makes the perfect state symbol because "its fur is the same as the colors on the Maryland State flag – red, white, gold, and black."



Maryland State Horse

October 1, 2003 marks the date that the Thoroughbred Horse becomes the official State Horse. The average Thoroughbred stands 16 hands (64") high at the withers, and weighs 1,000 pounds. Its coat colors may be bay, dark bay, chestnut, black, gray, or occasionally roan.

Maryland State Gemstone

In October of 2004, the Patuxent River Stone was designated as our official State gemstone.

The stones are bright, sometimes red or swirled red, typically found in riverbeds and gravel pits along the Patuxent River. The stone reflects the geology of Maryland and is only found in Maryland.

Wisps of red and yellow, traces of bone like cell structure, and a glowing translucence make the Patuxent River Agate and excellent stone for cutting, polishing, carving and setting into jewelry.

The Patuxent River Stone's colors of red and yellow reflect the Maryland State flag colors.

Maryland Team Sport

In October of 2004, Lacrosse was designated as our official team sport.

Lacrosse is a combination of several sports, football, hockey and basketball. The object is to put a 5 ounce hard rubber ball into your opponent's net with a long handled stick with a triangular pocket at the end. The sport is played on an open field with goals at both ends.

Lacrosse is a very popular sport throughout Maryland as well as the entire Delmarva Region.

The Lacrosse Museum and National Hall of Fame is located in Baltimore.

*The Lacrosse Museum & National Hall of Fame
113 West University Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21210*



Smith Island Cake

Smith Island, home to the State Dessert, is Maryland's last inhabited island, reachable

only by boat. Straddling the Maryland - Virginia line, Smith Island is twelve miles west of Crisfield in Somerset County and 95 miles south of Baltimore.

Originally settled in the 1600s, Smith Island has been home to watermen and their families for centuries. Given their isolation, an island culture and tradition developed and has been preserved, including their penchant for multi-layered cakes.

Effective October 1, 2008, the Smith Island Cake became the State Dessert of Maryland. Traditionally, the cake consists of eight to ten layers of yellow cake with chocolate frosting between each layer and slathered over the whole cake.