

## Tom Patton Honored by Coastal Bays

The Maryland Coastal Bays Program recently announced that Berlin resident Tom Patton has been named the winner of their prestigious Golden Osprey Award. The program gives the award for outstanding and life-long achievement toward protecting the coastal bays. The Golden Osprey has only been awarded three times before in the history of the Coastal Bays Program.

In addition to his extensive involvement with Coastal Bays, Patton created the nonprofit Rackliffe House Trust in 2004 with the goal to restore the former plantation house once owned by his ancestors. That same year he leased the house and three acres of the 100-acre parcel for 50 years from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The house is located adjacent to the Sinexpuxent Bay, near the National Seashore's visitor center. He has devoted himself to the proper restoration of Rackliffe House with the goal to transform it into a coastal heritage museum. His volunteer experience also includes work with the Maryland Historical Society, the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council, St. Martin's Church Preservation Foundation, and with political advocacy and community association issues. He serves on the board of the Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT).



## State Grants awarded for fiscal year 2010

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area is pleased to announce the local recipients of two Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) grants totaling \$117,500.

\$100,000 project grant awarded to Teackle Mansion, Inc., for the installation of a Climate Control System, using geothermal technology. The 10,000-square-foot, neoclassical brick structure stands as a historical centerpiece for the county seat, Princess Anne, tells the story of the role and lifestyles of Maryland gentry during the formative years of the new republic.

\$17,500 project grant awarded to the Rackliffe House Trust to design and fabricate an exhibit for displaying artifacts and the historical background of the Rackliffe House. The Rackliffe Plantation House, located in the Assateague State Park, exists as a "cradle" of Maryland's coastal history, with evidence of pre-historic presence by Native Americans, moving through the early English merchant-planters, and being a target of British raiding parties.

"Investment in heritage tourism and, specifically, Maryland Heritage Areas is a key ingredient to preserving the historic character found in all parts of our State," Governor Martin O'Malley said. "I applaud the activities of these Heritage Areas and congratulate them on these well-deserved awards. Their efforts impact positively on the State's economy and contribute to a Smart, Green, and Growing Maryland."

## Westside Historical Society Vintage Fashion Show

Westside Historical Society sponsored a One Woman Vintage Fashion Show and Tea featuring 92 year old Peg Rider modeling her extensive collection of vintage clothing. During the 2 1/2 hour show, Peg modeled 15 vintage dresses, complete with accessories of beautiful hats, high heels, appropriate bustles, and occasionally sporting a parasol. There also were 5 outfits throughout the room on mannequins or dress forms, and a table with various hats. The oldest dress was dated from the Civil War era and the most recent was her prom dress which she wore in 1935. Westside Historical President and LESHCH Board member Dr. Sylvia Bradley gave commentary about the fabric and detail each outfit, as well as the outfits' history.



## Did you know?

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council (LESHC) is on Facebook. We have a wonderful interactive Fan page. Find out up to the minute events and happenings and things you never knew. We invite you to personally invite you to become our Fan!



## Glenn Irwin Honored

LESHC Board Member Glenn Irwin was surprised with a certificate of recognition from LESHCH Board President Kate Patton for his years of on-going support for the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage. The award was given at the March 19 LESHCH board meeting which was held in the Ocean City Downtown Development (OCDC) office of Glenn Irwin, who is the Executive Director. On hand as well was Greg Shockley, OCDC President and Chairman of MD Tourism Board.

## Blue Crab Byway

Drive the Blue Crab? If you are not already familiar with our Lower Eastern Shore State Highway systems you very well may be asking yourself "how in the world do I drive a blue crab - don't you just eat them?"

Indeed eating crabs is the highlight of a great Eastern Shore meal, but more importantly the Blue Crab Scenic Byway is a significant part of our topography. 210 miles of Maryland State Highway wind themselves throughout the cities and towns on the Lower Eastern Shore, inviting the road traveler to marvel at the landscape and shorelines. Thanks to grant funding from SHA, various projects have been made possible including signage of the Blue Crab Byway as well as a kiosk project underway that will allow the visitors to find sites and events pertaining to heritage tourism and ecotourism. LESHCH always has on hand maps of the entire Maryland Byway system and happy to give them out at no charge. When you see those Blue Crab Scenic Byway signs, think of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council.

