

TideKeeper TIMES

Issue 7, Fall 2008

Tales from the place where time & tide meet

\$410,800 in Grants Awarded Through Our Region

We are pleased to announce that this year will mark the highest total in project grant funding for six important projects in our region and SMHAC operations. The funding is for both capital and non-capital projects for sites that will support cultural heritage activities across the three counties of Southern Maryland – Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's.

The grants are all for fiscal year 2009 and this is the fourth annual round of grants to come through the Southern Maryland Heritage Area. The awards are:

The Parks Department of Charles County will receive \$100,000 to begin the development of the *Indian Head Heritage Rail Trail*. This first segment of the planned 13 mile long hiker/biker trail on an abandoned railroad corridor will be an important and unique asset to both residents and visitors alike as they experience the natural beauty of Charles County.



Bumpy Oak Pond along the new Indian Head Rail/Trail

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will receive \$92,500 to help fund *The Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park Enhancement Project*. This phase of the project will address the construction of parking areas, walkways, outdoor exhibits and signage for both north and south campuses of the park.

The Commissioners of Calvert County will receive \$27,000 for the *Continuation of Railcar Dolores Restoration Project, Phase II* at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. This comprehensive program will insure that the historical fabric of the railcar

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Site plan for Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park.

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

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Where
TIME & TIDE
SOUTHERN MARYLAND Meet



Mini-Grants with Maximum Impact — Seventeen Awarded

“The best things really do come in the smallest packages, at least some of the time,” said SHMAC Director Roz Racanello when she announced the award of sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, total, for seventeen projects across the three counties of Southern Maryland in this, its fifth annual Mini-Grant Program.

These awards are in addition to the larger project grants the SMHAC helped sites in the region obtain. The Mini-Grant Program is funded, in large part, through contributions from members and sponsors, so the “grass-roots” quality of the applicants and their projects is an important part of the program’s success. These smaller awards are sought by sites that would have difficulty raising the matching funds required for the bigger grants, or in administering the complexity of those grants. In addition, many of the major museums and parks in the Heritage Area seek these grants for small projects because the funds themselves are readily available and can be used for the expenses that crop up mid-season.

The individual grants are for a maximum of \$1,000 per award. Each organization must match the awards dollar-for-dollar to fully fund their project or event. The award recipients, projects and amounts for fall 2008 are as follows:

- **Beach Business Group**, will receive two grants for two projects; 1. a revision of the Trolley Map and 2. for Historic Markers for properties on the Heritage Tour.
- **Friends of Chapman State Park**, for Invasive plant removal and a survey of endangered plants.
- **Town of Leonardtown**, for two projects; 1. the Wharf Waterfront Celebration and also 2. for a brochure titled *Your Guide to Leonardtown*.
- **Calvert Marine Museum**, two projects; 1. Heritage Concerts for the First Free Fridays program and 2. Roadside Banners for way-finding and to promote the Eco-Invaders exhibit.
- **Southern Maryland Travel & Tourism Committee**, for the creation of a Map of Southern Maryland.
- **Chesapeake Bay Floating Theatre**, for the International Folk/Fusion Festival.
- **St. Mary’s County Tourism**, to support the Celebrate 375th with exhibits at Maryland Welcome Centers.
- **St. Andrew’s Church**, for the Restoration of the North Doors.
- **Town of North Beach**, for *Picturing the Past*, a series of interpretive signs along the boardwalk.
- **Historic Sotterley**, for the Education

Program Printing and Supplies.

- **Calvert County Historical Society**, to produce the *Historic Places & Events Coloring Book*.
- **Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum**, for technical support of the War of 1812 Grand Tactical event.
- **Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco**, to support the Archaeological Search for the 1680’s Anglican Church.
- **Hughesville Running Club**, to create the *Village Interpretive Brochure & Directory*.



The British Are Coming! The Grand Tactical Reenactment of the Battle of St. Leonards Creek.

photo by R. Eshelman

Last year the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium Mini-Grant Program funded ten projects so this year marks a substantial increase in the commitment of the Heritage Area to economic development through heritage tourism in the region. It is critical that this program continues to grow, even as other resources do not. “This is the grant pool that is funded through the state and also with contributions from members and sponsors of the Heritage Area. It continues to be one of our strongest programs” said Director Roz Racanello.



Visitors enjoying the Waterfront Wharf at Leonardtown.

Mission:
The Mission of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium is to enhance the economic activity of Southern Maryland through combining quality heritage tourism and small business development with preservation, cultural & natural resource conservation and education.

Scenic Byway Plan Adopted, Celebrating the Birthplace of Religious Freedom

The new Corridor Management Plan for the Religious Freedom Scenic Byway that extends through Charles and St. Mary's Counties has been adopted by both counties Boards of Commissioners. The Charles County Board of County Commissioners approved the Plan on September 24th and the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners approved it on October 21st.

The Byway includes major visitor sites as well as small churches and areas that are of significance to the history of the settlers, natives and slave populations. Designated by the state and included in the Maryland Byways Guidebook and Map, the route commemorates the landing of the English colonists and the establishment of the first government that features the separation of church and state.

The Byway Corridor Management Plan, created by consultants Lardner/Klein, was developed by the Charles

County and St. Mary's County Planning Departments, working cooperatively. A team of stakeholders contributed to the work on the plan. This team included museum directors, clergy, laypeople and local historians. More than a year was spent on the project, with detailed information gathered at various sites and public meetings along the way.

Roz Racanello, the Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, reports that this is the critical first step toward applying for National Recognition for the Byway. "This is a story of national significance and one that is still in the newspapers today, as freedom of religion remains a cause for violence in many parts of the world," said Racanello, "But here in America it is an accepted part of our national story. And it is *our* story to tell, because the first real separation of

church and state happened right here, in Southern Maryland, when this colony was established."

