

TideKeeper TIMES

Issue 15, Winter 2013

Tales from the place where time & tide meet

Mini-Grants With Big Results Reach Across the Region

Another successful year for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area shows up as a long and fascinating list of small projects that we were able to fund through our popular annual Mini-Grant Program.

This program, which provides funds of up to one thousand dollars for small quick projects, is the most far-reaching of our efforts. While the amounts are small, the long range effects are tremendous. Generally we print a list of the projects funded and but this time the scope is so diverse and interesting that we felt the Minis deserved their own special edition of the Tidekeeper TIMES.

So here is the Mini Grant report, and as usual, we were able to provide funding in all three counties. The thirteen funded projects for this year are:

1. Charles County Garden Club of Maryland / **Benedict to Bryantown, Then & Now.** The Md. House & Garden Pilgrimage comes to Charles County every 3 years and this year they will celebrate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the British encampment at Benedict. The historic

Caleb W. Jones skipjack will come to Benedict and be berthed at River's Edge Restaurant for public viewing as part of the festivities – although it is understood that these boats were not present in 1812. It is hoped that the presence of the skipjack will attract additional patrons of the event.

2. The Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco / **New Rack Card.** The current rack card information will be rewritten and updated with new photography to be more consistent with other sites in the Historic Triangle region of Charles County. The new information piece will encourage visitors to see the One
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The Benedict to Bryantown House & Garden Pilgrimage will include a tour of the historic skipjack the Caleb W. Jones which will be harbored in Benedict.

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Where
TIME & TIDE
SOUTHERN
MARYLAND Meet



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper.



The Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco created this updated rack card with a brief history of the region on the back.

Room School, St. Ignatius Church, Thomas Stone National Historic Site and other local sites of interest. This rack card will be in visitor centers and in other sites and will become part of the Society's effort to reach out to tourists and partners.

3. Point Lookout State Park / **Point Lookout Civil War Enhancements.**

This project will refurbish signage, panels and lighting as well as add display items at the Civil War Museum at Point Lookout. Once complete, the Civil War story at Point Lookout will be a more cohesive and appropriate interpretation of the role of Pt. Lookout.



A Civil War tent on exhibit at Point Lookout's Civil War Museum

The park's Civil War Museum is one interpretive component of several at the park to include the reconstructed Fort Lincoln, a partially reconstructed prisoner's pen and numerous wayside markers.

4. Town of Leonardtown / **Wayfinding Signage on Rte. 5.** The town will create and install signage



A 12 foot long mural on the wall of artLAB is made from recycled materials.

to direct visitors to areas of historic significance – the Old Jail, Tudor Hall, and the Waterfront as well as to local shops, leading them through the downtown. The results of these new signs would be to enhance the visitors appeal and enjoyment of our town and generate additional traffic, through our downtown, to the town's historic sites.

5. Koenig Foundation – Annmarie Garden / **The artLAB, an eco-tourism hot spot!** The artLAB opened in the spring and is a resource for guests to work with recycled/repurposed materials to create works of art and decoration. The current goal is to infuse these activities with lessons about the environment and to engage visitors in the site as an eco-tourism destination. The plan is to distill 5 to 10 themes using the most common materials in the LAB. Note: The artLAB uses clean trash as art supplies.

6. Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians / **The Birds Flew Over.** This exhibit was created a couple decades ago and would undergo a substantial revamping and will be updated to include changes in the lives of the tribe since then. Work will be done in collaboration with the Accokeek Foundation and their work on "Indigenous Landscape and the Piscataway Connection" in what is known as Piscataway Park. Recorded interviews of Piscataway people on various topics are also a part of this pictorial exhibit.

7. Bayside History Museum / **Waterman Display figure.** The Museum has moved to a new larger facility and is in the process of expanding its exhibits. This figure, a flexible foam figure from Dorfman Museum Figures, Inc., will be part of the museum's education component about the watermen of the Chesapeake Bay. The Bayside History Museum seeks to provide all citizens with an understanding of the role the Chesapeake Bay environment had in shaping the cultures of the bayside communities.

