

SOTTERLEY TIMES

The mission of Historic Sotterley, Inc. is to preserve, research, and interpret Sotterley Plantation's diverse cultures and environments, and to serve the world as an educational, cultural, and community resource.

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

FALL 2015

CFC #13401

WINEFEST, P. 3

Grand Opening of *Land, Lives and Labor!*

On Friday, September 11th, Historic Sotterley Plantation will hold the grand opening of its first permanent, year-round exhibit, *Land, Lives and Labor*. This important milestone in the interpretation of Sotterley's history will be commemorated with notable guest speakers including Dr. Julia King, Professor of Anthropology, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Dr. Garrey Dennie, Associate Professor of History, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Dr. Rex M. Ellis, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution.

This long awaited project began with the award of a Maryland African American Heritage Preservation Program grant. This grant allowed for the restoration of Historic Sotterley's 19th century Corn Crib, as well as covering the construction costs of creating the permanent exhibit housed there. Funded also in part by Sotterley supporters, the *Land, Lives and Labor* exhibit located both inside and outside the Corn Crib offers visitors a unique view of life at Sotterley from the workers' perspectives, both enslaved and free. The exhibit gives voice to those who far too often in our history had none. Their stories were heavily researched and include primary documents, oral histories and interactive hands-on features, and the exhibit includes examples of some of the historic tools and equipment used to work the lands and waters of Sotterley.

There are many people to thank for their support of this important advancement in Sotterley's interpretation of its history, and a more comprehensive list will be displayed at the exhibit itself. Special thanks must be made, however, to our exhibit project director, Historic Sotterley Trustee Merideth Taylor, for her selflessness, vision and leadership, to Jeanne Pirtle, Sotterley's Education Director, for her support of this project through her writing and valuable research, to our exhibit designer, Dennis Kund, for his creative talents and dedication to Sotterley, to Gus Kiorpes and John O'Rourke for their restoration efforts on the Corn Crib, and to Joe Goldsmith, Historic Sotterley's Facilities and Farm Manager, for his support and work on the building and the exhibit. Our gratitude also goes out to the families whose recollections and history helped to shape the exhibit.

For those unable to attend the exhibit opening, *Land Lives and Labor* can be experienced year-round on any day the site is open. We look forward to sharing this achievement with all of our many supporters and visitors.



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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 with sadness that I am writing about the recent passing of our Trustee Emeritus, Agnes Kane Callum. We have so much to thank this remarkable lady for: her tireless research not only into her own family's history but many others who were enslaved at Sotterley, in Maryland, and throughout our nation; her oral histories and research which helped develop our award-winning education programs; and how her work enhanced our understanding about our slave cabin where so many families, including her own, survived untold hardships. Agnes played a vital role in obtaining support and recognition for Sotterley in the 1990's when our site came perilously close to closing its doors, and her selfless commitment will ensure that important stories from the past are never forgotten. We will miss this remarkable woman, but her legacy and her spirit will endure here at Sotterley forever.

I know Agnes would have wanted to attend the opening of our first permanent exhibit "Land, Lives and Labor" on September 11, as her stories are also a part of this exhibit. In our historic Corn Crib the stories of the people who lived and toiled at Sotterley over 300 years are told. I hope that many of you will come and experience this interesting and important part of the Sotterley's history. I would like to thank the African American Heritage Preservation Program and the other generous donors who funded the restoration of this 19th century structure as well as much of the costs of the exhibit. Sincere gratitude also goes to Sotterley Board Member Merideth Taylor for her leadership and tremendous efforts which made this exhibit a reality, as well as the Interpretation Committee members and our Exhibit Designer Dennis Kund who worked diligently on this project. Thanks to their efforts and so many more, our visitors will come to learn about and appreciate all of the contributions and hardships of those who labored at Sotterley, whose stories deserve to be recognized and remembered.

