

TideKeeper TIMES

Issue 6, Spring 2008

Tales from the place where time & tide meet

Rewards – and One Award – in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area

Spring is such a beautiful time in Southern Maryland and it's also the time when all the local parks and museums get geared up for the busy summer season. So these days the buzz is about more than the bees, it's the new exhibits, buildings, signs and even some digging, all happening in these three counties; Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's and all thanks, at least in part, to funding that has come through the Maryland Heritage Areas Program.

This first page is usually devoted to an article that explains the Heritage Areas Program and what its mission is in Southern Maryland. But this time we're

going to let the work speak for itself. There are many new projects and exhibits that we have been a very proud part of so you can see some of them in the pages that follow.



from the Printing & Graphics Association MidAtlantic.

And speaking of these pages, we are also proud to announce that this newsletter, the Tidekeeper TIMES, has won an award for excellence. Thanks to the creativity of our graphic designer, Carole Thieme, and the wonderful work of Heritage Printing & Graphics, we are happy to say that we've won the "Q" Award of Excellence & Graphics Association

SMHAC Mini-Grant Helps MAC Lab Tell its Story

Southern Maryland is home to some of the most important archaeology sites in the state and also, as many know, the state's premier archaeology work place, the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. The Heritage Area is pleased that our Mini-Grant program was able to help the MAC Lab – as it's known – create a stand-alone piece that helps to explain to the public what this resource offers. This simple, full color, two-sided card will be available at all the welcome centers and on the information racks at Jefferson Patterson Park and other sites in the region.



The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

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Where
TIME & TIDE
SOUTHERN
MARYLAND Meet



County-By-County News

Each of the three counties in the Heritage Area has good news to report, so here's a bit of information about new initiatives and programs in the counties.

Calvert County

War Comes to the Chesapeake: A speaker series presented cooperatively by Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum and the Calvert marine Museum

The Onset of War on the Chesapeake: 1812-1813

Dr. William Dudley, May 16th, 7 p.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum,
St. Leonard

"Hearts of Oak: The Royal Navy in the Chesapeake Campaign, 1813-1814"

Chuck Fithian, June 12th, 7 p.m.
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

"Battlefields, Skirmishes and Encampments: Remnants of the War of 1812 in Maryland"

Dr. Ralph Eshelman, July 10th, 7 p.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum,
St. Leonard



"Americans in Defense of the Chesapeake during the War of 1812"

Christopher T. George, Aug. 17th, 3 p.m.
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

"A Commander of capacity and influence...: The Chesapeake Flotilla Men & the War of 1812 on the Patuxent"

Donald Shomette, Sept. 11th, 7 p.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum,
St. Leonard

No Fee, No RSVP

Charles County

Charles County Celebrates 350 Years with STAGWORKS

The Stageworks Festival launches June 2008 on the Village Green in Indian Head. With 17 concert programs in twenty four days, there will be over 120 participating artists and over 40 faculty and staff supporting the events.

The Stageworks Festival will have Young Artists Programs in both opera and musical theater, an ensemble program, an instrumental program, a jazz program, a stagecraft program and a Youth Choir Program. The faculty includes Grammy winning conductors, Tony award winning Broadway directors, coaches and conductors from LA Opera, and The Metropolitan Opera, musicians from La Scala, the Buenos Aires Symphony, Kennedy Center Orchestra and faculty from leading conservatories in the US, South America and Europe.

The Stageworks Festival includes: 4 performances of Magic Flute, 3 performances of Ragtime, 2 performances of Pagliacci and Suor Angelica, 2 Cabaret Concerts, a mostly Mozart Concert, Early Music Concert, Dall'Italia (all Italian) Concert, Carmina Burana with festival choir, a Big Band Concert and a Jazz Concert version of Porgy & Bess.

Visit the website www.Stageworks-Festival.org for details including application and audition information as well as scholarship and college credit options.



St. Mary's County

St. Mary's County Comes Alive in the Spring!

Saturday, May 10, 2008 - Sunday, May 11, 2008: Piney Point Lighthouse Waterfront Festival

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Park, off Route 249. Sat. 10 AM -- 4 PM, Sun. Noon - 4 PM. Maritime exhibits, demonstrations, children's activities, food and lighthouse tours. Potomac River Wade-in on Saturday. 301-769-2222. www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums

Friday, May 16, 2008 - Sunday, May 18, 2008: 17th Annual Southern Maryland Quilt & Needlework Show

Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, Route 245. 10 AM -- 4 PM. Judged quilt and needlework show, one of the regions most acclaimed. Admission. 301-373-2280. www.sotterley.org

Sunday, June 08, 2008: 22nd Annual St. Mary's Crab Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown. Noon -- 6 PM. Local crabs and seafood, music, classic cars, arts and crafts and non-seafood items. Admission. For more information www.stmaryscrabfestival.com

Friday, June 13, 2008 - Friday, July 25, 2008: River Concert Series Friday Nights

St. Mary's College Campus, Route 5. Friday evenings a 7pm. Weekly world-class concerts featuring Jeffrey Silberschlag directing the Chesapeake Orchestra. Free. 240-895-2024. www.riverconcertseries.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.

