

# SOTTERLEY TIMES

The mission of Historic Sotterley, Inc. is to preserve, research and interpret Sotterley Plantation's diverse cultures and environments and to serve as a public educational resource.



NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

SUMMER 2011

SPEAKER SERIES, P. 3

## Picnic in Paris – An Evening to Remember!

Our second annual Gala in the Garden promised to be an evening to remember with the theme “Picnic in Paris”, and it certainly delivered on that promise. As you entered down a lane of streetlamps, garden benches, and lovely bushes and trees, you passed by bicycles with baskets overflowing with flowers and color. Frank Marquart took pictures of the guests with our 1703 Plantation House as their backdrop, and French champagne and a variety of other cocktails greeted the guests as they entered the tents. Statues of French chefs on loan from our own Café des Artistes added to the charm of the décor and the ambiance.

The Hot Club of DC provided musical entertainment again this year, and the sounds of hot jazz with a Parisian flair wafted throughout the tents and gardens. Ken's Creative Kitchen provided the food and service, and wait staff wearing white, black and accented by red scarves circulated delectable morsels and kept the food tables well stocked. A few of the mouth-watering offerings included Ratatouille, French goat cheese and fresh thyme tartine; sea salt and pepper roasted tenderloin; imported French cheese and pates; roasted vegetables; and a variety of miniature French pastries.

There was a wealth of auction items as well – both live and silent, and a generous community had donated the items which filled the tables with an amazing array. (Full listings of the items and their donors can be seen on our blog and website.) Dan Raley was the evening's entertaining auctioneer, and many people were thrilled to win and walk away with a wonderful treasure.

The evening would not have been possible if not for our amazing sponsors and supporters. A full listing of these individuals and companies can be found on page four. Merci to all!

Mark your calendars for June of 2012, when the sounds of steel drums will transport you into an evening in the Caribbean!

## Plantation House Roof Refreshed and Beautiful

Two years ago the roof and shingles of our Plantation House received badly needed restoration and a new coat of stain, but it was time for a critical second coat to be applied this spring. There were also areas of the upper stories that had not been painted since the original restoration in 2000, sorely in need of attention.

Once again Essex South Management, LLC generously donated a man-lift for the project, but when it ran into technical difficulties, United Rentals came to our rescue and donated another man-lift to complete the project. Rodney and Mike Davis were the painters for the project, and their care and attention to detail, produced a building that has never looked better all the way up to the cupola! Our thanks to everyone who made this preservation project of the magnificent 300 year old Plantation House possible!



### Holiday Decorating Volunteers Needed!

Love to decorate for the holidays? We have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! In preparation for our Family Plantation Christmas and Holiday Candlelight Tours events in early December, we are in need of talented individuals with a flair for decorating. Several planning meetings will take place in the fall, with decorating scheduled for late November.

Please contact Linda Tucker Jones at [events@sotterley.org](mailto:events@sotterley.org) or 301-373-2280.

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MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION CLASSIFIED  
BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE  
INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. A COPY OF  
THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS  
AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE OFFICE.**

**A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends of Sotterley,

In the wake of our second annual Gala in the Gardens, I am struck once again by the generosity of a community that loves and cares for Sotterley. Our "Picnic in Paris" was a great success, and the proceeds from this lovely event will provide critical funding that will allow us to continue the excellent educational programming Sotterley has become known for.

Support for this year's Gala came in many ways: the guests who attended the event, our sponsors, auction donors, auction bidders, other donors, Garden Guild volunteers, and the Gala Committee who put in countless hours to produce the event. Due to this outpouring of support, it was a beautiful evening filled with great music, wonderful food, and good times to be had by all. Our thanks go to everyone who made the event possible.

Every day a great deal of work continues to be done behind the scenes at Sotterley. The Education Department is preparing for summer programs and a brand new Summer Camp offering: *Time Traveling: A 1914 Farming Life*. At these camps, children will get a glimpse into life as it was almost 100 years ago at Sotterley Plantation and other farms in Southern Maryland.

Work is proceeding on our Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, and the 10 minute introductory video is nearing completion, as is the audio tour of the Plantation House and the self-guided grounds audio tour. It is so exciting to see the first phase of the grant already in place, and all visitors to the site are now receiving the new guided tour written by Professor Ken Cohen of St. Mary's College of Maryland. Never resting on our laurels, we continue to learn more about Sotterley's rich history and we are implementing new and effective ways to tell our stories and relate them to our visitors.

The need for on-going support never ceases at Sotterley, however, and there is still so much that we need and hope to do. Memberships continue to provide our support base, as do sponsorships for our fall and winter events such as Riverside WineFest, and other generous donations - both monetary and in-kind. All of these donors ultimately support our educational programming, and they ensure that our rich history is preserved for future generations.

