

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.

WINTER 2010

MEMBERS LIST, P. 4-5

Roof Restorations Complete!

Four of our historic outbuildings - the Corn Crib, the Warehouse, the Necessary, and the Tool Shed - underwent restoration of their aging cedar shingle roofs. With the impending threat of deterioration to the substructures, the work was completed within a few weeks time by Kerry Shackelford and his crew from Museum Resources, Inc. under the direction of Sotterley's Restoration Manager, John O'Rourke.

"We are grateful that the preservation of these four important structures is complete, and we thank all for the generous support in making this possible!" stated Nancy Easterling, Executive Director, "Not only was the work vitally important, but the added advantage is how absolutely magnificent our site looks." Funding for this vital project was made possible from the Maryland State Bond Bill, a \$2,500 donation from Preservation Maryland, a \$2,500 donation from the Sotterley Garden Guild, and contributions from individual supporters: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Bell, II, Mr. and Mrs. John Bohanan, VADM and Mrs. Tim Heely, Ms. Jacqueline Owens Lancaster, Mr. Harry Weitzel, Jr., and Ms. Christine Wray and Mr. John Felicitas.



Projects which were part of the match included: the restoration and restaining of the Plantation House roof with the help of Sotterley's Trustees and Essex South Management; painting of the Plantation House with donations by BAE Systems and Dean's Custom Painting; the renovation of our Tractor Shed with the in-kind generous support of Blazer Construction and Robert Dade; and the renovation of the former Museum Shop restrooms generously donated by Compass Pointe, LLC.

Education Updates

by Jeanne Pirtle

Sotterley hosted a group of students from SMCM on September 10th. As part of Professor Andrew Cognard-Black's Freshman Experience class, they incorporated Sotterley's *To Be Enslaved* (formerly Slave Cabin) program which included a class with tours of the Plantation House and Slave Cabin. The class had been reading the narrative of Fredrick Douglass.

On September 22, a class from Professor Wayne Karlin's literature class joined Sotterley for the *To Be Enslaved* program. History and literature seem to mix well at Sotterley and add an extra depth to any genre or lesson plan.

Thirty-four eighth graders, from the Calverton School in Calvert County, were on hand at Sotterley on November 4 for the *Slavery to Freedom* program. It was a rainy day with roof restoration on site, but with Sotterley's outbuildings, many porches, and a wonderful maintenance staff to help, the program went on without a hitch.

On November 16, sixty-four 2nd graders from J. P. Ryon Elementary School in Charles County were here for the *Colonial Tidewater Plantation Life* program. The bell was ringing all day and the Plantation House was surrounded by children's shouts and laughter. A thank you goes to a wonderful teaching staff. The rain stayed away; learning and fun was the order of the day.



Our sincerest thanks to the many volunteers who helped make the Riverside WineFest at Sotterley 2011 and the Ghosts of Sotterley Tours so tremendously successful. We couldn't have done it with you! Go to: www.sotterleyplantation.blogspot.com for the complete "Thank You" lists!

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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



It is the time of year for reflection as we look back on our past accomplishments and all that has been achieved at Sotterley. More than ever before, this year has demonstrated that we live in a wonderful community of generous and dedicated people whose efforts and support made it possible for Sotterley to continue its mission and prosper.

With the support of so many, Sotterley has weathered many storms this year, both literally and figuratively. We can take pride in ending 2010 with a new Visitor's Center created from our old "Knott House", and four of its historic buildings now have new badly-needed roofs. Additionally, record numbers of visitors attended our many cultural events and educational programs to enjoy Sotterley's unique beauty and rich history.

This and so much more was made possible by an invaluable group of supporters who include: our members, volunteers, sponsors, partners, staff, county, state and federal agencies and officials, and our Board of Trustees. Each and every one of you deserves credit and thanks for all of Sotterley's successes. We could not have done it without you.

There is much to look forward to in 2011, including the addition of three new trustees who will enhance what is already a proactive and generous group that governs Sotterley so responsibly. Our deepest appreciation goes to long-serving trustee Roger Stone who leaves a great legacy of improvements to Sotterley, and we are most grateful for his service.

Four individuals have been named as Trustee Emeritus for their extraordinary service to Sotterley. Rather than rest on their laurels as former Presidents of the Board of Trustees, they have continued to tirelessly work for the good of Sotterley and we are most thankful for their dedication. They are an inspiration to all of us.

As 2010 draws to a close, I hope that you can join us for our upcoming Holiday Candlelight Tours and Family Plantation Christmas as we celebrate the magic of the season. I wish you all the best for the holidays and New Year, and look forward to what we can achieve together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Jan Briscoe
President, Board of Trustees
Historic Sotterley, Inc.

Be Green in 2011!

