

# Currents

The Four Rivers Heritage Area Newsletter \* Issue No. 9 \* Summer 2007

## Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Awards \$252,500 to Four Rivers Heritage Area Projects

This summer, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority awarded \$252,500 in fiscal year 2008 matching grant funding to support preservation and heritage tourism related projects in the Four Rivers Heritage Area. The **Annapolis Maritime Museum** will receive \$100,000 in capital grant funding to support the reconstruction of the McNasby Oyster Company building in Eastport. Damaged by Hurricane Isabel in 2003, the reconstructed McNasby's will be a 7,000 square foot museum with exhibits, classroom, meeting room, and public amenities, showcasing the area's rich maritime heritage. The **City of Annapolis** was awarded \$42,500 to support the development of an interpretive plan and outdoor exhibits for the Maynard-Burgess House on Duke of Gloucester Street. Dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Maynard-Burgess House is the only known surviving home of a pre-Civil War free black family in the Historic District. **Annapolis** will receive a second grant for \$10,000 in support of the restoration of the historic Southgate Memorial Fountain on Church Circle in the heart of the Historic District. The Fountain will be cleaned, repaired, repointed, painted, and retrofitted with a recirculating water pump in time for the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Annapolis' charter in 2008. The **Four Rivers Heritage Area** will receive \$100,000 in operating and program assistance. This year's grants bring the total MHA funding to Four Rivers Heritage Area projects to \$1.69 million, leveraging more than \$5.8 million in total project funds since 2001.



### Captain John Smith Shallop Visits Annapolis

A crew of modern-day explorers, historians, naturalists and educators is bringing the past vividly to life this summer as they retrace Captain John Smith's historic 1608 expedition around the Chesapeake Bay. Traveling in a 28-foot reproduction of Smith's shallop, and living much as Smith and his men did 400 years ago, the intrepid crew will have spent a total of 121 days voyaging to the headwaters of almost every tributary of the Chesapeake Bay by the time they ship their oars in Jamestown on September 8. On July 14-15, a broad array of local historical, cultural and environmental organizations and businesses hosted the shallop and its crew on their visit to Annapolis. A festival at City Dock featured interactive and educational displays by area sponsoring organizations, including Four Rivers. The shallop's journey can be tracked online as a "Virtual Voyage," with interactive maps, journal entries by crew members, and more. The reenactment is an educational initiative of Sultana Projects, Inc., and is funded in part by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. To learn more about the project, visit [www.johnsmith400.org](http://www.johnsmith400.org).



Captain John Smith Shallop at City Dock



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Donna Dudley, Executive Director  
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## **Four Rivers FY2008 Mini-Grants Available for Heritage Projects**

With support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County, and the City of Annapolis, Four Rivers once again offers a competitive mini-grants program with awards up to \$2,500 for development of new and innovative heritage programs, partnerships, exhibits, tours, events and other activities consistent with our mission and interpretive themes. Educational activities related to next year's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Annapolis city charter are encouraged, as are proposals that incorporate environmentally-friendly heritage-related activities. Mini-grant application information is available on our website at [www.fourriversheritage.org](http://www.fourriversheritage.org), or by calling the office at 410-222-1805. The deadline for submission of the FY2008 mini-grant applications is October 22, 2007. Mini-grant awards will be announced in November.

## **Heritage Area Seeks Awards Nominations**

Do you know someone who deserves a pat on the back for their work in the local heritage community?

Four Rivers seeks nominations for its fourth annual heritage awards. These awards recognize individuals, organizations, partnerships, programs and products that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching and/or supporting our historical legacy. Self-nominations are accepted. Awards are made in several different categories, including:

- **Heritage Tourism Product**
- **Best New Heritage Initiative**
- **Heritage Partnership (*New Category*)**
- **Heritage Professional**

Nominations are also requested for the **Legacy Award**, which recognizes an individual or group who continues or preserves a traditional craft or livelihood, and the **Heritage Award**, given to an individual or organization for significant and long-lasting contributions to local history and heritage. This year, Four Rivers encourages nominations for "green" or environmentally friendly heritage-related products and tours, as well as those that include the innovative use of technology for heritage-related educational purposes. A complete listing of previous award winners is available on our website under "Heritage Awards." The deadline for nominations is September 28. This year's heritage awards will be presented at the Four Rivers Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on November 7, 2007.

