

# *Volunteer Update*

## *Historic London Town and Gardens*

December 4, 2009

### **Thank You!**

As the year wraps up, we want to thank all volunteers for the many hours of service that you have donated to Historic London Town and Gardens. Because of you, plant sales, living history days, school tours, garden upkeep, Carpenter Shop reconstruction, and many other essential day-to-day functions are made possible for the benefit of our visitors.

### **Contents**

Because this update contains a large listing of our currently planned volunteer-related events for 2010, the following contents list will tell you what sections are included in this update and where they are located in relation to the other sections. The entire Volunteer Update is included within the body of this email. Just scroll down to read it all.

*Embracing the Digital World*

*2010 Volunteer Training and Meeting Calendar*

*2010 Volunteer Opportunities*

*Forthcoming London Town Events*

*Garden News*

*Education News*

*Historic Area Docent News*

*Local Activities of Interest*

### **Embracing the Digital World**

By now you may have noticed that we have started communicating with our volunteers and members on a more regular basis via email. With our newly

revamped website and our increasing familiarity with digital communication, we are trying to keep everyone up to date with London Town happenings in a more timely fashion.

Our aim is to have these updates go out at least once every other month. From time to time you may receive an extra update because of breaking news or important information.

Each update will usually include upcoming London Town events, volunteer opportunities, garden, education, and historic area docent news, and local or regional events/activities that may be of interest to you.

A limited number of hardcopies of these updates will continue to be available at the London Town Visitor Center. Those of you who do not receive the digital version may pick up a copy when you come in to volunteer or when you are in the area during our normal operating hours.

Additionally, a pdf version of the most recent Volunteer Update will be on the Volunteer page of our website:

[www.historiclondontown.org/index.php/joinsupport/volunteer](http://www.historiclondontown.org/index.php/joinsupport/volunteer).

## **2010 Volunteer Training & Meeting Calendar**

The 2010 volunteer training and meeting calendar includes dates for training, workshops, and other pertinent activities. Of course, it is submitted with the caveat that particular dates and times may change and additional items may be added.

**Tuesday, 19 January; 10:00 – 12:00, *All Garden Volunteer Meeting*.** To review past year's accomplishments, discuss and set goals for the upcoming year and establish schedule for upcoming events.

**Wednesday & Thursday, 17 & 18 February; 10:00 – 2:00, *Volunteer Open House*.** During this time prospective volunteers may come by London Town at any point for a 10-15 minute discussion to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

**Wednesday, 3 March; 10:00 - 12:00, *Volunteer Training*.** At this session we will have a 30-minute overview about the London Town Foundation – our mission, what

we do, the staff, etc. This will be followed by a 90-minute session on administrative policies, as well as basic customer service (and why it is important).

**\* Important:** If you are a London Town volunteer (garden, education, and/or historic area docent) who has not attended a **Volunteer Training** session, you need to attend either this one, the **Thursday, 4 March**, or the **Saturday, 10 April** session. RSVP to **Rod Cofield** at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email:

[rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Thursday, 4 March; 1:00 - 3:00, *Volunteer Training*.** See above.

**Saturday, 6 March; 10:00 - 3:00, *Practice Makes Perfect: Polishing Your Interpretive Skills*.** This engaging, interactive workshop, to be held at London Town, will include specialized small group sessions. A variety of talented facilitators will demonstrate methods to improve our interpretive skills. **\$15-\$25 registration.** Lunch included. More information with schedule and true price forthcoming.

**Tuesday, 9 March; 10:00 - 12:00, *Education Docent Gathering*.** Veteran and new education docents will get a chance to meet and learn about the spring 2010 season. RSVP to **Lisa Robbins** at 410-222-1919 x212 or via email:

[education@historiclondontown.org](mailto:education@historiclondontown.org)

**Tuesday, 9 March; 12:45 - 2:30, *Education Docent Training*.** New (and any interested veteran) education docents will learn about London Town's education programs. RSVP to **Lisa Robbins** at 410-222-1919 x212 or via email:

[education@historiclondontown.org](mailto:education@historiclondontown.org)

**Thursday, 11 March; 10:00 - 12:30 & 1:00 - 3:30(repeat), *Historic Area Docent Training*.** This training session focuses on the guided tours that involve the William Brown House and Historic Area.

