

SOTTERLEY TIMES

Preserve our historic structures and natural environment and use the powerful stories of our land, lives, and labor to bring American history to life while serving as a cultural resource.

NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

SUMMER 2018

SUMMER SCHEDULE, 6

Common Ground, Connected Heritage – *Our American Family*



Where do families descended from owners and enslaved come together to discuss their common connection, heritage, the legacies of slavery and roads to healing? It happened at Historic Sotterley during the *Our American Family* event, April 19-21, 2018. As part of the *Common Ground Connected Heritage* project funded by Maryland Humanities, the three day event ranged from the artistic mystique and romantic legend of George Washington to personal stories of lived inequality calling people to action for social justice. It allowed people already active in our communities to glean insight and knowledge to help expose our

society's scars and heal the still open wounds, and to gain strength and validation for their good and challenging work. The stories of descendants helped open discussions and come to grips with our past to face our common struggles and fears, by hearing differing experienced perspectives of our past. There were tears of joy and priceless moments as generations of family came together, and branches of the same family rediscovered one another. We learned of each other's accomplishments and triumphs, and built on the struggles and achievements of our ancestors. It was a small glimpse into what our community and nation could achieve with honest history, listening ears, and open hearts. Historic Sotterley was honored to facilitate this event and will continue in this mission.

Sotterley Education, MSDE, STEM, EXPLORATION and LEARNING!

“So what did you feel when you were researching and creating your project that showed the brand used on the enslaved as they boarded the slave ship?” When asked this question, a 4th grade STEM student from Lexington Park Elementary School, answered, “I think it was dehumanizing.” When we hear this kind of insight at Sotterley from young people, it gives us so much hope for the future. The 4th grade STEM students, led by their teachers, Tammy Belisario and Cindy Carpenter, created signage this year to be donated and used by Sotterley Education. They raised the money themselves at their Spirit night, and spent from fall to spring writing, editing, collecting photographs and digitally designing their signage. The signage included QR codes so visitors could go get more information from Sotterley's website as well as the website created by students from last year. Their experience is based on the *Living on the Patuxent* program at Sotterley, which uses the 1727 inventory of James Bowles, first owner of what was to become Sotterley. This document gives us a glimpse into what life was like in the period here. Students also keep tabs on erosion each year by measuring from season to season. The signage created by the students will be used for site visitors of all ages.



More on page 3

Gatsby in the Garden—June 9th

“Can't repeat the past?...Why of course you can!” Step back into the Roaring 20's with tantalizing cuisine, amazing auction items, sounds of the Jazz era, and more, all set in the splendor of Sotterley's Colonial Revival Gardens. Prizes will be awarded for best costume, so dress to impress! Tickets available now at Sotterley.org; response requested by 5/30.



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SOTTERLEY, INC.**

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**HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC. IS A
NONPROFIT 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



We hope all of you are enjoying our wonderful early summer weather. Come join us for Sotterley's Year of Exploration!

Much of this issue is dedicated to telling you about our first major Descendant's Event. The event, "Common Ground, Collective Heritage" was an amazing multi-day celebration for all those who connect their heritage to Sotterley. It was funded by a grant from Maryland Humanities and by support from several of our descendants. It was a powerful and meaningful experience as you will be able to tell from our pictures and stories.

Our descendants are literally "family" but many in our community are also considered part of Sotterley's "family". Our Hollywood neighbors, like Louise Snell, who came to our rescue after Hurricane Irene are "family". Louise and others stopped working with the devastation in their own yards and came to Sotterley to help us.

Our volunteers are "family" - people like Leslie Burgess. Leslie has served in nearly every job a volunteer can - at our Museum shop, as an educational instructor, a volunteer for Ghosts of Sotterley and WineFest, and she and her husband, Harry, have decorated the House for the holiday season for the past many years.

Our staff are "family". All of them put in long hours, many of which are volunteered, to make this place ready for you and your family.

We recently posted a video on Facebook that shows children and their families enjoying education programs and fun family events throughout the year. Come out with yours and enjoy our beautiful 94 acres of rolling pasture, farmland and forest perfectly situated on the Patuxent River. Take one of our Nature Walks; come enjoy our Exploration Fridays or our Bird Watching or our star gazing.

Families and Sotterley go together like peanut butter and jelly. Come see us! We'll be waiting.