8. Calvert Marine Museum / **Museum Outreach Programs.** The Museum will launch seven new programs starting in January to bring three themes to elementary and middle schools in the region while the museum is closed for renovations. The programs include: John Smith Mapping (students will read excerpts from Smith's own journal and will learn to interpret his map,) Natural Resources (identify natural resources of the Bay and examine artifacts,) Oysters (conduct scientific testing to explore the oysters' habitat,) Reptiles and Amphibians, River Otters, Fossils, and Life in the Marsh.

9. Lexington Park Business & Community Association / **Lexington Park Geo Trail.** This is an existing and highly successful program that needs resupply of its commemorative coins and refurbishment of the geocaches themselves. Established for the Centennial Naval Aviation events in

2011, the influx of visitors over the next few years from 1812 tourism makes the need for additional coins more urgent. The coin was custom designed based on original artwork created for the Centennial Celebration which features a shadowed outline of a WWII carrier with the hull number and letters to distinguish it as the USS Lexington and a soaring fighter jet.

- 10. Historic Sotterley / **Children's Discovery Pamphlet.** Sotterley will create a new "Discovery Pamphlet"



The newly minted Geo Cache "coins" for Lexington Park.

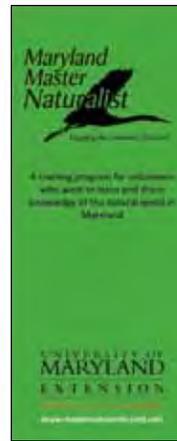
for children who come to visit. The purpose is to bring Sotterley's stories alive for young people and to create a more welcoming experience for families with younger children. For elementary through middle school aged children, the pamphlet will broaden both the historic and natural understanding of young visitors, engaging the family in the workings of a tidewater plantation and the history of Maryland.

- 11. Trinity Episcopal Church / **Historic Trinity Episcopal Church – a Monument to Religious Toleration.** The church will create a brochure that describes the historic significance of their church – in St. Mary's County – as it relates to the history of the State of Maryland. The church is constructed from the bricks of the original colonial statehouse and tracks visitors through a guest book that all are invited to sign. The brochure will be useful information for tourists and will support our local history of



Trinity Episcopal Church, built from the bricks of the original state house in St. Mary's City.

- 12. American Chestnut Land Trust / **Develop a Master Naturalist Program.** Support the design and printing of information to promote the new Maryland Master Naturalist program and provide materials for the class and meetings. ACLT in cooperation with regional partners will develop this program for Southern Maryland for Spring 2013. It is anticipated this will become an annual program. Program will consist of classes and field trips and, similar to the Master Gardener program, will result in certification.



The brochure for the Maryland Master Naturalist training program at ACLT.

an annual event, supporting performances and demonstrations by local organizations that play an important role in the regional heritage yet were not previously part of the event. Past participants include: Charles County Archaeology Society, Mallows Bay WW 2 Ships, local Fire Departments, historic Christ Church Durham Parish, King James Baptist Church, So. MD Astronomical & Audubon Society, the "Fossil Guy", rangers from parks, local historic sites, and County Health Dept.

- 13. Nanjemoy Community Center / **Annual Nanjemoy Heritage Day event.** This will be an enhancement of



A sidewalk artist at Nanjemoy Heritage Day

Support Projects Like These – We Need Your Help

It's time to think about what really matters, right here in Southern Maryland. We are helping to preserve and celebrate our own unique culture, from tobacco barns and stuffed ham to our historic roots that go back to the first colonists in the state.

Getting and giving these grants that build and maintain heritage tourism resources – museum exhibits and programs, parks and trails, nature walks, kayak launches, historical signs, guides and more – is just as important now as it was back when the Southern Maryland Heritage Area was first certified, almost nine years ago.

We've made tremendous strides and anyone who looks for something interesting to do with family or visitors on any given weekend can see – Southern Maryland is celebrating its heritage every single day.

This issue of our newsletter, devoted to the results of just one year of our Mini-Grant program, is our way of showing you what we can do with help from people just like you. And we plan to keep this program going strong year after year.

Your contribution helps us to do so much more right here in Southern Maryland. Use the form below to become a supporter of our history and make your love of our heritage count. Every dollar brings us closer to our next round of Mini-Grants!

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.

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.