

## Mount Harmon Plantation at World's End



Tidewater Plantation and Nature Preserve

## FRIENDS OF MOUNT HARMON, INC.

Spring 2010 Newsletter

### President's Report

Mount Harmon welcomes spring with a profusion of activity and growth. This season promises to be one of our most productive yet in terms of fulfilling our preservation and educational mission. Our new Education & Discovery Center opens later this spring and will feature wonderful exhibit facilities and expanded educational programming. The EDC will greatly enhance Mount Harmon as a center for Tidewater heritage education and tourism. As an official site on the John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, we will be building on our connection with the Chesapeake Bay and telling the story of Mount Harmon and the diverse role the site has played in the region over the centuries. I would like to offer a special thanks to the Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network, MD State Bond Legislators, Crystal Trust and Chichester Foundations for funding our Education Center project.

As a compliment to the opening of the EDC, beginning in May, Washington College will conduct a six week Field Study Program in Archeology. The program will help us to further understand Mount Harmon's history and importance as a cultural landscape, and provide new educational and interpretive opportunities to benefit our visitors.

To better accommodate our growing programs, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Paige Howard as our first official Executive Director. In her tenure as Director of Development for the past 5 years, Paige's enthusiasm, vision and commitment has resulted in our ability to expand programming, spear-head capital



improvement projects, grow our membership, and cultivate strategic partnerships. We also welcome Wendy Costa to our staff as Education Coordinator. Wendy brings a wealth of experience to MHP as an educator and in curriculum development.

And finally, please join us for our special events this year which promise to showcase Mount Harmon's history and scenic natural beauty as never before. One of the best ways to enjoy Mount Harmon throughout the year is to become a member (see pg. 3 for membership form). I encourage you to visit our website at [www.mountharmon.org](http://www.mountharmon.org) to learn more about our programs, and be sure to visit us at the plantation this spring and join the hundreds of annual visitors who come and discover a renewed love of history and nature.

~ Elizabeth P. Beckley, FOMH Board President

### From the Director

It is an honor to serve as Executive Director for Mount Harmon and be a part of this historic and natural treasure in our community. I encourage you to visit Mount Harmon this spring and share in our many new offerings. Please come see the Education & Discovery Center, join us for our very special Mount Harmon events, and come to our new Summer Family Program Series. Encourage your children's teachers to plan a field trip to Mount Harmon. Tell a friend about the benefits of membership, or better yet, bring them out for a tour or nature walk.

I am pleased to report much progress has been made to develop our interpretive history and educational programming. We are expanding our educational program to include Tidewater history and ecology. Historian Dr. Alexa Cawley is conducting archival research and compiling a detailed site history - which will serve as the basis for our Mount Harmon's Highlights in History Exhibit at the new Education & Discovery Center. Stay tuned for more information about the Education & Discover Center Grand Opening and new education program for the whole family.



We are ever grateful to our supporters and contributors who make it possible to preserve, maintain, and operate Mount Harmon. Dedicated volunteers, sponsors, and supporters like you ensure Mount Harmon's future remains bright - your gifts and memberships make it possible to fulfill our worthwhile

mission to preserve and interpret Mount Harmon for the public's education and enjoyment.

Special thanks to CBGN for funding our Tidewater Education Program; Coslett Foundation for funding the restoration of our Sydney George Fisher portrait; the Sassafras River Association for sponsoring Project Clean Stream; and Greenfingers Garden Club for sponsoring our Yuletide Tour and Flower Show. Thank you to our special event sponsors Chubb Insurance and Manning Napier, and to all of our silent auction donors. To make a gift, join our membership, become an event sponsor or donate an item to our silent auction, please contact me at FOMH or [phoward@mountharmon.org](mailto:phoward@mountharmon.org). Many thanks for your continued support for Mount Harmon.

~ Paige Howard, Executive Director

To receive e-news about FOMH upcoming events, please send your e-mail to [info@mountharmon.org](mailto:info@mountharmon.org).

# Education Corner



Thanks to grant funding from CBN we are developing a new Tidewater Education Program, which expands on the excellent foundation of our colonial history program. This popular program has shown dozens of school children how residents of Mount Harmon Plantation lit up the night, prepared food, heated rooms, spun fiber, sewed quilts, danced, played games, and decorated the mansion.

