

FRIENDS OF MOUNT HARMON, INC.
2006 SEASON NEWSLETTER
Upcoming Events & Special Programs, Restoration
Update, New Membership Levels & Benefits, Capital
Campaign News - Thank You Supporters!



Manor House after restoration.



Cornice after restoration.

MOUNT HARMON IN BLOOM

As the sun warms the river breezes and the lovely plantation landscape grows rich with buds, the seeds of stewardship have also begun to sprout this spring. For the first time in nearly forty years, a full scale historic restoration and preservation project has been begun at Mt. Harmon. For months a team of restoration professionals has been working amidst a sea of scaffolding which has finally been removed. All the exterior woodwork of the Manor House, including the clapboard addition, cornice, widow's walk and window casings has now been restored.

The results reveal a Manor House in bloom with beauty, its custom made millwork freshly painted in a white shining so that in the sunset it almost looks gilded. The pride which the plantations original owners must have felt when they would see their creation is almost visceral, when one looks at the

Manor house through the eyes of history. Our founders, Mrs. Harry Clark Boden IV and her daughter Kip intended that Mt. Harmon be kept in a state of pristine beauty so that all may take pleasure in its bounty. Now, after years of postponing repairs, we are finally moving forward with this vision.

As we go to press for this newsletter, we are making preparations to begin the exterior woodwork restoration of the plantation's outbuildings. We also plan to begin re-pointing the deteriorated brickwork on the Manor House, Colonial Kitchen and Serpentine Walled Garden in the fall, pending funding. If you haven't been to see Mt. Harmon since the fall, you must come down and see the transformation. And for those of you who have yet to experience Mt. Harmon, our friendly and knowledgeable Docents are on hand for tours. We welcome one and all to view this unique gem.

***** JOIN NOW *****

**THE BENEFITS OF MEMEBERSHIP
HAVE NEVER BEEN BETTER!!**

One of the best ways to share in Mount Harmon's history and scenic beauty is to become a member of Friends of Mount Harmon. Now is a great time to join, as we have just updated our membership levels and benefits. Read on and find the membership level that is just right for you and join in the fun at the plantation this year! There are membership levels that include opportunities to picnic, host parties, access the grounds year around (great for nature walks and hiking), and even arrive by boat at the plantation.

Your membership is fully tax deductible and, most importantly, helps to fund the vital programs and projects of Mount Harmon Plantation. Your membership dollars help to fund vital programs like our visiting School Program, which enables school children from the region to learn first hand about our nation's colonial history. Every membership is important and is an investment in the future of this historic and scenic treasure. A membership form is enclosed for your convenience. Join today to maximize your benefits for this season.

All members receive:

- Free Admission to manor house and grounds (in season May – October, Thursday – Sunday, open hours, 10:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.)
- Bi-annual Newsletters
- Listing in Contributor's report
- Invitation to Mount Harmon Special Events
- 10% discount at gift shop



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

\$35.00 Individual Membership

Membership benefits for one.

\$60.00 Couple Membership

Membership benefits for two.

\$100.00 Family Membership

Membership benefit for you and your children, plus two museum guest passes and year-round access to plantation grounds.

\$200.00 Sassafras Steward

Full family membership benefits (including year-round access to plantation grounds), plus access as our guest to picnic by the lake or river.

\$500.00 Garden Sponsor

Full family membership (including year-round access to grounds), four museum guest passes, picnic guest benefits, plus availability to host one event in the boxwood garden (by reservation) and free family admission to the annual picnic.

\$1,000.00 Plantation Benefactor

Full family membership benefits (year-round access to grounds), six museum guest passes, picnic guest privileges, free family admission to annual picnic and Bull and Oyster Roast, availability to host one event on the manor terrace or garden (by reservation), VIP access to tie up at the dock T-head (by reservation), plus invitations to exclusive Plantation Benefactor events.



COLONIAL PLANTATION PICNIC

One of the best times to visit Mount Harmon and experience its colonial history and “Old World” grandeur is at the annual Colonial Plantation Picnic. This year’s annual picnic takes place on Sunday, June 4, 12:00noon – 4:00p.m. and features a gourmet Eastern Shore picnic, Colonial Demonstrations and Performances, Silent Auction, and Carriage Rides.

This year’s picnic will include performances by the Cecil Heritage Troupe and demonstrations by the Cecil County Militia, which will bring Mount Harmon’s colonial history to life – and offer fun for the whole family. Tour guides will give tours in the manor house, and give demonstrations in the colonial kitchen. There will be carriage rides to the plantation landing, a great way to get out and see Mount Harmon’s scenic beauty.

This year’s Colonial Plantation Picnic will feature a gourmet Eastern Shore buffet with mini crab cakes, country ham, fried chicken, and summer salads. During the picnic there will be a silent auction, full of great gifts, antiques and specialty items, donated from area businesses to raise funds for Mount Harmon programs and projects. Call 410-275-8819 for tickets and information.

SUNSET CRUISE ABOARD THE SCHOONER SULTANA

In partnership with Chestertown’s historic and majestic Schooner Sultana, Friends of Mount Harmon Members will be invited to join an exclusive sunset sail along the Sassafras River, from Georgetown to Mount Harmon’s waterfront and back, on Friday, August 25, from 5p.m. to 8p.m. What better way to experience Mount Harmon’s history and scenic beauty, than by cruising the waterways aboard the Sultana. Proceeds benefit Mount Harmon’s vital programs and projects. For Tickets and information call 410-275-8819. Sign up early – this is sure to be an unforgettable event!

