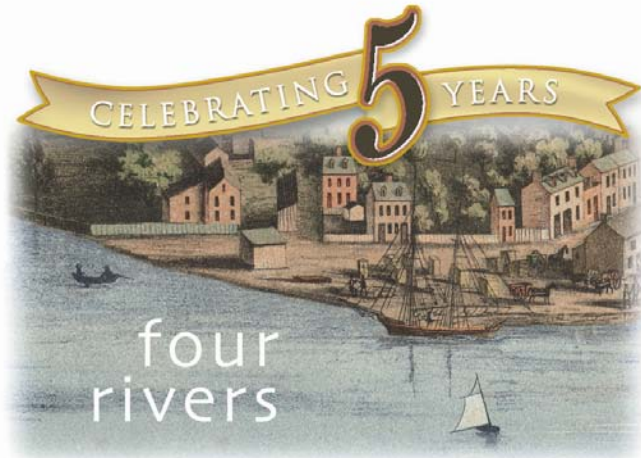


# 2006 Annual Report



THE HERITAGE AREA OF  
ANNAPOLIS,  
LONDON TOWN,  
AND SOUTH COUNTY

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*Executive Director*  
Carol Benson, Ph.D.  
*Heritage Programs Coordinator*

## CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

At the annual meeting in November, Four Rivers celebrated five years of achievement since its certification by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority in 2001. One of the first heritage areas to be certified in the state program, Four Rivers has channeled more than \$1.43 million in matching state grants into the community over the past five years, for projects and activities with a total cost of more than \$6 million.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Program contains 11 certified heritage areas representing 18 counties and 62 municipalities. The program helps communities use heritage tourism to build their economies while protecting, developing, and promoting their cultural, historical and natural resources. In order to become a certified heritage area, communities must complete a heritage area management plan and ensure that all local governments located within its boundaries adopt it as an amendment to their comprehensive land use plan. Once certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, a heritage area and its partners are eligible to receive matching state grants and low interest loans for capital and non-capital projects and activities related to that plan. 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.

In 2006, a total of \$299,000 in Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant funds was awarded to the Four Rivers Heritage Area and its partners. Capital grants went to three local partners: Historic Annapolis Foundation, Historic London Town & Gardens, and the Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference & Visitors Bureau. Non-capital MHAA grants benefited the Historic Annapolis Foundation and the Annapolis Charter 300 program through the Annapolis Community Foundation. Four Rivers also received annual operating and program assistance from MHAA, with matching support from Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

## MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS PROGRAM WINS 2006 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

In a Rose Garden ceremony on May 1, President and Mrs. George W. 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 recognized for heritage tourism. Four Rivers' "Roots & Tides: A Journey through Southern Anne Arundel County," the award-winning audio CD travelogue tour, was a supporting element of the successful nomination package. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program was selected from more than 85 nominations for this national award. Four Rivers joins its partner heritage areas across Maryland in celebrating this national recognition for building a successful and thriving state program for preservation and heritage tourism.



# LANDINGS, A BOATER'S GUIDE

Four Rivers' newest heritage tourism product, *Landings: A Boater's Guide to the Four Rivers Heritage Area of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County*, 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 supplement more traditional navigational charts and guides, *Landings* provides 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 can attend with family and friends. *Landings* also encourages boaters to visit local shops and restaurants in waterfront communities along the shoreline.

*Landings* was produced with the generous assistance of Eastport's 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, Homeport Wines & Spirits; and Deale's South County Café. *Landings* is a public-private partnership project supported by the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, and local businesses.

Since its July launch, *Landings* has received positive press coverage in several regional publications across five states. *Landings* was honored with a 2006 Historic Annapolis Foundation Community Service Preservation Award.



## 2006 MINI-GRANT AWARDS

In 2006, Four Rivers continued its successful mini-grants program assisting heritage-related organizations within the heritage area to develop new projects, programs, exhibits and activities that incorporate our regional interpretive themes, foster collaborative partnerships and encourage heritage tourism. After a competitive process, eleven mini-grants of up to \$2,500 were awarded for projects totaling more than \$255,000.