Using a hands-on curriculum for the 4-6th grade age visitors, we hope to both spark curiosity and provide a glimpse to life on a plantation in Tidewater, Maryland in the 18th and 19th centuries

as well as foster a deeper awareness and stewardship of the ecology of the upper Chesapeake Bay. Students will have access to new activities in addition to our current offerings.

Educational activities for families and kids of all ages are in the works, too. Our new Summer Family Program series features nature and history inspired activities on select Saturdays at 10am (June 26, July 31, August 21). Please contact us with your program requests and ideas! Also, we now offer nature and history themed birthday parties for children – a great way to celebrate your child’s special day! Starting this season, our youth visitors can make

hornbooks, write with quill pens, cut out silhouettes, create cornhusk dolls, read secrets in old diaries, try on period clothing, build colonial brick patterns and more. They’ll be able to make a simple compass and to magnify the beauty of Mount Harmon with binoculars and magnifying glasses; use a seine net to discover the incredible variety of life in the creeks that almost surround Mount

Harmon; calculate the age of living trees and discover the fascinating features of the Osage Orange trees that line the long driveway. Families will be able to enhance their explorations of the pond and the trails at Mount Harmon with printed guides to some of their features. **Contact Education Coordinator Wendy Costa at FOMH or [wcosta@mountharmon.org](mailto:wcosta@mountharmon.org) for more info about our education programs.**

## ***Volunteers, Supporters Help make 2009 Best Season yet for Mount Harmon Plantation!***

Our 2009 Season was very busy! Thanks to a revamped website, some very thoughtful published articles about MHP and the dedicated volunteer team at Mount Harmon we had one of our best seasons ever! Thanks to the “words of praise” from our docents, volunteers, Friends, and guests we’ve seen the highest numbers of visitors and hosted more weddings here at MHP than ever too! If you missed our lovely 2009 Yuletide tour, please join us in December 2010. A very special thank you to Sandy Simonson and the Greenfingers Garden Club for decorating the manor house so beautifully. All proceeds from Yuletide benefit Mount Harmon.

Another “Hearty Thank You” to the Volunteers of Mount Harmon. It is impossible to praise each

Katie Zang back again, and Lorraine Lehmicke and Sue Coleman who will be

staff and volunteers wish to express sincere sympathy to the family of Laura Gosney, a wonderful and long-time docent for Mount Harmon. We are so grateful to our volunteers, who make our visitor programs possible.

**Want to share your love of history and nature?**

**Contact Phyllis Drupieski, Site & Wedding Coordinator at FOMH or [pdrupieski@mountharmon.org](mailto:pdrupieski@mountharmon.org) to join our terrific team of volunteers.**

individual, but here goes: our education program team - Bill Watts, Gerry Scarfe, Jackie Upp, Mary Haggerty, Judy McKinney, Holly Isaacson, Mary Segermark, Ann Goudy, Mary Foraker, Libby Keefer, Doris Bolton, Edith Davis, Rose Miller, Thelma Wheatley, Shirley Gear and others that come to help bring history to life. We’re happy to have junior docent Jaime Capron and intern

leading nature walks this season. The following people help us whenever their busy schedules allow: Kay Bailey, Joan Byerly, Lynn Clarke, Frances Collins, Goldie Cook, Alicia Courter, Marietta Darden, Joe III and Kylie Drupieski, Cathy Malone, Sandy Pierce, Sunny Rinker, Karen Scherer, Suzan Schweizer, Elsie Slater, Susan Whitelaw, Nancy Gardner, and Donna Winterling. The Board,

### **Ever Dream of Living at MHP?**

*Our two cottages on the plantation grounds are available to be rented on an annual basis – please help us spread the word! Interested persons may contact Phyllis at [pdrupieski@mountharmon.org](mailto:pdrupieski@mountharmon.org)*

# HEAR YE HEAR YE, COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE ANNUAL MOUNT HARMON COLONIAL PICNIC



**Sunday, June 6 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.**  
 This can't miss event features a silent auction, Gourmet Eastern Shore Buffet, Tours of Manor House & Colonial Kitchen, Plantation Wagon Rides, Colonial Demonstrations & Re-Enactors.