Fall is almost upon us, and it is filled with so many great activities to enjoy here at Sotterley. Our Farmer's Market will continue through September 26th, and our Speaker Series will host three more excellent guest speakers, ending with a bang thanks to Richard Moe on the topic of his fascinating book, "Roosevelt's Second Act: The Election of 1940 and The Politics of War." Our 13th annual Riverside WineFest will be on October 3rd and 4th, and this celebration of the best of Maryland is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy not only a wide variety of wine but great music, food, beer, and artisans in this beautiful setting on the Patuxent River. Autumn would not be complete without our ever popular Ghosts of Sotterley Tours at the end of October, this event never fails to be full of surprises and excitement. Just as with the Wine Fest, this event is only made possible due to the efforts of many talented and dedicated volunteers in our community.

As always, I thank you each and every one of you for your generous support of Sotterley, I hope to see many of you at all of our amazing offerings in the upcoming months!

With deepest gratitude and very best wishes,
Jan Briscoe

The 13th Annual Riverside WineFest at Sotterley!

October 3 & 4 ~ Beginning at Noon both days

Hollywood, MD – The 13th Annual Riverside WineFest at Sotterley is coming up on Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4th, 2015, celebrating the very best of 18 Maryland wineries in the breathtaking setting of this National Historic Landmark! This event is all good things rolled into one weekend - the wine flows freely, live music is jamming, demonstrations are educational and entertaining, artists are selling their exquisite creations, food is scrumptious, and the 1703 Plantation House Mini Tours and the Colonial Revival Garden Tours are FREE.

This year's fantastic live music line-up:

Saturday: The Piranhas and Come Back Iris!

Sunday: The John Lusk Band and Hydra FX!

This year we have over 25 artisans! Our handcrafting artisans are bringing artwork, jams and jellies, home-baked goods, dyed yarn, antiques and so much more!

Pricing:

\$20 for Designated Drivers

\$25 General Admission at the Gate

\$5 for children ages 6-20 – Under 6 Free

\$2 Parking Fee

Rain or shine event – no refunds. No pets or coolers, but you are welcome to bring chairs and blankets. \$2 Parking Fee.

For more information, visit sotterley.org or call 301-373-2280



\$20 Advanced Discounted tickets online
through September 27th

\$15 for Sotterley Members at the Gate – Join today!

Individual Level (Limit 1 ticket)

Family Level (Limit 2 tickets)

Patron Level (Limit 4 tickets)

Sponsor Level (Limit 6 tickets)

Preserver Level and above (Limit 8 tickets)

Volunteers Needed For WineFest October 3 & 4, 2015

This year's WineFest will be held on October 3 & 4, 2015 at Sotterley Plantation and we are seeking volunteers for this fun event!

If you are able to volunteer, please respond by email and let us know which day and shift you would like to work. All volunteers will be sent their shift information, parking pass, and event details the week of WineFest.

The shifts are approximately as follows:

(Please note that these times will vary depending on location!)

Saturday, October 3rd **Sunday, October 4th**
10:30 - 2:30 & 2:30 - 6:00 10:30 - 2:30 & 2:30 - 5:00

Any individual who works a complete shift will be given a free admission ticket along with a Sotterley tasting glass for unlimited tasting. The ticket may be used any time on either day, but NOT during or immediately prior to their shift. *(Must be 21 or older with a valid ID).*

Please help us by spreading the word to your family, friends and co-workers who would also enjoy volunteering at this event!

Please contact Stacey Svendgard at
coordinator@sotterley.org to sign up today!

Members' Reception Area at WineFest

You are invited to join fellow Members in the Sotterley Spinning Cottage during WineFest. This charming building is located just steps away from the Plantation House and provides the ideal sanctuary for Members to relax during WineFest. The cottage is equipped with a private restroom, climate control, and a place to sit and relax. Make sure you stop by for some light refreshments and a chance to visit this special historic building, which is normally not open to the general public.



Not a Member? Not a Problem! Join Today!

EDUCATION CORNER

Sotterley's mission-based educational programming continues to expand with the opening of the *Land, Lives, and Labor* exhibit and a soon to be completed slave cabin exhibit. These will add to the educational reach of the existing site signage, house and grounds tours, the visitor center, Sotterley's website, and our farmer's market. Sotterley's field trip programming, home school days, and teacher resources continue to support over 4,000 students, teachers and parents each year alone, not to mention summer programming like Small Fry Fridays, Spring Break, Day Care visits, and families that visit Sotterley each tour season.



