

Currents

The Four Rivers Heritage Area Newsletter • Issue No. 8 • Spring 2007

Four Rivers Presents New Website and Heritage Guide

Four Rivers is proud to announce two major products designed to make the area's rich heritage resources more accessible to visitors and residents alike. In January, we launched a new, professionally-designed and completely revamped website that highlights our sites, events, and offerings in a colorful, user-friendly format. And our newest visitor product, *Discover Four Rivers: A History Explorer's Guide*, is hot off the presses!

Website Features News, Things to See and Do

We invite you to visit our website often to learn about the many heritage events and offerings throughout our area, and the latest news about our own activities and our heritage partner sites.

The front page of the website provides immediate access to the latest news, our events calendar, a search engine, and, along the left side, the major categories of our "Things to Do" database. Click on any of these categories to find short listings about terrific sites, partner organizations, educational programs, and more!

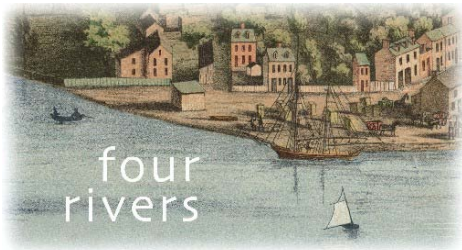


www.fourriversheritage.org

Inside pages include downloads, a map of the heritage area, informational pages about what we do, including our grant programs, our annual awards ceremony, our Management Plan, newsletters and annual reports, contact information, and items for sale in our "heritage area store." The site is a work in progress; we are still accepting suggestions for listings and images of events happening in the heritage area. Help us to build this terrific resource into a "must-see" stop for anyone planning a visit to our area!

New *Explorer's Guide* Offers Thematic Trails and Maps

The heritage area's newest offering, *Discover Four Rivers: A History Explorer's Guide*, was designed in tandem with a detailed map of the area with 130 listings of historic buildings, monuments and sites, with support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis. The attractive 30-page guide features lively photos and illustrations on every page and describes thematic "trails" that the history explorer can follow to learn about our area's rich history and heritage. Each heritage trail includes a mini-map that indicates the locations of sites included in the informative text. The guide's heritage trails organize the region's major stories into five major thematic threads and connect the heritage sites that reflect these themes. The themes are: Four Rivers & the Bay, Life on the Land, Annapolis' Golden Age, African American Heritage, and Sacred Places. (Continued on page 2)



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

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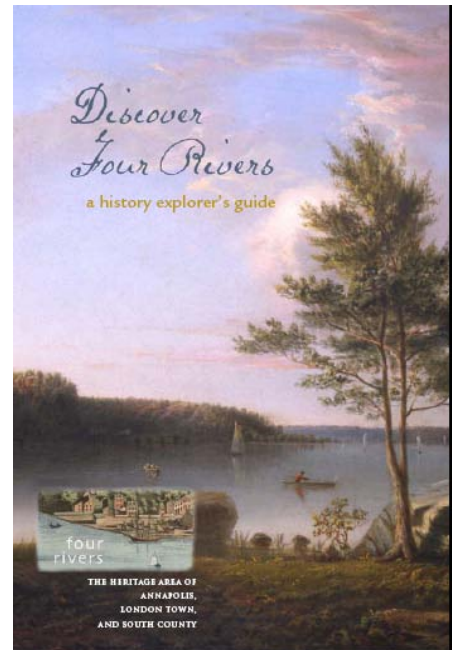
Staff

Donna Dudley, Executive Director
 Carol Benson, Heritage Programs Coordinator

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The guide gives history explorers regional historical content information with suggestions on where to go to learn more.

The *Explorer's Guide* is available for purchase on the heritage area website, www.fourriversheritage.org. The accompanying map has been designed for free public distribution, and is available at local Visitor Centers, heritage sites and by calling our office at 410-222-1805. We hope you will enjoy this elegantly-crafted guide and map as you explore the heritage area!