## Updates on Heritage Area Grant-Supported Projects

### "Lost Towns" Archaeologists Uncover Home of Founding Family

County archaeologists announced in July the discovery of foundations they believe belong to a large brick structure belonging to Samuel Chew, one of the county's earliest founding



Four Rivers Executive Director Donna Dudley visits early house foundations uncovered at the site

fathers. According to early documents, Quaker settler Samuel Chew led the way in establishing the 'lost' town of Herrington, near Herring Creek (now Rockhold Creek). The house foundations have been identified as the home of Samuel Chew based on their size and location, as well as unearthed artifacts dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, including fragments of Delft and Rhenish pottery. The excavation is funded in part by a mini-grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Area to the Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc., in partnership with the Deale Area Historical Society. For more information about the project, visit <http://losttowns.com>.

### Shady Side Rural Heritage Society Launches Educational Website

The Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, in partnership with the Annapolis Maritime Museum, Discovery Village, and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, has launched a new website, "Seasons of a Chesapeake Bay Waterman," that contains extensive educational materials for

teachers and students studying the history and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay. The site offers a 139-page activity guide for educators, which can be downloaded as a whole or browsed by individual sections or topics. The online version of the activity guide was financed in part with a Four Rivers Heritage Area mini-grant. Visit the site at [www.chesapeakewaterman.org](http://www.chesapeakewaterman.org).

### Highland Beach Historical Commission Opens Exhibit

The Highland Beach Historical Commission, in partnership with the National Museum of American History (part of the Smithsonian Institution), presented a new photography exhibit, "Scurlock-Beach Connections," about life in Highland Beach, at an opening celebration on August 15. The Scurlock photographic studio was a fixture in the Washington, D.C., area from 1911 to 1994. Two generations of the Scurlock family created an extraordinary documentary record of the African American community in the region. This collection consists of digital prints made



Scurlock family descendant Jacqueline Colbert with Museum Director Jean Langston

from original photographic negatives and prints of studio portraits, weddings, graduations, community events, and business activities. The "Scurlock - Beach Connections" exhibit is now on view at the Frederick Douglass Museum and Cultural Center located in Frederick Douglass' summer home, "Twin Oaks," in the Town of Highland Beach. The Museum is open to individuals and groups by appointment only, arranged by calling 410-267-6960. The exhibition was funded in part by a Four Rivers mini-grant.



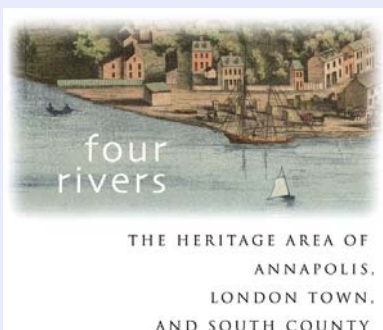
## Tours Begin to Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse

Public tours to the historic Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse began this summer, with fourteen days of tours taking place on selected weekends from June through September. The tour represents a rare opportunity to climb aboard this icon of the Bay, a National Historic Landmark built in 1875. Because the lighthouse is continually undergoing reconstruction and maintenance, visitors experience "preservation in action." Preservation efforts, funded in part by mini-grants from the Four Rivers Heritage Area, are directed by Henry Gonzalez, Vice President of the U.S. Lighthouse Society. New windows and exterior doors donated by the JELD-WEN Corporation have recently been installed as part of the landmark's renovations.

Visiting the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse is a physical challenge, and organizers describe it as an "adventure excursion." For more information on the tours, visit [www.chesapeakelights.com](http://www.chesapeakelights.com), or call 800-690-5080.

## "Roots & Tides" Byway Connects Annapolis, South County and Calvert Bayside Communities

Anne Arundel County is home to one of Maryland's newly reconfigured scenic byways. The "Roots and Tides" Byway encompasses 47 miles from Annapolis to Plum Point in Calvert County. To promote the new byways, the Maryland Office of Tourism and the state and federal highway administrations have published a 176-page Maryland Byways Guidebook and Map entitled "Explore the Roads Less Traveled." The guide and map describe 19 byways covering 2,487 miles across the state that offer scenic, cultural and historic driving experiences. "The guidebook is designed to steer you away from the interstates and highways to an exciting network of scenic byways just brimming with antique rows, early morning farmers' markets, wineries and a host of historic sites and attractions," says Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley in the foreword. The "Roots and Tides" Byway draws the visitor south out of Annapolis to Historic London Town and Gardens, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the small maritime communities of Galesville and Deale before crossing into Calvert County, where it passes through North Beach and Chesapeake Beach on the way to Plum Point. The guidebooks and maps are available free of charge; interested readers may obtain a copy by calling 877-MD-BYWAY.



**Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town & South County is a 501 (c) 3, charitable non-profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible, and very much appreciated!**

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