Warmest Regards,
Bert Johnston
President, Board of Trustees

P.S. Our Gala is going to be Saturday, June 9th, and the theme is "Gatsby in the Garden". Don't miss it - it promises to be fantastic!



EDUCATION (cont)

Another popular program Sotterley Education offers is *Tidewater Plantation Life*. This program gives early elementary school children a taste of what life would have been like for children living and working at Sotterley and what they experienced. Whether you were George Cane, an enslaved boy working to bring water to the girls' boarding school while listening in on their lessons in the mid 1800's, or young Rebecca Plater, playing games in the garden with her siblings in the 1700's, students experience hands-on interactive activities that engage and create authentic experiences in the actual place where these children of the past once walked. During a visit from Mutual Elementary School from Calvert County, Sotterley

welcomed observers from the Maryland Department of Education, Breanna Creed and Leah Renzi. Sotterley programming is observed at least once a year as a State Aided Institution. SAI is a state grant program facilitated by the Maryland State Department of Education. One of the advantages of this for Sotterley besides some grant funding to serve students, is being on the cutting edge of education in the state. Sotterley's programming is aligned with state standards and directives. Sotterley's Education personnel are also invited to attend trainings and even present to other educators in the state. Please encourage your state representatives to keep funding this important SAI program that not only benefits Sotterley, but a list of other non-profit organizations that provide these essential experiences to Maryland Students. Sotterley regularly touches students, teachers and parents from 5 to 6 school districts in Maryland and the District of Columbia each and every year.

Sotterley offers the public three, award winning year-round exhibits, *Land Lives and Labor* at the Corn crib, the *Slave Cabin* exhibit and the new *Urgency of Preservation* exhibit at the Warehouse. Visitors can view Sotterley's introductory film, *A Tidewater Legacy*, and the film, *The Choice*, both at the Visitor Center, as well as learn from interpretive signage over the historic core, audio grounds tours, and docent led tours of the manor house from May to October. And this is just on a regular day for visitors at Sotterley! To find out more about what Sotterley education has to offer, call the office or email the Education department at education@sotterley.org.



JUNIOR DOCENT ACADEMY June 18 & 19, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Perfect for ages 8 - 18, our Junior Docent Academy will enhance your communication skills while sharing our rich history and exquisite site with visitors. Upon successful completion, you will become Junior Docents and ambassadors of Historic Sotterley! Advance registration required at Sotterley.org.



There are so many ways for the family to explore Sotterley this summer!

Last summer, Sotterley hosted Butterfly Fridays, which were popular and fun. This summer, become a Citizen Scientist during Butterfly Week, June 25-29th, featuring family-friendly guided activities for all ages. Read and hear about *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, see and touch caterpillar food, create your own hungry caterpillar, build and decorate a butterfly house, make butterfly baths, butterfly feeders, and mini butterfly gardens. Become an official Sotterley caterpillar and butterfly counter!

And you won't want to miss Exploration Fridays, each Friday morning from July 6 through August 3rd, with a different activity every week! Explore trails, paint with nature, create and play colonial games, explore seeds and planting, go on a bugs, bees and butterfly hunt, and make your own music.

Bring a picnic and stay for the day — it's the perfect getaway, right in your backyard!

What was the most important thing you learned at this event?

“It’s important to embrace your community—good and bad.

I learned about the extensive efforts that the Sotterley Board took to broaden its historical genealogical programming and present a balanced history of the property and the people associated with it.

Old hurts can be healed through communication, empathy, and understanding.

There’s hope for better race relations.

The importance of preserving history—no matter the cost.

Never stop learning, ask questions, learn who you are.

We can come together from multiple perspectives, cultures, races, religions, and genders and examine our shared histories and find our commonalities.”

Common Ground, Connected Heritage—Our Family Album *Special Moments and Lasting Memories*



Presenting Sotterley's Newest Permanent Exhibit

Saving History: The Urgency of Preservation, premiered April 18th in Sotterley's Warehouse. The exhibit, aimed at informing why historic preservation is so important, features the story of Resurrection Manor, an early manor house also in Hollywood. Designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1970, this 18th century building was demolished for development. Sotterley is located on the original Resurrection Manor land grant and the history of Resurrection Manor and Sotterley are intertwined. The exhibit incorporates artifacts from the original Resurrection Manor dwelling such as beams, wood panels and bricks. A timeline of photographs illustrates the decay and deterioration of this historic dwelling. The exhibit was funded with grants from the Delaplaine Foundation, The Society of Colonial Wars, and the Brown Family Fund. For this exemplary project, Sotterley was recognized by the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Commission.