Four Rivers' new *Explorer's Guide*

2007 Heritage Area Mini Grant Awards Announced

Now in its fourth year, Four Rivers' Mini Grant Program has generated a variety of new programs, products, and services that enhance the visitor experience to the area, including new educational initiatives at area sites and events. Each dollar allocated has leveraged more than \$4 from federal, state, local, and private sources. Organizations and projects approved for mini grant awards this year by the Four Rivers Board of Directors include:

- **Annapolis Maritime Museum**, to support "Shucking & Tonging: A Day's Work at McNasby's," an oral history project and museum exhibit component.
- **Charles Carroll House of Annapolis, Inc.**, for development of a rack card and self-guided tour brochure.
- **City of Annapolis**, "Digging Deeper: Annapolis History Revealed," a walking tour brochure on five archaeological exhibits, and support for archaeological monitoring of excavation work needed for restoration of the historic Southgate Memorial Fountain on Church Circle.
- **Deale Area Historical Society**, support for exhibits preparation for new displays of regional history and artifacts in Deale.
- **Highland Beach Historical Commission**, "The Scurlock 'Beach' Connection," an exhibit of photographs from the Smithsonian Institution's Scurlock Collection depicting life in Highland Beach, for display in "Twin Oaks."
- **St. John's College**, for preservation of the Last Will & Testament of Francis Scott Key.
- **Shady Side Rural Heritage Society**, development of a new rack card and interpretive brochure, "Telling the Story of the Captain Salem Avery House," a 19th-century waterman's home.
- **West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc.**, for development of new educational outreach materials.

Four Rivers Presents 2006 Heritage Awards

Four Rivers hosted its third annual heritage awards ceremony at Historic London Town & Gardens on November 8th, 2006. 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. The awards recognized the following organizations and individuals:

Interpreter of the Year: David L. Smith, 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.



From left, Jean Langston, Highland Beach Historical Commission; former Anne Arundel County Executive Janet Owens; Legacy Award honorees Pam and Bernard Offer; Ray Langston, former mayor of Highland Beach. Photo courtesy of Terence Offer.

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 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 Captain Salem Avery House.

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.

Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund Program Continues

The tobacco barns of Southern Maryland, named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's Most Endangered Historic Places in 2004, are receiving much-needed assistance through the Tobacco Barn Restoration Fund. The Fund is administered by Preservation Maryland with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Maryland Historical Trust, and local partner organizations, supplementing a substantial grant received from the Save America's Treasures program, thanks to the leadership of Congressman Steny Hoyer. The purpose of the Fund is to promote the preservation and rehabilitation of Maryland's historic tobacco barns. The program's 2007 guidelines, procedures and deadlines are available online, at www.preservemd.org.



Disaster Preparedness Workshop leader Arthur Dutil with Four Rivers Executive Director Donna Dudley at Historic London Town & Gardens

Four Rivers Co-Sponsors Disaster Preparedness Workshop

On Thursday, February 1, 2007, an overflow crowd of museum, historic site, and library professionals gathered at Historic London Town and Gardens to take part in a workshop on disaster planning. The workshop was sponsored by Four Rivers, the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, and Preservation Maryland. Arthur Dutil, a museum consultant who specializes in assisting small museums and historic sites, led more than 45 attendees from Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania in a lively, day-long workshop, “Disaster Planning for Museums and Historic Sites: The Why, What and How of an Emergency Operations Plan.” Annapolis Maritime Museum’s Jeff Holland and the Baltimore B&O Railroad Museum’s Courtney Wilson discussed the lessons learned from recent disasters at their museums—the destruction of McNasby’s Oyster House due to Hurricane Isabel in September 2003 and the B& O’s roof collapse on President’s Day, 2003, caused by heavy snow.

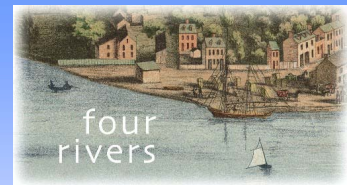
Four Rivers Holds Second Annual “Making Heritage Connections” Event

Four Rivers hosted its second annual seminar, “Making Heritage Connections,” on March 3, 2007, at Anne Arundel Community College. The seminar is designed to raise awareness of regional history and heritage-related activities for area docents, volunteers, guides, and interpreters, as well as other interested individuals. Approximately 50 attendees heard presentations on Southern Maryland tobacco culture and the Tobacco Barns Photography Project, West River Quaker history, the Captain John Smith 400 project, Chesapeake Bay lighthouses, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. The day’s program also included a discussion session on issues common to interpreters at heritage sites and the area’s tour guides.

Pictured, from left: Dr. Gregory Stiverson, interim President, Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation; Mike Gidos, interpreter, Historic London Town & Gardens; and D.L. Smith, Capital City Colonials.



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