

Currents

The newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area

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Four Rivers Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration Honors Heritage Awards Recipients

The Four Rivers Heritage Area held its Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration and Thirteenth Annual Heritage Awards on Thursday, November 10, 2016, in the Blue Heron Room at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis.

During the ceremony, Executive Director Carol Benson stated, "We are thrilled to be a part of the outstanding Maryland Heritage Areas Program. It has been a privilege to work with our heritage partners, offering the technical assistance and grant dollars they have needed to undertake over 200 heritage-related projects since our certification in 2001. The results of our activities are clearly visible in the strength and sustainability of brick-and-mortar attractions; in the number and quality of heritage experiences for visitors; in the capacity level of partner organizations; and in the collaborative activities and mutually supportive connections among our many stakeholders."

The annual heritage awards recognize individuals, organizations and partnerships that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, and/or supporting our historical legacy. This year's program included the Heritage Partnership Award, which recognizes an outstanding regional partnership in heritage



Pictured above: l to r: Diane Nowak-Waring (Four Rivers Chair), Katie Redmiles, Heather Skipper, Carol Benson (Four Rivers Executive Director), William Kardash, Leslie Xavier, Craig Martin.

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interpretation or education. This year's award was given to Historic Annapolis and Annapolis Tours by Watermark, for their partnership in creating the popular new "ArchiTrex" walking tour (pictured above).

This year, the Board of Directors announced a new award, the Patricia Barland Leadership Award, named for the former Chair of the Board. This award represents a special recognition for a leader who shares the dedication to history and heritage that Pat herself has shown.

Additional awards this year included:

Heritage Tourism Product Award

This award recognizes an outstanding heritage tourism product created in the past year. The 2016 award recognizes the "Historian Annapolis" Campaign launched by Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, for crafting a powerful and expressive message about the rich heritage of the region, that inspires thousands of visitors to explore our destination.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



Diane Nowak-Waring
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This past year has been a busy one for our partner organizations across our Heritage Area. The staffs and volunteers of these 30+ partners work very hard to showcase the stories that they have to share and I thank them for all their fine efforts. They have produced fairs, exhibits, lectures, dinners, tours, musical and theatrical performances, etc. The complete listing of all their offerings is quite long. We are very lucky to live in such a vibrant and interesting area.

This also was a special year for Four Rivers. In November, we celebrated our 15th Anniversary as a Maryland Heritage Area – the second of 13 Heritage Areas certified in the state. Our mission has been to protect and strengthen the natural, historic and cultural resources of this area. The boundaries stretch from Sandy Point State Park in the north through Anne Arundel County to Rose Haven in the south, with Route 2 being our western boundary.

And the work continues – from our partner organizations, our Board of Directors and our fine staff – Carol and Christina. Thank you all for making our Heritage Area so great.

I encourage all of you to participate in our partners' educational, recreational and cultural activities this holiday season and throughout the winter months. Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Charles Carroll House North Porch Project

A long-awaited restoration project has been completed at the historic home of Charles Carroll, located behind St. Mary's Church in Annapolis. The North facade of the Carroll House was restored to its appearance at the time of the Declaration of Independence.

The design of the restored porch was based on a drawing by E. Sachse & Co. from 1858, the only available image of the original structure.

The restoration efforts began in 2005 when a later structure was removed, exposing the area of the original front door. In 2011, a state bond bill allowed



Restored porch



Sachse Drawing

the project to move forward with the construction of a stately portico, complete with limestone columns, pilasters and a gable roof. The re-opening of the original front door now provides visitors access and restores the grandeur of the North façade when viewed from St. Mary's garden. A new brick walk from the public sidewalk leads visitors to the restored entrance.



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Four Rivers Awards Ten New Heritage Mini-Grants

Earlier this month, Four Rivers announced ten new mini-grant awards to local heritage-related non-profit organizations as part of our fall mini-grant program. The grant awards totaled \$19,152, for projects totaling more than \$184,000. This matching mini-grants program, made possible for the thirteenth year through financial support from the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, leverages other funding to assist local heritage non-profit organizations to create new programs, activities, and events that build upon shared interpretive themes, foster collaborative partnerships, and enhance local cultural historic resources and heritage tourism.

Organizations and projects approved for FY2017 Fall Mini-grant awards are:

- Annapolis Maritime Museum, Inc., for improvements to the Ellen O.

