

# 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 2017

FARMER'S MARKET, P.5



## Community and Descendants Unite to Honor And Dedicate

Another milestone in Historic Sotterley's museum history and mission was made on Friday, April 21, 2017. Over 200 people, to include Sotterley descendants and family members of the Cane, Edwards, Barber and Briscoe families, joined together with community members and guests to celebrate the life and work of the late Agnes Kane Callum. This occasion marked the official opening of Sotterley's Slave Cabin exhibit that examines the culture, ingenuity, and resilience of Hilary and Alice Cane, the ancestors of Ms. Callum who were an enslaved couple with

their children quartered in such a structure in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The exhibit was dedicated to Ms. Callum's memory. The first African American to serve on Sotterley's Board of Trustees nearly 40 years ago, Ms. Callum was the catalyst to inspire Sotterley to recognize and tell the complete and unromanticized narrative of Sotterley's existence and reliance on the institution of slavery for 165 years. *Continued on page 3.*

## Science and Sotterley - A Perfect Match!

*The greatest benefit of all is they have become more aware of the everyday impact humans have on the land.*

*- Cindy Carpenter, 4th Grade STEM Teacher*

How would you get 50 fourth graders excited about Colonial America, erosion and web development all in the same field trip? According to Lexington Park Elementary's STEM fourth graders, you'd come to Sotterley! Over the past few months, we have hosted Lexington Park Elementary School's STEM fourth graders. Tammy Belisario, one of the two teachers who joined us, said,

"Our partnership with Sotterley Plantation this year has been a wonderful interdisciplinary learning experience for our STEM fourth graders. During our field trip in October, students were able to participate in Sotterley's *Living on the Patuxent* program, learn the impact that the Triangular Trade Route had on the history of Sotterley and recognize the importance of agriculture in the history of the Maryland colony, as well as touch real artifacts that the slaves and colonists used during colonial times. Throughout the year, students were able to make connections between what they had learned in class about the lifestyle of the early colonists and slaves of the Maryland colony and what they had seen and experienced at Sotterley. Students were so excited about what they learned that they wanted to let other children know about the exciting opportunities at Sotterley." *Continued on page 4.*



## Gala in the Garden: The Summer of Love

It's the 50th Anniversary of that fateful summer that brought us Jerry Garcia & the Grateful Dead, and Grace Slick & the Jefferson Airplane. Channel your inner hippie when you join us for an incredible evening celebrating the Summer of Love! Enjoy incredible live auction items and delicious food, all in the beautiful setting of our Colonial Revival Gardens. Don't miss it - make sure you have flowers in your hair on June 10th.

# **HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.**

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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**



Summer is almost here at Sotterley! Come visit and enjoy a morning walk around the gardens and along our trails – it is one of the best times of the year to enjoy the beautiful grounds of Sotterley.

As you all know, our Slave Cabin exhibit was dedicated in April to the memory of our Trustee Emeritus, Agnes Kane Callum, a direct descendant of slaves who lived and worked at Sotterley. In addition, the Board proclaimed that Agnes' birthday, February 24th, would forever be acknowledged in her honor. She was the first African American Trustee of Historic Sotterley and worked tirelessly to share Sotterley's story with the world. She understood our need to acknowledge our unvarnished past. We will always be indebted to her!

On May 13<sup>th</sup> we held a fundraiser, "Taste of Sotterley", sponsored by our friend, Rob Plant, and some of our wonderful local caterers. Guests visited different stations on the site to taste hors d'oeuvres and sample wines poured by local "celebrity" pourers.

We are starting our fourth season of our Sotterley Farmer's Market on May 27<sup>th</sup>, which has been welcomed by the community. Not only do local vendors sell their produce and wares, but Sotterley also grows and sells our own organic produce. The produce that is not sold is given to community organizations helping to feed those in need.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> we are holding our annual Gala. This year's theme is "Summer of Love" and it promises to be as beautiful as always! The food will be wonderful, the atmosphere festive, and the auction items spectacular! Special thanks to the Gala Committee (led by Trustee Emeritus, Ellen Zahniser) for all their hard work to date. As I write this, some tickets are still available.