- **Kunta Kinte – Alex Haley Foundation**, “African-American History and Culture of the Parole Community,” an oral history and community education program
- **Annapolis Friends Meeting, Inc.**, “350 Years of Quakerism,” programming to raise awareness of Quakerism and its 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Anne Arundel County
- **Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, Inc.**, Fall Heritage Days, coordinated programming at South County sites, including Historic London Town & Gardens, Galesville Heritage Museum, and Shady Side's Captain Salem Avery House
- **Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, Inc.**, Civil War Living History Weekend
- **Galesville Heritage Society, Inc.**, Illustrations for outside exhibit panels at the Museum
- **Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc.**, Website development
- **City of Annapolis**, Annapolis Charter 300 Historic Markers, design template and a marker for Carr's Beach
- **U.S. Lighthouse Society**, *A Field Guide to Thomas Point Lighthouse*, development and publication of a booklet about this National Historic Landmark
- **Kneseth Israel Congregation**, “The Jewish Presence in Anne Arundel County, Then and Now, 1906-2006,” video production and presentation
- **Courthouse Museum Project – Anne Arundel County Bar Foundation, Inc.**, “Courthouse on the Circle: Annapolis and the Law,” public exhibit in the Museum Room of the Courthouse
- **Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc.**, “Searching for the 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Herring Creek House of Samuel Chew Sr.,” archaeological investigations in collaboration with Deale Area Historical Society

## THIRD ANNUAL HERITAGE AWARDS

Four Rivers hosted its third annual heritage awards ceremony at Historic London Town & Gardens on November 8. 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.

**Interpreter of the Year: David L. Smith**, of Capital City Colonials, for his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication to the highest standards of historical accuracy as an exceptional first-person heritage interpreter.

**Exhibit: Banneker-Douglass Museum**, for its first permanent exhibit, “Deep Roots, Rising Waters,” a multi-media, interactive introduction to the region’s rich African-American history.

**Local History: Ginger Doyel**, for bringing Annapolis history to life through “Annapolis Vignettes” and “Gone to Market: the Annapolis Market House, 1698-2005.”

**Historical Brochures: City of Annapolis**, for two new specialty brochures, “Art in Annapolis” and “From Declaration to Independence: Annapolis and the Maryland Signers of the Declaration of Independence.”

**Self-Guided Tour Brochure: Galesville Heritage Society**, for the new “Heritage Tour” brochure of Galesville, featuring 23 historic sites, historic and contemporary images, and a map of the village.

**Educational Interpretation: Glenn Campbell and Dr. Jean Russo**, for their dedication and professionalism in developing the interpretive components of Historic Annapolis Foundation’s HistoryQuest at the St. Clair Wright Center.

**Children’s Interpretation: Chesapeake Children’s Museum**, for “Lead On, Harriet!,” a creative, interactive, interpretive program for Girl Scouts based on Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

**Heritage Program: Smithsonian Environmental Research Center**, for new public programs that offer a variety of quality environmental educational experiences to residents and visitors of southern Anne Arundel County.

**Best New Heritage Initiative: Watermark and Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation**, for development of the “African-American Heritage Tour,” a unique and compelling tour that engages visitors as they trace the rich history of African Americans in Annapolis.

**Heritage Professionals: Patricia M. Blick**, for her dedication to the highest standards in protecting the city’s historic resources and her outstanding performance as General Manager of Historic Annapolis Foundation’s HistoryQuest; and

**Janet Surret**, for her professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication to community history through her creative and tireless efforts on behalf of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society and the Captain Salem Avery House.

**Legacy Award: Pam Offer & Family**, for continuing the legacy of deliciously-prepared traditional Southern Maryland and Chesapeake Bay fare for the public to enjoy.

**Heritage Award (Posthumous): Leonard Blackshear**, in memory of his passion, vision, creativity, leadership, inspiration, and commitment to local heritage as a means of raising awareness, promoting forgiveness and healing, and enhancing regional economic development.

## 2006 COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

- ❖ 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 among our heritage sites, giving our guides and interpreters opportunities for sharing information, networking, and enhancing historical knowledge and interpretive skills. (From left: Four Rivers Executive Director Donna Dudley with Historic Annapolis Foundation President Greg Stiverson and Four Rivers Board Chair, Pat Barland.)



- ❖ The Four Rivers summit meeting for site directors and managers was held Thursday, December 7, at the Charles Carroll House. Thirty-six individuals representing 30 different organizations attended this annual heritage networking meeting. Representatives of several potential funding sources, including the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and the Chesapeake Bay Trust, presented grant information. Participants shared news, plans for upcoming programs, and potential partnership opportunities in an informative round-table discussion.