In Search of the Lost Town of Port Tobacco

By Jim Gibb

On a clear warm day, Port Tobacco is a charming place. But beneath the manicured lawns and corn fields, under the gravel roads and parking lot and in the edges of the woods are the remains of a thriving 18th- and 19th-century town. Local researchers have long recognized the significance of Port Tobacco's heritage and of the foundations, cellars, artifacts and the remains of ancient meals, photographs and texts. In August 2007, the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco in collaboration with Charles County, the Archeological Society of Maryland, and the Maryland Historical Trust—began a new initiative to search for and interpret the lost town of Port Tobacco.

Several local families granted access to their lands and the crew excavated small shovel test pits across several acres, screening the soil from each unit and collecting the recovered artifacts. The material was washed, catalogued, and packaged and the findings documented.

Among other things, we isolated the locations of several American Indian sites that likely date between AD 800 and 1600.

Looking at the distributions of certain kinds of nails and ceramics, we were able to identify the locations of previously undocumented Colonial Period sites,



Carol Cowherd shows an artifact to Jim Gibb, Managing Director of the Port Tobacco Archaeological Project.

as well as many 19th-century sites. We discuss these and other findings on the project's daily blog (<http://porttobacco.blogspot.com>). The crew is currently completing the first phase of a survey that we hope to extend north to MD 6 and west to the Port Tobacco River. This component of the project has been funded by grants from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area and Preservation Maryland.

Between June 13 and 23, the Archeological Society of Maryland will mount a major field effort at Port Tobacco. The event will bring archaeologists together for eleven days to explore this important archaeological site. Average daily participation will range between 10 and 40 persons. The survey of the town has produced over 25,000 artifacts and a number of historic and prehistoric sites. More focused investigations of some of those sites this summer will easily produce as many artifacts, as well answers to questions about the town's layout, growth, and decline.

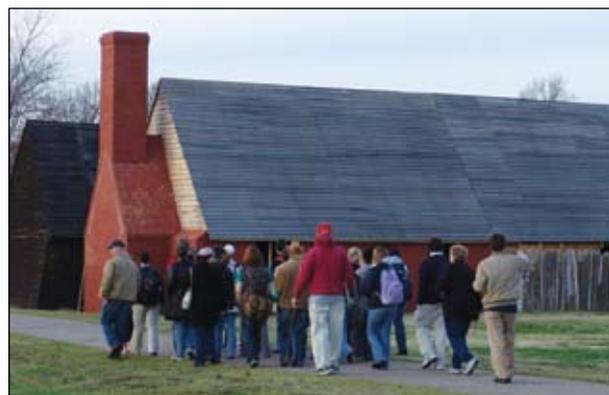
Van Sweringen Exhibit Opens

We're happy that the Heritage Area Program was able to provide some of the funding for a greatly expanded exhibit which opened at Historic St. Mary's City on April 26, 2008. The exhibit is on the site of the Van Sweringen house.

In the 17th century, Garrett Van Sweringen operated a lodging house that

served the elite of the colony on this site. Van Sweringen was a Dutch immigrant -- although many assume that America was settled exclusively by the English, there was significant ethnic diversity within the colonies. Van Sweringen took advantage of the many opportunities offered by early Maryland. He became a successful businessman and leader in the development of Maryland's first capital city.

The exhibit on the Van Sweringen site will describe one man's personal journey and his truly American aspirations and experience. Excavated foundations from the original buildings will be visible. New reconstructions, partially rebuilt brick chimneys and walls with signage,



Visitors outside the Van Sweringen house artist's renditions, and audio installations will contribute to interpretation at the site. Funding for the improvements included grants from the Heritage Areas Program and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information about this new exhibit and other events at Historic St. Mary's City, contact the museum at 240-895-4990 or hsmc@smcm.edu.



The new exhibits capture the imagination of the crowd

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Installs New Exhibits

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area is a proud partner of the Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Historic Park Enhancement Project. The project became a St. Mary's County Museum Division priority after hurricane Isabel permanently closed the former museum and gift shop located on lower ground. The new museum opened in 2005 complete with new exhibits illustrating the story of Piney Point and the U-1105. The most recent phase of the project has been the design, fabrication and initial installation of the first exhibits that will share the history of the four oystering boats housed in the Potomac River Maritime Exhibit building.

The site is open for tours Friday through Monday 10 am to 5 pm with a small admission fee. The grounds are open everyday, sunrise to sunset, all year long. For more information about the site or to schedule a group tour, contact site supervisor April Havens at 301-994-1471.



Exhibit installation at the Potomac River Maritime Exhibit Building located in the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park complex.

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.