

CURRENTS

The Newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area
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SPOTLIGHT ON HERITAGE

TOURS AND EXHIBITS FOCUS ON THE WAR OF 1812

War of 1812 enthusiasm has hit our Annapolis streets, as the town bustles with activities commemorating the War and interpreting its stories. Several Four Rivers Heritage Area partner sites have created exhibits, developed programs, and taken part in initiatives that celebrate the history of America's second war of independence.

Annapolis Tours by Watermark has created a new walking tour focusing solely on interpretation of the War. The tour, "War of 1812 in Annapolis," was created in partnership with the United States Naval Academy in celebration of the War of 1812 Bicentennial. This tour is specially offered for a limited time in 2013 and 2014. Join 1812 period-dressed guides as they bring history to life, acquainting you with key points of interest along the streets of historic downtown Annapolis and the yard of the United States Naval Academy. Stops on the tour include St. John's College, where Francis Scott Key attended; the Maryland State House; and places where the U.S. Navy first demonstrated itself as a force to be reckoned with.

Historic Annapolis Museum's new exhibit, "Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake," features two characters from the War-of-1812 period. Follow these runaways, hear their stories, and learn about their perilous fights for freedom. (For more on the "Freedom Bound" exhibit, see page 3).

"From Enemies to Allies" (FETA) is a scholarly conference that commemorates the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the resulting two-century special relationship between the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. During this three-day conference in June, more than 50 scholars from the three nations will tour local sites and present the most current scholarship on the causes, conduct and consequences of the war.

The **United States Naval Academy** invites you to experience a once-in-a-lifetime exhibit on the Naval War of 1812. The exhibit, entitled, "Seas, Lakes & Bay: The Naval War of 1812," brings together the prestigious collections of art, artifacts, and ship models from the private collection of Mr. William I. Koch and the public collection of the Naval Academy Museum. Come to Annapolis to see the sea anchor from the USS Consti-

tution and the actual carved wooden figureheads from the USS Chesapeake and the HMS Shannon, plus many other works of art and artifacts that combine to tell the stories and history of the War that established the U.S. Navy as a global sea power. The exhibit is free and open for a limited time only.

For five months this spring, the **Maryland State Archives** presented "The Enemy Nearly All 'Round Us," an exhibit dedicated to depicting the war in Annapolis in 1812-14, in the Maryland State House. The effects of the war in Annapolis were widespread; this exhibit shed light on the stories from all sides. The exhibit was prepared by the Maryland State Archives with the support of the State House Trust and the Maryland Department of General Services. Funding was provided by the Friends of the Maryland State Archives and a grant from Star-Spangled 200, Inc. The brochure accompanying the exhibit was funded in part by a Four Rivers Mini-Grant.

Later this year in **Deale**, at Herrington Harbor North Marina, an interpretive sign developed in partnership with the Deale Area Historical Society will be dedicated as part of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. It commemorates the skirmishes between the British and local residents in Tracey's Landing.



Watermark guide Frederick Taylor leads visitors on the "War of 1812 in Annapolis" tour. Photo courtesy of Watermark®.

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Spring Mini-Grants Add to Impact

In March, three additional Four Rivers Mini-Grants were awarded to local heritage-related nonprofit organizations as part of our spring Mini-Grant opportunity. The matching grant awards totaled \$3,625 for projects totaling \$13,262, making the combined total for FY2013 mini-grant funds awarded (both fall and spring) now \$23,075, for total projects of \$183,567. Organizations and projects approved for FY2013 Spring Mini-Grant awards are: **Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc.**, with the **Lost Towns Project**: "The Traveling Archaeology Experience," a portable archaeology display and interactive presentation highlighting discoveries at sites in the heritage area; **Caritas Society of St. John's College**, in partnership with the **Annapolis History Consortium**: "Annapolis, 1863: Are We Never to Be Free Again?," support for a dramatic production based on primary sources from Annapolis in the year 1863; and **Londontown Foundation, Inc.**: "A Greener Approach to Heritage Tourism: Creating a Garden Guide and Plant Identification Signs at Historic London Town and Gardens," a brochure and plant identification markers for a multi-phase project that will provide self-guided interpretation of the gardens.



Above: Photograph of the production, "Annapolis, 1863: Are We Never to Be Free Again?"

Four Rivers Welcomes Tim Leahy to the Board



Tim Leahy is an active volunteer and board member at the Charles Carroll House of Annapolis (as well as a volunteer webmaster,) and is Vice Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission for the city of Annapolis. He also is assisting the Maryland Historical Trust in creation of the updated Preservation Plan.

In Tim's professional career, he has been an IT operations executive and program manager with 30 years experience in all aspects of Information Technology. He focused on design, development and implementation of enterprise software and handled all other operations and finance for several small technology companies. His background also includes 14 years with Andersen Consulting (now Accenture) and KPMG. He holds MBA and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Virginia. Welcome, Tim!

