

TideKeeper TIMES



Issue 2, Spring 2006

Tales from the place where time & tide meet

Reaching Out & Building Up – Heritage Tourism as an Economic Development Tool

Southern Maryland is the fastest growing part of the state and we are taking advantage of a tool that can leverage every single dollar invested into \$4.61 in annual, ongoing state and local tax revenues. That mechanism is Heritage Tourism.

In a 2003 study entitled Investing in Our Communities: Maryland's Heritage Areas Program, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) noted just that, a more than 400% return on investment. One of the added benefits of tourism dollars is that they often come from non-residents, yet the benefits return directly to the community.

Heritage tourists, who include eco-tourists -- one of the fastest growing segments, tend to skew higher in both education and income. Those demographics often result in an increase in revenues when the visitation numbers go up. Driving the visitor numbers are the sites and attractions that must be present in order to bring those tourists to our region.

Since the inception of the Heritage Areas program, the approximately \$7million invested state wide has been matched by over \$15.7 million in non-State funds – and those dollars are for projects alone, the revenues leveraged by these projects and their community enhancements would be greater still.

In short, we are part of the effort to bring revenue into Southern Maryland. Our mission is to enhance the economic activity of the region by combining quality heritage tourism with small business development. Heritage tourism – it's a growing and important tool for a fast-growing Southern Maryland.

INSIDE:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Mini-Grants | 2 |
| Photo Essay | 4-5 |
| Projects..... | 5 |
| Membership Info | 8 |

PLUS, places to go and more ways to explore our heritage.

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

PO Box 745, Hughesville, MD 20637
Phone: 301-274-4083
Fax: 301-274-1924
Email: SoMdHeritage@tccsmd.org
Web site: www.SouthernMDisfun.com

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.

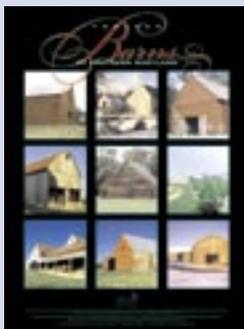


The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium is funded in part by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, by the Boards of Commissioners of Calvert County, Charles County and St. Mary's County, and is supported by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, the Southern Maryland Travel and Tourism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

Barn Poster Wins an Award – Frame Yours TODAY!

Our beautiful poster showing tobacco barns from our Heritage Area has been distinguished with an award for excellence. The poster is in full glowing color and very suitable for framing. Proceeds and profits will go directly to the Heritage Area, so consider making the purchase of one or more poster today – not just for your wall, but also for the future of the barns themselves!

Size, 18 x 24" high. Cost: only \$15.00 each including shipping & handling. Order one today, we need your support and so do the barns! Available at our office, at any of the County Historical Societies, at the Charles County Tourism Office, and at selected retail locations. For more information, call 301-274-4083 or email: SoMdHeritage@tccsmd.org



Where
TIME & TIDE
SOUTHERN
MARYLAND Meet



Mini-Grants Reach Across the Region

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area nearly doubled the number of mini-grants awarded in this, the second year of the program – thanks in large part to additional funding provided by the Southern Maryland Travel and Tourism Committee. The small but powerful checks went out to seven sites and will assist in the completion of a wide variety of projects, eight projects in all. For the second time, the grants spanned the three counties and will support projects that can have a big impact.

The grants are all for the maximum amount of \$500 each. Each organization must match the awards dollar-for-dollar to fully fund their project. The award recipients for 2005 were:

Friends of St. Clements Island and Piney Point Museums will receive \$500 to help fund the development and printing of a self-guided interpretive brochure for the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and park. Estimated time of completion would be April 2006.

United Committee for Afro-American Contributions, will receive \$500 to repair and reposition the three interpretive panels and one site identification sign at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse and also to replace text panel inserts for three interpretive signs. Estimated completion would be in March 2006.

Chesapeake Bay Floating Theatre will receive \$500 to update a 1992 informational video about the James Adams Floating Theatre. The video will be shown at the Indian Head Center for the Arts and will be used for education and fundraising. Source of matching funds will be private donors. The project should be completed within a few months of receiving the funds.