Speaking of events, before we know it, fall will be here and it will be time for our annual WineFest! This event is one of the favorite community events at Sotterley and promises to be a big hit again this year. WineFest is currently planned for October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. This year we are bringing WineFest up into the historic core at the top of the hill, which should make it even more special.

As summer and the school break approach, think of Sotterley for your kids. We have a Junior Docent Academy and other kid-friendly activities at low or no cost (such as a Star Parties and Farmer's Market activities, Butterfly Fridays, etc).

And finally, for those of you who responded to our Spring Appeal, thank you for your support of this amazing Tidewater Plantation.

Warmest Regards,  
Bert Johnston  
President, Board of Trustees



## Community and Descendants Unite to Honor and Dedicate *(cont'd from Page 1)*

Using her father and grandfather's family oral histories of enslaved life at Sotterley during Briscoe ownership, the lives of her great-grandparents under slavery at Sotterley become three dimensional, bringing these people and their stories to life.

Ms. Callum joined forces with owner descendant Judge John Hanson Briscoe over 20 years ago to save Sotterley from dissolution when the site was listed as one of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Sites in the nation. Putting aside her personal pain and trauma that she experienced in coming to grips with Sotterley and her family's history, Agnes formed a friendship and worked alongside Judge Briscoe for the greater good. She knew and always believed that knowing one's history was important in empowering and equipping us all for a more equitable and promising future.

Some of the most notable moments of the ceremony were speeches by Ms. Callum's surviving sister, Edna Martina Kane Aiden, and Ms. Callum's children, Agnes Callum Lightfoot, Dr. Martina P. Callum, and Martin J. Callum. A heartfelt speech by owner descendant and Sotterley Board Vice-President Janice Briscoe acknowledged her ancestors' role in slavery, and a Board Proclamation made February 24th (Ms. Callum's birthday) Agnes Kane Callum Day. This was not only a loving tribute but also highlighted Historic Sotterley's commitment to this important mission and interpretation.

Also speaking this day was Dr. Mary N. Elliott from the National Museum of African American History and Culture and Dr. Tuajanda Jordan, President of St. Mary's College of Maryland. Community members and activists Dr. Janice Walthour and Dr. Francine Dove Hawkins officiated at the proceedings. After the ceremony, attendees were able to experience the Slave Cabin exhibit, pouring libations and remembering ancestors.

Historic Sotterley is beginning an official descendant registry. If you are or think you are a Sotterley descendant from 1699-1960, black, white, enslaved or free, or even share a common ancestor surname, we would love to hear from you. Visit us online at [Sotterley.org](http://Sotterley.org) or email [education@sotterley.org](mailto:education@sotterley.org) to join our descendant registry!



## JUNIOR DOCENT ACADEMY June 19 & 20, 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 Plantation! Download the registration form online at [Sotterley.org](http://Sotterley.org).

## Butterfly Fridays!

Come & Go Family Fun Activities from 10 am - Noon.



July 7, The Great Corn Adventure: Join us at our Land, Lives and Labor exhibit near the Corn Crib to take part in the great corn adventure and to gain insight into the trades performed at Sotterley and the people who worked here.

July 14, There's a Buzz About the Farm: Meet us at the Farm for a talk with a farmer and a tour of our organic farming process. Learn how pollinators play a vital role in creating our food supply.

July 21, Pollinator Power: Get ready for pollinator tag and other fun games on the lawn in front of the Plantation House.

July 28, Butterflies, Bees, and Hummingbirds, Oh My!: Take a stroll through the gardens to identify pollinators and the plants they are attracted to. Learn how to create your own butterfly garden.