## Thanks to John Terrell

In pursuing our goals of increasing heritage tourism, we have benefited from the guidance and efforts of a key player in Wicomico County's Parks and Recreation Department. John Terrell, Deputy Director of the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, who worked on our Board of Directors for eight years, and also as our Treasurer for four years. His spirit and energy, as well as his wide experience, made a major impact on our growth and stability. He resigned at the beginning of this year to become more closely focused on the demanding requirements of his job. We thank John for his years of service and his high level of dedication to the cause of heritage tourism. He has been part of the team that has successfully brought so much money and effort to increasing tourism in Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester counties, and to improving the quality of life in our communities.

blue crab



BEACON

SOMERSET, WICOMICO & WORCESTER COUNTIES

SPRING 2010

## Record Attendance at Annual Meeting

The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council held its Annual Luncheon Meeting at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Henson Center, Wednesday, January 20, 2010. A record attendance of over 110 guests listened to Keynote Speaker Marci Ross, Assistant Director of Tourism Development of the State of Maryland as she discussed the "Powerful Impact of Heritage Tourism". Heritage Award winners were announced and 2009 Mini Grant recipients showcased projects.

Attendees enjoyed a wonderful buffet lunch, and had opportunities to bid on donated silent auction items. Numerous items included orchids grown in the UMES greenhouses, a package stay at the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin, specialty books, a woodcarving, membership to the Delmarva Discovery Center, and Smith Island cake.



Marci Ross

## Marci Ross, Keynote Speaker

Marci Ross, Assistant Director for Maryland Office of Tourism Development (MOTD), leads the program responsible for the management of the state's customer contact centers, the

development of new regional and statewide travel products and the County Cooperative Grants Program, which annually provides matching grants to the state's 23 counties, Baltimore City and Ocean City. She represents the MOTD on the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Working Group, the Maryland Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Maryland Scenic Byways Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committees for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, the Maryland Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement Program and the Tourism Area & Corridor Sign Programs.

Some accomplishments to date include over \$10M in grant awards to help develop four Maryland Civil War Trails, the Star-Spangled Banner Trail, new Welcome Centers in Emmitsburg and on South Mountain



One of the silent auction items

and marketing Maryland Byways. For her work in the field of Heritage Tourism, she has been honored by the Maryland Association of Destination Marketing Organizations, the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation, Peerless Rockville, the Maryland Tourism Council, the Travel Industry Association of America, the African-American Tourism Council of Maryland and the National Park Service. It was under her leadership that Maryland was first in the nation to produce a statewide National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom map-guide.

Ms. Ross is a resident of Maryland, along with her husband, two teen-aged children, dog and two cats. She attended Dulany Senior High School and Towson State University. She has a passion for history and outdoor recreation. She recently ran her second Marine Corps Marathon bringing her total number of marathons completed to six.

## What's Inside...

LESHCH 5th Annual Heritage Awards

Mini Grant Award Winners

Tom Patton & Glenn Irwin Honored

Vintage Fashion Show

MHAA Grants

Washburn Lecture

*The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council is: Dedicated to preserve, protect and promote the historical, cultural and natural heritage of Maryland's Somerset, Worcester and Wicomico counties.*

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LESHCH is a 501(c)3 organization registered with the State of MD. Funded in part by LESHCH and Maryland Heritage Area Authority



Find LESHCH on Facebook!



### From The Director :

This has been a busy year since I accepted the job as Interim Director. We are organizing and updating all our files and records, and working closely with our funding agencies to coordinate all open grants. We have revised the format of our financial statements with expert guidance from our accountant.

We are busy working through our seven grants open with the State Highway Administration, primarily related to the Blue Crab Byway. This includes the introduction of a dedicated website and the placement of six kiosks at gateways to the byway. These kiosks are connected to the internet and offer directional guidance as well as detailed information gathered from all local sites plus retail businesses.