1ST ANNUAL BULL & OYSTER ROAST A BIG HIT

The 1st Annual Bull and Oyster Roast was held last October, to the delight of nearly one hundred oyster lovers and friends of Mount Harmon. Despite occasional down pours, the evening was a great success, and loads of fun was had by all. Guests enjoyed bushels of freshly shucked oysters, an open bar, a barbeque buffet and sumptuous side dishes.

Many thanks to Steve Isaacson, Charlie Scott, and Bill Jeanes for co-hosting this very popular event. A special thanks to Steve Isaacson for procuring the superb oysters and for dreaming up the whole gala, to Vernie of the Bohemia Café for donating the side dishes, to Jack Sentman of Sentman Distributors for donating the beer, and to Jim Capron for the use of the party tent. Proceeds from the event benefit Mount Harmon Plantation. Don’t miss this year’s 2nd Annual Bull & Oyster Roast, scheduled for Saturday, October 7 – a grand new tradition, not to be missed!



Clapboard addition before restoration.



Clapboard addition after restoration.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS!!**

Last fall the Board of Directors of Friends of Mount Harmon, Inc. announced a capital campaign to raise \$250,000.00 in vitally needed funds for restoration and capital improvements to the colonial era plantation. This capital campaign will enable Mount Harmon Plantation to restore its elegant manor house and outbuildings, convert its stables into a Plantation Education and Discovery Center, and convert the pool and pool house into a special event site. In short, it will enable Mount Harmon to march into the 21st century as an unparalleled heritage destination.

Thanks to recently received grants and contributions from supporters like you, we have raised nearly \$100,000.00 to date towards the restoration and capital improvements of this important historic landmark. The Board would like to thank all those of you who have generously contributed to the capital campaign. A very special thank you to the Crystal Trust, the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Maryland, the Cecil Historical Trust, the Vanguard Charitable Endowment, and to our \$1,000.00 or up donors, who will be acknowledged by a commemorative plaque to be prominently displayed at

the plantation. Another special thank you is made to the Benjamin Moore Paint Company for their generous donation of paint for the manor house exterior restoration project. Thank you all for helping to preserve this historic and scenic treasure!

**IT'S OFFICIAL - WE ARE NOW A
CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAY SITE!!**

Mount Harmon Plantation is celebrating becoming one of the newest Chesapeake Bay Gateway Sites!! This recognition as one of the National Park Service's prestigious network of Chesapeake Bay Gateway Sites attests to Mount Harmon's importance as a heritage destination. Being an official Gateway site will help Mount Harmon reach a wider audience and offer funding opportunities though grants available only to sites in the network.

THANK YOU

SASSAFRAS RIVER ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers from the SassafRAS River Association, who volunteered their time during project Clean Stream, to conduct a clean up of Mount Harmon's waterfront. The S.R.A. has been a great asset to the SassafRAS watershed, by promoting environmental education and stewardship. Look for their display

at this year's Colonial Plantation Picnic, to learn more about how you can help to protect the Bay. To learn more about the S.R.A. visit their website at www.sassafrasriver.org.

COLLECTION DONATED

Many thanks to the Crist family for their very kind donation of Mount Harmon historic papers from the Boden and Crist Estates. Susan Whitelaw worked with the Crists to recover many important documents, photographs, and artifacts vital to preserving Mount Harmon's history. Thank you to the Crist family for helping to ensure that Mount Harmon's treasured history remain intact.

WELCOME BOARD MEMBERS

Along with our new level of stewardship, we are attracting exceptional individuals who have made a commitment to our efforts. We have two new Board members: Elizabeth Joyce and Stephan W. Isaacson.

Steve, his wife Holly, and their three children live on "Brick House Farm", circa 1825, in Cecilton, MD. Even before becoming a Board member, Steve has been a great asset to Mt. Harmon. He was instrumental in the procurement of a \$4,500 grant to Mt. Harmon from the Maryland Society of Colonial Wars. He was also the brains behind the Bull and Oyster Roast, now destined to become an annual event, and one of its sponsors.

Elizabeth Joyce is a partner at Bohemia Manor, a historic preservation and design firm based in Chestertown. Elizabeth enjoys helping her clients breath new life into old homes. Elizabeth brings a wealth of knowledge of historic buildings and design to the Board. Her office, located in historic

Chestertown, and her ties to that community will be of help in establishing more connections to our Kent County neighbors.

We value our association with Steve and Elizabeth, and extend to them a warm plantation welcome!



WEDDINGS AT MOUNT HARMON

The spring issue of The Hunt Magazine, a regional lifestyle magazine for the Brandywine Valley has just featured a Mount Harmon wedding in a story about Elegant Country Weddings. The bride and wedding party processed through the boxwood garden, while guests were seated in the garden. Fragrant magnolias were floated in the fountain. Tents can be set up on the front lawn or adjacent to the pool house, both with expansive views of the pastoral surroundings. Mount Harmon is available for weddings and special events, and is an unforgettable setting for any special occasion. For more information contact Mount Harmon at 410-275-8819 or visit our website at www.mountharmon.org.

PLANTATION COTTAGE FOR RENT

One of the cottages along the lane near the manor house is available for rent. It offers all the charms of a pastoral, water-oriented country setting. For more information contact 410-275-8819.