It is an exciting time to be part of Sotterley, and for everyone who has made it possible and will continue to do so in the future, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Janice Briscoe  
President, Board of Trustees

# Education Corner

by Jeanne Pirtle, Education Director

Spring blooms a variety of life at Sotterley. Nothing breathes more life into this historic site than hundreds of school children shouting, "Field Trip!" Sotterley's education programs, *Colonial Tidewater Plantation Life*, *Slavery to Freedom* and *Archaeology Rocks!*, were all visited this spring by smiling, shouting, running youth from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade from St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, Anne Arundel, Prince Georges, and Kent counties. Simultaneously, Sotterley also welcomes hundreds of St. Mary's County 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders when they visit our site in the spring for their environmental and canoeing programs.

On Saturday, April 2, 2011, Sotterley hosted a teacher workshop as part of a partnership with Sultana and Calvert Marine Museum's Roots of a Nation program, funded by a Teaching American History (TAH) grant that focused on events related to the War of 1812. Sotterley's workshop, led by Education Director, Jeanne Pirtle, dealt primarily with teaching the subject of slavery. Teachers took part in a roundtable discussion, took a tour of the Plantation House and grounds, including the new interpretation which now has stories of Sotterley slaves that lived and worked here during the summer of 1814. Teachers also participated in Sotterley's *Slavery to Freedom Program*. Ten elementary and middle school social studies teachers representing five counties in Maryland attended the one day workshop. Teachers will take resources and ideas from the workshop and incorporate those into their classroom lesson plans which will also be used by other teachers in their districts. A special thank you goes to Leslie Burgess for coming in to assist that afternoon.

## It's Your Interpretation:

This season, Sotterley interpreters faced the challenge of learning the new tour, *Discovering Sotterley*, in time for the opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Keep in mind that the ink was still wet on this tour it was so new. The Plantation House had undergone a transformation, with collections and rooms set up to present the new tour through the lens of the Colonial Revival period. Some interpreters had less than a month to learn and execute the new tour. Interpreters were able to meet this challenge. Both seasoned interpreters and new faces to Sotterley have done a masterful job in a very short time.

## Sign up at McKay's and Food Lion to Support Sotterley

There are two easy ways to support Sotterley Plantation – both by simply shopping for your groceries! Historic Sotterley, Inc. has registered for the **Food Lion "Lion Shop & Share"** program and for **McKay's Fine Foods and Pharmacy "Community Rewards Giveaway."** If you have a MVP or Gold Card (or both!), you can designate Historic Sotterley as the non-profit recipient of your points. You may register on-line with both Food Lion or McKay's or may register in the store. Alternatively, you can sign up with Kim Tune for the Food Lion program by e-mailing [membership@sotterley.org](mailto:membership@sotterley.org) with your name and full MVP number. Two great ways to support Sotterley Plantation – all through buying your groceries! **Sign up today!**



## Speaker Series: Joseph McGill

"Slave Cabin Project"

Sunday, July 10, 2011 | 1:00 p.m. in the Barn

Sotterley Plantation is proud to partner with The Boeing Company in presenting Joseph McGill's "Slave Cabin Project" on Sunday, July 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m., as part of the 2011 Speaker Series at Sotterley.

The night prior to Joseph McGill's Sunday presentation, he will spend the evening in our original 1830's Slave Cabin. For the last year, he has been making his way throughout the Southeast sleeping in these historic structures in order to honor the memory of all the people who lived in these cabins and to bring much-needed attention and resources to slave cabin restoration. In a recent interview with NPR, McGill said, "You get inside these walls and you think about that time of slavery and wonder what went through these people's minds, because within these walls was probably the easiest time of their lives. We know that beyond those walls there was a lot of hard work and toil."

*Although this newsletter was published prior to Mr. McGill's lecture, many of our recipients may not receive their newsletter until after the event has taken place. Please put our final speaker, Jennifer Van Horn "Re-Interpreting Mount Vernon's Greenhouse Slave Quarters" on your calendar for Friday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m.*

## MHAA Provides a New Site Brochure for Sotterley

In 2010, Historic Sotterley received a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority to Re-interpret Sotterley Plantation, and from this grant came not only a new Interpretation Plan but much of the new signage on site and displays located in the Visitor Center. One final piece of the puzzle was to create a more functional brochure to guide visitors as they navigate the site, also made possible from the MHAA grant funding.

Now when you check in at the Visitor Center, you will receive a lovely full-color brochure which will help you learn more about the site and the many buildings that you encounter on your journey. This new brochure will enrich the experience of all of our visitors to Sotterley Plantation, and will help our guests understand our history and stories.



## YOU could be a STAR in the most thrilling Ghost Tours in town!

Sotterley Plantation is pleased to announce open auditions for this year's Ghosts of Sotterley Tours 2011 on the following dates:

- Tuesday, August 16 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, August 20 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 23 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, August 27 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The ever-so popular Ghosts of Sotterley Tours have been expanded to include a second weekend this year! Run dates: October 13, 14, 15, 21, and 22 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Also needed: Tech and Make-up crew. Limited to ages 12 and up.



