

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.

SUMMER 2015

CFC #13401

IN THE SPOTLIGHT, P. 3

Last Chance to Join Us on "The Road to Morocco!"

A full evening of FUN and tantalizing sights, sounds, and tastes of a faraway land is just ahead! Have you purchased your tickets yet? Don't delay another moment - all reservations due by Saturday, June 6th! Transformed into a Moroccan souk, our Colonial Revival Gardens will be bursting with exotic treasures during our 6th Annual Gala in the Garden: "The Road to Morocco!" on Saturday, June 13th at 6:30 p.m.

The Sotterley Souk 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. Please purchase tickets online: www.sotterley.org. \$125 per person.

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.



Shopping, Learning, Strolling & Hiking!

Delicious veggies, grow-at-home herb plants, fresh-cut flowers, outdoor furnishings, birdhouses, floral hanging baskets, and so much more! With the opening of the **Sotterley Farmer's Market** on May 23rd, we are delighted to see some of our 'regulars' from last year and to welcome so many first-timers! Now in its second year, our **producer only** Farmer's Market is open for business every Saturday through September 26th from 8:00 a.m. - Noon, rain or shine. In addition to what we grow here at Sotterley, we also feature the best homegrown and handcrafted items from our Southern Maryland community.

Keep your shopping momentum going at our newly redesigned Museum Shop inside the Visitor Center, where we have a terrific selection of gift items. Thinking about extending your stay? Great! Check in, take a seat to view our introductory video, sign up for a guided house tour and/or a self-guided audio tour, and stroll among the blooms in our Colonial Revival Gardens. If you're up for something a little more physically challenging, enjoy our over six miles of hiking trails - along with your best furry friend (on a leash, please). **Sotterley members** ~ this is all FREE for you! Not a member? Not a problem! You can easily join the Sotterley family by registering at the Visitor Center or visiting: www.sotterley.org.

Longtime Sotterley volunteer, Jared Mathe, is helping us once again by choosing Sotterley for his Eagle Scout Project! Jared is creating beautiful new picnic benches that are sorely needed around the site, and he is also creating trash can covers so that we can provide additional receptacles for our guests. A number of benches are already installed and being enjoyed daily by our visitors and students. We are so grateful to Jared and his troop for all of their hard work on our behalf!



HISTORIC 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



As I arrived at Sotterley for a meeting last week, I was met with the wonderful sight of a group of young students engrossed in exploring the historic core and refreshingly free of any electronic devices! This is the time of year when we can all disconnect and enjoy the natural beauty and rich history at Sotterley in many different ways. Beginning on May 23rd, the Farmer's Market will be open and one will be able to choose from many local products and perhaps have a picnic in the beautiful gardens or other scenic spots on the site. Our miles of trails are a great way to enjoy nature (with your dog!), or perhaps arrive by boat or canoe and explore Sotterley Creek.

Our newly renovated Visitor Center is a great place to begin a visit, and one can continue on to the audio or docent-lead tours of the buildings and grounds for a rewarding way to spend a day. Our Speaker Series is another reason to come and learn about a wide variety of interesting topics, including our next presentation that will take place on June 3rd. Families will love coming in July for a new program this year: Small Fry Fridays, and our Barn Bash in August is always incredibly popular. The possibilities are many, and I hope you will come to Sotterley to experience them for yourselves.

I also look forward to seeing many of you at our 6th annual Gala in the Garden on June 13 when we transform our gardens into a magical Moroccan-themed setting. This event is a truly delightful way to enjoy Sotterley and help to raise critical funds to allow this National Treasure to continue to be a place we can all come to learn from and enjoy. I thank you so much for all of your support and look forward to seeing you at Sotterley!

Jan Briscoe

President, Board of Trustees

Welcome to New Board of Trustees Members



for the Naval Air Systems Command.

Karen Holcomb has over 40 years of experience in senior leadership and management. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director for Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM), of which she was a founding member and credited with the inception of the program, retiring in 2014. Prior to LSM, Karen was a member of the Senior Executive Service and the Assistant Commander for Corporate Operations



technology), compliance, legal & regulatory risks and reputation risks.

James Burke has been the Executive Vice President - Chief Risk Officer of Community Bank of the Chesapeake for the last decade. With a lengthy career in the banking and insurance industries, Mr. Burke brings to the board his experience in all areas of risk management including capital adequacy & planning, market risk and earnings, liquidity risks, credit risk, operations risk (including information

Partnership Opportunities

Historic Sotterley Plantation is well known for offering popular cultural events and engaging educational programming throughout the year. Did you know that almost all of our efforts are funded through private contributions? Partnerships with community-minded individuals and businesses through corporate sponsorships, event sponsorships, and in-kind donations help us to not only draw more people to this National Historic Landmark, but allow us to continue sharing Historic Sotterley's important stories and 300 year history.