The upcoming slave cabin exhibit will feature the research and oral traditions of our beloved Agnes Kane Callum, who passed away in August. Ms. Agnes saw Sotterley's educational potential in the telling of her ancestors' story about the Cane family who were enslaved at Sotterley from the 1830s to 1864. She helped develop Sotterley's program for students, *Slavery to Freedom*, that still brings their story to life for students today. The new slave cabin exhibit is expected to be completed later this fall and will be dedicated to her honor and memory.

As Sotterley sees an increase in visitation, it brings a need for more talented docents and education instructors. Sotterley is fortunate to have two new docents this season, Ken Schreiber and Lisa Zimmerman. They join the talented and dedicated Dave Brown, Craig Tyer, Karen Lowry, Julie Woods, Karol Wolgemuth, and Robert Aldridge to provide a memorable and unique experience as they give house tours and hospitality.

Sotterley is already welcoming St. Mary's County second and fifth-grade classes to the site, and instructors are gearing up for a busy field-trip season teaching Sotterley's enriching historical and culturally based programs. In addition to education staff and instructors, these programs are also supported by Sotterley's maintenance and farming staff, and the Garden Guild. It takes several teams of people to make a program at Sotterley pleasant and memorable as well as educational.

Educating the public about Sotterley's history and its people, using the physical remnants of their lives keeps these stories remain relevant to the community, our country, and our world today, and is at the heart of Historic Sotterley's mission. Its continued support is the motivation for all that we do.



Sotterley Farmer's Market through the End of September!

Every Saturday morning since late May, the Sotterley Farmer's Market – a *producer only* farmer's market – has been going strong! As the end of the growing season approaches, we welcome you to shop for locally homegrown and hand-crafted items between 8:00 a.m. – noon every Saturday through September 26, 2015.

Did you know?

- Around 70% of all the produce for sale at the market is grown at Sotterley.
- All of the produce is grown using organic methods.
- Sotterley has donated over 6,000 pounds of produce to local homeless shelters and non-profits.

The market might end at noon, but our site's beauty, nature trails and history is open until 4 pm on Saturday! Guests need only to check in at the Visitor Center to hike and tour the site. As always, Sotterley members get in free and leashed pets are always welcome!



In the Spotlight!

Community Partner In the Spotlight – Buckler Electric

Because of the dedication, generosity, and commitment of our Community Partners, Sotterley is able to fulfill our mission and give back to the community. We would like to take the opportunity to shine the spotlight on one of our many valued partners!

Historic Sotterley Plantation would be in the dark without the professional guidance and selfless dedication of Buckler Electric, LLC. Minor Buckler and Dennis Buckler are the dynamic father and son duo that this National Historic Landmark has relied on for decades for all of our delicate and sensitive electrical needs.

Preserving more than 300 years of history can prove to be a challenging task as many of Sotterley’s electrical systems were constructed around the 1950’s. Today, the Buckler Electric team is always there to provide high quality, lasting electrical services, whether it’s emergency repairs to outdated electrical systems, or complete redesign and construction of the electrical grid to help maintain the safety the 1703 Plantation House. Their professional resources and expertise insure Sotterley’s electrical systems will withstand the test of time.

This generous partner is truly a valued member of the Sotterley family, Minor Buckler and his team have donated most of the work done on site over the years. Minor holds to the belief that Sotterley Plantation is a reflection of so much of the history of St. Mary’s County, and that it is extremely important for Sotterley to continue as a resource for present and future generations. We are grateful to Buckler Electric for their generosity of spirit and continued support as a Community Partner, and for understanding just how much this place matters.

Ghosts of Sotterley – *Lost in the Woods: Tales of the Past*

October 23, 24, 29, 30 & 31

Experiences begin at 7:00 p.m. and run every 10 minutes

ADVANCE Reservations Required – No Walk-ins

Take a journey through some of the darkest moments of Sotterley’s history! This year’s Ghosts of Sotterley – *Lost in the Woods: Tales of the Past* will feature encore performances from distant and more recent productions. You’ll need your wits to get through this entertaining walking tour through Sotterley’s forest. Prepare to encounter both the earthly inhabitants of the era and those not of this earth on this historical and spooky outdoor walking tour/production! Be prepared - this year, the tour goes into the woods!



