

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.

SPRING 2015

CFC #13401

IN THE SPOTLIGHT, P. 6

Corn Crib Project Continues and Unveils First Look at Exhibit

Our Corn Crib project, funded by a grant from the African American Heritage Preservation Program, has been progressing over the fall and winter. Visitors were able to watch the restoration work taking place on the building's exterior through December. There is still more work to be done on the structure to include putting in a new and safe ramp and a restored door, but the shingled wall facing the parking lot has now been restored with new hand-cut cedar shingles. Because the original grey, weathered shingles were so beautiful, it was with some sadness that we watched this part of the project take place. We were losing the old shingles at an increasingly rapid rate, and to preserve the building, all of the old shingles and some of the support structure had to be replaced. As spring comes, the building will begin to reclaim a little of its former look as the shingles begin to grey naturally.

The Land, Lives, and Labor exhibit which will be housed at the Corn Crib has been progressing under the leadership of project director Merideth Taylor. Working with the talents of Dennis Kund, exhibit designer, and Jeanne Pirtle, Sotterley's Education Director, the first draft of the interior exhibit was unveiled in February. The exhibit will bring into focus the lives of the enslaved and farm workers who toiled at Sotterley. The review committee was extremely impressed with the choices made to bring this part of Sotterley's history to life. Work will continue on the exhibit in the months ahead, and we look forward to unveiling the exhibit later in this year.

Spring Break at Sotterley Monday, March 30 – Friday, April 3, 2015 Daily activities from 10 AM - 4 PM

Join us for a week of family fun during Spring Break at Sotterley! During the week we will offer special programming to include: Guided Trail Walks, Colonial Games on the Portico, Family Archaeology, Learning at the Schoolhouse, Working for the Big House, Living in the Big House, Life at the Slave Cabin, Discovering Sotterley Farm, and *Sotterley, A Tidewater Legacy*.

As always, the public is welcome to enjoy these Self-Guided Activities:

- ~ Go for a walk on Sotterley's nature trails!
- ~ Birdwatching!
- ~ Visit Sotterley's Colonial Revival Gardens!
- ~ Go on the Sotterley Scavenger Hunt!
- ~ Have a picnic on the grounds!
- ~ Visit Sotterley's Play Area located behind the Visitor Center!
- ~ Visit the Museum Shop for admissions, gifts, books, toys, snacks, and other items for purchase.



Admission Prices:

\$3 per person daily or \$10 per person Come & Go during the entire week!

Sotterley Members get in FREE (per Membership level)! (Additional cost: \$5 per person for 1703 Plantation House tour)

**HISTORIC
SOTTERLEY, INC.**

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HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.

P. O. BOX 67

HOLLYWOOD, MD 20636

800-681-0850

301-373-2280

FAX: 301-373-8474

WWW.SOTTERLEY.ORG

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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



While the snow at Sotterley is a beautiful thing to see, the beauty is a reminder of the difficulties that come with the extreme wintry weather we have experienced. Like many others, we have faced the challenges that the frigid temperatures caused while we worked to protect our historic and fragile structures from damage. Thanks to the dedication of our small staff and your support we have been able to preserve these irreplaceable buildings, especially in the extreme conditions and temperatures we have recently faced. Sotterley's Facilities and Farm Manager, Joe Goldsmith deserves special thanks for going above and beyond the call of duty as he has been working around the clock to take care of the site to prevent frozen pipes, flooding, equipment failures, and more. His dedication is an inspiration to us all!

Speaking of dedication to Sotterley, I would like to give thanks and kudos to three individuals who have just completed many years of service as Sotterley Trustees. As both an attorney and farm owner, Pat Furey has contributed his expertise and time to Sotterley on many fronts and we are very grateful for his willingness to remain on our Grounds Committee where he has made a significant and lasting difference! Michael Middleton has managed to find the time to serve on our Board in addition to his duties as CEO/Executive Chairman of Community Bank of the Chesapeake. Mike has a great deal to do with Sotterley's success through his advocacy and generosity and happily he has also pledged to remain engaged with Sotterley. We have been so very fortunate to have the time and talents of Betty Currie on our Board. Just to name a few things, she has worked tirelessly to bring to Sotterley many interesting speakers for our Speaker's Series through her long years of service to our country and in addition to her regular duties as Trustee has always volunteered at many of our events and been a constant presence in support of Sotterley. Thankfully, Betty will continue to be engaged here and we are most grateful for that! On behalf of all of us at Sotterley, I thank each of you for, in your own unique way, giving so much and leaving your mark in ways that you can be very proud of.