One way you or your company can partner with Sotterley is by sponsoring one of our many special events. Sponsorship demonstrates to the public that your organization understands the importance of enriching our community with a variety of cultural offerings. Sotterley's upcoming Annual Special Event Sponsorship Opportunities include:

Gala in the Garden: June 13

Barn Bash at Sotterley: August 21

Riverside WineFest at Sotterley: October 3 & 4

Ghosts of Sotterley: October 23, 24, 29, 30 & 31

Family Plantation Christmas: December 12

In addition, there are organizations that may desire to make a more substantial impact. These organizations join Sotterley as Corporate Partners, and their commitment allows us to fulfill our mission while serving our community. Another avenue of support is to become a Preservation Partner. These partners donate significant and critical in-kind gifts of both goods and services.

To begin the important conversation about how you can become part of Historic Sotterley Plantation's continuing mission, please contact our Development Manager, Nate Ryon at 301-373-2280 or email: development@sotterley.org. **Your Support Matters!**

A caring community ...



... helps us to tell our important stories!



In the Spotlight!

Sotterley Corporate Partner in the Spotlight

Sotterley relies on our Corporate Partners for the highest level of dedication and commitment. It is through their many efforts that this National Historic Landmark is able to fulfill our mission and give back to the community.

Raley, Watts & O'Neill (RWO) is a long-time partner for Sotterley. Their multifaceted insurance company started locally in St. Mary's County and has grown to serve the needs of clients through the Mid-Atlantic, the United States, and Internationally. Throughout this growth they remain dedicated to the principles upon which they were founded, and their commitment to bettering our community reflects their organization's fundamental work ethos.



When Rick Tepel, who has been with RWO since 1994, and member of the Sotterley Board of Trustees, was asked what part of his work he enjoys the most, he said that it was, "The personal relationships you get to make with so many people. Also, being able to be engaged and help such a diverse group of clients (so many different types of businesses) always keeps things interesting."

Raley, Watts & O'Neill's relationship with Sotterley began soon after Rick Tepel visited the site with his family. "It started when my family and I moved to Hollywood. It created a newfound awareness for me about what Sotterley is and what it means to our community. Plus, my next door neighbor was John Hanson Briscoe, so in spending time with him it made me want to get involved personally. With support from others at RWO, it became something that our entire company wants to help with so that Sotterley will survive and succeed," said Rick.

We thank Raley, Watts & O'Neill for continuing to be one of our valued Corporate Partners. For more information on Raley, Watts & O'Neill, visit rwoinsurance.com. To find out how your company can become a Sotterley Corporate Partner, please contact Nate Ryon at 301-373-2280 or development@sotterley.org

EDUCATION CORNER

New in 2015! Sotterley's Plantation House tours are even more interactive and visitor-centered than ever before! Our house now provides more access without ropes or other barriers, plus hands-on items, providing a more authentic experience. For the first time, guests are invited to take flash free photographs inside the Plantation House. It was once a home, after all!

Hands-On History! We are offering three education programs exclusively for Sotterley members. Limited to 12 people, each program gives a different insider experience to an important aspect of our history and material culture. For this Members Only event, the cost is \$20 dollars per person, recommended for ages 16 and older. Please call the office at 301-373-2280 to register for one, two, or all of the following Hands-On History events: "Lost Treasures" on Sunday, May 31st at 3:00 p.m.; "Chinese Influence in the 18th and 20th Centuries" on Sunday, June 28th at 3 p.m.; "Secrets of Sotterley" on Sunday, Sept 20th at 3 p.m.



Our first **Homeschool Day** "Tidewater Plantation Life" was held on April 21 and was a tremendous success! We hosted 150 students and parents, who were able to learn and enjoy Sotterley on what turned out to be a lovely day. The next Homeschool Day is scheduled for September 15th and will feature Sotterley's *Slavery to Freedom* program.

As always, Sotterley supports students and teachers with school field trips from St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland.

Junior Docent Academy

Do you know of a young person who might be looking for something fun to do this summer that involves history and interacting with others? We have a perfect opportunity for you! Our Junior Docent Academy will be offered for ages 8 - 18 on June 22 and 23rd, 2015. Attendees will learn to enhance their communication skills while sharing our rich history and exquisite site with visitors. Upon successful completion, our attendees will become Junior Docents and ambassadors of Historic Sotterley Plantation!

Participants will receive a certificate and will be qualified to volunteer for Junior Docent duty in the summer months and for other volunteer opportunities throughout the year. This unique two-day training camp also qualifies as volunteer hours.

Cost: \$35 per participant, which includes a Sotterley Student membership or a \$25 credit towards a Sotterley Family membership. Registration Form is available online: www.sotterley.org

Corn Crib and Slave Cabin Projects Rolling Out in 2015!

