

Currents

The Four Rivers Heritage Area Newsletter * Issue No. 6 * Spring 2006

Maryland Heritage Areas Program Wins Presidential Award

In a Rose Garden ceremony on May 1, President and Mrs. Bush awarded the 2006 Preserve America Presidential Award for heritage tourism to the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. This prestigious award, sponsored by the First Lady and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as part of the Preserve America program, is given annually to four organizations, businesses, government, and individuals nationwide for exemplary projects that demonstrate commitment to the protection and interpretation of America's cultural or natural heritage assets. Each year, only two organizations are selected for activities advancing heritage tourism. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program nomination was one of more than 85 nominations submitted from across the country for this national award.



Now in its tenth year of operation and one of only a few state programs in the country, the Maryland Heritage Areas Program contains 10 certified heritage areas, representing 18 counties and 62 municipalities; three more heritage areas are in the process of certification. A recent financial analysis indicated that every grant dollar invested in the program generates a total of \$4.61 in annual, ongoing state and local tax revenues.

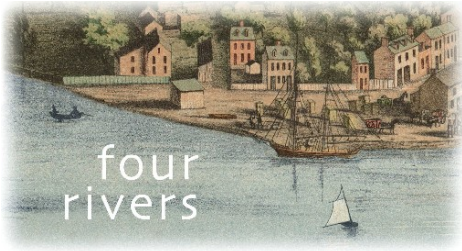
Four Rivers, one of the first Maryland heritage areas to be certified, has brought more than \$1.132 million in matching state grants into the community. With support from the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Four Rivers created the first heritage area mini grants program in the state, now in its third year, as well as the first heritage awards program. *Roots & Tides: A Journey Through Southern Anne Arundel County*, our audio CD travelogue tour of Southern Anne Arundel County, was the first heritage area tourism product to win the Maryland Tourism Council's Best New Product Award and was submitted as part of the Presidential Award nomination package.



Above: President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush present the Preserve America Presidential Award for heritage tourism to Dennis Castleman, Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Film, and the Arts, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, and Audrey Scott, Secretary of Planning, Maryland Department of Planning, in the Oval Office. White House photo by Eric Draper.

Representing Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Audrey Scott, under whose department the heritage areas program is administered, accepted the award along with Dennis Castleman, Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Film, and the Arts. Both are members of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the program's governing entity. "I am privileged to accept this 2006 Presidential award on behalf of the State's dedicated preservation advocates who make our Heritage Areas and the program a success," said Secretary Scott. "As Chair for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority I am committed to seeing that the Heritage Areas program and Heritage Tourism is supported. Our unique program will continue to encourage revitalization and economic development in our Heritage Areas while balancing livability with protecting Maryland's cultural, historical and natural assets."

Four Rivers joins its partner heritage areas across Maryland in celebrating this national honor and recognition of more than ten years of building a successful and thriving state program for preservation and heritage tourism!



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

Board of Directors

Patricia Barland, Chair
Matthew Grubbs, Vice Chair
Alexis Henderson, Treasurer
Donna C. Hole

Staff

Donna Dudley, Executive Director
Carol Benson, Heritage Programs
Coordinator

Call for Volunteers

The heritage area needs you!
Opportunities are available to help
shape our programs and activities
over the coming year. If you are
interested in serving on one of our
advisory boards or would like to
participate on one of our active
working committees, contact the Four
Rivers office for more information, at
410-222-1805.

Four Rivers Hosts Forum for Interpreters, Volunteers

Four Rivers hosted the first annual Heritage Area Interpreters Forum, entitled “Making Heritage Connections,” on March 11, 2006, in the CALT Center at Anne Arundel Community College. The day-long program, attended by more than 70 professionals and volunteers from 17 heritage-related organizations, forged and strengthened connections between our heritage sites and interpreters with opportunities for sharing information, networking, and enhancing historical knowledge and interpretive skills. Informative lectures by William Dudley and Judith Cabral on our maritime and African American heritage were balanced with interpretive training sessions by museum consultant Susan Schreiber, who focused on building descriptive and narrative skills and fostering interactive experiences. A lunchtime presentation by Donna Hole spotlighted preservation in Annapolis. The final session of the day featured “behind-the-scenes” briefings on the latest, cutting-edge projects at area museums and visitor centers set to open this year in the heritage area.