August 4, Farm to Table: Take a trip back in time in our historic school house. Learn the relationship of the foods we enjoy and the pollinators who helped create it.

# What We Do & Why We Do It

The Board of Trustees is Proud to Present:

## OUR VISION

To foster a better understanding of our world today by providing a living link to America's complex history and legacy of slavery.

## OUR MISSION

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.

## Science and Sotterley - A Perfect Match! *(cont'd from page 1)*



“...They created a class website to persuade other children to come to Sotterley and participate in *Living on the Patuxent*. It was great to see the children so excited to practice their writing and presentation skills through the authentic real world learning experience of creating a website. Each child was involved in the website building and directing of the presentation. After completing their presentations to the Sotterley staff this spring, the children were ecstatic to find out that their website would be linked to Sotterley's website. We are very fortunate and grateful for the partnership that the Sotterley Plantation and the STEM 4 and 5 teachers have created and will continue to build upon next year.” – Tammy Belisario

This interdisciplinary Field Trip is just another way that Sotterley has managed to create out-of-the-classroom learning experiences for all ages. We are excited to be a part of teaching the next generation the importance of preservation, education and conservation. Thanks to Ms. Tammy Belisario and Ms. Cindy Carpenter for working so closely with our Education Team to bring this dream alive. Ms. Carpenter said,

“Through the field experience at Sotterley Plantation we were able to create a project based learning experience for students to have first hand experience extending classroom learning to real life. The abstract concepts of erosion and deposition are often difficult for elementary students to grasp. In October students were just beginning to understand the many natural and human factors impacting erosion and deposition. As their understanding has grown throughout the year, they are now able to critically evaluate the predictions and decisions they made back in October regarding documenting the land. In all my years of teaching I have not witnessed students get this excited about erosion and deposition. Perhaps the greatest benefit of all is they have become much more aware the every day impact humans have on the land and the small decisions the students themselves can make to help care for the earth. STEM 5 will continue to build on this understanding next year.” – Cindy Carpenter



We hope to host next year's 4th graders, and welcome back these students as 5th grade STEM students from Lexington Park Elementary!



“It was so much fun to learn about the Triangular Trade Route and to get to stand on the historical dock where slaves would step off of the boat when they arrived at Sotterley. I learned a lot from *Living on the Patuxent* and I liked presenting the website we made in class. I learned how to be a more descriptive writer and how to logically organize a presentation.” - Mary Kate, 4th Grade

## What's New at Sotterley's Museum Shop

The Museum Shop welcomes two new people to its team, Ada Ellis and Annetta Ho. Both ladies are an excellent addition to the team and we are looking forward to sharing the season with them.

To kick off our 2017 season's "Year of Discovery", we have a wonderful selection of preserves, marmalades, butter jams, snacks, and old fashioned sodas to tantalize your taste buds. Discover the fabulous flavors of Peach Melba, Lemon Strawberry, or Fig Preserves. Or enjoy an old fashioned cream soda, and so much more! Additionally, in honor of our newly dedicated Slave Cabin, walk through history guided by our wide selection of books on the contributions of African Americans, slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction, the continuing legacy of slavery, and more. We have books appropriate for school aged children and adults.

Please visit us soon and often. When you arrive please remember to say hello to our new team members.

### Coming soon:

June 2017 - Speaker Series Book - "All the President's Gardens" by Marta McDowell; pre-orders will start June 1<sup>st</sup>. Please check our website for details.



# 4th Annual Seasonal FARMER'S MARKET

Hands-On Demo Plots  
New, Covered & Indoor Market Areas  
Special Activities All Season Long - Check our Website!  
Fresh, Certified Organic Produce  
Pick-Your-Own-Produce Fields  
Artisan Vendors & Crafters

**Season Opening Day - Saturday, May 27**  
Fridays, 4pm - 7pm; Saturdays, 8 am - 1pm

## Growth — Achievable and Sustainable

Historic Sotterley has been selected to receive a 2017 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award for Preservation/Conservation. They recognize our commitment as environmental stewards as we move forward with Sotterley farm's use of sustainable and organic farming methods. We have...

