



# Currents

The Newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area   Issue No. 29 and 2015 Annual Report   Winter 2016



## Four Rivers' Reach Expands to New Partners in 2015

**A**t year's end, the Board and Staff of the Four Rivers Heritage Area held a planning session looking back over what has been accomplished, and forward to new opportunities for the organization. We have been looking back for two reasons: first, to check our progress against our Five-Year Plan (2013-2018), and second, to compile our first-ever "Program Impact Metrics Report" for the Maryland Heritage Area Program. We are happy to report that we have a wide variety of measurable results for our activities, especially in our three traditional categories: Heritage Product Development (meaning new brochures, websites, oral histories, events, and more), Promoting/Creating New Partnerships, and our effectiveness in "Sustaining Regional Identity," and we are well on track for achieving the goals and objectives of our Five-Year Plan as well.

As we look forward to new opportunities, we are excited and reflective at the same time. We are excited about the expanding definitions of "heritage tourism," and new roles for heritage-related activities in our communities. As always, we define "heritage" as "historical, cultural and natural resources." Heritage experiences now include kayaking and water trails, running and biking events, local sources and native plants, "illuminations" after dark, land conservation issues, accessibility awareness and planning, generation-to-generation connections, and much more!

At the same time, our Four Rivers partners are unfailingly creative with diverse ideas and approaches to connect with visitors, and they understand the importance of collaborating with others to strengthen communities. Our partners are also excellent stewards of their historic properties, always looking for capital opportunities that will preserve or improve their infrastructure. Whether large or small, capital or non-capital, each new grant-funded project adds to the excellence of our local heritage experience. Our reach keeps on growing, as we foster new heritage projects that we are truly excited about, and we "can't wait" to see what comes next!

Photo, right: Volunteer greeter Annie Chalkley with Mini Muffin at Enticement Stables at Obligation Farm, during Maryland Day 2015.



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## **Staff**

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## **Farewell Message from Outgoing Chair, Pat Barland**



“Please join us in welcoming Diane Nowak-Waring as the new Chair of the Four Rivers Heritage Area. I know Diane, along with the other Board members, will continue to make our heritage area the BEST! It has been almost twenty years since the passage of HB 1. The Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area was the second area to be certified in 2001. I have been truly honored to serve as the Chair of this great organization. I am proud of our accomplishments over the years. We have collaborated with our partners to balance, preserve and protect our diverse history. Our partners have grown stronger; the number of programs and projects has increased, providing both residents and visitors with new and exciting experiences; we

have forged new partnerships, including working with Anne Arundel County Public Schools to engage young people; we have mentored our partners and provided funding through MHAA and our mini-grants programs.

Since 2001, Four Rivers has brought more than \$3.6 million in matched program and project grants resulting in more than \$11 million in programs and projects. Wow! I want to thank our funders, the State, the County and the City of Annapolis, our supporters and our sites. You contribute so much to the success of the Heritage Area providing quality cultural and educational opportunities to our residents and visitors. Thanks to the Board for your support over the years and last but not least, thanks to our staff, Carol and Christina. We would not be who we are without you! All the best to each of you. Please continue to make our Heritage Area the BEST!”

(Pictured: Outgoing Board Chair, Patricia A. Barland. Photo by Valeu Photography.)

## **Diverse Workshops Offered in 2015**

In 2015, Four Rivers hosted three very successful workshops on new topics:

- On April 30, Chris Haley from the Maryland State Archives led a workshop on “How to Talk About Slavery and Race in the Classroom or at Your Site” at Historic London Town and Gardens and there were 33 attendees, who came from around the county as well as from the Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland. This conversation-based workshop was an unqualified success that has been repeated several times for other audiences.
- A workshop on “Planned Giving” was held on June 18, and featured guest speaker Patricia Bender, the Director of Planned Giving at the United States Naval Academy Foundation. The workshop was hosted at the Captain Avery Museum and had 26 attendees, who planned to implement the advice immediately to address critical sustainability needs.
- Four Rivers also hosted a workshop entitled, “Telling Your Non-Profit Story Through Video,” led by local videographer Darren Heater at Historic London Town and Gardens on October 1, with 15 attendees. Several sites have since moved forward to implement the advice offered, either through video or another medium.



## GRANT FUNDING TOTALS \$316,737 IN 2015 FOR PROJECTS OVER \$2 MILLION

In Fiscal Year 2016 from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the Four Rivers Heritage Area brought \$316,737 in funding to capital and non-capital projects at heritage sites, museums, and municipalities in our area, as well as a Management Grant to Four Rivers, which includes support for our popular mini-grant program.

These fully matched grants leveraged more than \$2 million in total project costs. The grant recipients and funded projects for FY2016 are listed in the table below.

