



Historic
SOTTERLEY
 CIRCA 1703
 Spring 2022 Sotterley Family Newsletter

The Long View

With Spring's arrival comes the joy of watching things come to life and here at Sotterley that is certainly the case, whether it is the lovingly cared-for gardens by our Garden Guild, the excited school groups here on their field trips, visitors taking tours, walking our trails, or attending our events. While we never closed our grounds during the Pandemic, there is simply no substitute for coming here and seeing our many historic structures, taking a tour, and interacting with others at one of our varied events that we host throughout the year.

Spring is also a time of hope and new possibilities, and while Sotterley continues to face many challenges, I am buoyed by the incredibly generous support from all of our friends that has enabled us to continue to be a place that serves our community in significant ways. I believe that the best is yet to come.

I truly look forward to seeing all of you in person at Sotterley this year, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you so very much for making everything possible for this National Treasure. Because of your investment and belief, there is so much that we can all be proud of.

Jan Briscoe
 President, Board of Trustees

Descendants Go on the Road for Sotterley

Four Sotterley Descendants, Gwen Bankins, Jerome Spears, Janice Briscoe, and Elizabeth(Liz) Plater Cropp, will be featured at AAM's annual conference in Boston on May 20, 2022. Facilitated by Jeanne Pirtle, this session is entitled, "Voices of Descendants That Transform Narratives and Strengthen Purpose".

The session falls under one of the conference themes, Museums in Society. The audience will be able to better understand interpretive transformation to diverse perspectives in interpretation and leadership, identify and diagnose strategies, and implement change in their own museums. Our thanks to this incredible panel for representing Sotterley at this prestigious event, and to all of our descendants whose participation and leadership are shaping Sotterley's programming and future.



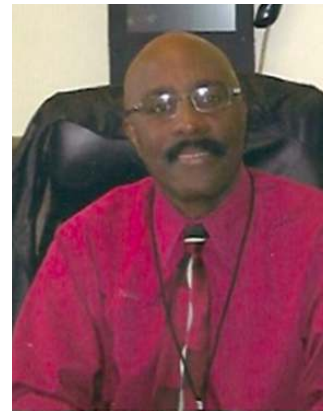
Common Ground: Passage to Strength and Change Symposium

April 29 and 30, 2022, Historic Sotterley will hold two days of on-site programming, entitled, Common Ground: Passage to Strength and Change. This symposium will feature a roundtable of some of Sotterley's diverse descendants, a living history performance, a study of genealogy to discover unknown relatives and ancestors using DNA, and the Executive Vice-President of Content from Maryland Public Television sharing his own journey using previews of yet to be released films, *Becoming Frederick Douglas*, and *Harriet Tubman Visions of Freedom*. This program is made possible thanks to grants from Maryland Humanities and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Lunches will be available for advance purchase. Registration is free but required.

In Memory of Martin Callum

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing on February 27th of Martin Callum, a member of Historic Sotterley's Board of Trustees. Martin was a Descendant of Sotterley, and the son of Agnes Kane Callum, Trustee Emeritus, historian, and genealogist who greatly influenced Sotterley's interpretation of slavery. In 2016, Martin stated "I would like to serve on the Board of Sotterley because my mother devoted most of her life to researching and gathering information about her ancestors who were enslaved at Sotterley. She served on the Board of Sotterley for many years and was able to bring interest to Sotterley from all over the United States. For that reason, I hope to carry on her legacy and continue to work to preserve Sotterley and its rich history". Martin was a resident of Baltimore, Maryland and retired from a career in health and human services.



Growing for Good begins a new season

Growing for Good is kicking off its 9th season this year, and to date we have donated over 90,000 lbs. of produce to local food pantries with the support of our fabulous partners and our community. In 2021 we acquired a much-needed hoop house with a USDA grant which allows us to have more control over temperature, hydration, and pests, with the extra bonus of extending our growing season by several months. Wonderful volunteers have helped plant and harvest our produce, and they have already been "playing in the dirt" with us this spring. Come join us – volunteers are needed all year! Our thanks to Farmer's Feeding Southern Maryland for their unwavering support and partnership for Growing for Good, and to the many other generous businesses, organizations, and individuals who are working alongside us to help those who need it most.



It's All About Birds!

Exciting Partnerships! Historic Sotterley, Inc., is participating in the Saving Southern Maryland's Grassland Birds project, in collaboration with Farmers Feeding Southern Maryland, the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, and the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust on a project that focuses on the plight of grassland birds in Southern Maryland, particularly birds which nest on the ground in hayfields and pastures, such as the Eastern Meadowlark and the Grasshopper Sparrow.

The project produced several important products to better understand the interaction of grassland bird breeding cycles with hayfield harvest mowing cycles and to educate interested landowners in "bird-friendly" hay management techniques. Monitoring of bird impacts is headed by David Moulton, field trip coordinator for the Southern Maryland Audubon Society and a Board Member of the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Hay impacts are monitored by Sotterley's Facilities and Farm Manager, Joe Goldsmith and BJ Bowling, manager of Newport Valley Farm, a cattle, vegetable and hay operation in Charles County. The coalition has launched a website "Bird-Friendly-Farming.org", produced a brochure "5 Modest Steps Towards Bird Friendly Hay Management in Southern Maryland", and conducted mowing experiments.

Eagle Overlook Last year during the pandemic, a local Eagle Scout candidate designed and constructed an eagles' nest overlook located behind Sotterley's Barn which would allow Sotterley visitors to get a better view of the Bald Eagles that have called Sotterley home for more than a decade. It also provides a great vantage point from which to photograph the eagles on their nest. This project was a wonderful gift to Sotterley, and our visitors!

