

# Four Rivers Eleventh Annual Heritage Awards

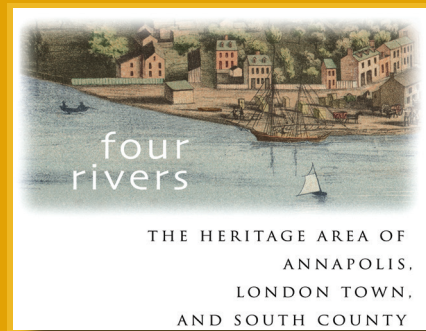
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## Additional awards this year included:

- **Heritage Tourism Product Award:** The 2014 award recognizes Historic London Town and Gardens' "Garden Guide," an outstanding interpretive guide to all aspects of the gardens for visitors in all seasons.
- **Heritage Interpreter of the Year:** This year's honoree is Elinor Thompson, for her dedication and passion for discovering and sharing local church and genealogical records in our area.
- **Heritage Professional of the Year:** This year's award recognizes Heather Skipper, of Watermark, for her dedication, vision, partnership, and support of heritage interpretation for diverse audiences in our area.
- **Heritage Partnership Award:** This award recognizes an outstanding regional partnership in heritage interpretation, preservation, stewardship, and/or education. This year's award goes to the Kunta Kinte Children's Festival of 2014, for continuing the traditions of Annapolis's celebrated Kunta Kinte Festival in a new setting by Spa Creek. Honorees: Chesapeake Children's Museum, City of Annapolis, and performer Kwame Ansah-Brew, with Cadette Troop 4149, led by Sharon Acosta.
- **The Heritage Leadership Award:** This award recognizes an individual for significant and long lasting contributions to the community. The 2014 Heritage Leadership Award goes to Jean Jackson, for her leadership in creating and developing the landmark Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival in Annapolis.



Pictured, Top: Carol Benson (Four Rivers Executive Dir.), Jean Jackson, and Pat Barland (Four Rivers Board Chair); Middle, Pat Barland (second to left) with Dinny White, Kristen Butler and Nate Powers of Historic London Town and Gardens; and Bottom, Carol Benson, Elinor Thompson, and Pat Barland. Photos by Ted Mack.



*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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# Currents

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## FOUR RIVERS HERITAGE AWARDS HONOR EXCELLENCE: CEREMONY RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY LEADERS, OUTSTANDING PROJECTS



The Four Rivers Heritage Area held its Eleventh Annual Heritage Awards on Thursday, November 6, 2014, in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. These awards recognize individuals, organizations, partnerships, programs and products that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching and/or supporting our historical legacy.

During the ceremony, Executive Director Carol Benson acknowledged the major funders of the heritage area, which are the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County, and the City of Annapolis, and the sponsors of this year's Maryland Day Celebration, which were Visit Annapolis and Discover Annapolis Tours. She also shared a preview of Four Rivers' new video, "Our Stories: Land Conservation Successes in Anne Arundel County," shot on location in South County by DMH Videoproduction, with Videographer Darren Heater and Project Manager

Brittany Mercer, in attendance. The project grew out of the Four Rivers Stewardship Committee's vision for sharing best practices in land conservation stewardship with a larger audience (see page 3).

This year's program included a new award category, the Stewardship Award, which recognizes an individual, family, organization, or business in the heritage area that demonstrates outstanding leadership in a stewardship capacity. The inaugural award in this category was given to Lisa Barge, Agriculture Marketing and Development Manager with the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), for her dedication and leadership in the stewardship of agricultural traditions and best practices in Anne Arundel County.

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Pictured above: Heritage Partnership Award to Chesapeake Children's Museum and City of Annapolis, including Debbie Wood, Executive Director of CCM (far right), Carol Benson and Alderman Joe Budge (rear center), and leaders and girls of Cadette Troop 4149.



