

Currents

The newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area

ANNAPOLIS

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Try some of these new “Things to Do”

The spring and summer seasons are a great time to get outside! In the Four Rivers Heritage Area, there are always new things to see and do, thanks to new partners, projects, and initiatives. Added to our calendar this year have been events for hiking, biking, and kayaking; new culinary experiences; special events for dogs; “Full moon” night-time events; and much more!

Explore the “Events Calendar” page on our website, or sign up for our weekly E-newsletter on our website homepage to stay informed. Here are some of our favorite new activities:

Franklin Point State Park

Did you know that a new state park has opened in the midst of our heritage area? Franklin Point State Park is the former site of Deep Creek Airport in Shady Side. This 477-acre park includes marsh, forest, meadow and a sandy bay shoreline. Four Rivers was excited to share in the park’s “soft” opening as part of Maryland Day Celebration 2016. Access to this park is provided through a partnership between Maryland State Parks and the West/Rhode Riverkeeper. It is open to public access for day use only, and is a gated park with a combination lock.

To obtain a day use permit, visit the Maryland DNR website and search on “Franklin Point,” or call 410-974-2149.

Birdwatching

This spring, Four Rivers expanded its “blog” offerings with posts from guest blogger and photographer, Donna Cole, who wrote a series of 10 short articles with photos of migratory birds passing through the heritage area. Four Rivers staff also added a link to top birding spots on our website. With all the miles of Chesapeake Bay coastline in our heritage area, it is no surprise that ten of the top 25 “hotspots” in Anne Arundel County are within Four Rivers’ boundaries. Many of the spots are public parks, including Sandy Point State Park, Jonas Green Park, and Quiet Waters Park.



Franklin Point State Park CREDIT: LISA ARRASMITH

New Theme for a Walking Tour in Eastport

The Annapolis Maritime Museum has developed a free walking tour guided by an “App” that can be downloaded onto your smartphone. Funded in part by a Four Rivers mini-grant, “The Homefront: Eastport during World War II” was created by AMM staff using “Tutouria” software. The walking tour has 10 stops, and is powered by GPS, so the user is guided around by a map on the phone, and locations can be viewed in any order. The tour includes stories and photos of Eastport in the 1940s. Participants will learn about the naval depot that built Vosper PT boats, Pearl Harbor’s impact in Annapolis, women’s work in war industries, and the war’s effects on everyday life in Eastport. Visiting all 10 stops takes roughly an hour; visit the museum’s website, www.amaritime.org, for more information.

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Message from the Executive Director



If you're like me, the return of Spring is a time of creativity and excitement for making the most of the season.

In the Four Rivers Heritage Area, this means renewed efforts to encourage the quality and variety of authentic heritage experiences that are available here. One of our most effective tools is our Mini-Grants program, which this year granted more dollars than ever before for events, programs, and interpretation that add to the the public offerings at our partner sites.

Non-profit organizations are more effective when we can work collaboratively, and demonstrate our value collectively. Each of us contributes a different piece to the resulting whole. Four Rivers' programs are designed to encourage collaborations and partnerships, and our committees accomplish their goals through collective efforts; peer-to-peer sharing and critiques are the key to some of our most successful (and enjoyable) workshops. This constructive spirit is a hallmark of our heritage area's activities across the board, and it is the most rewarding part of everything we do.

Please call the heritage area office at 410-222-1805 if you have a suggestion or would like to get involved!

SPOTLIGHT ON: Maryland State Archives

The Maryland State Archives has become a "go-to place" for engaging lectures and public programs while remaining the area's premier research facility for Maryland-related scholarship. The popular "Brick Wall Sessions" are designed for genealogists and family researchers, who sign up to meet with one of the Archives' genealogical professionals as they research family history - and as the name suggests, possibly make a breakthrough! These sessions often fill up quickly, with dates announced in advance on their website. Also new to the Archives programming schedule are the informative "Brown Bag Lunch and Learn" sessions. These are lunchtime lectures by Archives staff, offered monthly, that are free and open to the public. The subjects of the talks have ranged from "Caring for Your Multi-Media Files" to "Freedom or Bondage: Slave Freedom Petitions in Colonial Maryland."



Emily Oland Squires (left), Director of Research at Maryland State Archives, with a visitor.

CREDIT: VISIT ANNAPOLIS

The helpful Archives staff is always on hand to answer questions about research or help you find a resource. There are also temporary exhibitions on view throughout the year. Visit www.msa.maryland.gov to get directions, check their hours, and sign up for upcoming programs.

