



CURRENTS

The Newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area
Issue No. 22 • Summer 2013

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANTS \$175,500 TO HERITAGE AREA ORGANIZATIONS

Four Rivers is pleased to announce that the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) awarded five grants to projects within the Four Rivers Heritage Area in July. Four Rivers received \$100,000 in management and program support, and was a joint recipient, with the Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau, of a Marketing Grant in the amount of \$30,000. Two non-capital grants and one capital grant were also awarded to heritage projects (below). These five grants, fully-matched at the local level, will support heritage-related projects that total more than \$468,000 in Fiscal Year 2012.

MHAA funding will support the following heritage-related projects:

Historic Annapolis (HA) was awarded \$11,000 for capital and safety repairs of the William Paca House and Garden. With these funds, HA will be better able to serve its visitors by installing a state-of-the-art wireless fire detection system, make critical upgrades to the building's exterior masonry, and ensure access and enjoyment of the garden by repairing pathways and upgrading the historic home's garden pond.

Historic Annapolis will also receive \$19,000 to continue with Phase 2 of their popular "Project Run-A-Way" programming. *Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake*, a traveling

exhibit, includes plans for a 1,400 square foot installation and a smaller-scale traveling version. The project will be an interactive representation of ongoing research on runaway advertisements published in the *Maryland Gazette* and the *Maryland Republican* from 1727–1864.

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The Anne Arundel County Trust for

Preservation, Inc. was awarded \$15,500 to develop a community-based Master Plan for the Henry Wilson Farmhouse, the adjacent Galesville Negro League (Hot Sox) ball field and associated lands in Galesville. The project will include a survey of archaeological resources on the site, and a preservation assessment and rehabilitation plan for the surviving Wilson Farmhouse.

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Spotlight on Archaeology

In accordance with the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority's 10-Year Plan for Sustainability, Four Rivers Heritage Area, with the assistance of consultant Gaile Jones, is well on its way to creating a 5-Year Action Plan for FY2013-2018. Three broad goals of the plan are to:

- *Steward the region's heritage assets by preserving, protecting and strengthening natural, historic and cultural resources*
- *Stimulate economic development through heritage tourism products, programs and experiences for visitors and residents*
- *Become a model for effective organizational management among heritage areas*

The 5-Year Action Plan incorporates clearly defined goal objectives and action steps that are directly linked to the MHAA plan and its benchmarks. These categories of activities include 1) Product Development; 2) Building Partnerships, 3) Regional Identity, and 4) Organization/Management.

The draft 5-Year Action Plan is undergoing review and revisions, and will be submitted to MHAA staff at the end of November 2011, before a final presentation to the Authority in the spring. The heritage area is focusing more than ever before on economic impact, stewardship, regional identity, and partnerships with the schools and other education providers.

Stakeholder meetings were held in July and early September for briefings and input. If you have not attended one of these meetings and would like to receive more information about the plan, or to schedule a one-on-one meeting with the Executive Director, please call the heritage area office at 410-222-1805.

Four Rivers Networking Picnic



A young visitor tries her hand at writing with a calligraphy pen and ink. Photo by Carol Benson

On May 14, Four Rivers staffers Carol and Aleithea participated in the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's Open House for a fourth year. The Four Rivers table, located high on the Contee Farm hill overlooking the West & Rhode Rivers, was visited by dozens of families enjoying this FREE event. Our family-friendly activities included quill penmanship and calligraphy, the coloring of paper portrait miniatures, and make-your-own maritime signal flags. Luckily, the mildly rainy weather didn't dampen any spirits that day! We look forward to participating again at next year's Open House.