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Deale Area Historical Society Holds  
“Skirmishes at Herring Creek”  
Commemoration

On Saturday, October 25th, 2014, the Deale Area Historical Society presented “Skirmishes at Herring Creek,” a War of 1812 Re-enactment and Country Fair, at the Historic Village at Herrington Harbour North Marina in Tracy’s Landing. Many visitors came out to this lovely Southern Anne Arundel County site to help unfurl the full-size replica of the Star-Spangled Banner, recently created at the Maryland Historical Society, as well as play games, take part in a militia drill, talk with local genealogists and archaeologists from the Lost Towns Project, tour the Society’s tobacco barn, and view the new interpretive sign that is part of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Descendants of the local militia that met the British during the skirmishes on this site exactly two hundred years ago during the War of 1812 were also recognized. This event was made possible in part by a Mini-Grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Area, and the visit by the replica Star-Spangled Banner was made possible by a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.



Pictured, above: Visitors unfurling the replica Star-Spangled Banner from the Maryland Historical Society. Below: Reenactor leads musket drill. Photos by Carol Benson.

Four Rivers Awards Five  
Fall Mini-Grants

Now in its eleventh year, the Four Rivers Mini-Grant Program has generated a wide variety of new public programs, products, and services that enhance the visitor experience at sites throughout the area. In November, Four Rivers awarded grants totaling \$9,355 to five heritage partners. Organizations and projects approved for FY2015 Fall Mini-Grant awards include:

- **Annapolis Maritime Museum**, for development of an interactive cell phone and tablet Application (“App”) in support of the Eastport Walking Tour.
- **Captain Avery Museum**, in support of “Conversations with the Past: Turning Oral Histories into Searchable Documents,” a transcription project that will allow oral histories to be made available online.
- **Historic Annapolis**, for development of a new interpretive brochure for the William Paca House and Garden.
- **Lost Towns Project, Inc.**, in support of a new website for the newly-formed non-profit organization.
- **West Annapolis Business Affiliation**, in support of two publications on the history of West Annapolis.

Details of the Spring Mini-Grant round will be announced in January, with a deadline of February 13.

Four Rivers Debuts Stewardship Video



This fall, Four Rivers worked with a variety of partners to create a video about Land Conservation and Stewardship, entitled, “Our Stories: Land Conservation Successes in Anne Arundel County.”

The video was shot on location at various properties in Anne Arundel County, with landowners who have taken advantage of one or more of the following programs. Land Conservation Easements with Tax Incentives: Scenic Rivers Land Trust and Maryland Environmental Trust — (Landowners Pat Melville and Danny Bystrak, with Rick Leader, Executive Director, Scenic Rivers Land Trust); Agricultural and Woodland Preservation: Rural Legacy and Community Connections Programs, Maryland DNR — (Landowner Gail Campbell, with Barbara Polito, Anne Arundel Co. Administrator); and Agricultural Assistance Programs offered by AAEDC (Landowner Gail Campbell, and Farmer Jeremy Lopez, with Lisa Barge, Agriculture Marketing and Development Manager, AAEDC.)

Please visit our website or our YouTube channel to view the video.

Four Rivers Welcomes Two New  
Coordinating Council Members



Four Rivers is excited to welcome two new Coordinating Council members this Fall.

Sara Phillips (pictured left) is a registered architect in the State of Maryland and currently holds the position of Architect of the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She also sits on the City of Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission and the Charles Carroll House Board of Directors. Sara holds design degrees from The Rhode Island School of Design as well as a Master’s in Business Administration from the Naval Post Graduate School. She lives in the Eastport neighborhood of Annapolis with her husband, Bob.

Rick Leader (pictured right), working with a fourteen-member board of directors, directs the easement and land stewardship program of the Scenic Rivers Land Trust and oversees

its growing portfolio of sixty-one easement properties covering over 2,700 acres. Rick is the 2012 recipient of the Aileen Hughes Award for leadership and innovation in conservation from the Maryland Environmental Trust. He is a former Vice President of the National Audubon Society and former Assistant Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust where he was active in the management of Maryland’s commemorative Chesapeake Bay license plate program and the Bay and Wildlife tax check-off. For five years he managed the Bay Bridge Walk festival in Sandy Point State Park as a fundraiser for the Trust. Rick has served on a wide variety of regional boards and committees. He holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland.