For those of you who are willing to receive the Sotterley Times newsletter electronically, please send your email address and contact information to membership@sotterley.org. This effort not only helps the environment, but also enables Sotterley to save funds. Thank you, in advance, for joining The Green Team!

Hails, Farewells and Distinctions!



Lynn Fitrell

At October's Board & Staff annual dinner, four past board members and former Presidents of the Board accepted the distinction of being named Trustee Emeritus of Historic Sotterley, Inc. Each one of these individuals has gone above and beyond the call of duty in support of Sotterley and her mission, and each continues to play an important and active role while offering invaluable guidance and support. The newly designated Trustee Emeritus are: the Honorable John Hanson Briscoe, Sandra van Heerden, Michael Whitson and Ellen Zahniser. We thank John Hanson, Sandra, Michael and Ellen for all that they have done and for all they continue to do for Sotterley!



Charles "Bert" Johnston

Roger Stone has stepped down from the Board of Trustees after serving 11 faithful years as a member. Roger has played a major role in enabling Sotterley to remain open to the public and to expand her horizons within the Southern Maryland community, and we offer him our sincerest thanks for his long-time and ongoing support and commitment.

We were delighted at the October meeting to welcome three new highly qualified and dedicated members to Sotterley's Board of Trustees. Lynn Fitrell lives just four driveways away from Sotterley, and comes from a professional career showing dedication to non-profits and charitable causes including: Campaign Executive for the United Way of St. Mary's, Founder, Director of the Women's Center of Southern Maryland, and Legislative Office Coordinator for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Charles "Bert" Johnston, RADM USN (ret.) joined Wyle Labs as a Vice



Gregory "Steve" Proctor

President when he retired from the Navy in 2005, and not only is committed to giving back to the community, but has a long-time love of historic homes after living in two locally: Somerville House on NAS Pax, and Deep Falls in Chaptico. Gregory "Steve" Proctor is the Founder, President, and CEO of G.S. Proctor & Associates, Inc., one of the most respected government and private sector advocacy organizations in Maryland, and he also has a strong track record of community support and involvement.

NEW AT SOTTERLEY! PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE!

Sotterley is finally able to embrace modern technology and offer our patrons the convenience of purchasing tickets ONLINE for our upcoming events. Please visit our website www.sotterley.org to order your tickets TODAY!!! Save Time, Buy Online!

Holiday Happenings

Family Plantation Christmas

DECEMBER 4TH 10AM - 4PM

New for 2010: Craft Vendors! Petting Zoo!
Patuxent Voices Acapella Performance!
Sotterley Garden Guild Swag Making Demo!
Old Favorites: Visit St. Nick & Mrs. Claus!
Santa's Secret Shop! Horse-drawn Carriage Rides!
Crafts & Activities! Carol Sing!
Garden Guild's Seasonal Greens & Gifts!
Mrs. Claus' Kitchen! John Deere Toy Display!
\$5 Admission at the Gate



Holiday Candlelight Tours

"SPIES & OTHER GUESTS"

**MEMBERS' NIGHT:
DECEMBER 9TH 6PM**

Reservations required! A special evening of wine, food, song, and the Holiday Candlelight Tours for Members Only.
Call for reservations: 301-373-2280. \$15 per person

**DECEMBER 10TH & 11TH
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!**

TOURS BEGIN AT 6PM; RUN EVERY 10 MINUTES

A historical dramatization set during the Civil War Era within the 1703 Plantation House!

Live Seasonal Music | Light Refreshments
SAVE Time! Buy Online! \$15 per person

www.sotterley.org

Phone orders: \$16 per person 301-373-2280

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Your Support is Appreciated!

Generous Sotterley Plantation supporters will soon begin to send in end of the year contributions in response to our recently mailed appeal. We are still facing difficult financial times, and realize that this makes your donations and support all the more critical. We sincerely thank each of you, in advance, for your ongoing support of this National Historic Landmark.

Join Us Online!

- Join our FaceBook Group
- **Blog:** sotterleyplantation.blogspot.com

IMLS Museums from America Grant Underway!

by Merideth Taylor

Work on the interpretation project is moving forward quickly thanks to the energetic and effective contributions of the Interpretation Committee, Sotterley staff, and our terrific primary consultant Dr. Kenneth Cohen, professor of History and Museum Studies at St. Mary's College. The first two months on our year-long trajectory have been devoted to new research on Sotterley's past, thoughtful analysis of our current tour practices, and lively discussion of goals and objectives for the future.

We've met twice as a whole group and have formed subcommittees who have begun work on major tasks (e.g. tour scripts, visitor orientation video, audio tour, website development, and visitor surveys). Sotterley President Jan Briscoe has generously hosted the meetings at her law offices in Lexington Park. The dedicated committee includes Vice President Julia Moe, Treasurer Donald Barber, President Emeritus Ellen Zahniser, brand new Trustee Lynn Fittrell, as well as other wonderful trustees and staff.

