

Currents

The newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area

ANNAPOLIS

LONDON TOWN

SOUTH COUNTY

ENJOY THE OUTDOORS:

Get out on the water, or just enjoy a waterfront view

The spring and summer months bring welcome opportunities to get outside, enjoy the outdoors, and experience something new in the heritage area. Whether you are getting out on the water, exploring the shore, or following a trail deep into one of our parks, you will find abundant nature and lots of recreational choices.

Are you a “Cartop Boater”? There are more places than ever where you can launch (check out our website for details). Even if you don’t have your own kayak or paddle board, there are outfitters available at several of our local waterfront parks, for an hour or two of pure escape. If you have time, there are boat tours out of Annapolis that offer a different perspective of local history and heritage.



Beverly Triton Park

Many of our parks are waterfront; some are urban, like Susan Campbell Park in downtown Annapolis, and others are surprisingly close to downtown, such as Jonas and Anne Catherine Green Park across the Severn from the Naval Academy, and Quiet Waters Park only minutes to the south. You won’t find the water at Truxton Park unless

you follow the trails deep into the woods to lovely wetlands at the top of Spa Creek.

In South County, visit Historic London Town and Gardens,



Truxton Park

where twenty acres of gardens complement history in a lovely waterfront setting; stroll the beach at Beverly Triton Park; or enjoy the lawn and dock at the Captain Avery Museum overlooking a wide expanse of the Bay. At nearly every one of our heritage attractions, you will find not only water views, but a glimpse into the past lives of watermen who lived there. So get outside this season, for hands-on encounters with the natural side of local heritage!



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ANNAPOLIS,
LONDON TOWN,
AND SOUTH COUNTY

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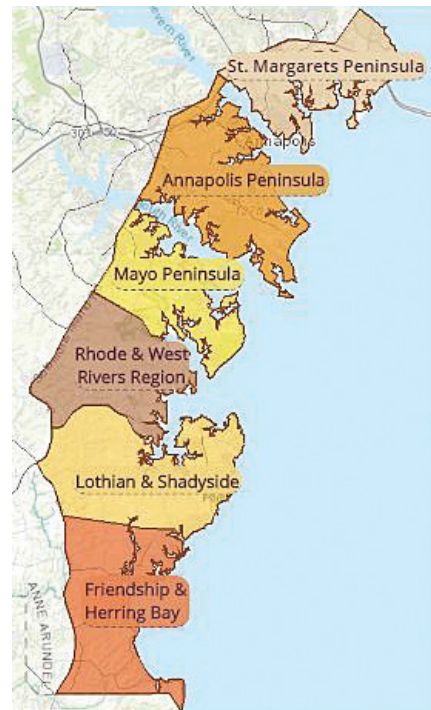
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African American Heritage Project to Launch on July 20

Grant-Funded Project by Lost Towns Project and Anne Arundel County

An extensive new online resource about African American history and heritage in the Four Rivers Heritage Area has been developed by the nonprofit, The Lost Towns Project, with support from Anne Arundel County. This virtual trail, entitled "African American Voices, Memories and Places: A Four Rivers Heritage Trail," will launch on July 20th with a community event at Asbury United Methodist Church in Annapolis, featuring readings, music, and previews of the site's many multi-media experiences. Funded in part by a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the interactive website has a "Story Map" structure with facts, stories, images, and oral history videos about African American heritage in the Four Rivers Heritage Area. Viewers are invited to explore locations on a detailed interactive map of the heritage area, divided into 6 geographic sections, highlighting more than 190 historic places, some of which exist only in memories and photographs, representing a broad range of our local African American heritage. The website was created by a team of local and professional historians, genealogists, and, most importantly, community members who came forward to participate in public input meetings held last year. Congratulations to all involved, and mark your calendars for July 20!



SPOTLIGHT ON: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Restoring the South River's natural heritage

When Captain John Smith first sailed the Chesapeake Bay in 1608, he described oyster reefs so large they could ground ships and oysters so abundant they were "thick as stones." Pollution and overharvesting have since degraded the Bay's oyster population. But the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and its partners in

the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance are restoring this natural heritage by building oyster reefs and planting 10 billion oysters in the Bay by 2025.

Last year, CBF built nearly 300 reef balls to place in Glebe Bay on the South River. The reef balls will form part of the Arundel Rivers Federation's living shoreline project to protect nearby communities from erosion and sea level rise. They will also create habitat for fish, oysters, and other Bay critters. Oysters are an integral part of our region's history and culture; projects like this help ensure they will be around for future generations, too.

