

National Park Service | Chesapeake Bay Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail



News and Updates about the Trail and the War of 1812
Bicentennial in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Summer 2010

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What is the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?



Learn more about the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and related initiatives at our [Trail website](#).

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network



Get to know the [Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails](#) along the Trail and throughout the Bay while biking, fishing, paddling, or just relaxing.

John Smith Trail



The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail closely follows the Star-Spangled Banner National

War of 1812 Events in August and September

There are many events scheduled in August, September, and October to commemorate the War of 1812. Whether it's joining author Anthony Pitch on a tour of the Burning of Washington or watching the brave defenders at a reenactment at North Point, there is something for everyone! Click [here](#) for a full list.



Trail and Byway Management Planning Underway

The combined management planning process for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Star-Spangled Banner Byway is underway! The plan, which will be completed by fall 2011, identifies the significant stories and resources of the Trail and Byway, and establishes how the Trail and Byway will be developed and managed over the next 15-20 years.

Stay tuned for information on regional planning workshops to be held in Fall 2010.

For more information on management planning, click [here](#). For more information on the planning process, contact [Suzanne Copping](#).

War of 1812 Projects Receive Gateways Funding

Several War of 1812 projects have received funding from NPS' [Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network](#) (Gateways). Bladensburg Waterfront Park received funding to develop water and classroom-based programming and to complete docent training on a sailor's life in 1812; those projects are almost



complete. Partners in Fells Point and five Gateways in Havre de Grace received funding to develop interpretive and educational materials and programming. The Baltimore National Heritage Area has received NPS funding to develop a traveling exhibit on the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake to connect people with Maryland's War of 1812 stories at

Historic Trail. By water or from land, you can retrace this 400-year-old history [right now](#).

A Star-Spangled 200



[Learn more](#) about the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.



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schools, libraries, historic sites, and parks throughout Maryland and the country. The Friends of Fort McHenry and the Living Classrooms Foundation received funding to develop the Star-Spangled Banner Virtual Resource Center, which will make educational materials available to educators, researchers and historians, virtual Trail visitors, and more.

Signage Plan Underway

With funding secured for 150 Star-Spangled Banner interpretive wayside signs in Maryland, NPS and the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission are making plans for the development and installation of these signs. A signage survey for partner sites is forthcoming. It will help NPS and the MD Commission identify potential sign locations and interpretive text.



Interpretive Plan Under Review

The Interpretive Plan for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway will be circulated to partners at the end of August and early September. The plan provides an interpretive framework for telling the Trail's stories at sites and along trail segments, outlines priorities and goals for developing robust land and water experiences for visitors, and identifies target audiences. NPS will provide further assistance for site and regional step-down plans. For more information on the Interpretive Plan, contact

[Suzanne Copping](#).

War of 1812 Projects Receive Grants from MHAA



Several War of 1812 Projects recently received grants from the [Maryland Heritage Areas Authority](#); some of these projects leverage NPS funding.. The Port Towns Community Development Corporation received money for a War of 1812 mural in Bladensburg. The Star-Spangled Virtual Resource Center through the Friends of Fort McHenry and the Living

Classrooms Foundation also received money from MHAA.. Museums in Havre de Grace received money to support a schools-based oral history project, scale model of War of 1812-era town, and a traveling exhibition. Benedict and Sotterley both received grants for interpretation, and the Calvert Marine Museum received funding for a Southern Maryland 1812 Map and Guide.

Senate Authorizes Commemorative Coin

The U.S. Senate has passed H.R. 2097, The Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act, which directs the U.S. Treasury

to produce 500,000 \$1 silver coins and 100,000 \$5 gold coins. Coins will be issued beginning January 1, 2012. Surcharges from the coins will generate up to \$8.5 million for the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, who is responsible for providing a match in private funds.

Virginia and Maryland to Welcome OpSail

[Operation Sail, Inc.](#) (OpSail) and the U.S. Navy will bring tall ships and naval vessels to five ports from May to July 2012 to commemorate the War of 1812. Norfolk, VA, and Baltimore, MD, are two of the five ports. For more information, contact [Kate Marks](#).



Virginia Planning New Historic Markers

Currently 40 historical highway markers interpret the War of 1812 in Virginia. The Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission is working with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to develop fifteen new markers related to the War of 1812. For more information, contact [Brenda Edwards](#).

Star-Spangled 200 Conference Series

The [Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission](#) presented the *North Point Star-Spangled 200 Conference* - a day of presentations and area tours in Baltimore County related to the War of 1812's Battle of North Point - for stakeholders in the Bicentennial celebration. Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith announced the formation of a Baltimore County War of 1812 bicentennial advisory committee, which will help the county convey its War of 1812 heritage to residents and visitors.

Other speakers included: Vince Vaise, Chief of Interpretation at Fort McHenry; Ross Kimmel, Historian for the Maryland Park Service; Ed Seufert, a Royal Marines living historian; and Larry Leone, representing Todd's Inheritance.

The next conference will take place in Baltimore City on November 10, 2010. Contact [Kate Marks](#) for more information.

Star-Spangled Banner license plate unveiled in June

The new standard Maryland license plate - with a Star-Spangled Banner theme - became available on Jun 14th (Flag Day) to Maryland motorists. The new plate commemorates the upcoming Bicentennial of the War of 1812. For more information about ordering the plate, check out the [Motor Vehicle Administration's web site](#).



Search for the *USS Scorpion*

Underwater archaeologists from the Maryland Historical Trust, the US Navy, and Maryland State Highway Administration surveyed the Patuxent

River in Prince George's County in late July and early August. They hoped to find the *USS Scorpion* or other War of 1812 vessel of the Chesapeake Flotilla scuttled to prevent capture by the British in 1814. Information gathered from this excavation will inform interpretation of the Trail and events associated with the Bicentennial. A full excavation of the shipwreck is planned for 2012. Click [here](#) for a chronicle of the work.

Joshua Barney on Facebook

Joshua Barney, a Maryland native and U.S. Navy hero during the War of 1812, has a [Facebook page](#) on behalf of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. "Friend" him to receive updates on bicentennial plans and learn interesting tidbits about the War of 1812 in Maryland. A few days after the page was completed, descendants of Barney saw the page, became "friends" of the commodore and are staying in touch.



Thank you for your interest in and support of the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and the upcoming Bicentennial!

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