The Corn Crib project which will include the new Land, Lives, and Labor exhibit is still progressing well, and visitors will be soon be able to experience this much anticipated opening! Project Director Merideth Taylor and Exhibit Designer Dennis Kund are working with Education Director Jeanne Pirtle and other members of the Interpretation Committee to finalize the exhibit and design elements. Joe Goldsmith, our Facilities and Farm Manager, is finalizing some of the building and ground rehabilitations in the month ahead, as we hope to have the opening of the exhibit later this summer! This project has been made possible by a grant from the African American Heritage

Preservation Program and generous donors from our community.

We are also excited that our Slave Cabin will boast a newly designed space this season, which will be the culmination of a dream to have this rare and significant space more accessible and better able to convey its important stories and messages to all visitors. Jeanne Pirtle, Project Director for the Slave Cabin project, will be working with Joe Goldsmith and members of the Interpretation Committee as she finalizes this project later this season. This project has been made possible by a grant by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.

NEW! Small Fry Fridays!

FUN learning opportunities at Historic Sotterley Plantation are coming up every Friday during the month of July 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.! Join a costumed docent portraying a Sotterley person of the past while enjoying some kid-friendly activities!

July 3 (10:30 & 11:30):

Croquet & Games on the lawn!

July 10: Lessons in the Schoolhouse!

July 17: Gardening & Farming work and fun!

July 24: Skills of the trades!

July 31: Wool carding and spinning!

**Admission \$ at the Visitor Center.
Rain or shine events.**

Jennifer Pharr Davis

“The Extra Mile: Exploring the Limits of Endurance”

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

7:00 p.m. in the Barn

In 2011, six years after her first attempt, Jennifer Pharr Davis became the overall record holder on the Appalachian Trail. By hiking 2,181 miles in 46 days – an average of 47 miles per day – she became the first female to ever set that mark. She will offer her riveting account of overcoming the odds as she set this outstanding record. She honestly relays the internal and external struggles of trying to maximize her miles and her potential. Her inspired tale of determination, endurance, and teamwork motivates all to do more than you ever thought possible. Her adventures have covered over 12,000 miles on six continents and have been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR’s Talk of the Nation, CNN Headline News, Fox and Friends, the CBS Early Show and the 700 Club. She has been named Blue Ridge Outdoors Person of the Year and a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year. Her Appalachian Trail record was voted Ultrarunning Magazine’s Female Performance of 2011.



Just in time for National Trails Day on June 6th! Come and experience Sotterley’s newly expanded trail system!



Film: “Ground Operations: Battlefields to Farmfields”

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

7:00 p.m. in the Barn

In a world full of problems, GROUND OPERATIONS is a story about solutions. This is a documentary film and social action campaign that champions the growing network of combat veterans who are transitioning into careers as sustainable farmers, ranchers and artisan food producers.

Follow the ensemble of combat men and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan as they share their truth: Why they joined the military, how the war experience changed them, what the daunting return to civilian life has been like, how they struggled to find a positive pathway forward and ultimately, when they found organic farming and pasture-raised livestock to be an answer to a dream. Their stories are as inspiring as they are pragmatic as they find their next mission, food security for America.

The Speaker Series events are FREE to the public. Advance reservations are required due to limited seating. Call 301-373-2280 to make your reservation.

Because of the generous grant and continued support from The Boeing Company, Sotterley Plantation is able to offer this important community outreach, fulfilling its mission to preserve, research, and interpret Sotterley Plantation’s diverse cultures and environments and to serve the world as an educational, cultural, and community resource.

Sotterley Barn Bash!

Looking for a fun family-friendly night out with live music and dancing? “The Country Memories Band” will be at Sotterley on Friday, August 21, 2015, delighting you and yours with traditional country favorites and golden oldies and getting y’all out on the dance floor! This Southern Maryland band has earned a strong following over the past 16 years; once you hear them, you will become part of the following.

Did you know?

Sotterley’s very own Joe Goldsmith is one of the band members!

So come on down Sotterley Lane and let your hair down with family and friends, as you enjoy songs made famous by Merle Haggard, Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Conway Twitty, Patsy Cline, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynne and many other country legends.

5:00 p.m. gates open | 6:00 p.m. music begins | Admission: \$15.00 per person at the gate.

Food, beer, and wine for purchase.





Two Sotterley Authors Receive Prestigious Awards

The St. Mary's County Government presented the prestigious Heritage Preservation Project Awards to the authors of three books about Historic Sotterley Plantation entitled, *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds*, *George Plater of Sotterley* and *Sotterley Plantation (Images of America)* on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. These highly significant books enable readers to connect to our past and gain a better understanding of the people who lived and worked at what is now a National Historic Landmark. The award recognizes the importance of Sotterley within the community as a resource to understand and teach this and future generations how the society, culture, and economy have evolved in this area over the last 300 years.