New Exhibits at Heritage Partner Sites Reflect Four Rivers Grant Support

- **“Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake,”** an exhibit created by Historic Annapolis, is a story of resistance to servitude and slavery in the Chesapeake region. The exhibit begins in the 1720s, during the colonial period, and ends in the 1860s amidst the nation’s Civil War. While viewing this exhibit, you will encounter seven runaways, listen to their story, and discover how they resisted their condition and asserted some degree of control over their lives and circumstances. The exhibit opened on February 23, 2013 and is on view at the Historic Annapolis Museum, as well as components at the Historic Annapolis Waterfront Warehouse and the Banneker-Douglass Museum. “Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake” is funded in part by the Harley W. Howell Charitable Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Humanities Council, and the Winifred Gordon Foundation.
- The Galesville Heritage Society received a mini-grant from Four Rivers in 2012 for a new exhibit, **“The Story of Stores: How Small Businesses Helped Build Community in Galesville, MD,”** which communicates the social and economic functions of community stores in the historic town. In this exhibit, you’ll hear stories, meet some outstanding shopowners, learn what they sold -- and what they didn’t sell -- how credit supported an economy based upon trust between neighbors, and how the stores played an essential role in every childhood in the village.

Photos below, from left to right: “Freedom Bound” Exhibition view featuring interpreter Omar Said as runaway Nace Butler; “Freedom Bound” Exhibit display on the genealogy of the Butler family; Galesville Heritage Museum, “Story of Stores” exhibit artifact (telephone); Galesville Heritage Museum “Story of Stores,” exhibit artifact, (sign). Photos by Carol Benson.



Save These Dates For Important Upcoming Programs!!



Four Rivers Heritage Area Presents: the second annual Heritage Showcase on **Thursday, September 19, 2013**, from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase Street, in Annapolis.

We are pleased to highlight the excellence of the Four Rivers Heritage Area’s museums, sites, and attractions as premier destinations for educational and experiential school field trips, group day trips, and family outings in the greater Annapolis Area.

The Four Rivers Networking Picnic is coming back this summer! **SAVE THE DATE!!** The picnic will take place on **Thursday, July 25th** from Noon to 2:30 p.m. at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater. Join us for an afternoon of food, fun and networking! Make sure to mark your calendar **TODAY!**



Maryland Day Celebration 2013

This year, Four Rivers' Maryland Day Celebration was three days packed with hands-on activities and events for the entire family, during the weekend of Friday, March 22nd through Sunday, March 24th.

Thirty-two organizations at 34 different sites offered more than 40 programs and activities for \$1 or less! Participating organizations included (in alphabetical order): the AAACCVB, Annapolis Green, Annapolis Maritime Museum, Annapolis Tours by Watermark, Banneker-Douglass Museum, Captain Avery Museum, Charles Carroll House, Chase-Lloyd House, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Children's Museum, City of Annapolis, Courthouse Museum, Deale Area Historical Society, Galesville Heritage Museum, Hammond-Harwood House, Historic London Town and Gardens, MainStreets Annapolis Partnership, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Maryland State House, Mills Fine Wine and Spirits, Ram's Head Tavern, Reynolds Tavern, SERC, USNA Visitor Center, West Annapolis Heritage Partnership (several partners), Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, and Wimsey Cove Maps & Art.



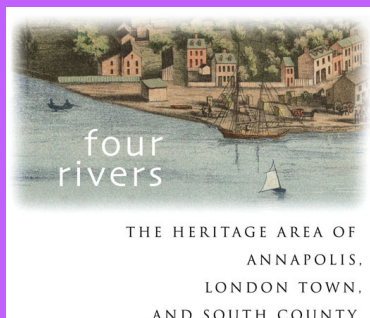
Special thanks to our sponsor, Severn Savings Bank; to the City of Annapolis, and Harbormaster; the USNA League Cadets and the Annapolis Drum and Bugle Corps; the AAACCVB; and all of our business partners, including Ram's Head Tavern, Reynolds Tavern, b.b.bistro, Graul's, Great Harvest Bread Company, Regina's, and a variety of West Annapolis businesses along

Annapolis Street, for their support this year.

This year, the weather was cooperative and enthusiasm was high, as Maryland Day's free or low-cost activities and events were enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Several sites debuted "geocaches" that weekend. Maryland Day also "grew a little Greener," as Four Rivers partnered with the nonprofit partner "Annapolis Green" to support a more eco-friendly event. Eco-stations were present at several locations to collect recyclable materials, and eCruisers were available to transport visitors to sites throughout downtown Annapolis. Congratulations to all of our participating sites for their outstanding programming! We look forward to next year's event.



Photos from top to bottom: (Left) Children experience the one-room Schoolhouse exhibit at Deale Area Historical Society, (Right) Visitors tour Historic Annapolis's Freedom Bound exhibit, (Left) Official Annapolis Maritime Museum "Geocache," (Right) USNA League Cadets taking part in Flag Raising Ceremony, (Left) Child in front of fun mirror at Maryland Hall's ArtFest, (Right) Children making projects at ArtFest, (Left) Locally grown produce display at Graul's Market, (Right) eCruiser with MD Day Logo, part of this year's efforts to "Grow a Little Greener." Photos by Carol Benson, Victoria Villano, and Maryland Hall staff.



Four Rivers is a 501 (c) 3, charitable non-profit organization. Your contribution supports the heritage sites and organizations that make a difference to our region's quality of life.

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