Historic Sotterley Plantation's 5th Annual Seasonal

FARMER'S MARKET

Demo Plots
Covered & Indoor Market Areas
Special Activities All Season Long - Check our Website!
Fresh, Certified Organic Produce
Artisan Vendors & Crafters
Family Farm Day—June 30th

Season Opening Day - Saturday, June 16

8 am - 12 pm

Visit SotterleyFarm.org

Where History Meets Healthy



New Pavilion at the Farmers Market

Visitors to Sotterley's Farmers Market will notice a new pavilion, sporting a bright red metal roof and cupola, adjacent to the market building. The pavilion is accessible for our visitors including Farmers Market customers, scheduled school visitors and heritage or recreational visitors as a place to congregate, either formally or informally and provide space for Farmer's Market programs, classroom use, and play and program functions. This pavilion was procured through a grant from the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Association Fund.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: June – September

GATSBY IN THE GARDEN

June 9, 6:30 pm

Tickets are on sale at Sotterley.org! RSVP by 5/30. Join us for a magical evening in the splendor of our gardens.

Proceeds from this event benefit Sotterley's educational programming and events that highlight the rich culture and history of our Southern Maryland community.

FARMER'S MARKET GRAND OPENING

June 16, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Growing bigger and better every year! Join us weekly for fresh local produce, herbs, flowers, and other goodies, along with presentations and hands-on activities for the whole family.

FATHER'S DAY

June 17, 11:45 am - 4:00 pm

Calling all Dads! On your special day, tours of our 1703 Plantation House at Sotterley Plantation are **HALF PRICE** for all fathers! Visit us from noon to 4 pm and enjoy your day with us.

JUNIOR DOCENT ACADEMY

June 18 & 19, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Our Junior Docent Academy will enhance your communication skills while sharing our rich history and exquisite site with visitors. Upon completion, you will become Junior Docents of Sotterley.

Reservations required; see Sotterley.org.

FOUNDING FRIENDSHIPS

June 20, 7:00 pm

Speaker Series #3! Are friendships between men and women really possible? Cassandra Good shows that this question was embedded in and debated as far back as the birth of the American nation. RSVP 301-373-2280.

BUTTERFLY WEEK

June 25-29, 10 am–12 pm

Become a Citizen Scientist with family friendly guided activities for all ages during this week of butterfly and caterpillar fun! Included with regular site admission.

EXPLORATION FRIDAYS

July 6, 13, 20, 27 & August 3, 10 am -12 pm

Join us to experience the history and environment only Sotterley can uniquely supply, with interactive crafts and activities related to the topic of the day. Different family-friendly activities each week. Included with regular site admission.

AUDITIONS FOR GHOSTS OF SOTTERLEY

July 12, 7 pm – 9 pm, July 15, 6 pm – 8 pm

July 17, 7 pm – 9 pm, July 21, 9 am – 11 am

Dreaming of your 15 minutes of fame? We are looking for talented cast and crew for this year's production. Show your stuff at one of our open audition dates.

STAR PARTIES

July 21, August 18, 9 pm

Proudly hosted with our friends at the Southern Maryland Astronomical Society!

Enjoy a sky full of stars on grounds full of history.

Free and open to the public! Grab your picnic blanket, bug spray, your telescope (if you have one) and join us for two different star-gazing evenings on our grounds! Cancellations due to clouds or rain will be posted on Sotterley's Facebook page.

BARN BASH

FEATURING THE BEST OF MD CRAFT BEERS

August 17, 5:30 pm

Join us at our Historic Barn for craft beer tastings, local BBQ, all of your favorite classic country music, and tons of fun! Tasting tickets by advance online purchase in July at sotterley.org.

THEY WILL HAVE THEIR GAME

August 22, 7:00 pm

Speaker Series #4! Kenneth Cohen explores how sports, drinking, gambling, and theater produced a sense of democracy while also reinforcing racial, gender, and class divisions in early America. RSVP 301-373-2280.

AND ALL THAT STUFF

September 8, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Guests will be allowed to enter rooms not seen on a regular tour and view our notable collections not normally shown to the public.

