

TideKeeper TIMES

Issue 12, Summer 2011

Tales from the place where time & tide meet

Six Important Projects in Our Region Are Funded

We've always had a great response to our call for entries in the major grant round, the MHAA Project Grants. But this year, with other funding sources so drastically diminished or completely eliminated, we found the need was much greater than ever before. We received a total of eleven project grant applications, in addition to our own management grant. The total requested amount ran to well over \$563,000.



This year we are proud to have gotten a sizeable portion of the overall funding allotment, as one of twelve Heritage Areas entering the competition for funds we received a total of \$313,500. While every single project was worthy and important, the six that will be funded in our region represent the most urgent and timely projects. Here is a brief synopsis of the projects:

The Southern Maryland Marketing Committee, our regional heritage tourism marketing effort, will receive \$25,000 for the promotion of the entire Heritage Area.

Charles County will receive \$70,000 to purchase a vital piece of land in Historic Port Tobacco, preserving the area for the current interpretation and future heritage tourism use.

St. Mary's County will do some critical restoration on the lighthouse masonry tower at Piney Point Lighthouse, Museum and Park, using its award of \$90,000.

The Chesapeake Bay Field Lab will complete efforts to restore the skipjack the *Dee of St. Mary's*, and bring it to Coast Guard Certification standards with an award of \$57,000. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum will

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Piney Point Lighthouse Tower.

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Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper

Jennifer Pitts, Byway Manager

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Carolyn Laray, St. Mary's County Tourism

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Where
TIME & TIDE
SOUTHERN
MARYLAND Meet



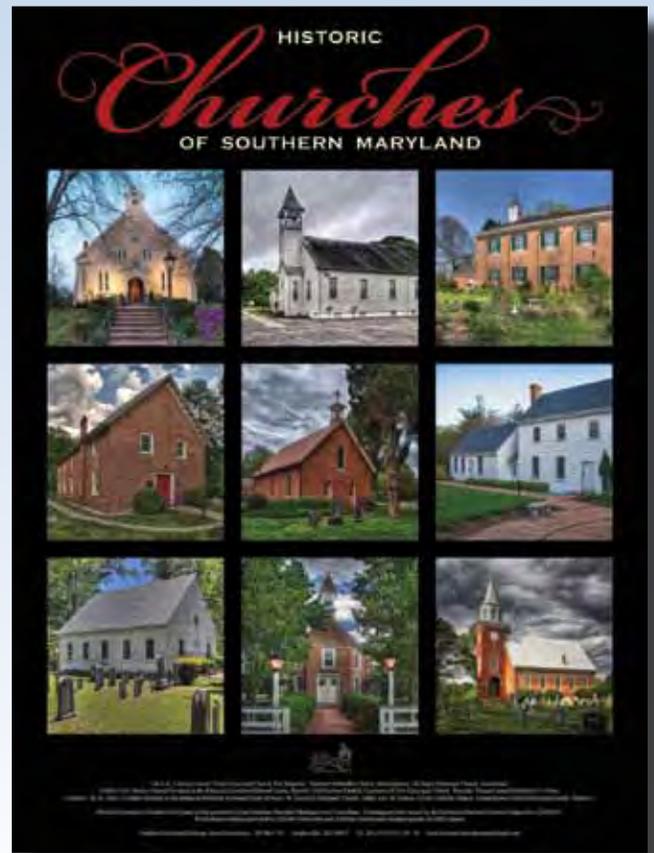
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Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway UPDATE

In our last issue we were happy to report we had at long last hired a manager for our national byway and our hope was that, once it's under "new management," this byway would begin to see the implementation of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP). Now we are delighted to report that things have moved forward at a rapid pace, and there is much more to come.

To catch up on the background of this byway, here is a brief synopsis: A couple of years ago, Charles and St. Mary's Counties worked together to fund and create a Corridor Management Plan for the Religious Freedom Scenic Byway. This is one of Maryland's Scenic Byways which received a National Byway Designation just last year.

This Byway is the only one in Southern Maryland which has a corridor management plan and a national designation. It is also the only one that lies completely within our borders. The other Byways that we share with other heritage areas are: Booth's Escape, Roots and Tides and the Star Spangled Banner Trail.



War of 1812 Bicentennial Mini-Fact...

MARY PICKERSGILL was born Mary Young in Philadelphia in 1776. She married John Pickersgill in 1795. After her husband's death, she settled in Baltimore and took up the profession of her mother, Rebecca Young, who had sewn flags and standards for the Army. Working from her home, Mary designed and sewed signals and flags for U.S. Navy and Army ships and forts.

In the summer of 1813, Fort McHenry's commander Major George Armistead hired Mary Pickersgill to make a large garrison flag. The large flag, which would become known as the "star-spangled banner" measured 30' x 42'.

During six weeks in July and August 1813, Mary, her daughter Caroline, and their assistants hand-stitched sections of the flag. To assemble the pieces for the flag, the women laid them out across the floor of Clagett's Brewery at Lombard and Granby Streets in east Baltimore. The completed flag required 400 yards of woolen bunting and more than a million stitches. Each of its 15 stripes measured two feet wide; its 15 stars were two feet across.