Planning for next year’s Interpreter’s Forum is already underway; stay tuned for further information, and we hope you will plan to attend!



Above, from left, forum attendees Patricia Nolton, AACC; Donna Hole, Four Rivers Board; Gertrude Makell, Galesville Community Center Organization.

Four Rivers Website Now Features “Heritage Events Calendar”

Four Rivers has launched a new Heritage Events Calendar for Annapolis and South County on our website, www.fourriversheritage.org. Heritage visitors and residents alike will benefit from this convenient listing of the area’s heritage programs and events.

What is a “heritage” event?

- Programming reflecting our region’s heritage through accurate, objective, and culturally sensitive portrayals of people, sites, and events.
 - Programming featuring educational activities such as craft demonstrations, first person re-enactments, dramatizations, and living history.
 - A characteristic activity of our community that is widely recognized for its social, historical, or cultural significance.
- Please send your heritage-related events information to the Four Rivers office, at Heritage_area@aacounty.org.

Four Rivers Presents
**Landings: A Boater's Guide to the
 Four Rivers Heritage Area of
 Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**

Hot off the presses! The newest product from Four Rivers, entitled *Landings: A Boater's Guide to the Four Rivers Heritage Area of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County*, is in the finishing stages and will be in area visitor centers by early June. The brochure gives sail and power boaters a historical context to our shoreline, from Sandy Point State Park to Herring Bay, including "our four rivers" -- Severn, South, West & Rhode. Designed to complement the traditional navigational charts and guides relied upon by boaters, *Landings* will provide information on the places visitors can access from the water (or by a short walk from the dock) to learn more about regional history and what special annual fun events they should plan to attend. *Landings* will also encourage those boaters to visit local shops and restaurants in waterfront communities along our shoreline.



Many thanks to our *Landings* business sponsors: Boatyard Bar & Grill; Fawcett Boat Supplies; Historic Annapolis Foundation's HistoryQuest; Jack Martin & Associates Marine Insurance; Galesville's Riverview Inn, Pirate's Cove Restaurant & Marina, Hartge's Yacht Yard, and Homeport; and Deale's South County Café.

**Historic Annapolis Foundation Holds
 Grand Opening for HistoryQuest**

On April 29, the Historic Annapolis Foundation held its grand opening festivities to celebrate its newest venue, HistoryQuest at the St. Clair Wright Center at 99 Main Street in Annapolis.

The ground-floor visitor orientation center is augmented by two additional floors of interpretive exhibits and a multimedia presentation,



providing an overall introduction to Annapolis's historic district and the 300 years of history, culture, architecture, and archaeology of the heritage area. The multimedia project was supported by grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Coupled with a stop at the AAACCVB Visitors Center on West Street or its kiosk at City Dock, HistoryQuest is an excellent starting-point for visitors looking to explore the area's rich history and heritage. HistoryQuest will be open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Roedown Farm Featured in
 Maryland's "Network To Freedom"**

Roedown Farm of Davidsonville, home to the annual Marlborough Hunt Races, is one of three Anne Arundel County sites named as part of the "Underground Railroad: Maryland's Network to Freedom" in a new guide launched in March by Maryland's Office of Tourism Development. The Maryland State House and the Maryland State Archives buildings in Annapolis are also among the 30 sites recognized in the inaugural version of the guide.

Judith Cabral, director of programs for the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation, nominated Roedown as a Network to Freedom site. Roedown is the birthplace of William Parker, who was born into slavery at the farm, escaping at age 17 in a dramatic fashion and later leading the Christiana Resistance of 1851, defeating slave owners looking for runaways.