Moyer Nature Park at Back Creek for educational programming, grant award: \$2,500

- Brewer Hill Cemetery Association, Inc., for the People's Community of Brewer Hill Cemetery, new research with associated public programs, grant award: \$1,000
- Chesapeake Children's Museum, Inc., for "Maryland Day Weekend 2017," managing the Maryland Day Celebration event, grant award: \$2,500
- Deale Area Historical Society, Inc., for signage and brochures to be placed at the entrance to the Historic Village, grant award: \$800
- Friends of the Maryland State Archives, for "Washington's Resignation Speech: An Historic Document for Maryland," a new interpretive brochure for the Maryland State House, grant award: \$1,532

- Galesville Heritage Society, for a new brochure for the Galesville Heritage Museum, grant award: \$1,620
- Historic Annapolis, Inc., for "Past to Present, You to Me: Stories that Connect Us," school programs and educator workshop for two Annapolis exhibits, grant award: \$2,500
- Make Your Mark Media, Inc., in partnership with the Property Owners Association of Arundel-on-the-Bay, for "Arundel-on-the-Bay History Book and Video," production of a 250 page book and 26 minute video on the history of the community, grant award: \$2,250
- The Mitchell Gallery, St. John's College, for "Ruth Starr Rose: Revelations of African American Life in Maryland and the World," educational programs to accompany the upcoming exhibit, grant award: \$1,950
- Town of Highland Beach, for "Highland Beach Historical Properties Passport," a guide to 31 historical properties in the Town of Highland Beach, grant award: \$2,500

Four Rivers Welcomes Two New Coordinating Council Members



Four Rivers is excited to welcome two new Coordinating Council members this Fall. **Lily Openshaw, PE** (pictured left) is a registered professional civil engineer with a BSCE from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and an MSEE from Johns Hopkins University. She served 3 tours as a Naval Officer in the Civil Engineering Corps, receiving awards including Navy Commendation Medals and the Navy Achievement Medal. After her military service, she worked for several engineering firms, and as an engineering manager for the City of Annapolis. She is Principal of Chesapeake Blue and Green, an engineering management firm she founded four years ago. Currently, she manages the design/build project to construct a new Water Treatment Plant for the City of Annapolis. Lily is President of the St. Mary's Church Pastoral Council. Previously, she served as Chairman of Leadership Anne Arundel, and President of the Board for Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts and for the Chesapeake Children's Museum. Lily and her husband David have four children; she enjoys her book club (of 20 years) and is an avid USTA league tennis player.

Emily Oland Squires (pictured right) serves as the Director of Research, Education and Outreach at the Maryland State Archives. She has worked at the Archives since joining the agency as a summer intern in 1995. Emily completed her Bachelor's in History at Western Maryland College, and went on to earn a Master's in Historical Studies at University of Maryland Baltimore County. She has past experience working in fundraising and advancement for the University of Maryland Foundation Development Office. She is a native Marylander born in Frederick and presently lives in Ellicott City with her husband, two sons and dog, Shadow. She loves volunteering, especially at her children's school where she is currently serving as the chair for the 2017 Annapolis Book Festival. Her favorite part about working at the Archives is sharing Maryland's amazing collections with the community. She feels that there is so much to learn from our local history, and original documents and artifacts from the Archives are the best way to immerse yourself in all the rich details of the past.



Heritage Awards

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Heritage Professional of the Year Award

This year's award recognizes Valentino Owens of Valeu Photography for his dedication to sharing the impact of local community programs and events through photography.

Heritage Volunteer of the Year Award

This award recognizes an outstanding volunteer who has made a significant difference. This year's honoree is Eileen Leahy of the Charles Carroll House for her leadership role in preserving and sustaining this significant local landmark for more than a decade.

Heritage Interpreter of the Year Award

This award recognizes an individual who provides outstanding educational information to the public. The 2016 award recognizes Judith Jones of Hammond-Harwood House for her significant impact on innovative interpretive programming.



Event attendees (l to r) Lyndra Marshall (Four Rivers Coordinating Council member) with Maya Davis.

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The Stewardship Award

This award recognizes outstanding leadership in stewardship. In 2016 the award is given to the "Weather it Together" Initiative of the Annapolis City Council, for planning for long-term protection of the Annapolis Historic District from the effects of sea-level rise.

Public/Private Initiative Award

This award recognizes an outstanding initiative undertaken through a partnership of public and private businesses or organizations to promote local heritage. In 2016 the award is given to the City of Annapolis Art in Public Places Commission for "Art in the City of Annapolis," an outstanding interpretive publication about the City's rich artistic heritage.



Heritage Leadership honoree Dorothy Whitman (right), with John Whitman and granddaughter, Madison Weedy.

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Heritage Leadership Award

This award recognizes an individual for significant and long lasting contributions to the heritage community. The 2016 Heritage Leadership Award goes to Dorothy Whitman of the Gales-

ville Heritage Society for long-time devotion of her time, energy and passion to ensure the sustainability of the organization.

Heritage Sponsor of the Year Award

This award recognizes a regional business or organization for outstanding sponsorship. The 2016 award is presented to Judi Herrmann of Herrmann Advertising for her generous efforts in support of several local heritage and preservation organizations.

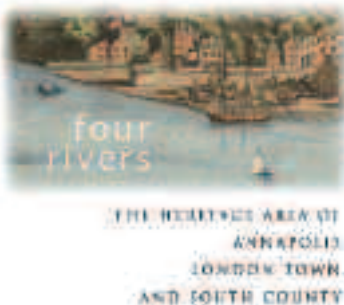
The Patricia Barland Leadership Award

The recipients of the new award are Ted and Betty Mack, for their vision and leadership in sharing the stories of our communities and weaving them together to create a broader and more inclusive whole.



Patricia Barland Leadership Award honorees, Ted and Betty Mack.

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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.

