

Currents

The Four Rivers Heritage Area Newsletter * Issue No. 5 * Fall 2005

Four Rivers Presents Second Annual Heritage Awards

Four Rivers hosted its second annual heritage awards ceremony at Historic London Town & Gardens on November 2nd. The annual awards program recognizes exemplary individuals, organizations, exhibits, programs, and products that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching and/or supporting our historical legacy. Several recipients shared their recollections of living and working in the community with an appreciative audience representing sites and organizations from across the heritage area.

In one of the highlights of the evening, Anna Milbradt and Cecelia Capuano, junior docents from the Captain Salem Avery House, presented a Legacy Award to waterman John VanAlstine (pictured below).



From left: Anna Milbradt, John VanAlstine, Cecelia Capuano

“This year’s heritage awards winners demonstrate the wide range of outstanding and innovative heritage related activities and partnerships in our community,” said Four Rivers Executive Director Donna Dudley, “and they all deserve to be publicly acknowledged for their excellence.” For more information on Four Rivers’ Second Annual Heritage Awards, and to download an application form for the 2006 heritage awards, visit our website at www.fourriversheritage.org/awards.

Interpreter of the Year: Eleanor Anderson, for exemplary work with the educational and living history programs of Historic London Town & Gardens.

Scholarly Publication: Dr. Michael P. Parker, for *Presidents Hill: Building an Annapolis Neighborhood, 1664-2005*, a rich and detailed history of an Annapolis community.

Local History: Jean Siegert Trott, for *Galesville, Maryland: The Legend...The Legacy*, a unique and colorful accounting of 350 years of people, places, and events in a small maritime community.

Interpretive Product: Dr. William S. Dudley, for building, leading, and working with a committee of local historians to develop Annapolis Maritime Museum’s new Historical Interpretive Plan.

Heritage Program: Chamber Music Annapolis & Historic Annapolis Foundation, for coordinating and sponsoring the Maryland Early Music Festival 2004 and 2005.

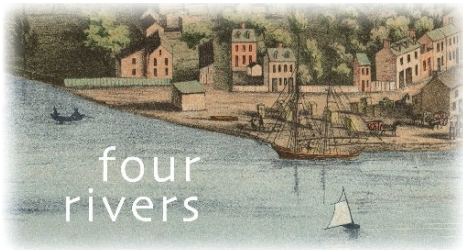
Heritage Event: Annapolis Maritime Museum’s Maritime Market Days, a celebration of heritage preservation, economic development, and diversity.

Best New Heritage Initiatives: Annapolis Tours & Watermark Cruises, for Bay Lighthouses Tour, a voyage featuring three Bay lighthouses and living history interpretation; and Galesville Heritage Museum, for Living History South County Sunday, featuring the stories of local veterans and teachers.

Heritage Professional: Dr. Elizabeth P. Stewart, Banneker-Douglass Museum, for exceptional dedication to Maryland’s African American heritage, and for willingness to share her knowledge and expertise with the heritage community.

Legacy Awards: David & Ginger Hildebrand, for 25 years of researching, performing, and teaching colonial American music; and John VanAlstine, for his commitment to preserving and sharing the legacy of Chesapeake Bay watermen.

Heritage Award: Marion Warren, for a lifetime of work documenting and preserving the visual heritage of the Chesapeake Bay.



Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town & South County

Board of Directors

Patricia Barland, Chair
Matthew Grubbs, Vice Chair
Alexis Henderson, Treasurer
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Staff

Donna Dudley, Executive Director
Carol Benson, Heritage Programs
Coordinator

Four Rivers Revamps Governance Structure, Forms Board of Directors

In October, the Four Rivers Coordinating Council approved new By-Laws that provide for a new governance structure for our growing non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Four new Directors were named, with several additional slots yet to be filled. The Four Rivers Coordinating Council will continue as an advisory body to the group.

If you are interested in serving on the Board or the Coordinating Council, or would like to participate on one of our active working committees, there are opportunities available. Please contact the Four Rivers office for more information, at 410-222-1805.

“Making Heritage Connections”: February 11 Forum Focuses on Interpretation

Four Rivers is pleased to announce the first annual Heritage Area Interpreters Forum, entitled “Making Heritage Connections,” to be held on February 11, 2006 in the CALT Center at Anne Arundel Community College. One of the heritage area’s primary functions is to forge and build connections between people and their history. This day-long program is designed to strengthen those connections with opportunities for networking, training, and learning more about our area’s rich history and heritage. The program will include informational sessions on our maritime and African American heritage, interpretive training sessions for docents and guides focused on building skills and promoting interaction, and “behind-the-scenes” briefings on the latest, cutting-edge projects at area museums.

The Forum is open to interpreters at our heritage area sites and to others interested in learning about our sites and our regional history. Come participate in round-table exchanges, meet interpreters from a wide range of venues, browse the informative displays, receive an “Interpreter’s Portfolio,” and earn CEU credit at AACC, all for a modest registration fee of \$25. Lunch and refreshments are included. Online and mail-in registration begins December 14; reserve your seat early!

Course Number HST 327: Making Heritage Connections. Saturday, February 11, 2006, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For registration information, call the AACC Continuing Education office at 410-777-2325, or register online at myaacc.aacc.edu. For more information or to receive a registration flyer, please call the heritage area office at 410-222-1805.

Civil War Resource Inventory Now Available

The Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation has announced the availability of a free Civil War Resource Inventory listing of people, sites and events in the Four Rivers Heritage Area. The inventory, developed with the support of a Four Rivers mini-grant, has been designed as a reference tool to raise awareness of local Civil War heritage among community stakeholders and to provide a basis for future heritage tourism research and product development. For a free download of the publication (in a pdf file), go to www.kintehaley.org/CivilWarGuidepdf.pdf.