The guides place the Underground Railroad in a wider historical context, recognizing the State House for its role in passing legislation relating to slavery, and the Archives for its extensive holdings of slavery-related documentation. The "Network to Freedom" guides will be updated to include new sites every two years. Look for at least one additional site in the heritage area to receive this recognition in the near future!

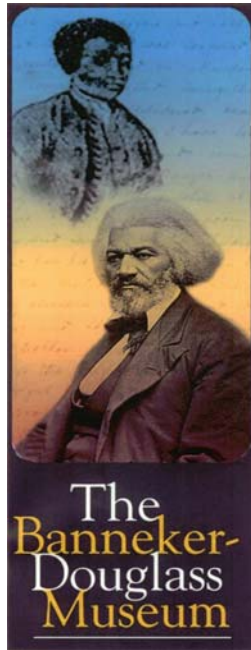
**Galesville Brochure
 Debuts**

Supported by a mini grant from Four Rivers, the Galesville Heritage Society has created an informative heritage tour brochure that is now available at the Galesville Heritage Museum and visitor centers around the county. The brochure includes a map of Galesville and information about 22 of the town's historic sites. Pick up your copy today to enjoy and celebrate this unique and historic maritime community.



Banneker-Douglass Museum Reopens

After a long period of planning, design and construction, the Banneker-Douglass Museum reopened in an expanded complex that features exciting new exhibits and meeting spaces. The recently completed expansion of the museum is a stellar example of historic preservation and reuse, incorporating the former Mount Moriah A.M.E. Church. The entire second floor houses the museum's first-ever permanent exhibit, *Deep Roots, Rising Waters: A History of African Americans in Maryland*, an overview of African-American history in Maryland from 1633 to the Civil Rights Movement. The museum is located at 84 Franklin Street in Annapolis, and is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tours and site rentals are also available.



experience in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, for a videotaped living history performance

Kunta Kinte – Alex Haley Foundation, “African-American History and Culture of the Parole Community,” an oral history and community education program

Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, Inc., “Civil War Living History Weekend,” public programming event

Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, Inc., Galesville Heritage Society, Historic London Town & Gardens, and Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, “Fall Heritage Days,”

coordinated programming at South County Sites

U.S. Lighthouse Society, Development, writing and publication of a *Field Guide to Thomas Point Lighthouse*.

2006 Heritage Awards Call for Nominations

Nominations for Four Rivers’ 2006 Heritage Awards are now being accepted! The annual awards program recognizes exemplary individuals, organizations, exhibits, programs, and products that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching or supporting our historical legacy. Applications are due by September 15th; download the form at www.fourriversheritage.org/awards.

2006 Mini Grants Announced

On April 19, the Board of Directors of Four Rivers approved mini grant awards to the following local heritage organizations and initiatives:

Annapolis Friends Meeting, Inc., information materials related to the regional history of Quakerism on its 350th anniversary

Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc., “Searching for the 17th-Century Herring Creek House of Samuel Chew Sr.,” archaeological investigations in partnership with the Deale Area Historical Society

City of Annapolis, Annapolis Charter 300 historic markers project template (Carr’s Beach)

Courthouse Museum Project – Anne Arundel County Bar Foundation, Inc., “Courthouse on the Circle: Annapolis and the Law,” a public exhibit in the museum room of the Courthouse

Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc., website development

Galesville Heritage Society, Inc., Illustrations for outside exhibit panels for the Galesville Heritage Museum

Kneseth Israel Congregation, Historical research on the Jewish

Save The Dates!

SOUTH COUNTY TO CELEBRATE “FALL HERITAGE DAYS”

September 17, Historic Boat Celebration on the Galesville Waterfront, Galesville

September 24, Children's Guide Celebration at Captain Salem Avery House, Shady Side

September 30 & October 1, Market Days at Historic London Town & Gardens, Edgewater

October 7, Family Programs at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater

October 15, West River Heritage Day and Oyster Festival, Captain Salem Avery House, Shady Side

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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