- **Implemented** nutrient management projects.
- **Conducted** a multi-year project to retain storm water.
- **Eliminated** 78% of run-off from decreased bank-load sediment.
- **Introduced** pollination and wildlife habitation plots around the site.
- **Fought** aggressively against invasive species on the State Watch List.
- **Decreased** harmful nutrients going into the local waterways by 83%.

Today we are...

- **Addressing** the 68-acre watershed that drains directly into local watersheds.
- **Educating** thousands of school children on the importance of Sustainable Farming.
- **Investing** in the community by selling organic fruits and vegetables at our Farmer's Market.
- **Donating** 15,000 lbs of produce each year to local non-profits who serve those in need.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS: June - September

## TRACES OF THE TRADE

May 24, 2017, 7:00 pm

Speaker Series #2! This film and presentation follows Browne's remarkable journey that brought to light the fact that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history.

## FARMER'S MARKET GRAND OPENING

May 27 – Nov 1, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Growing bigger and better every year, this year we will be open on Fridays from 4 pm to 7 pm and Saturdays from 8 am to 1 pm. We will also be enjoying a new location by moving indoors to our former maintenance building, where we will host presentations and hands-on activities for the whole family.

## GALA IN THE GARDEN

June 10, 6:30 pm

Tickets are on sale at [Sotterley.org](http://Sotterley.org)! Enjoy amazing live auction items and delicious food, all in the beautiful setting of our Colonial Revival Gardens. Don't miss it - make sure you have flowers in your hair.

## FATHER'S DAY

June 18, 11:45 am - 4:00

Enjoy half price tours for dad this Father's Day! Stroll the Garden, hike our trails and tour the Plantation House! Guided Tours begin at noon, 1 pm, 2 pm & 3 pm.

## JUNIOR DOCENT ACADEMY

June 19 & 20, 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 successful completion, you will become Junior Docents of Sotterley.

## ALL THE PRESIDENTS' GARDENS

June 28, 7:00 pm

Speaker Series #3! This bestselling author tells the untold history of the White House Grounds, starting with plant-obsessed George Washington and ending with Michelle Obama's kitchen garden. History buffs will love the tidbits about Lincoln's goats, Ike's putting green, Jackie's iconic roses, and Amy Carter's tree house. Gardeners will enjoy the information on plants whose favor has come and gone over the years.

## BUTTERFLY FRIDAYS

July 7, 14, 21, 28 & August 4, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Enjoy kid-friendly fun on the farm. Bring your children to enjoy fun activities that are geared towards smaller hands. All Butterfly Friday activities are included with regular site admission!

## VOLUNTEER HAPPY HOURS

July 13 & September 14, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

To show our thanks to our amazing volunteers, we hope you'll join us on our Front Portico to get to know your fellow volunteers, past and present! We will provide the lemonade, tea and water, but you are welcome to bring your own beverage and a favorite appetizer! Bring a friend and enjoy the evening! Please email Ashley Morgan at [coordinator@sotterley.org](mailto:coordinator@sotterley.org) to RSVP!

## STAR PARTIES

July 29, August 12, 9 pm

Thanks to our friends at the Southern Maryland Astronomical Society, we are proud to host two brand new events! 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!

## BARN BASH

August 18, 5:30 pm

The Country Memories Band will be at Sotterley to get you on the dance floor! With traditional country favorites, this Southern Maryland band has earned a strong following over the past 16 years. Once you hear them, you will become part of their following!

## BACKSTAIRS/UPSTAIRS

September 9, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Save the date! Guests will be allowed to enter rooms not seen on a regular tour and view our notable collections not normally shown to the public! Tours begin promptly at 11am and 1pm!