Chesapeake Bay Field Lab, will receive \$500 to assist in the production of a 4-minute video to be titled, A Skipjack's Transformation, combining clips of the Dee of St. Mary's. New and historic footage will be used along with clips of the opening day of oyster season from Charles

Kurwalt's "Sunday Morning" program. The video will be shown at fundraisers and will be used to leverage other funding to preserve the Dee. Project completed.

Bayside History Museum will receive \$500 to support the purchase of a display case to house the new materials acquired through a legacy. Father Grace of St. Anthony's Church left the museum items, artifacts and pictures from "Ewald's", an estate he represented. It is hoped to review the new exhibit at the Museum's annual block party, on October 22, 2005.

Bayside History Museum will receive \$500 to help fund the establishment

of a web site that would describe and promote the museum. The web page would include basic information about the museum, hours of operations, links to other museums in the region and other pertinent information. The museum hopes to move quickly and have a page up within a few months of receiving funding.

Friends of the Old Wallville School will receive \$500 to create an interpretive brochure for the restored Old Wallville School – an early African-American one-room school in Calvert County. The school has been preserved and is being refurbished to serve as a historic learning laboratory, however this phase; the interpretive phase is just beginning. The work on the brochure began in November and will be concluded in August of 2006.

The Southern Maryland Chapter of the Isaak Walton League of America will receive \$500 for the development and production of a promotional brochure that would provide information about the organization, its facility, activities and re-use program. The plan is to have the brochure completed by April of 2006.



The Bayside History Museum received their Mini-Grant check at their annual Block Party. Shown here are Delegate Pauline Menes, SMHAC Director Roz Racanello, Delegate Tawanna Gaines and North Beach Mayor Mark Frazer.

Each of the above will receive their funds as soon as they are ready to begin their projects. All projects are to be completed within one calendar year. Congratulations to the recipients, we expect all of Southern Maryland and countless visitors to the region will benefit from these worthy projects. Anyone interested in participating in the next round of mini-grants should contact the Southern Maryland Heritage Area at SoMdHeritage@tccsmd.org for an update.

Thomas Stone and Haberdeventure – Part of America’s Beginnings Written Into History

*“You know my heart wishes for peace...
But war, anything, is preferable to surrender of our rights.”*

These are the words of Thomas Stone spoken on April 24th in 1776. Like many Americans at that time, Stone did not make a hasty decision to rebel against the king; a lifetime as a loyal subject is not an easy habit to break. But in the end, this man who believed in peace above almost all else, was one of Maryland’s signers of the Declaration of Independence. And with that signature he wrote himself into

history in a manner he would never have expected.

Born near Port Tobacco in 1743, Stone had a reputation as a careful and considerate lawyer who rode a circuit between Port Tobacco, Frederick and Annapolis. He purchased his home, Haberdeventure, in 1770.

At the age of 31, the lawyer and landowner became a member of the

Charles County Committee of Correspondence, communicating with the other colonies. The very next year Stone was chosen as a member of the Second Continental Congress representing Maryland. With over a thousand acres of land and a young family, there was a lot at stake for Stone. Indeed, he spent a great deal of his own money supporting the revolution and worried over his wife’s health throughout the colonies’ battle for freedom.

His wife, Margaret Stone, struggled through a long illness. She died at the young age of 36 in June of 1787. Four

months later, almost to the day, Thomas Stone died at the age of 44 – just barely witnessing the formation of the young nation he helped to create. Both Thomas and Margaret, along with seven other relatives, are buried in the small Stone Cemetery on the grounds of Haberdeventure.

The graceful Stone family home was damaged by fire on New Year’s Day in 1977. Purchased by the National Park Service in 1981 it was fully restored and is now open to the public year round. The Visitors Center at Haberdeventure has information, exhibits and a bookstore. Guided tours are offered and there is no fee for visitors.



The Stone Family cemetery, with house in the background.