Advance purchase required. Tickets online in August.

HOMESCHOOL DAY

September 12, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Mark your calendar for our Fall Homeschool Day! Details coming soon at Sotterley.org.

THE TAKING OF K-129

September 19, 7:00 pm

Speaker Series #5! Author Josh Dean discusses the 1968 operation to recover and salvage a missing Soviet ballistic missile submarine and the CIA's incredible cover story to disguise it. RSVP 301-373-2280.

FALL BIRDWALK

September 23, 8:00am-11:00am

"Birding the Fields and Trails of Sotterley"

Join us for our fall birding excursion. RSVP to David at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

FARTHER AFIELD: October – November

16th ANNUAL RIVERSIDE WINEFEST—October 6th and 7th

Discounted advance tickets available online in September at Sotterley.org

SPEAKER SERIES #6, INSIDE JOB: SACRED AND STOLEN—October 10

Museum Director Dr. Gary Vikan draws from two chapters of his recent memoir. RSVP 301-373-2280

GHOSTS OF SOTTERLEY—October 19th & 20th, 25th-27th

Come if you dare! Advance tickets required, available in September at Sotterley.org

SPEAKER SERIES #7, SLEEPING IN SLAVE DWELLINGS—November 1st

Joe McGill joins us as part of our Common Ground, Connected Heritage program made possible through a grant from Maryland Humanities. RSVP required, 301-373-2280



VISITOR'S CENTER RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY!

Exciting improvements for our site! Thanks to grants from Preservation Maryland and the France-Merrick Corporation, renovations are currently underway at Sotterley's Visitor Center. The building, known as the Knott House, was built circa 1910 and has been in use as our Visitor's Center since 2010. As with many older buildings, repairs were needed to keep the building safe and welcoming. Windows have been re-caulked, insulation installed, and new decking and roofing is being installed.

What Happens When You Name Sotterley in Your Will . . .

You guarantee that Sotterley's story continues to inspire future generations. You leave a proud legacy. You support the work of Sotterley to educate, enrich, and empower young and old. Historic Sotterley will be your legacy. Call Jane Bachman (301-373-2280), or email development@sotterley.org to find out how easy it is to leave Historic Sotterley a gift in your will. Make history. Leave a legacy.

Not All Gifts Are Cash . . .

Gifts of appreciated stocks, gifts from an IRA, or gifts from a donor-advised fund can yield a wealth of potential benefits for you and Historic Sotterley. Call Jane Bachman (301-373-2280) or email development@sotterley.org to request instructions on making a gift to Sotterley without opening your checkbook. Give smarter. Give a gift of appreciated stock today.

WE MAKE A
LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE A
LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

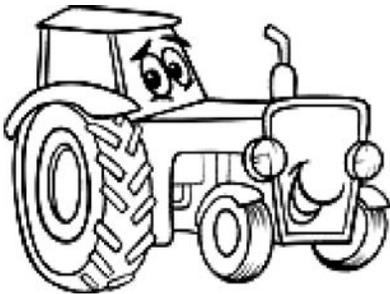
~WINSTON CHURCHILL

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Sotterley Family Farm Day – June 30th



It is almost Farmer's Market season again. Join us June 16, to kick off a new year with new vendors, special activities and presentations, and a beautiful, new pavilion located beside the Market.

Mark your calendar for *Sotterley Family Farm Day* – a special day-long for the market on Saturday, June 30th, with expanded hours 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Activities include demonstrations, fun with the Southern Maryland Antique Power Association, live music, kids' activities, food trucks, FREE Plantation House open house tours, FREE self-guided tours with access to the exhibits and grounds, and more. **The event is free, but we will gratefully accept donations for our Growing for Good program!** Over the past four years, our Growing for Good program has donated over 30,000 lbs. of produce to our local food banks and food pantries – your donations will help us continue to serve our community!

This family-friendly event will be a great way to kick-off our nation's upcoming 4th of July week! **Check out the full schedule of the day's events at www.sotterleyfarm.org**, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Growing for Good—Fields in Production!

It's been only two months since our amazing volunteers planted 5 miles of potatoes, and look what's popping up in our fields! We can't wait to harvest this bounty for delivery to our local food pantries. Stay tuned for our Potato Harvest Party date, later in the season. Check out SotterleyFarm.org for updates on all the happenings around the farm.