As a private non-profit museum site, we are so grateful for all of you that help to support Sotterley with gifts of your time, your funds, your in-kind help and your expertise. Thanks to you, we can all look forward to the many upcoming events and programs at Sotterley in 2015, such as our specialty tours, Spring Break, Farmer's Market, Gala in the Garden, Homeschool Days, and so many more. As I am sure is true for all of us, I am looking forward to seeing all of you here as we look toward spring, especially when we can stroll the grounds and gardens, walk the trails, take a tour, and delight in the many wonders at Sotterley. Until then I wish you all the best and thank you again for all that you do to support this National Treasure.

Sincerely,
Jan Briscoe
President, Board of Trustees

Sotterley Premieres Film of “The Choice”

For three summers from 2012 - 2014, Sotterley produced its living history “The Choice” based on Sotterley’s War of 1812 story. “The Choice” focused on the story of the enslaved African Americans at Sotterley who were offered their freedom by the British during the war. Many enslaved did in fact flee to the side of the British, but many chose to stay, and the production illuminates that choice. Funded by grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, the Maryland Humanities Council, and the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, the production received rave reviews and media attention that ran from New Jersey to South Carolina. Last year, with funding from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and the Star Spangled 200, Sotterley was able to capture the magic of this living history on film. Premiered for the general public on February 12th at the Lexington Park Library, the film received the endorsement of the Unified Commission on Afro American Contributions in St. Mary’s County, and the St. Mary’s County NAACP.



Sotterley recognized the wonderful production work of David Taylor of Phocus Video, as well as the stellar cast and crew. Jeanne Pirtle, Sotterley’s Education Director, set the stage for the evening by talking about the background and evolution of the interpretation of slavery at Sotterley. Addressing difficult topics is the duty of any historic site, and Sotterley has worked to continually improve the way it addresses slavery and integrates it into all aspects of our site interpretation. After the film was shown, three members of the cast who were in attendance came forward to share what it was like to be a part of the production, and they answered numerous questions from the audience.

Sotterley is committed to making the film accessible to all. We will link the film to our website this spring, and the film will also be an option for viewing at our Visitor Center once it opens for the 2015 season. If you were not able to see the live production or attend the premier, you will still have many opportunities to view the film and share in the story.

NEW! Two Homeschool Days at Sotterley!

With the arrival of 2015, we are pleased to announce two NEW learning opportunities for children and adults at Historic Sotterley Plantation.



“Tidewater Plantation Life”

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Experience what it was like to grow up on a Tidewater Plantation during an era gone by!

- 10:30 & 1:30 Schoolhouse - North Gatehouse
- 12:00 & 3:00 Garden - Colonial Revival Gardens
- 10:30 & 1:30 Laundry - Spinning Cottage
- 12:00 & 3:00 Games - Portico of the 1703 Plantation House

“Slavery to Freedom”

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

During the 1800’s enslaved people worked and toiled at Sotterley Plantation, while longing for freedom.

- 10:30 & 1:30 Slave Cabin
- 12:00 & 3:00 Plantation House
- 10:30 & 1:30 Laundry - Spinning Cottage
- 12:00 & 3:00 Corn Crib

Make a day of it! Pack a picnic lunch, hike our nature trails, fly a kite, and enjoy!

Admission:

\$5.00 per person - Children under age 5 FREE. One adult per family FREE.

Purchase tickets at our Visitor Center.

No reservations necessary. Rain or shine event.



Celebrating the 17th Annual Plant Sale & Free Plant Exchange

The popularity of this event has grown significantly over the years and we invite you to revel in the wonders of springtime!