Thomas Stone National Historic Site is at 6655 Rose Hill Road, four miles west of La Plata in Charles County. For more information, call 301-392-1776 or visit the parks website at: www.nps.gov/thst



Haberdeventure, the gracious home of Thomas Stone in Port Tobacco

TideKeeper TIMES

Executive Director: **Roz Racanello**

Board of Directors:

Hon. Mark R. Frazer, Mayor of North Beach,
Chairperson

Jenny Plummer-Welker,
Calvert County, Vice Chairperson

Dania Blair,
Maryland State Arts Council, Secretary

Maggie Schwartz,
Chaney Enterprises, Member-at-Large

David Jenkins,
Tri-County Council, Treasurer

Doug Alves,
Southern Maryland Museum Association

Suzanne Cook,
Travel Industry Association of America

Kim Cullins,
Southern Maryland Travel & Tourism Committee

Ann Knott,
Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

Alan Kutz,
College of Southern Maryland

Billy Price,
Ducks Unlimited

Tom Roland,
Charles County Parks Department

Phil Rollins,
St. Mary’s County Parks Department

Jeff Shepard,
Holiday Inn Select

Mary Wood,
Agricultural Commission

Technical Advisory Committee:

Carolyn Laray,
St. Mary’s County Tourism

Joanne Roland,
Charles County Tourism

Erica Stone,
Calvert County Tourism



Some fun and games, the 1812 way

“Free Trade and Sailors Rights!” – Battle Cry of the War of 1812

Photo Essay: Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum reenact

Americans were settling down not long after the Revolutionary War had ended -- working and plying their trades with plans of a long peace. But it was not to be, because in 1812 the nation found itself declaring war on Britain yet again.

The issue of the day was free trade -- America was eager to establish profitable relationships and a strong economy. One early partner was France and this arrangement inflamed the tenuous peace between her former colonies, causing another war to break out.

In short order, America won enough victories to convince the British government to negotiate a peace in 1815. But this war helped forge the character of our young country as a free nation, standing in among the sovereign states of the world.



The beautiful rolling land is ideal for the riders

A key naval battle in the War of 1812 was fought at St. Leonard Creek. This battle in Maryland's history, is reenacted each year at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum. A full day of activities and special tours are scheduled in September, with reenactors in period costume, the uniforms of the day along with muskets and a cannon.

The battle is staged on the land where it was originally fought, where St. Leonard Creek flows into the Patuxent River, which is now on museum property. It's an event that is a great learning experience for youngsters. The reenactment is followed by the Battle of the Buff in the evening, where you can join soldiers and sailors for a mug of ale.

The next reenactment of the Battle of St. Leonard Creek at JPPM is planned for September 2006. For information call: 410-586-8501 or stop by the Visitors Center. The Battle of the Buff events. Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum is at 10515 Mackall Rd. in



Reenactors on horseback make a dashing presence



A young history buff watches the action



Troops gather and plan their attack

ment

king their farms
12 the new

build its
en England and

peace treaty
independently

, and this, the largest naval
on Park and Museum. A
n large groups of reenactors
cannon or two.

St. Leonard Creek meets the
s both fun for all and a real
e celebrated "Tavern Night"
and games and music.

planned for September 30,
ter for a full schedule of
n St. Leonard.



The uniform of the day is dramatic



Muskets at the ready!



One costumed reenactor takes a break to enjoy the scenery.

Southern Maryland Museum Association – a Forum for Ideas and Information

Every other month, a group of representatives from various museums, parks and historic sites in Southern Maryland grab their brown bag lunches and get in their cars and drive... because the Southern Maryland Museum Association meets at a different location each time. Scattered across the Heritage Area and beyond is a loose network of dedicated and hardworking people and they are all trying to get you to come and visit them.

In some places you might imagine competition between them, hoarding information and tips about attracting visitors, but here in Southern Maryland, there's just no room on anyone's agenda for that sort of thing. Everyone realizes that when a new tour group discovers the many attractions of our region, we all have a lot to gain.

So on conference tables and picnic tables in places as small as the La Plata Train Station or as grand as the meeting room at the Calvert Marine Museum or as rustic as the barns at Sotterley Plantation, on these tables this group spreads their sandwiches and iced tea, carrot sticks and chocolate chip cookies, and shares their news.