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**Avec Gratitude à  
The Gala in the Garden Committee**

Ellen Zahniser, *Committee Chair*  
Jan Briscoe, Linda Colina, Nancy Easterling,  
Sheila Gibbons Hiebert, Linda Tucker Jones, Eileen Miller,  
Mary Ann Stamm, Katherine Stormont and the Sotterley Staff

Much Thanks to:

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## Turkey Shed and Visitor Center Outbuilding Roof Projects

One of the most important restoration projects to any building is the installation of a new roof. Several buildings on site have been in desperate need of new roofing, and were either starting to leak or had been tarped to prevent further damage.

Our Turkey Shed, located near the Gardens, is used for the second grade environmental programs and by our Garden Guild. Without funding to replace the deteriorating roof, the daylight which could be seen through certain sections of the roof was becoming more and more worrisome by the day.

Matt Kulp had noted how bad the roof looked when he came on site to help plan his daughter's wedding this spring, and he generously offered to donate the needed materials and labor to replace the roof. Before the first class of children filled the building in mid-April, Matt and his crew had finished the project and the new roof was in place.

Three of the buildings surrounding the Visitor Center are currently in desperate need of new roofing: The Wood Shed, the Creamery, and the Archaeology Shed. This summer the Sotterley maintenance team along with Matt Kulp will provide the labor for this project, and the shingles will be supplied by donations from Dean Lumber and the Easterlings. We thank all those who helped to provide the critical support needed to make these projects a reality!

## Interns makes a Big Difference at Sotterley

Just prior to her May graduation from St. Mary's College of Maryland, "Sullivan Scholar" and Sotterley intern, Juliana Franck gave her closing presentation to visitors and Sotterley staff, sharing her varied experiences which were significantly helpful to our site.

"The best part of working at a museum for the first time was discovering that there's a kind of "secret Sotterley" that not everybody gets to see - from the behind the scenes work of the museum's operation to the site stories," stated Franck. "It was an awesome opportunity to witness the changes that Sotterley Plantation is making. I love that previously stored collections have been unveiled to the world and that the Interpretation Committee coupled the objects with personal stories from a wide range of characters from the past. Even better was feeling like I was at all a part of it, and getting to delve into the collections with Jeanne Pirtle."

As part of the IMLS Re-Interpretation Project, she assisted Dr. Kenneth Cohen, Professor of History and Museum Studies at SMCM and Sotterley Education Director, Jeanne Pirtle. In this realm, she transcribed oral histories and prepared excerpts from the next phase of this project - the production of streaming video for the website and the film which will be shown at the Sotterley Visitor Center.



*Sotterley intern, Juliana Franck*

During the research aspect of the internship, Franck focused on the Herbert Satterlee and the Colonial Revival Era at Sotterley. Her assistance with evaluating research obtained from the Maryland State Archives on farming and tax records revealed the buildings and their locations during Satterlee's ownership. Franck's research was used in the creation of the new Plantation House tour experience, looking at the over 300 years of history through the lens of the Colonial Revival time period.

The Larder Project also benefited from Franck's time and attention, adding a new room to the guided tour. Combining past and recently obtained research, she was part of the team to choose specific pieces for inclusion from the Sotterley collection and from other sources.



*Summer intern, Austin Kibler*

Additionally, Franck worked in the Sotterley Archives, which were in desperate need of being reorganized. Not only did she recommend the purging of some items which did not belong, but she successfully put into effect a usable cataloging system for retrieving information concisely and efficiently.

"Juliana was an absolute joy to have here at Sotterley," stated Sotterley Education Director, Jeanne Pirtle, "This six month internship was a rich experience for both the site and for Juliana."

**NEW Face at Sotterley!** Austin Kibler, Political Science and History major at St. Mary's College of Maryland, is our summer intern, who arrived on site in the nick of time. He is responsible for working with the collections committee to record and inventory each room of the Plantation House and pieces still in storage, and will also provide research on some of our pieces to the interpreters.



## Our Grape Arbor Needs Your Help!

The Grape Arbor Restoration Project is approaching the monetary goal, thanks to the generosity of many! Additional funds are still needed for the replacement of the unsafe columns. Donations may be sent directly to Historic Sotterley, Inc. and designated as "Grape Arbor" funds, or you may call the Sotterley Office to donate by Visa or MasterCard.