Advance reservations are required.

Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased online: www.sotterley.org.

NEW! Exclusively for Sotterley Members! Pay only \$10 per person for performances on Thursday, October 23rd! Advance reservations required - call 301-373-2280!

Group rates are available by calling our office 301-373-2280. May not be suitable for young children. Dress appropriately for this spooky outdoor walking tour / production. NO refunds - held rain or shine.

Sotterley Sustainers Recognized

Sotterley is fortunate to have dedicated members and donors who believe in our mission. Through their memberships and yearly donations, our supporters ensure that this irreplaceable treasure will continue serving the world as an educational, cultural, and community resource.

Sotterley is continuing to recognize some of our most dedicated and loyal supporters: *The Sotterley Sustainers*. These donors have devotedly supported Historic Sotterley every year for the past 10 or more years through annual gifts and memberships. Their love of Sotterley is an inspiration to us all, and their exceptional level of steadfast support is the foundation upon which Sotterley continues to build.

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What's New at Sotterley's Museum Shop

We are enjoying another wonderful season with our visitors and we have added a few new locally produced products, Wish candles, honey, and hand milled soaps. In addition, we have framed photographs of Historic Sotterley and note cards by photographer, Nadine Chicoine.

Our Farmer's Market continues through Saturday, September 26th. Be sure to stop by and pick up locally grown organic produce, beef, pork, and chicken, as well as, jellies, jams, herbs, craft items and more.

After October 31st, the Museum Shop will be open every Saturday until December 12th, including Thanksgiving weekend. Be sure to visit us often, bring your pets and walk the trails, or enjoy the many programs we offer throughout the year. Consult our web site www.sotterley.org for additional information.



A Fresh Look at Sotterley!

Sam Baldwin is proud to announce that the Sotterley segment of the John Hanson Briscoe Historical Project is now available online! Mr. Baldwin collaborated with many experts and friends of Sotterley to compile a comprehensive look at Sotterley's history. These new chapters feature a compilation of history and legends and lore. To learn more about Sotterley's long and in-depth impact on the community, search online for "The John Hanson Briscoe Historical Project"!



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- Rousby Circle \$2,500

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Credit Card No.

Signature

***Memberships are now available online!
Visit our new website for a full list of members'
benefits and enrollment forms.***

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit www.sotterley.org for more information

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|--|-----------------------------|
| Farmer's Market | Every Saturday |
| NEW! Homeschool Day #2! "Slavery to Freedom" | September 15 |
| Hands-On History – "Secrets of Sotterley" Members Only! | September 20 |
| Speaker Series #5: Bob Arnebeck "Slave Labor in The Capital: Building Washington's Iconic Federal Landmarks" | September 23 |
| The 13th Annual Riverside WineFest | October 3 & 4 |
| Speaker Series #6: Todd Brewster "Lincoln's Gamble" | October 14 |
| Ghosts of Sotterley | October 23, 24, 29, 30 & 31 |
| Speaker Series #7: Richard Moe "Roosevelt's Second Act: The Election of 1940 and The Politics of War" | November 8 |
| Sotterly Member's Night | December 3 |
| Family Plantation Christmas and Breakfast with Santa | December 12 |

BIRDING THE FIELDS AND TRAILS OF SOTTERLEY

Sunday, September 27th
8:00 am – 11:00 am.

Leaders: David Moulton and
Michael Patterson

Join us for a fall excursion of Sotterley's scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Bald Eagles, migrant songbirds and lingering meadowlarks and sparrows can be found on Sotterley's newly expanded trails and river views.

Beginners welcome! Directions: From Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through gates to the Sotterley Plantation visitors' center parking lot. Please RSVP by the 26th to David at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473



Historic Sotterley, Inc. proudly acknowledges our 2015 Community Partners:

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