The group's accomplishments so far include: the creation and implementation of a visitor survey to better gauge visitor satisfaction and to learn more about the nature of their experience at Sotterley; historical research on Sotterley and her people in county, state, and national archives; videotaping of the grounds, capturing special events and a tour of selected buildings with John O'Rourke, Sotterley Restoration Manager. We've also just added an important member to our team - Juliana Franck, a St. Mary's College Museum Studies "Sullivan Scholar," who will be assisting Dr. Cohen, Merideth Taylor, and Jeanne Pirtle, Sotterley Education Director with a number of project tasks.

We'll be meeting monthly through August, so if you are interested in joining the effort, please contact Project Director Merideth Taylor at mmtaylor@smcm.edu or 301-862-3517.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

Make a Difference with Planned Giving

Friends of Historic Sotterley, Inc. can leave a lasting impression through planned giving. A bequest - a gift made through your will or trust - is one of the most popular and simple ways to do so. It can be as simple as adding a sentence to your will such as "I give \$ to Historic Sotterley, Inc." You can leave a certain item or asset, an amount of money or a percentage of your estate after fulfillment of your other bequests and expenses.

There are other ways to provide for Sotterley during your lifetime through planned giving. Charitable remainder trust and gift annuities, for example, can provide you with income from a gift while also providing some tax benefit. If you want to consider the tax benefits of donating stock shares that have appreciated in value, or for suggestions on how to set up a charitable bequest or planned gift to benefit Sotterley, contact your financial planner or an attorney who specializes in estate planning. Your generous gift will truly make a positive and lasting difference for Sotterley.

Matching Funds - Making Your Donation Go Even Farther!

Historic Sotterley is able to fulfill its mission of preservation and education due to the generosity of its Southern Maryland community. Its members, sponsors, and other donors provide the critical funding necessary for its continuance; every dollar donated makes an enormous difference. Many people do not realize that there is a way to make their donation go even farther, however, and that is through matching funding. Many employers or businesses with which each of us is affiliated provide matching funds for the non-profits we choose to support. As long as your donation goes to a 501c(3) organization, there are many organizations that will match your donation dollar for dollar (or sometimes even higher!). Businesses often wish to target their giving in order to support those organizations which are important to their employees, and Sotterley has benefited from many such generous matches over the years.

For those joining as members, be aware that Sotterley will raise your membership level by the amount matched by your employer or affiliate. We will also gladly file any paperwork necessary - you only need to provide the required paperwork to us and we will take it from there! Please ask your employer if they offer matching funds since many employees do not even realize that this benefit exists. We hope that many of our supporters can make their donations multiply in their support of our National Historic Landmark.

Volunteer & Membership Corner



Volunteers needed for our two upcoming December events: Family Plantation Christmas on December 4th and the Holiday Candlelight Tours, on December 10th and 11th. If interested in helping out, contact Regina Brown, Membership/Volunteer Coordinator at: volunteer@sotterley.org.

Other Volunteer Opportunities:

Museum Shop: Guests to the site begin their journey at the Museum Shop, housed in our NEW Visitor Center. If you enjoy meeting and greeting the public, this could be the perfect opportunity for you! Training provided.

Interpreters: Take the Mystery Out of History! Enthusiastic and engaging volunteers are needed to conduct guided tours of the 1703 Plantation House. Training provided.

Golf Cart Donation Sought

Do either you or your business have a golf cart that you no longer need or that you are planning to upgrade soon? If so, Sotterley is seeking a donated golf cart in order to facilitate its events and mobility limited guests. Please contact Nancy Easterling if you have any leads or for further information at 301-373-2280.

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.

\$55 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:

Individual - \$35

Family/Dual - \$55

Patron - \$150

Sponsor - \$300

Preserver - \$500

GPS - \$1200

Rousby Circle of Giving - \$2500 and more

Name(s) to appear on recipient mailings

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail

___ Visa ___ Mastercard

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature

Or sign up on-line at www.sotterley.org and receive a complimentary National Trust for Historic Preservation membership for one year!

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

2010 Calendar of Events

Family Plantation Christmas - December 4th, 10am - 4pm
\$ at gate only

Members' Night of the Holiday Candlelight Tours
December 9 - "Spies & Other Guests" Reservations Required!
Tours begin at 6pm \$

Holiday Candlelight Tours December 10 & 11th, 6pm - 10pm. Reservations Required! \$



Mark your 2011 Calendar!

The Garden Fair at Sotterley Plantation
May 14 & 15 - 10am - 4pm - \$ at the gate only

Gala in the Garden
June 18 - Reservations Required! - 5:30 pm - \$

An Independence Day Concert Celebration
July 3 - 1pm - 4pm - \$ at the gate only

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 - \$

Historic Sotterley, Inc. proudly acknowledges our 2010 Corporate Sponsors:

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