To learn more about CBF's oyster restoration work, visit cbf.org/oysters.



Cemetery Symposium Brings Experts Together

On June 8, the Galesville Community Center was filled to capacity with an audience of 75 professionals and volunteers for a half-day symposium entitled, "Resurrecting Histories: Cemeteries of the Four Rivers Heritage Area." The program was organized by the staff of the Anne Arundel County Cultural Resource Division, and funded in part by a Mini-Grant from Four Rivers, with additional support by Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, and Anne Arundel County. The presentations were followed by lunch (provided by the site,) and tours of the nearby Quaker Burying Ground. Experts on Resource Management and Documentation, Object Conservation, Community Preservation, Genealogy, Archaeology, and more, shared best practices, examples of new technology, and important stories and insights on cemetery management. Attendees had abundant questions for the panelists, and experts from Prince George's, Montgomery, and

Calvert County joined the conversation with additional insights. Four Rivers thanks all involved for a terrific day of information, resources, and support for the important work of preserving our community cemeteries!



Touring the Quaker Burying Ground



Audience members shared their questions and insights

StoryProject -UPDATE-

The Four Rivers Heritage Area "Story Project" has launched two new Story videos since January, and an additional "Promotional" video that debuted in March to coincide with the Maryland Day Celebration. Our "pilot" video featuring Gertrude Makell of Galesville was joined in April by a Story-video of Jim Cheevers, recently retired from the USNA Museum after 30 years as Curator. This month, a third Story-video was launched with Dottie Byerly, a volunteer docent at Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis. Each Story-video shares a special perspective from one of our heritage area's dedicated volunteers.



Jim Cheevers video

The Maryland Day video featured "cameos" of several of our subjects, each stating, "My Story is About..." Former Curator Jim Cheevers stated, "My story is about encountering questioning minds and helping them find an answer." Gertrude Makell said, "My story is about African American history in South County." Four Rivers Executive Director Carol Benson joined in, stating "My story is about telling other people's stories!" We have many untold stories in our heritage area; do YOU have one to share? Contact our office today, or fill out our online form. And check out the "Story Project" page on the website and on YouTube as our work progresses. Thank you!

Maryland Day Celebration Expands in 2019



The Twelfth Annual Maryland Day Celebration took place on March 29-31, 2019, and this year 92 events were offered at 50 locations, all open to the public for one dollar or FREE during the annual celebration of local history and heritage. The planning team, led by Debbie Wood of the Chesapeake Children's Museum, with consultants Cindy Borchardt (event manager), and Erik Evans (marketing manager), connected with more local attractions and organizations, more local businesses, and more partnership opportunities than ever before. Good weather, new participants, and excellent cross-promotional marketing combined to bring out record numbers for the event.

Two new partners attracted large new audiences. The *Pride of Baltimore II* visited City Dock for its first-ever participation in the Four Rivers Maryland Day Celebration, and over the course of three days, over 6,800 visitors boarded the vessel for a free tour. Anne Arundel County's

Department of Recreation and Parks also participated this year, opening all 4 County regional parks for free during the 3-day weekend, with 22,300 visitors logged.

A special thanks to the "Story Project" team, led by consultant Darren Heater, for creating a promotional "Maryland Day" video. The 1:15-minute video had 9,500 views. In addition, a blogpost and video created by Visit Annapolis featured important Maryland symbols and traditions. Social media cross-promotions by our partners reached a total of 321,700 impressions on Facebook, and there were 10,000-plus visitors and 21,755 views to the event website,



Girls visit the "colonial photo booth" at the Visit Annapolis Visitors Center



Wooden boat models displayed at the Galesville Memorial Hall (Deale and Galesville)

www.marylandday.org. Again this year, Towne Transport offered FREE transportation around Annapolis on Saturday, traveling a loop with ten stops. Many thanks to all who combined efforts to make the event a big success!

SAVE THE DATES OF MARCH 20-22, 2020 FOR NEXT YEAR'S EVENT!

Please remember the **Four Rivers Heritage Area** (legal name ALTSCHA, Inc.) in your charitable donations. Visit our website, www.fourriversheritage.org/support for details on how you can support the organization.



THE HERITAGE AREA OF
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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.



League Cadets of the Training Ship Mercedes perform at City Dock