With the Plan completed and the two counties approval, the application process for a National Scenic Byway designation has now begun. The Religious Freedom Byway is one of four Byways that



The Religious Freedom Byway winds through Charles and St. Mary's counties.

Southern Maryland can boast of, but is the only one that is contained in its entirety in our region. The other byways are Roots & Tides, Booth's Escape, and Star-Spangled Banner. Maps and guides for the byways are available at the visitor information centers.

Grants (Continued from page 1)

Dolores is preserved and protected. The planned adaptation of the railcar into an educational and exhibit space is already underway.

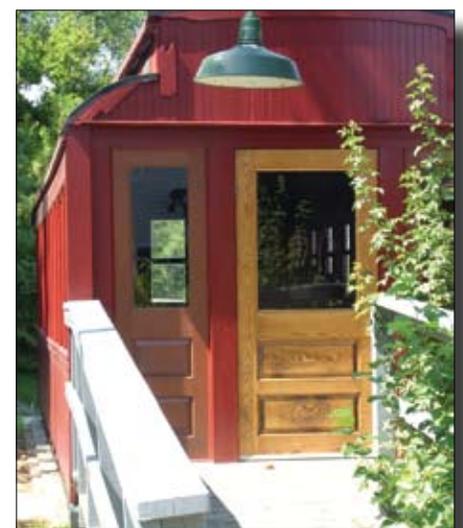
The Calvert Marine Museum Society will receive \$50,000 to fund the *Calvert Marine Museum Master Plan Implementation Project*, Phase I. This first phase will fund the creation and delivery of an up-to-date orientation video to be shown to visitors as they enter the museum. The video currently in use is ten years old. Additionally the funds will support the design and planning phase of the re-use of the mezzanine and auditorium of the Museum.

The Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco will receive \$43,800 for

the *Rehabilitation of Burch House, Phase II*. Charles County will collaborate with the Town of Port Tobacco and the Society for Restoration on the continuing work on Burch House, installing a well and septic system and constructing restroom facilities to better enable the building to be used as headquarters for the Archaeological Society and for public use.

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum will receive \$50,000 to help create *They Came With a Band of Music Playing – The Battles of St. Leonard Creek*. This exhibit will present the history of the War of 1812 through an archaeology lens, and also through several historic figures from these battles. Specifically, John Stewart Skinner a farmer, journalist and owner of Point Farm; Joshua Barney,

commander of the Chesapeake Flotilla; and Charles Ball, an African American crew member of the Flotilla.



The Railcar Dolores at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

Letter from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area



In America's past when we faced difficult financial challenges we kept our "can-do" attitude and often managed great accomplishments. In the 1930's, in the midst of the greatest depression in our history, programs were created that brought art and culture into our public spaces. The murals and archival work that was begun in those tough times formed the basis of a continuing tradition that places great value on our past.

Here in Maryland the current fiscal crisis is being felt and all the programs that mean so much to our stakeholders are struggling to keep their footing. We will undoubtedly do some belt tightening in the next year. But our most

significant work -- such as the seventeen Mini-Grants reported in this issue, the Tobacco Barns Preservation initiative and the work on the Religious Freedom Byway -- will never be abandoned by this organization.

One of the key ingredients of our effort to support, preserve and promote all that is cherished by people like you, is the funding that comes in from members and sponsors. So if you haven't done so already, please take a minute to fill out the Tidekeeper form below and send it in, along with a check for your membership. It's your personal guarantee that this important partnership will continue.

I can't promise you discounts, or a "free gift" of any kind, but I will promise this: Every dollar you donate will be used to make a difference right here, in the birthplace of our magnificent state and of freedom of religion in America. With your help, we will continue to support the museums, parks, trails and events that mean so much to our quality of life.

Thank you for being a part of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area!

Roz Racanello, Executive Director

Support Southern Maryland's Heritage... Become a **Tidekeeper** now!

The people of Southern Maryland are interested in the history and culture of our region. These people make up our Friends group, called *Tidekeepers*.

With your help, we will preserve, enhance and promote all that is special about our heritage area. By doing that we will demonstrate what a terrific place Southern Maryland is to work and play, for all the residents and also for the visitors and businesses in the region. Joining this elite circle of pride can cost as little as twenty dollars, so complete the Membership Form today and send it in with your donation -- become a Tidekeeper of Southern Maryland.

YES, I want to join the Tidekeepers and demonstrate my pride in the unique Heritage of Southern Maryland! Enclosed is my donation for the Membership Level:

(please check one:)

Associate Member \$20 Supporting Member \$100 Sustaining Member \$500

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E Mail: _____

Address: City/State/Zip _____

Special interests/concerns/talents: _____

I want to make an additional contribution in this amount: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Friends of Southern Maryland Heritage**, a non-profit organization, organized under the 501-c(3) of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. Your dues are tax deductible.

Mail completed form and check to: **Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, PO Box 745, Hughesville, MD 20637.**

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium is funded in part by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, by Calvert County, Charles County and St. Mary's County, and supported by the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland.

Membership Levels and Benefits

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: \$20. Open to individuals and non-profit associations. All Associate Members will be on our mailing list to receive our newsletters and other information.

SUPPORTING MEMBER: \$100. Open to all who have a special pride in our region. All Supporting Members will receive a copy of our "Barns of Southern Maryland" poster.

SUSTAINING MEMBER: \$500. Open to businesses and individuals in Southern Maryland that wish to make a substantial and positive contribution in support of the Heritage of Southern Maryland. All Corporate Members will receive a plaque of appreciation for their contribution.