Annapolis Hosts 2011 Preservation Conference: Four Rivers Spotlited

On May 19-20, 2011, more than 500 Maryland historic preservation and Main Street professionals came to Annapolis for Maryland's annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference and awards ceremony. As part of the conference, Four Rivers Executive Director Carol Benson led a "Heritage Area Impact" trolley tour that highlighted local preservation projects in downtown Annapolis. Many thanks to Discover Annapolis Tours for



providing the transportation for this tour! At the "Heritage Areas Luncheon," our partners, the Banneker-Douglass Museum and Anne Arundel County Public Schools, presented their

very successful *Music to Our Ears* oral history projects that focused on Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches. The conference culminated in the Maryland Preservation Awards and the Maryland Historical Trust's 50th Anniversary Reception. Four Rivers' own long-time Board Member, Donna Hole (pictured above, with Secretary of Planning Richard Hall, left, and MHT Board Chairman Harrison Wetherill), received the Preservation Service Award. The Charles Carroll House of Annapolis was also the recipient of a preservation award for Project Excellence. Congratulations to the awards recipients on your achievements!

Four Rivers to Celebrate Ten Year Milestone

Four Rivers Heritage Area Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to announce that in October we will mark the 10th anniversary of the certification of the heritage area! A celebration of ten years of accomplishments will take place at the Eighth Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. Save the date for this special event!



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Photo of the Henry Wilson Farmhouse, courtesy of Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc.

New Coordinating Council Committees Forming

Four Rivers Heritage Area Coordinating Council members have taken the lead in the formation of several new ad-hoc committees focused on new priorities outlined in our 5-Year Action Plan.

The Education committee is chaired by Dr. Joni Jones, Executive Director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. The committee will focus on continuing our strong partnerships with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools and the creation of new, collaborative programs that benefit students and heritage sites.

The Marketing Committee is chaired by Diane Nowak-Waring, APR. The Committee has been formed to address Four Rivers marketing needs and to implement our FY2012 *Marketing Plan*. The one-year plan, developed as part of a collaborative marketing grant from the MHAA (see page 1), will be implemented and refined by this committee.

Additional committees to address new priorities of the 5-Year Action Plan (see page 2) are now being formed. A Stewardship Committee and an Economic Development Committee are slated to convene this fall. Please contact Four Rivers staff at 410-222-1805 for more information about participating in these committees, or for giving your input for consideration. Thanks!

Four Rivers Summer Networking Picnic Beats the Heat in 2011!



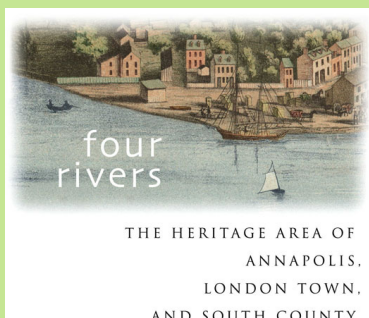
We did it again! Four Rivers once again held its popular Summer Networking Picnic on the lawn of the beautiful Charles Carroll House of Annapolis. Temperature and humidity were kept under control as guests enjoyed a catered lunch of cool wraps and delicious desserts, chilled pink lemonade, beer, and local Maryland wine. We were delighted to welcome student performers David

Sommerville (left, below), who presented a monologue as “Stephen,” a cooper, who ran away from Charles Carroll of Annapolis in 1728 (from Historic Annapolis’ “Project-Run-A-Way”), followed by musical selections by four members of the young and talented Harrison family (below right). Good food, good company, and a spectacular waterfront setting made for another memorable afternoon.

Many thanks to our volunteers, stakeholders, and the Charles Carroll House, our host, who all helped to make the picnic another great success!



From left to right: David Sommerville (credit Natalie Armbruster); Four Rivers’ friends enjoying the picnic spread (credit Sarah Hill); Delicious food provided for guests (credit Aleithe Warmack); the Harrison Quartet (credit Dorothea Harrison).

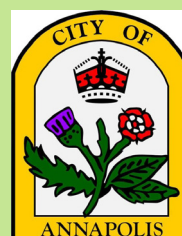


*Four Rivers is a 501 (c) 3, charitable non-profit organization.
Your contribution supports the heritage sites and organizations
that make a difference to our region’s quality of life.*

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