Chairman Doug Alves usually opens the meeting, but the group follows what they call "Bob's Rules of Order" – a very informal form of Robert's Rules. There are no official motions, except the nods of greeting and agreement.

The problems and challenges tend to sound familiar for everyone. There are the funding issues, the never-ending quest to get people to visit, join a support group, volunteer and start the word-of-mouth that helps keep the doors open. Then, when the number of visitors rises, there's the wear and tear on those fragile sites. Whether it's centuries-old walls or living, breathing creatures, a little can go a long way when folks' hands get too rough.

It's a roller coaster that can make any Director sigh with fatigue. But then there is the open-mouthed wonder of a schoolchild, the occasional brilliant flash of discovery in someone's eyes, or the soft hum of recognition when memory is stirred. Such are the moments these folks all live for. Everyone recognizes the stories, and those moments have their fifteen minutes of fame in the meetings too. Then it's time for the cookies to make the rounds and even the sternest historian blinks and comes back to the present long enough to take one and pass the rest on.

A Frontier, a Farm, a Port and a Landmark— Sotterley Plantation Endures

*The Mansion
at Sotterley
Plantation*



Older than Mount Vernon, older than Monticello, older than the nation itself, Sotterley Plantation stands majestically on the banks of the Patuxent river – the only Tidewater Plantation in Maryland that is open to the public with a full range of visitor activities and educational programs. Located in St. Mary’s County, Sotterley Plantation encompasses nearly 100 acres of rolling meadows, gardens and shoreline – all of it fully accessible to the public.

The graceful lines of the main house date back to as early as 1703. Currently open to the public, the Sotterley mansion remained a family residence until 1933. The Plantation was a frontier farm, a colonial port and a busy steamboat landing. The transition from one function to another was part of the Plantation’s march through time in Southern Maryland.

Among the lovely gardens and lawns stand an 18th century warehouse and smokehouse, the 19th century slave cabin, along with 25 other outbuildings – all of which stand as testimony to the Plantation’s more than 300 year evolution.

Sotterley has become not only a treasured National Historic Landmark, but is now an educational site and a cultural venue as well. Hosting thousands of children on site each year, Sotterley provides hands-on learning through its award-winning education programs.

The grounds and trails are open to the public year-round, although the site is closed on Mondays. Guided tours of

the Mansion are offered from May 1 to October 31, Tuesday – Saturday from 10:00 – 4:00, and Sunday from noon until 4:00 with the final tour of the day at 3 p.m. Sotterley is also available for special occasion rentals with several different venues on site. Sotterley Plantation is located in Hollywood on Route 245 North. Nominal fees are applied for tours and grounds; groups should make reservations. Call 301-373-2280 or 1-800-681-0850, or check the information online at www.sotterley.org.

An Old Fashioned Barn Dance

In an eighteenth century barn the sounds of modern day country music rattled the rafters one rainy night last fall. The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium had our first fundraiser in the barn at Sotterley Plantation in October of 2005.

The event, which included a full meal with beverages, rocked to the sounds

of “County Memories” a local band that kept the dance floor busy all evening. A Silent Auction continued the fun and raised more money for the SMHAC and its efforts.

Ticket sales, new memberships, poster sales, the auction and a cash bar helped to make the event profitable. A significant contribution to the event was made by our generous sponsors: Chaney Enterprises, Waldorf Restaurant Inc., Chesapeake Amusements, the Great Mills Trading Post, SMECO and Holiday Inn Select all made contributions to the first annual barn dance.



SMHAC Board members Suzanne Cook and Kim Cullins join Executive Director Roz Racanello at the welcome table

Carolyn Laray of St. Mary’s County Tourism looks over the auction items



“Country Memories” rocked the old barn

(Photos by Joanne Roland)

Projects that Embrace our Heritage

This year for the first time, we were eligible to submit applications for state grants to fund projects within the Heritage Area. Three projects will receive the funding they applied for in fiscal year 2006. These projects are:

St. Mary's County Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Services, Museum Division. Project: Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Park Enhancement. Capital project will receive \$25,000. This project will begin implementing the interpretive components of its Master Plan. This request would help complete the interior of the 6,486 sq. ft. Potomac River Maritime Exhibit, illustrating the history and use of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay oystering vessels.