Join us for a Bird Walk On April 24th from 8:00 am – 11:00am bird watching enthusiasts can join local bird expert and member of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, David Moulton on an Earth Day Bird Walk - "What's Soaring at Sotterley". Attendees will explore fields, wooded trails, and coastal areas along the banks of Sotterley Creek; all of which are home to numerous varieties of birds. This program has a 10-person capacity and RSVPs are required. Contact moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.



Eastern Meadowlark in a sycamore tree at Historic Sotterley.

Photo Credit: Steve Arthur



Sotterley's new eagle overlook!

Spring-time Events & Education without Boundaries

Education Springs to Life

St. Mary's County History Day was hosted by Historic Sotterley on March 16th and held at St. Mary's-Ryken High School. As a program of Maryland Humanities, students developed history-based projects which require research and fact finding, analysis, reporting, and public speaking. Projects could be documentaries, exhibits, performances, papers, or websites and were based on the theme, "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences".

Spring Break Week will take place on April 11th-15th, from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, with activities ranging from kite flying, to Nature BINGO, and Lego building. There's fun for the entire family! Our Spring Break theme is all about our community and partnerships. We will be joined by St. Mary's County Library and local authors for story time. Our friends from Pure Play Every Day Inc. will provide special demonstrations on site. Check out the Events page on Historic Sotterley's website to learn more, and remember, admission is free for Sotterley members! Admission at the door.

Field Trips Return We are excited about the return of the St. Mary's County Public Schools for their ELMS environmental programming, as well as other schools and homeschoolers attending Sotterley's social studies-based education programs. Sotterley has even been adapting programs to meet specific school needs, and we are looking forward to doing this again for students from Lexington Park Elementary in May. Springtime is always a busy and exciting time, and we can't wait to host our students and families!



Warm Weather Means Event Season is Here

We love hosting our community events, and by attending our fundraisers, you will not only have a wonderful time, but you will also be supporting all of Sotterley's great work. This spring and summer we will feature two annual favorites, plus a brand-new event.

The annual **Garden Guild Plant Sale** will take place Saturday April 23rd from 9:00am to 2:00pm and Sunday, April 24th, noon to 3:00pm. This is your chance to buy plants lovingly nurtured by the Sotterley gardeners. The popularity of this event continues to grow, and many selections sell out early. Have questions? Members of the Garden Guild will be on hand with the answers and share advice. The funds raised by this all-volunteer group of gardening enthusiasts are used to maintain the beautiful Colonial Revival Garden adjacent to the Manor House. A Community Free Plant Exchange will run on Saturday only from 9:00am to Noon, or until the plants run out.

Our new event – **Sotterley Celebrates Women** - will be held on May 7th, and this event will be a perfect day to share with the favorite women in your life. It will feature a wine and food pairing with demo, two wine and chocolate pairings, a tea and cookie pairing, and a special Manor House open house tour featuring the Women of Sotterley. Tickets are \$40 and must be purchased in advance. As tickets are timed entries and group sizes are limited, buy your tickets early before they sell out!

Plan to kick off the summer season with **Sotterley's Aloha Gala** on June 11th! We are so excited to host our Gala once again at Sotterley, and the evening will feature great friends, fabulous auction items, and wonderful food. You will enjoy island-inspired cuisine and sip on a Mai Tai while supporting Sotterley in the most fun way possible. We cannot wait to see you there! Tickets may be purchased on Sotterley's website.



Spring Events

April

- 11th - 15th - Spring Break Activities
- 22nd - Bird Walk
- 23rd & 24th - Garden Guild Plant Sale & Exchange
- 29th & 30th - Common Ground Symposium: *Passage to Strength and Change*

May

- 6th - Tour Season Kicks Off
- 7th - New Event: Sotterley Celebrates Women
- 8th - Mother's Day - Half Price Tours for Moms
- 25th - Sotterley Presents: People and Perspectives - Jefferson Morley, *Snow-storm in August*

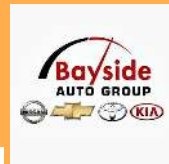
June

- 11th - Aloha Gala
- 15th - Sotterley Presents: People and Perspectives - Richard Bell, *What We Commemorate on Juneteenth*
- 19th - Father's Day - Half Price Tours for Dads

Visit our website for details and event registration! Stay connected for upcoming summer events.

OUR THANKS TO A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

Leadership Community Partners



Investor Community Partners



Community Partners Make Our Work Possible!

Our partners in the community truly “make the magic” at Sotterley, and we are so grateful for their investment in our important work. You can help us create even more magic by becoming a Community Partner at a variety of levels! Contact execdirector@sotterley.org to learn more about becoming part of our Sotterley Family. Together we can work toward building a better community!

Leave No Trace at Sotterley

Starting in 2022, Sotterley is enacting a Leave No Trace policy. This movement is dedicated to preserving our natural environment by enacting minimum impact practices. Visitors will be asked to remove their own trash to reduce waste (pack it in, pack it out), to leave what you find in our natural spaces, and respect our wildlife and habitats. Environmental stewardship is everyone’s responsibility, and we thank our visitors in advance for their support.

Sotterley on MPT

Did you miss seeing Sotterley on MPT’s Maryland Farm and Harvest? Don’t worry – you can find the show on our website and can watch it anytime. It was gratifying to have Sotterley’s dedication to an honest and inclusive interpretation showcased, as well as our Farm and Growing for Good.