Bring your entire family for tons of fun!

Guests are Welcome.

Cost is \$35 for Adults, \$10 for children.

All proceeds benefit Mount Harmon Plantation. For tickets or more information please visit [www.mountharmon.org](http://www.mountharmon.org), call 410-275-8819 or e-mail [info@mountharmon.org](mailto:info@mountharmon.org).

## So Much to Do at Mount Harmon This Visitors Season...



**Lotus Blossom Festival**  
**Saturday, July 31**  
**10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

New this year - the Mount Harmon Lotus Blossom Festival will showcase the plantation's rare American Lotus in peak bloom and pristine natural surroundings, & include special nature-inspired activities and exhibitors. The American Lotus, a relative of the water lily and the largest wildflower in the United States, is rare in Maryland and neighboring states, but abundant at Mount Harmon. FOMH Members & Children under 12 Free, Non-members \$5



**Revolutionary War Reenactment Festival**  
**October 23 & 24**

We will host a full scale Revolutionary War Re-enactment & Colonial Festival, complete with British & Rebel Encampments, military skirmishes, tactical demonstrations, colonial crafts, manor house tours, food vendors & much more! Event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. FOMH Members \$5, Non-members \$10, Children under 12 Free



**Bull & Oyster Roast,**  
**Saturday, October 23**  
**5 p.m. - 8 p.m**

The Bull & Oyster Roast features Oysters on the Half-Shell & Roasted Oysters, Traditional Barbeque, Manor House Tours, Silent Auction & Live Music. This year the Bull & Oyster Roast will be held in conjunction with the Reenactment Festival, giving history and oyster lovers even more to enjoy! Cost is \$50 per person.



**Yuletide Tour**  
**December 4 & 5**  
**11am - 3pm**

Get into the holiday spirit at Mount Harmon's weekend long Yuletide Manor House Tour featuring holiday decorations inspired by Colonial Williamsburg, a greens sale & hearth cooking demonstrations. Enjoy hearth-made ginger bread and Wassail Punch fresh from the Colonial Kitchen! Beautiful Williamsburg-style arrangements and fresh greens available for sale. Tickets: FOMH Members \$10, \$15 non members

### **Help Us Go Green!**

*Please help us to be better stewards by shifting from paper to e-communications. Receive this newsletter and other exciting updates electronically by emailing us at [info@mountharmon.org](mailto:info@mountharmon.org) or include your email on the enclosed membership form!*



## 2010 MOUNT HARMON SPECIAL EVENTS

### Dates to Remember

May 6 - Spring Flower Show

May 16 - Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage

June 6 - Colonial Plantation Picnic

July 31 - Lotus Blossom Month

October 23 & 24 - Revolutionary War Re-Enactment

October 23 - Bull & Oyster Roast

December 4 & 5 - Yuletide Tour

For tickets & information visit

[www.mountharmon.org](http://www.mountharmon.org) or call 410-275-8819

*Create your own special memory with us - call today to find out the options to host your wedding or special event at Mount Harmon!*



Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc.

P. O. Box 65

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Earleville, MD 21919

(410) 275-8819

[www.mountharmon.org](http://www.mountharmon.org)

[info@mountharmon.org](mailto:info@mountharmon.org)

Visitor Season

May 1 - October 31

Thursday - Sunday, 10am - 3pm

& Year Round by Appointment

Visitor Programs

Guided Manor House Tours

Self Guided Nature Tours

Education Program

Membership Program

Special Events Program

Site Rental Program

*We look forward to seeing you at the plantation!*

#### Board of Directors

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Mr. Domenic Palagruto, Treasurer

Mr. Charles L. Scott, Jr. Esq., Secretary

Mr. William Jeanes

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#### Program Staff

Mrs. Paige Howard, Executive Director

Mrs. Phyllis Drupieski, Site & Wedding Coordinator

Mrs. Wendy Costa, Education Coordinator

Mrs. Debbie Brown, IT & Administrative Support

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