Chesapeake Bay Field Lab. Project: Discovery Lab Coordination Project. Non-capital project will receive \$20,000. This funding will enable the Lab to open this facility to the public, which opens up additional future funding opportu-

nities. Also a significant amount of the collection will be cataloged utilizing additional staff.

Friends of the Old Wallville School, Prince Frederick. Project: Restoration and Reuse of the Old Wallville School. Non-capital project will receive \$3,950. This funding would assist in phase III of this project, the restoration (phase I successfully completed, phase II currently underway). To include exterior signs, interior displays, and interpretive materials including representative furniture, fixtures and educational implements.

We are extremely proud of this important step in preserving and promoting the heritage of our region.



Piney Point Lighthouse welcomes visitors from near and far.

Next issue we should be able to report on the projects funded for fiscal year 2007.

In a Cornfield, by an Old Barn

On January 9th, during an unseasonably warm and sunny afternoon, an unlikely assortment of people were gathered in a slightly muddy field by an old tobacco barn that looks like it's about to take a tumble. Representing several county, state and national historic and preservation agencies, regional governments and all the local media, the group assembled to hear U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer make an announcement. The federal program, "Save Americas Treasures" will provide the sum of \$200,000 toward the goal of preserving the tobacco barns of Southern Maryland.

Thanks to the work of Mr. Hoyer's office, together with Delegate Sue Cullen of Calvert County, and with the support of Preservation Maryland, the Maryland Historical Trust and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the fund will be available to owners of tobacco barns in need of repair. The announcement by the old Spalding barn in Hollywood was the official kick-off of the program. Individual grants will be for amounts up to ten thousand dollars and will require a one-to-one match from the property owner.

Josh Phillips of Preservation Maryland will manage the fund, which will be distributed to recipients through a unique "re-grant" program. The original grant will be divided into smaller grants and distributed among the suitable applicants. The Heritage Area will join in reviewing the applications. The applications were due March 15.

The barns were declared to be among the most endangered sites in the U.S. by the National Trust a year ago. Since that time, efforts have been underway to fund the proper repair and preservation of these beautiful and iconic parts of Maryland history. The Spalding barn is a good example of those most in need. It dates from the middle of the 19th century and the exterior shrouds an old log structure with hand-hewn beams and dovetail joints. Vines and birds have made the barn their own, but with help, this and other barns will soon get the repair they need to survive.



Rodney Little of the Maryland Historical Trust, Delegate Sue Kullen of Calvert County, Representative Steny Hoyer and Tyler Gearhart of Preservation Maryland announce available funds in front of the Spalding Barn

Quiet Rides down Country Roads

Have you ever imagined following a path through history and experiencing the journey exactly as it was once upon a time? How about the *John Wilkes Booth Escape Route*—the road he took after assassinating President Lincoln? No hustle or bustle on this 49-mile adventure along some of the most beautiful byways that pass many historic buildings in Charles County.

If that's too far for you to pedal – yes, pedal – then you can *Savour Solomons* along the bay for a short seven miles of flat easy bicycling in Calvert County. Or quietly cycle your way deep into St. Mary's County and go all the way *To The Point*, following the route that bears that name.

These are just three of the dozen wonderful and varied routes that are fully detailed on the new Southern Maryland Bicycle Routes map. On one side, the map itself clearly shows each route, including detailed insets of areas of interest. The reverse of the map is equally important, with the distance of each route, full explanations of sites along the routes and help with resources such as Bicycle Shops and Information Centers.

This award-winning map and guide was produced by the Southern Maryland Travel and Tourism Committee and is absolutely free. It's available at Visitor Information Centers, Tourism Offices and, of course, at the Heritage Area office in Hughesville.



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.**

*This issue of the Tidekeeper Times is made possible by a contribution from the
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Board, Inc.*

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.