Four Rivers Announces Six Spring Mini-Grants

Six new Four Rivers FY16 Mini-grants were awarded this spring, which totaled \$12,447 in additional grant funds, for projects totaling more than \$42,000. This brings the FY16 total funds awarded to Mini-Grant projects to \$29,657, for projects totaling more than \$193,000. This matching mini-grants program, made possible for the twelfth year



Muddy Creek BBQ after "Ride for the Rivers"

through financial support from the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, leverages other funding to assist local heritage related non-profit organizations to create new programs, activities, and events that build upon heritage-based interpretive themes, foster collaborative partnerships, and enhance local cultural historic resources and heritage tourism.

Organizations and projects approved for Spring FY2016 Mini-grant awards are:

- **Charles Carroll House of Annapolis, Inc.**, for a comprehensive marketing program resulting in new brochures, rack cards and website updates
- **City of Annapolis**, for a lecture and planning session included in "*Preservation 50: Strengthening the Local Economy through Historic Preservation*," a series of events showcasing the value of historic preservation
- **Lost Towns Project**, for "*Hands-On Archaeology Workshops*"
- **Maryland Federation of Art**, for promotional materials for "*Art in Historic Areas*," a series of art programs
- **West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc.**, for support for "*Ride for the Rivers 2016*"
- **Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center**, for outreach materials for the Bates Legacy Educational Community Project

Lyndra Marshall joins Four Rivers Coordinating Council



Four Rivers is pleased to announce that Lyndra Marshall has joined the Coordinating Council.

Lyndra is Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, and is an internationally known genealogist, author, teacher, and lecturer. She is the Founder and President of GENE-ALL-OF-US, Inc., a family heritage research and resource center in Bowie,

Maryland, and a long-time volunteer with the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation's Resource Center in Edgewater. Mrs. Marshall has appeared as the African American genealogy expert on public television and radio, and has authored and co-authored several publications. In 2012, Mrs. Marshall received the Distinguished Genealogy Research Award from the National Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. In 2015, Four Rivers award her with its Heritage Leadership Award. Welcome, Lyndra!

Education Committee seeks new members

Four Rivers has a very active Education Committee, which is seeking new members! Any and all of our colleagues involved in education-related programming are invited to join in our efforts to raise the collective level of expertise on a variety of topics. The committee meets regularly throughout the year and past topics of discussion have included ADA Accessibility, disaster planning, ideas for innovative public programming and new educational programs, the development and implementation of surveys to gauge visitor satisfaction, collaborations with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, measurable results for education-related grant writing, sustainability for heritage programming, peer review opportunities, and more. Workshop development is also a benefit of participation in the Education Committee; past workshops have included planned giving at your organization; how to talk about slavery and race at your site; "little-known Maryland nonprofit employment laws;" and emergency preparedness. Call our office at 410-222-1805 to find out about our next meeting; all are welcome!





Ninth Annual Maryland Day 2016 Celebration was busy as ever!

For the ninth year in a row, Four Rivers Heritage Area partnered with regional heritage organizations and businesses to showcase the area's historical, cultural and natural heritage at the beginning of the tourism season. Events and activities took place during the weekend of March 18, 19 and 20, 2016, for one dollar or less; many of the activities were free!

The theme for this year's event was "Generation to Generation." Events and activities were geared towards encouraging multigenerational conversations and the sharing of stories at each site. There were "mystery objects" chosen for youngsters to guess their purpose, "old-fashioned" games and activities for families, and other "conversation starters" like Historic Annapolis's leeches jar, below.



New this year, Friday night activities included business specials. "Maryland Day After Hours" featured four local restaurants: Chesapeake Brew Pub, Galway Bay Irish Pub, Rams Head Tavern, and Reynolds Tavern, offering discounts on locally brewed beers.

Four Rivers Heritage Area again hosted the popular Saturday morning flag-raising ceremony at Susan Campbell Park in downtown Annapolis, with participation from the USNA League Cadets of the Training Ship Mercedes

providing the flag detail, and the Annapolis Drum and Bugle Corps providing the music. Thank you to everyone who supported Maryland Day, including our participating organizations and businesses!



Hopscotch at the Chesapeake Children's Museum



Arundel High students support Maryland Day!



Visitors at the Annapolis Maritime Museum



Family fun at the USNA Visitor Center



THE HERITAGE AREA OF
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LONDON TOWN,
AND SOUTH COUNTY

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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.