The Plant Sale, sponsored by the Sotterley Garden Guild, will run on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 26th from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Because of their dedication to this National Historic Landmark, these nurturing volunteers have not only raised thousands of dollars in support of Historic Sotterley Plantation, but

they are also responsible for the maintenance of the exquisite Colonial Revival Gardens. Their passion for beauty is evident in the smallest of details, so take the opportunity to appreciate their horticultural artistry!

The Free Plant Exchange *will run on Saturday only* from 10:00 a.m. until the plants run out! You can exchange your plants for other annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, trees, bulbs and seeds! Don't have plants to exchange? No problem - stop by anyway to adopt a new plant!

Hands-on History: Lost Treasures!

Sunday, May 31, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Open to Sotterley Members Only

FOUND! Open the box that was found in storage at a New York museum and find out its connection to Sotterley. Examine the history of its contents and help Sotterley create the exhibit that will unveil these collection pieces to the public. In this small group, hands-on format, Sotterley members will view and interact with the museum as an insider. Because of the exclusivity of this tour, we ask that you make advance reservations by calling the office: 301-373-2280. Admission: \$20 per person. Tour is limited to 12 persons, ages 12 and up. Check-in at the Visitor Center. Walking required, not wheelchair accessible. This event will be held rain or shine.



The Sotterley Farmer's Market Set to Open for a Second Season!

For the second year running, we will further strengthen our strong ties to the Southern Maryland farm community and continue our over 300 year farming tradition as we open up the Sotterley Farmer's Market - a **producer only** farmer's market - on Saturday, May 23, 2015! Every Saturday running from May 23 (Memorial Day Weekend) through September 26 between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., the public is invited to the Historic Sotterley Plantation grounds to shop

local. Purchase the best quality home-grown vegetables, fruit, and plants, as well as unique, hand-crafted items.

After buying wonderful local produce, we hope our guests will also stay in order to take advantage of our site's beauty, nature trails, and history. Visitors need only to check in at the Visitor Center, then they can enjoy themselves hiking and touring the site - and remember that Sotterley members get in free! Leashed dogs are welcome on our nature trails.

Sotterley is still currently accepting applications from quality local vendors interested in featuring only locally grown and produced products - vegetables, fruit, honey, eggs, and more. All who are interested in being part of the Sotterley Farmer's Market please contact Joe Goldsmith at 301-643-5617.



Eagles, Earth Day and Sotterley!

Sunday, April 26, 2015

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Leaders:

David Moulton and Michael Patterson

In conjunction with the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, Sotterley Plantation invites you to attend a bird-filled exploration of this scenic National Historic Landmark on the Patuxent River. Beginners are welcome! Top off your Earth Day week with a day of discovery on this scenic and historic property. Nesting Bald Eagles, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can be found on Sotterley's extensive trail system and habitats. There is no charge for this event, although donations are always appreciated!



Please RSVP to David Moulton

moulton.davidh@gmail.com

240-278-4473

What's New at Sotterley's Museum Shop!

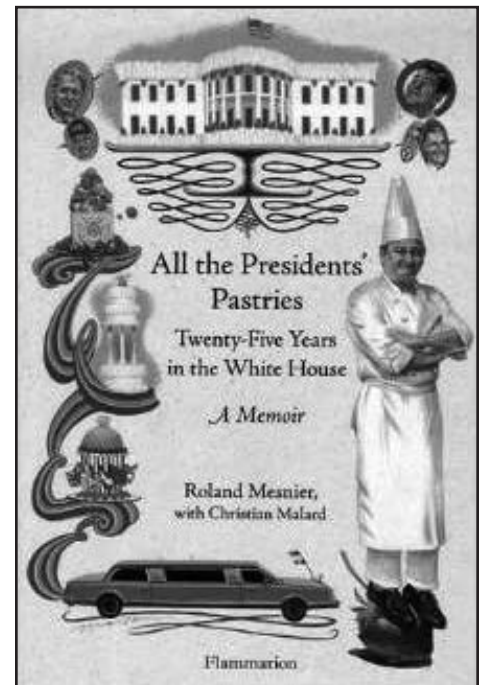
The Museum Shop has been redesigned and is looking good for our 2015 season opening! We are very excited and can't wait to share our new look. We are opening this spring *a month earlier!* Starting Saturday, April 11, 2015 the site will be opened for grounds and docent led house tours on weekends only. Our regular hours will resume Friday, May 1, 2015. Please visit our website at www.sotterley.org for additional information.