FY16				
Type of Grant	Recipient and Project	Category	Grant Amount	Total Project Amount
MHAA Capital Project Grant	Historic Annapolis, Inc., for renovation of 1 Martin Street: Construction Phase	Capital Improvements	\$90,000	\$1,560,000
MHAA Non-Capital Project Grant	Anne Arundel County Planning & Zoning, for Before the Bay Bridge: Anne Arundel County's 20th Century Beach Resorts	Education and Interpretation	\$40,000	\$90,000
	Londontown Foundation, for accessibility planning in the Historic Area	Capital Improvements	\$5,000	\$10,000
	Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Inc., for metal stairwell window restoration	Capital Improvements	\$81,737	\$163,474
MHAA Management Grant ^	Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town, and South County for Management and Operations	Management	\$100,000	\$200,000*
<b>Totals for State Funding in FY16</b>			<b>\$316,737</b>	<b>\$2,023,474*</b>
	<i>Recipient</i>			
Four Rivers Mini-Grant Program	Annapolis Maritime Museum	Education and Interpretation	\$2,500	\$50,000
	Chesapeake Children's Museum	Education and Interpretation	\$2,500	\$8,650
	Friends of the Maryland State Archives	Heritage Tourism Product	\$1,560	\$3,430
	Hammond-Harwood House Association	Education and Interpretation	\$1,800	\$3,579.88
	Historic Annapolis, Inc.	Education and Interpretation	\$1,750	\$3,500
	Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation	Heritage Tourism Product	\$2,100	\$4,200
	London Town Foundation	Education and Interpretation	\$2,500	\$21,567
	Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts	Heritage Tourism Product	\$2,500	\$55,180
<b>Totals for Mini-Grant Funding to date in FY16</b>			<b>\$17,210</b>	<b>\$150,106.88</b>
	<b>Totals for Funded Projects to Date in FY16</b>		<b>\$333,947</b>	<b>\$2,173,580*</b>
^Four Rivers Management Grant includes \$10,000 redistributed to mini-grant recipients *These figures include matching funds from other grants				

## Thank You For Your Support!

Thank you to all of our donors who were active supporters of the Four Rivers Heritage Area this year! In 2015, we received major grant support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

We are also grateful to the following individuals for their support: Pat Barland, Joseph Budge, Tara Clifford, Ross Cohen, Connie Del Signore, Philip Deters, Anna Greenberg, Jean Jackson, Ann Jensen, Sherri Marsh Johns, Tim Leahy, Gertrude Makell, Marybeth McGee, Pat Melville, Valerie Miller, Barbara Polito, Constance Ramirez, Jean Russo, Carole Sanner, Melanie Teems, Dorothy Whitman, Laura Wood, and Lou Zagarrino.

Four Rivers would also like to gratefully acknowledge the following organizations and business contributors and sponsors: Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), Annapolis Maritime Museum, Deale Area Historical Society, Springhill Suites, Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (VAAAC), and Watermark.

We would also like to recognize the many in-kind contributions made in 2015, including those from: VAAAC, Towne Transport, Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, the Charles Carroll House, Historic London Town and Gardens, Maryland State Archives, Watermark, and the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center. The individuals who supported our work with In-Kind volunteer hours are too numerous to list. You have our enduring thanks!

*Please consider including the Four Rivers Heritage Area in your charitable donations. Every contribution has a significant impact and is greatly appreciated. You are invited to call our office or visit our website's "Support" page for details on how you can support Four Rivers, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.*

# Four Rivers Twelfth Annual Heritage Awards

Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town and South County, held its Twelfth Annual Heritage Awards on Thursday, November 5, 2015, 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.

**Heritage Tourism Product Award:** Interpretive Exhibits in the Senate Committee Room, Stairwell Room, and Old Senate Chamber of the Maryland State House, for outstanding interpretive exhibits that offer a fresh experience of important events in the nation's history.

**Heritage Volunteer of the Year:** Alma Cropper, for her dedication to the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, the Annapolis community, and the Four Rivers Heritage Area.

**Heritage Professional of the Year:** Elaine Rice Bachmann, for outstanding leadership in enhancing the visitor experience at the Maryland State House.

**The Stewardship Award:** Education Center and Oyster Education Program at the Annapolis Maritime Museum, for teaching and inspiring thousands of local sixth-grade students to become good stewards of the Bay.

**Heritage Partnership Award:** "Field of Dreams: Home Grown History" Project, Galesville Community Center, for forging new partnerships to share the rich heritage of Galesville and the Galesville Hot Sox Baseball Team.

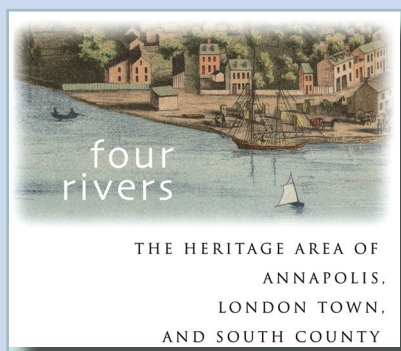


**Heritage Sponsor of the Year:** Ray and Stacy Greenstreet of Greenstreet Gardens, for their support and cultivation of heritage and stewardship efforts throughout South County.

**Heritage Leadership Award:** Robert L. Worden, for his tireless research and documentation efforts for numerous heritage partners in the region.

**Heritage Leadership Award:** The second 2015 Heritage Leadership Award goes to Lyndra Marshall, for her passion, resourcefulness and dedication to local history and heritage.

Pictured left: Lyndra Marshall (center, with certificate) and partners; Photo by Valeu Photography.



*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; please consider an annual or planned gift.*

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