In September 1814, the English attacked Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore. When the two-day bombardment was over, Francis Scott Key saw the flag flying over the fort and wrote the words that would become the United States' national anthem.

After establishing herself professionally, Mary turned her attention to philanthropy. As President of the Impartial Female Humane Society, she helped impoverished women find jobs, sent their children to school, and contributed money for homes for the elderly. Today, the society she aided is called the Pickersgill Retirement Community.

Mary Pickersgill died in 1857 and was buried in the Loudon Park Cemetery in Baltimore.

(edited from the website StarSpangled200.org, photo courtesy of Pickersgill Retirement Community)

(Religious Freedom Byway, Continued from page 2)

Jennifer Pitts, the Byway Manager, has been buried in projects since she started and has a great deal to show for the time spent. First, there is an application for an Interpretive Plan for this byway. This Plan is a critical next step and will provide a means of collecting the many stories relevant to the Byway's history and the will establish a clear framework for future interpretation of these stories. The grant has been submitted to the State Highway Administration and we eagerly await news about funding.

There is also a map and guide in the works. While a more detailed piece will be created once we have an Interpretive Plan, there is a very real need for something that can be distributed right away. Visitors and historians who want to know where the byway is and what the critical pieces of

history are will find what they need in the simple drop-down guide. This piece is well underway and will be in print later this summer.

But there is more! A beautiful addition to the collection of work the Heritage Area has created is coming, and this will be of interest to many people, even those who may not have an opportunity to travel the 129 mile byway. We've received a donation to fund the creation of a full sized color poster depicting the *Historic Churches of Southern Maryland*. Similar to our *Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland* poster, this frame-able 16 x 20" piece will depict nine of our most historic churches, three from each county.

Much like the *Barns* poster, this poster will be on sale and available this summer. And if there is one thing that can be guaranteed, it will be at least as beautiful as the barns poster!

(Important Projects Funded, Continued from page 1)



Village Green at Historic Port Tobacco

receive \$6,500 to create a War of 1812 "traveling trunk," which can be used by area schools for in-classroom teaching and experiences.

The SMHAC also received funds for our own operations and the work of the Byway manager.

The statewide Heritage Area program is funded, which enables us to award these grants in our area. This programs funding is good news for the many sites and stakeholders we serve. The MHAA supports projects that build heritage

tourism, in other words; museums, historic sites, parks, trails, archaeology even education projects. All of these produce the kind of long term economic stimulus that we hope

will build revenue across Southern Maryland.

The average project, regardless of where it exists or the type of category it falls into, returns more than \$4.60 for every single dollar invested. In this way we help build the economy while simultaneously preserving and celebrating the aspects of our history, heritage and culture that all of us want to see passed on to future generations.

The next grants we'll announce will be our Mini-Grants. These small grants, of up to one thousand dollars each, go out to stakeholders who have a small,

quick project they need help with. In the past we've funded as many as 17 projects in one year. These are often the only projects some organizations can manage, and our help becomes critical.

It is also worth noting that your member contributions support the Mini-Grants. So if you are thinking of joining us as a TIDEKEEPER at any contribution level, today would be a great day to do that. Your check for twenty dollars or more will go right back out our door -- to fund an activity, program, map or sign, and you will have taken a step to save and treasure our unique heritage. Remember, the more cash we have available, the more small projects we can fund. And we really hate to turn anyone away! So pitch in and help if you can, we appreciate every penny.

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.

New Members and Officers for Our Board

The Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium announces the election of new officers and the addition of three new members who have joined the Board of Directors.

Doug Alves, Director of the Calvert County Marine Museum and President of the Southern Maryland Museum Association, takes over the position of Chairman beginning immediately. The Board's new Vice-Chair is Billy Price who is a member of Ducks Unlimited, and the new Secretary will be Jenny Plummer-Welker of Calvert County Planning and Zoning Department. The position of Treasurer is retained by Wayne Clark, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland.

Several new members were welcomed to the Heritage Area Board of Directors, Michael Bojokles will serve as liaison with the Star-Spangled Banner Advisory Council and is the Consortium's Member-at-Large. Other new members of the Consortium Board include Fred Tutman, the Patuxent Riverkeeper and Mayor Dennis Scheessele of Indian Head.

The SMHAC Board is made up of stakeholders in both preservation and tourism in Southern Maryland, with representatives from the arts, regional attractions, governments and businesses.

Roz Racanello, the Executive Director of the Heritage Area Consortium, reported that this will be the beginning of an important year for the organization, "We are planning for the next five years and hope to continue with our past success getting funds for important heritage tourism resources." In addition, the Executive Director wished to thank the outgoing board officers, Phil Rollins and Kim Cullins, for "their extremely dedicated and consistent help with our projects and goals."



Doug Alves, new SMHAC Chair.

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.