This year promises to be an exciting one for Historic Sotterley, and we hope you and yours will take advantage of our early start. Visit us soon and often.

Coming Soon:

Our first Speaker Series book by Chef Ronald Mesnier, "*All the Presidents' Pastries: Twenty-five Years in the White House, A Memoir*"

2015 Ornament: "*The Knott House*"



Make Mother's Day Memorable!

In honor of Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10, 2015, all mothers will receive the Guided Tour of the 1703 Plantation House at Sotterley Plantation for HALF PRICE on their special day!

From noon to 4 p.m., we welcome you and your mother to stroll the blooming Colonial Revival Gardens, walk the plantation grounds and nature trails, see the historic outbuildings including our original 1830's Slave Cabin, or picnic on the lawn while enjoying the breathtaking views of the Patuxent River. Top off the day with buying a memorable gift at the Sotterley Museum Shop, located in the Visitor Center. It will be a day she will never forget!

For more information on upcoming Sotterley Plantation events, please visit our website at www.sotterley.org.



In the Spotlight!

Corporate Partner - Wentworth Nursery - in the Spotlight

Because of the dedication, generosity, and commitment of our Corporate 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 partners!

You may already know Wentworth Nursery as a great place to go for all your landscaping and gardening essentials. Did you also know they are a long time Corporate Partner of Sotterley, helping to keep our treasured site looking beautiful for our thousands of visitors each year?

The company started out with very humble beginnings, "We started the nursery in our parent's back yard as a hobby, growing azaleas in 1975," said Richard Wentworth, owner. The hobby soon turned into a small business as they opened their Charlotte Hall location in 1977. To better serve the needs of the community, they expanded their operation to include locations in Prince Frederick and Oakville in 1991, and the Landscape Project Center in 2003.

When asked what he liked best about doing business in our Southern Maryland community, Wentworth said, "The people, and the location near the water. It is just a fun and rewarding business to be a part of." Wentworth Nursery has lent a helping hand to Sotterley for many years, and they faithfully come on site to mulch, plant, and spruce up our site twice a year. Their professional resources and expertise help us keep our site looking beautiful. They also contribute beautiful plants and materials to many of our special events, helping us create the perfect backdrop and setting.

In 2011 when Hurricane Irene caused much devastation on site, Wentworth Nursery stepped in to offer an even greater level of support when our site was in such need of repair. Now, they have been helping Sotterley begin the replacement of a few of the many trees that were lost during the disaster.

We are grateful to Wentworth Nursery for their continued generous support as a Corporate Partner. To find out how your company can join us and become a Sotterley Corporate Partner, contact Nate Ryon at 301-373-2280 or development@sotterley.org.



Join Us on "The Road to Morocco!" Gala in the Garden

Bursting with exotic treasures, our Colonial Revival Gardens will be transformed into a Moroccan suq during our 6th annual Gala in the Garden ~ "The Road to Morocco" on Saturday, June 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Guests will be swept away to this far away land of tantalizing colors, luscious spices, nectarous cocktails, and dazzling dancers!

The Sotterley Suq will be filled with extraordinary auction items for bid in both the Silent and Live Auctions. Previews of auction items will be available online at www.sotterley.org. Unable to join us on "The Road to Morocco" but would like to bid on items prior to Gala in the Garden? No worries, we will gladly accept bids via telephone at 301-373-2280.

The Gala in the Garden is an important fundraising event which benefits Sotterley's educational programming and enables us to continue our mission of preserving, researching, and interpreting the plantation's diverse cultures and environments and to serve the world as an educational, cultural, and community resource.

Join us for a memorable and fun evening!