## What a Wonderful Weekend!

Thanks to everyone who joined us at Taste of Sotterley! The event wouldn't have been possible without Elements Eatery & Mixology, Kevin's Corner Café, Sunshine's Catering, Zahniser's Dry Dock, Bear Creek Barbeque, Blue Wind Gourmet, Heritage Chocolates and you, our supporters. We look forward to hosting the event again in 2018!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: September - October

### HOMESCHOOL DAY

September 13, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Visit 4 stations throughout the day and learn about life at Sotterley during the 1700s. Appropriate for younger students in Grades 2-6, explore the lives of children on a Plantation using hands-on activities that illustrate work, interactive games, education, behavior, and food using the backdrop of Sotterley Plantation's outbuildings and gardens. Students compare the lives of these children to their own experiences while learning about the importance of pollinators. Students complete a craft to take home.

### 15TH ANNUAL RIVERSIDE WINEFEST

October 7 & 8, 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

That's right, this is our 15th year of hosting WineFest on our grounds! This year we are moving up to our Historic core and employing a new layout! By incorporating more of our ground's history into this important fundraiser, we are hoping to raise more awareness of Sotterley's mission. The venue might change, but festival goers will enjoy just as much wine, music and artisans as previous years! More details coming soon! See you in October!

## Our Fields At Your Fingertips

Have you visited our Farm Website yet? This mobile-responsive, ever-changing website is your key to our Farmer's Market schedule. Find out when our next presentation is, what produce is in season, and which fields are ready for you to pick your own produce. With new presentations, new exhibits and new demos, keeping up with our Farmer's Market has never been more exciting!

Visit us online at [www.SotterleyFarm.org](http://www.SotterleyFarm.org)!

## BUILDING BRIDGES, DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS

Yes, you can support Historic Sotterley and be environmentally friendly and sustain this treasure for generations to come . . . How?



### Update your email address

Want to keep in touch with Sotterley news through email? Save paper. Save a stamp. Share or update your email address.



### Give Monthly

Want to know how small amounts can make a big impact? No added paperwork or renewal notices to deal with. You choose the amount of your gift.



### Tell your boss you want to support

**History**  
Did you know that many companies offer a Matching Gift Program for their employees?



### Leave a Legacy

Want to ensure Sotterley endures and inspires for generations? Historic Sotterley needs your support now and in the future. Talk to your family.

### Want to reach almost 5,000 Southern Marylanders in one weekend?

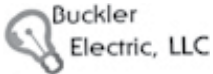
Consider sponsoring or advertising this year's 15th Annual WineFest! This year, we invite you to partner with us in making this community event better than ever! To become a WineFest Sponsor, please contact Jane Bachman. To advertise in our full-color program please contact Anna Harrison.

**We'd Love to Chat! Call 301.373.2280!**

HISTORIC SOTTERLEY, INC.  
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Historic Sotterley, Inc. proudly acknowledges our 2017 Community Partners:



The Ganlee Fund



Petty Family Trust

**JEFF'S TREE  
SERVICE**

## A NOTE FROM NANCY At Sotterley, It's All About Community!

As our Year of Inviting Discovery takes off, we are thrilled to not only continue providing the exceptional and irreplaceable experiences which this site has become known for, but also add the many new and exciting offerings which you will read about in this newsletter. Sotterley exists to be shared, and we want to make sure its stories and its environments can always be part of enriching the lives of those we serve. It is all about community for Sotterley, and we believe it is our responsibility to give back to the community which has made all that we do possible. Whether we are improving our programs and our site for our guests, or donating produce to help those in need, we understand that making lives better must be our never-ending goal. We are so grateful to our community and friends for believing in all that we do and being part of our journey, and we look forward to sharing Sotterley with each of you and helping to foster your own discoveries in 2017.

Cheers,

Handwritten signature of Nancy L. Easterling in cursive.

Nancy Easterling  
Executive Director