

The Sailor

Iris Clarke

U.S. Coast Guard–licensed Iris Clarke captains the *Selina II*, a circa-1926 yacht. Her father and grandfather captained it before her, and she was raised on and around this 44-foot beauty constructed of long-leaf Georgia pine. “My grandfolks had her built in the H. W. Sweet Shipyard in Greenport, New York,” she says. “My grandfather

was her master for 36 years, followed by my mother and father, who were her stewards for 39 years. She was handed off to me on July 21, 2001.” Iris had worked as a software executive and artists’ rep before trading in the corporate world for life on the water. Weather permitting, the *Selina II* sails from St. Michaels 28 times a week, from the end of April to the end of October. (Charters can be booked by the day, half day, or hour by calling 410/726-9400.) Her beloved vintage catboat is the largest survivor of its type, and Capt. Iris, a great supporter of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is committed to preserving this family treasure forever.