Our main funding source is the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, which is a subsidiary of the Maryland Historical Trust, which operates under the Maryland Department of Planning. When MHAA presented before the House Appropriations Subcommittee to request funding equal to last year's Budget Appropriation, our lead presenter was Planning Secretary Richard Hall, assisted by Matt Powers, Deputy Director of the Department of Planning. All eleven Certified Heritage Area Directors made brief comments, and, most importantly, the Bureau of Legislative Services made a positive recommendation. Their favorable position is strongly tied to the exceptional leverage that Heritage Areas present: typically each Heritage Area creates funding in its jurisdiction at a multiple of three to five times the amount of State financial support.

We are gratified that the Legislature this year approved full funding of \$3,000,000 to the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, meaning that about \$2,700,000 will be available to distribute throughout the state. Richard Hughes, the Administrator of MHAA informed us that the applications for grants for FY2011 demonstrated a leverage of over \$10,000,000 in funding that will be generated based on the State's contribution, a factor of over three to one. We express our thanks to Delegate Norm Conway, Delegate Page Elmore, and Senator Lowell Stolz for their continuing support in the State Legislature.

In the past, our local government agencies, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, and Ocean City, have been strong supporters of our efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the historical, cultural and natural heritage of the lower three counties. They recognize how much each of their jurisdictions has received in additional funding through LESHC's leveraging with other partners and the State. Heritage tourism calls attention to the cultural traditions and stories of the past that are most important to the sustainability and careful development of our guarded treasures.

Thanks to all of our Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council partners, members, supporters and Board of Directors for your generous support of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council.

Jay Parker

Winslow "Jay" Parker  
Executive Director, LESHC



## LESHC 5th Annual Heritage Awards

There are 7 Award Categories. Each year we ask for open nominations from Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties to recognizing exemplary individuals, organizations, exhibits, programs, and products that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching and/or supporting our historical legacy.

A nominations committee meets, reviews and then chooses the winners.

### Heritage Winner ►

#### Lisa Challenger

for her tireless work and devotion for Heritage Tourism in all three counties for over 20 years, supporting projects too numerous to name, as well as a founding member of the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council.



### Heritage Winner Chris Tyler ►

for her work in the City of Crisfield, that include heritage projects of the J Millard Tawes Museum, Tawes Library, and development of highly successful Crisfield Elderhostel.



## 2010 LESHC Board of Directors

**Somerset County**  
Dan Kuennen  
Duke Marshall (Secretary)  
Suzanne Street  
Daniel Thompson  
Gale Yerges  
Julie Widdowson

**Wicomico County**  
Geri Bell  
Lora Bottinelli (Treasurer)  
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Lisa Challenger  
Michael Day  
Louise Gulyas  
Randy Ifft  
Glenn Irwin  
Kate Patton (President)  
Brian Garrett

**Others**  
Lee Whaley  
Richard Hughes  
**Executive Director**  
Winslow "Jay" Parker  
**Projects Manager**  
Lisa Ludwig

Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Committee members!

### Sallie and David ► Ridgway Heritage Interpreters of the Year

- for their extensive work and research as Mr. & Mrs. Teackleas at the Teackle Mansion in Princess Anne



### ► Heritage Interpretation Award Pemberton Hall Foundation - reconstruction for the circa 1780 sawn log milk house and dairy at Pemberton Hall. (L-r) Jay Parker, Frank Stroik, Bill Wilson, Dr. Ed Otter



### ► Tee O'Conner Professional Award Linda Duyer- extensive work researching African American History on the Lower Eastern Shore.



### ► Heritage Tourism Event/Program Award The Maryland Coastal Bays, Carrie Samis and Delmarva Low Impact Tourism, Jim Rapp - for the Coastal Steward Program.