## *A Special Thanks to our Garden Fair Sponsors*

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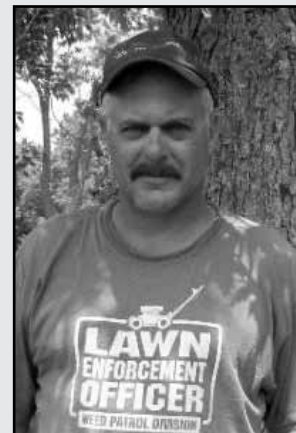


## Seasonal Employees

Since Henry Johnston needed to go on leave for shoulder surgery, we have been fortunate enough to have Jeff Long and Matt Dooley join us as much-needed seasonal help.



Matt Dooley has been tremendously skillful in working on the education plots, preparing for this year's Summer Camps.



Jeff Long has 20 years of experience in landscaping and home improvement and has been a huge asset to the maintenance department.

# Membership & Volunteer Corner

Meet Kim Tune, our new Membership/Volunteer Coordinator



I am so excited about being the Membership and Volunteer Coordinator for Historic Sotterley. I want to introduce myself and let you see what I hope to bring to both of these programs.

I moved to St. Mary's County two years ago from where I was born and raised in Tennessee. My previous work experience has been in the small family owned business world. It was during this time that I learned one of the top reasons why an individual decides to become a member of an organization was because someone *asked them to join*. Let's see if we can increase our family by asking someone to become a member at Sotterley.

Although I no longer live in the Volunteer State, I am still a Volunteer at heart. I donate my time to my church, community, and other organizations. I understand and appreciate why people choose to volunteer. As volunteers we know it can be a very thankless job, but at the same time there is no greater reward. So from one volunteer to another I would like to say, "Thank You." I look forward to working together.

**Save the Dates! Volunteers needed for our two upcoming fall events:**

Riverside WineFest at Sotterley, October 1 & 2

Ghosts of Sotterley Tours, October 13, 14, 15, 21 & 22

## Members' Program at Sotterley: Preserving an Exciting History

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND FEES

As a private, non-profit organization, Sotterley depends upon the generosity of its membership to provide essential funding for programs, operations and preservation of the 300-year-old site. By joining Sotterley, or by renewing your membership, you help ensure that, at Sotterley, history will continue into its fourth century.

**\$35 Individual Membership** – Newsletter subscription, 10% discount at the Museum Shop, invitation to members-only events, recognition in the newsletter, and unlimited tours for one adult.

**\$65 Family/Dual Membership** – Individual benefits plus unlimited tours for two adults and family members under 16.

**\$150 Patron Membership** – Family/Dual benefits plus tour admission for two additional adult guests and one free Family/Dual membership to the party of your choice.

**\$300 Sponsor Membership** – Patron benefits plus tour admission for four additional adult guests.

**\$500 Preserver Membership** - Sponsor benefits plus tour admission for six additional adult guests.

**\$1,200 George Plater Society** – Preserver benefits plus invitations to special events and receptions for GPS, Rousby Circle and Board of Trustee members.

**\$2,500 Rousby Circle of Giving** – George Plater Society benefits plus 25% discount on site rentals and name recognition on site signage.

**YES! I WANT TO JOIN SOTTERLEY'S MEMBERS' PROGRAM**

**RENEWAL** - AT THE FOLLOWING LEVEL:

**NEW MEMBER** - PLEASE SIGN ME UP AT THE FOLLOWING LEVEL:

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YOU CAN JOIN BY MAILING THE OPPOSITE PANEL ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO:

HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.,  
P.O. Box 67, Hollywood, MD 20636

## Mark your 2011 Calendar!

**Speaker Series: Joseph McGill "Slave Cabin Project"**  
 Sunday, July 10, 2011 - 1:00 p.m. in the Barn. Free to the public, but seating is limited. Call for reservations.

**Speaker Series: Jennifer Van Horn "Re-Interpreting Mount Vernon's Greenhouse Slave Quarters"** Friday, September 23, 2011 - 7:00 p.m. in the Barn. Free to the public, but seating is limited. Call for reservations.

**Riverside WineFest at Sotterley 2011**  
 October 1 & 2 - Noon - 6pm - \$

**Ghosts of Sotterley Tours**  
 October 13, 14, 15, 21 & 22 - Reservations Required!  
 Tours begin at 7pm \$

**Family Plantation Christmas**  
 December 3 - 10am - 4pm - \$ at the gate only

**Members' Night of the Holiday Candlelight Tours**  
 December 8 - Reservations Required! Tours begin at 6pm - \$

**Holiday Candlelight Tours**  
 December 9 & 10 - Reservations Required!  
 Tours begin at 6pm - \$



Maryland Master Gardener Advanced Training in Entomology "Getting Intimate with Your Foe" was presented in Sotterley's Colonial Revival Garden by Michael J. Raupp, Ph.D., Entomologist; University of Maryland Professor and Extension Specialist.  
 Photo courtesy of Joan Armistead

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**Remembering Sotterley in your Will is an incredible gift and will ensure the continuation of our mission for future generations.**  
 For information, please call Nancy Easterling  
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