For additional information, please contact the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation at www.kintehaley.org, or call the Four Rivers office at 410-222-1805.

GRANTS

Four Rivers FY06 Mini-Grants Guidelines Announced

For the third year, Four Rivers will offer competitive Mini-Grants of up to \$2,500 to heritage sites and organizations within the heritage area to develop new and innovative programs, partnerships, exhibits, tours, events, and other initiatives that are consistent with our mission and with the themes and activities suggested in our state, county, and city approved Management Plan. We encourage initiatives that build upon earlier mini-grant funded projects and/or are consistent with upcoming regional thematic heritage tourism marketing initiatives. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 5 p.m. All potential applicants must contact Four Rivers to discuss the project at least two weeks prior to the deadline. This year's guidelines and application form are available online at www.fourriversheritage.org or by calling the heritage area office at 410-222-1805.

Early Deadline for FY07 Maryland Heritage Area Authority Grants

Grants of up to \$50,000 for noncapital projects designed to assist and encourage preservation, interpretation, and economic development in the heritage area are available again this year through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Nonprofit organizations and local jurisdictions are encouraged to apply for grants for noncapital activities including planning, design, interpretation and programming. Low interest loans to for-profit businesses are also available to develop new heritage tourism related activities.

This year's grant deadline has been moved up, so get your proposals ready now! Potential MHAA project grant or loan applicants must discuss their proposal in advance with Four Rivers Heritage Area staff. Completed applications will be due in the Four Rivers Heritage Area office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Proposed activities should address or complete a priority activity identified in and consistent with the goals, objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the approved heritage area Management Plan. The application form and the Management Plan are available through our office or on our website, at www.fourriversheritage.org. The MHAA grant and loans applications are also available at www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net; click on Heritage Tourism/Forms and Documents.

Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund Program to be Announced

In 2004, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the tobacco barns of Southern Maryland to its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Recognizing both the importance of rural heritage in Maryland and the need for financial support, the National Trust, the Maryland Historical Trust, and Preservation Maryland have partnered to create the Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund, supported in part by a grant from the Save America's Treasures program. The purpose of the Fund is to promote the preservation and rehabilitation of Maryland's historic tobacco barns. The program's 2006 guidelines, procedures and deadlines will be announced soon. For details, go to www.preservationmaryland.org.

South County Sundays 2005: Thanks to all our partners for a summer to remember!

Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference
and Visitors Bureau
Annapolis Department of Transportation
Annapolis Maritime Museum
Anne Arundel County
Anne Arundel Economic Development
Corporation
Captain Salem Avery House
Chesapeake Children's Museum
City of Annapolis
Deale Area Historical Society
Discovery Village
Galesville Community Association
Galesville Heritage Museum
Harwood Civic Association
Historic London Town & Gardens
Knightongale Farm
Lost Towns Project
Obligation Farm
Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce
Steve Hopp and Bill Lusby, 1430WNAV



Galesville Heritage Museum Maritime Display

Choice Communications Visitor Survey Measures Heritage Appeal

A visitor study commissioned by the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau and recently completed by Choice Communications, Inc., reveals that Annapolis and Anne Arundel County's historic attractions are not only a large measure of the area's appeal, but that heritage sites scored second-highest, after restaurants, in polls recording visitors' activities during their stays.

The online survey polled visitors between October 2004 and June 2005. Most respondents said they were aware of the area because they either 'lived nearby,' or heard about it through 'friends or family.' Historic Annapolis, Annapolis City Dock, and the Naval Academy were visited by half of the visitors to Anne Arundel County. Visitors who stayed overnight were twice as likely to visit the Annapolis Maritime Museum, the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. As might be expected, sites outside Annapolis were more likely to be visited by overnight visitors than by daytrippers. Visitors' comments indicate there is still much work to be done, however. First-time visitors noted some difficulty in finding or accessing the historic ambience they expected. Four Rivers is developing a history explorer's guide to specifically address this issue; look for it in the spring!



Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial at City Dock

Heritage Area Residents Eligible to Receive Historic Preservation Tuition Assistance

Four Rivers is pleased offer limited tuition assistance to eligible heritage area residents to attend the Goucher College Historic Preservation Certificate Program Courses and Workshops in Annapolis. For more information, and an application for tuition assistance grants of \$25 – \$50 for workshops, and up to \$75 for courses, visit our website, at www.fourriversheritage.org (click on What's New?).

For more information about the Goucher College Historic Preservation Certificate Program, its courses and workshops, visit: www.goucher.edu/hpcert/.

Volvo Ocean Race is Underway!

The Volvo Ocean Race 2005-2006 is already underway! The race started November 5 with an in-port race in Sanxenxo, Spain. The round-the world ocean race began on November 12. The Volvo fleet is estimated to arrive in the Chesapeake Bay around April 19, 2006 and the In-Port Race in the Chesapeake will take place on the weekend of April 28th between Baltimore and Annapolis. Look for lots of activity throughout our area until the race restarts on May 7. The full events schedule is available online at www.oceanracechesapeake.org.

Students in our area can benefit from an educational opportunity to follow the race. An interactive website has been specially developed for Maryland students, loaded with information on ocean race conditions and American sailors in the race, as well as lesson plans for the classroom on the history of the Clipper ships, weather patterns, life in the oceans, and more! Visit www.oceanraceadventure.net.

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.



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