### ► Legacy Award Winners, the Zionaires

- for their dedicated musical talents for spiritual purposes for the past 56 years. Kevin Phillips Taylor, Gregory Handy, Dennis Brady Sr, O. Wendall Brooks, Jasper Handy Jr.



### ► Heritage Event Award Winner Harbor Day at the Docks, the partnership of Worcester County Tourism, Lisa Challenger (2nd frm left), the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce- Melanie Pursel, Lisa Dennis (far left), the Ocean City Hotel Motel Restaurant Association, Ruth Waters. Back row Charlie Petrocci, OC Chamber President John Gerig.



### ► LESHC Director Jay Parker, Projects Manager Lisa Ludwig with LESHC Board Members, Glenn Irwin, OCDC, Bill Wilson, Pemberton Historical Foundation, Michael Day, Main Street Director ready to embark on Pocomoke River boat tour sponsored by DLITE. Nature & Heritage of the Pocomoke" was a course offered in 2009 offering for local guides and outfitters that was funded (\$22,000) by the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. Instructors and site hosts made the beautiful river come alive through nature and heritage interpretation. Although not officially a part of the course, a boat trip was arranged aboard the Bay Queen with Captain John Riggi, who was a student in the course.

## LESHC Board Member Honored by Governor O'Malley

Governor Martin O'Malley recently announced the nomination of Lora Bottinelli, Executive Director of Salisbury University's Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, to the Maryland State Art Council. In addition to her current position, Bottinelli has been Deputy Director, curator and folklorist for the museum. In addition, she is the editor of the publication Wildfowl Art Journal and administrator for the Maryland Traditions Database. She also is a member of the Middle Atlantic Folklife Association board of directors and the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council. Bottinelli earned her B.A. from Rutgers University and her M.A. in American studies from Wyoming University.

For more information call 410-543-6030 or visit the SU Web site at [www.salisbury.edu](http://www.salisbury.edu).

## We want to thank...

Elizabeth Hughes for making an excellent presentation to our Board of Directors' April meeting to review the newly completed MHAA Strategic Plan. This ten year plan provides the guidelines for the review of the LESHC Management Plan that will take place during the fall of 2010. And a big thank you to Ann and Bill Gee for hosting that meeting at their beautiful historic home, Brentwood.

## 2009 National Park Service award

On behalf of LESHC, Executive Director, Jay Parker received a 2009 National Park Service award from Patricia Kicklighter, Superintendent Assateague National Seashore, for LESHC grant sponsorship to Assateague National Seashore for the making of the new horse film "Back to the Wild."

## Mini Grant Award Winners

Recently LESHC notified 6 organizations they had been chosen to receive grant awards from the organization for the FY09 grant round. Each year the LESHC posts announcement for non profit organizations or governmental entities to apply for funds to go for small projects they want to develop. The LESHC has set aside \$10,000 from their MHAA operating funding to fund these mini grants. Recipient one time award grant range is anywhere from \$500 to \$2,500. Winners have one year to complete their projects.

LESHC is now in the process of reviewing applications for the FY10 Mini Grant round. Grant applications and guidelines are available on line at [www.lowershoreheritage.org](http://www.lowershoreheritage.org) or contact the LESHC office.

### The 2009 Mini Grant winners:

Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce- Harbor Day: at the Docks, \$1,250.00. Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art - No Idle Hands: Discovery of Domestic Arts of MD Eastern Shore, \$2,000. Pocomoke Delmarva Discovery Center - Lecture Series, \$2,000. Salisbury Arts & Entertainment Committee/Urban Salisbury - Jazz in Birdland, \$1,500. Crisfield Heritage Foundation - Blue Crab Cam, \$1,250. Somerset Co. Historical Society & Friends of Teackle Mansion - Hearth Cooking Interpretation, \$2,000

### ▼ Crab Soup!

Projects Manager, Lisa Ludwig taking a break with Sherman Shorebird and event volunteer, Marjorie Haygood at the 2009 White Marlin Festival and Crab Soup Cook Off in Ocean City. LESHC was on hand sponsoring a Heritage Tourism table with brochures and handouts to visitors.