Author of *Sotterley Plantation (Images of America)* is Historic Sotterley Education Director, Jeanne Pirtle. This book is the culmination of three years research, observations, and collecting photographs to tell the stories of Sotterley Plantation from its 1703 beginning to present ~ a true tribute to the people of the past who lived and worked here.

Dave Brown, Secretary of the Historic Sotterley Board of Trustees, has authored two books. *Sotterley: Her People and Their Worlds* is the story of Sotterley Plantation which began shortly after the founding of Maryland and continued over the next three centuries. It rose from humble beginnings, prospered in the age of tobacco and slavery, endured The Great Depression, and survived three wars, only to stumble toward imminent ruin until a generous fate brought both restoration and a renewed relevance for our time. *George Plater of Sotterley* is the book which fleshes out a fair assessment of Plater's personal character and significant political accomplishments. With little information available about the sixth Governor of Maryland in the Sotterley archives, Brown had his work cut out for him as he began a three year journey of research to breathe some life into a largely under-studied and under-appreciated Maryland Patriot, who was the owner of Sotterley Plantation from 1755 to 1792.

All three of these books are available for purchase at the Sotterley Museum Shop or online at: www.sotterley.org.

Half Price Day for Dad!

Fathers will receive the Guided Tour of the 1703 Plantation House at Historic Sotterley Plantation for HALF PRICE on Father's Day on Sunday, June 21, 2015 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

We welcome you and your father to stroll the exquisite blooming gardens, walk the plantation grounds and nature trails, see the historic outbuildings including our original 1830's Slave Cabin, or picnic out on the lawn while enjoying the breathtaking views of the Patuxent River. Top off the day with buying a memorable gift at the Museum Shop, located in our Visitor Center. It will be a day he will never forget!



Hard Work with Beautiful Results

Our sincere thanks to the Sotterley Garden Guild volunteers for bringing about yet another successful Plant Sale at the end of April! For the 17th year running, these nurturers spent hours upon hours preparing for what has become a community tradition. Their hard work paid off once again, and they had one of their most successful years to date! "The accomplishments of the Sotterley Garden Guild are inspirational," stated Sotterley Executive Director Nancy Easterling. "If it were not for their dedication, there would be no way to maintain our gardens in their current state. The Garden Guild members work diligently to keep our picturesque Colonial Revival Gardens beautiful, and they raise all funds needed to maintain them. We simply cannot thank each and every member enough for their generous dedication!"

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! Here are some of the many ways you can help:

- **Museum Shop / Visitor Center**
- **Docent**
- **Garden Guild**
- **Hospitality**
- **Upcoming Events:** Barn Bash (August 21), Riverside WineFest (October 3 & 4), Ghosts of Sotterley (October 23, 24, 29, 30, 31), Family Plantation Christmas (December 12)



Your Help Matters!

Please contact **Stacey Svendgard, Volunteer Coordinator** at:
301-373-2280 or coordinator@sotterley.org

What's New at Sotterley's Museum Shop!

The 2015 Spring Season is here and our visitors are enjoying the new space and excited about our new merchandise! In addition to our wonderful vendors from last year, Middleton Cedar Hill Farm has joined us and is providing kettle corn. For our bug enthusiasts, we have beautiful color glass bug catchers, bug sculptures, and butterfly magnets. And as always, we have a host of books, historical toys, post cards, paintings, jewelry, and more. Don't forget that our Farmer's Market starts Saturday, May 23rd. Be sure to stop by to shop and pick up locally prepared and grown produce, jellies, jams, herbs, crafts and more!

We Made the List!

At the close of the 2014 season last October, we were thrilled to learn that Historic Sotterley Plantation was listed as one of the **Top 25 Historic Homes in America** by *Traditional Home* magazine! According to the magazine, this selection focused "on 25 estates, in all regions of the country, with unique visual appeal - homes whose lives are as fascinating as those of the original owners. These homes may have stately architecture, sumptuous interiors, eclectic style, gorgeous grounds, history - or, usually, a combination." To view the article online, please go to: traditionalhome.com/greatestates.



Don't Miss Out!

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Renewal New Member

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**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

Farmer's Market Every Saturday
May 23 thru September 26 8 a.m. - Noon

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

Hands-On History - "Chinese Influence in the 18th and 20th Centuries" June 28
Members Only!

Small Fry Fridays! Every Friday in July
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Barn Bash! August 21

Speaker Series #4: Film: "Ground Operations: Battlefields to Farmfields" August 26

NEW! Homeschool Day #2! September 15
"Slavery to Freedom"

Hands-On History - "Secrets of Sotterley" September 20
Members Only!

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

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

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

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