Purchase tickets online: www.sotterley.org

by June 6th, 2015

\$125 per person

BEQUEATH

**Remembering
Sotterley in your
Will is an incredible
gift that ensures the
continuation of our
mission for future
generations.**

**For information,
please call us at 301-373-2280**

Volunteer Corner

If you have been considering ways to be of service in the community, then look no further ~ Historic Sotterley Plantation needs you! Our volunteer opportunities are plentiful and we welcome anyone interested in helping out! While there are so many ways you can help, our most critical seasonal needs are:

- Museum Shop / Visitor Center
- Docent
- Garden Guild

As a Museum Shop volunteer, yours is the first face visitors will see when they come to Sotterley Plantation. You will have the opportunity to sell our delightful wares and handle tour admissions, while making our visitors feel welcome. Docents will lead guided tours from room to room in the historic Plantation House and tell the rich story of our 300+ year old history to guests. Garden Guild volunteers help to maintain the magnificent Colonial Revival Gardens, to the delight of visitors throughout the blooming months.

To help us bridge the gap between the past, the present, and the future, please contact **Stacey Svendgard**, *Volunteer Coordinator* at the Sotterley office: 301-373-2280 or via email: coordinator@sotterley.org

You Shop, Sotterley Benefits!

Your shopping = dollars for Sotterley! There are two different ways available for you to cyber shop and then have a percentage of your eligible purchases donated to Historic Sotterley, Inc.

iGive is a organization that partners with many different businesses that are willing to donate some of their proceeds to the charity of your choice. Each business chooses the percentage they are willing to donate, and after you sign up and install the iGive app on your computer, your normal shopping can translate into donations! Go to www.iGive.com to register and learn more.

AmazonSmile is an arm of Amazon, this mirror site will recognize all of your settings, but by registering your charitable organization and then logging onto AmazonSmile every time you shop rather than Amazon, your charity will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases. AND this can also pair with iGive to boost the donation even higher! Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> to register.

You shop, Sotterley benefits! Thank you for taking the time to register and for choosing Historic Sotterley, Inc. as your charitable organization of choice!



Don't Miss Out!

Make sure you add Sotterley to your Email Safe Senders List to stay in the know!

Mail this card and your payment information to:

**Historic Sotterley, Inc. | P.O. Box 67
Hollywood, MD 20636**

Renewal New Member

- Student \$25
- Individual \$35
- Family \$65
- Patron \$150
- Sponsor \$300
- Preserver \$500
- George Plater Society \$1,200
- Rousby Circle \$2,500

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Email _____

Visa Mastercard Expiration Date: _____

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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

Backstairs/Upstairs March 21
 Spring Break! March 30 - April 3
 Speaker Series #1: Chef Roland Mesnier April 15
 "Lifetime White House Pastry Chef & Beyond"
 NEW! Homeschool Day #1! April 21
 "Tidewater Plantation Life"
 Plant Sale & Free Plant Exchange
 Plant Sale: April 25 & 26
 Free Plant Exchange: April 25 only
 Eagles, Earth Day and Sotterley! April 26
 Speaker Series #2: Karen Jessee May 17
 & Thomas William Tear
 "Close to the Vest and Under the Skirt"
 Farmer's Market Every Saturday
 May 23 thru September 26
 Speaker Series #3: Jennifer Pharr Davis June 3
 "The Extra Mile: Exploring the Limits of Endurance"

Gala in the Garden ~ "The Road to Morocco" June 13
 Junior Docent Academy June 22 & 23
 Small Fry Fridays! Every Friday in July
 Barn Bash! August 21
 Speaker Series #4: Film: "Ground Operations: August 26
 Battlefields to Farmfields"
 NEW! Homeschool Day #2! September 15
 "Slavery to Freedom"
 Speaker Series #5: Bob Arnebeck September 23
 "Slave Labor in The Capital: Building
 Washington's Iconic Federal Landmarks"
 The 13th Annual Riverside WineFest October 3 & 4
 Speaker Series #6: Todd Brewster October 14
 "Lincoln's Gamble"
 Ghosts of Sotterley October 23, 24, 29, 30 & 31
 Speaker Series #7: Richard Moe November 8
 "Roosevelt's Second Act: The Election
 of 1940 and The Politics of War"
 Family Plantation Christmas and Breakfast with Santa December 12

Historic Sotterley, Inc. proudly acknowledges our 2015 Corporate Sponsors:



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