**\* Important:** If you are a London Town volunteer who offers guided tours of the Historic Area and William Brown House for either the general public or group tours, you need to attend one of the **Historic Area Docent Training** sessions on this day or the **Saturday, 3 April** session. RSVP to Rod Cofield at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Wednesday, 17 March; 10:00 – 12:00, *First Garden Guide Training Meeting*.** We will begin with an introductory meeting in the Pavilion and continue with a tour of the gardens, with an emphasis on identifying trees and woody plants. Experienced

guides please bring a calendar to sign up for pre-booked tours. Please RSVP to **Cathy Umphrey** at 410-222-1919 x205 or via email:

[gardens@historiclondontown.org](mailto:gardens@historiclondontown.org)

**Wednesday, 31 March; 1:00 - 4:00, *Tag-a-long Tours*.** Come to London Town during this time to observe the Historic Area and William Brown House tours, given by either Vicki Lerch or Rod Cofield. This is an opportunity to get in-depth tours from our Curator and Director of Interpretation. \* **Important:** If you are a London Town volunteer who gives guided tours of the Historic Area and William Brown House for either the general public or group tours, you need to attend one of the multiple **Tag-a-long Tours** sessions offered between now and the first week of July. RSVP for this day to **Vicki Lerch** at 410-222-1919 x204 or via email:

[curator@historiclondontown.org](mailto:curator@historiclondontown.org)

**Saturday, 3 April; 10:00 - 12:30, *Historic Area Docent Training*.** RSVP to Rod Cofield at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Saturday, 10 April; 1:00 – 3:00, *New Volunteer Training*.** RSVP to Rod Cofield at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Tuesday, 13 April; 10:00 - 12:00, *Carpenter Shop Discussion*.** Group discussion about the Carpenter Shop.

**Wednesday, 14 April; 10:00 – 12:00, *Second Garden Guide Training Meeting*.** We will meet at the Pavilion and continue with a tour of the gardens, with an emphasis on identifying bulbs and spring ephemerals. Bring the packet of materials distributed at the March meeting.

**Saturday, 17 April; 9:30 - 2:30, *Junior Docent Gathering*.**

**Saturday, 24 April; 1:00 - 4:00, *Tag-a-long Tours*.** See above. RSVP for this day to **Rod Cofield** at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email:

[rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Thursday, 29 April; 1:00 - 4:00, *Tag-a-long Tours*.** See above. RSVP for this day to **Vicki Lerch** at 410-222-1919 x204 or via email:

[curator@historiclondontown.org](mailto:curator@historiclondontown.org)

**Friday, 7 May; 1:00 - 4:00, *Tag-a-long Tours*.** See above.

RSVP for this day to **Rod Cofield** at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email:

[rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Saturday, 15 May; 9:30 - 2:30, *Junior Docent Gathering*.**

**Tuesday, 18 May; 10:00 - 12:00, *London Town Foundation Update*.** This all-volunteer gathering is a chance to learn about the latest news and information concerning Historic London Town and Gardens. RSVP to **Vicki Lerch** at 410-222-1919 x204 or via email: [curator@historiclondontown.org](mailto:curator@historiclondontown.org)

**Wednesday, May 19; 10:00 – 12:00, *Third Garden Guide Training Meeting*.** We will meet at the Pavilion and continue with a tour of the gardens, with an emphasis on identifying the azaleas and peonies. Bring the packet of materials distributed at the March meeting.

**Tuesday, 15 June; 2:00 - 4:00, *Topical Discussion/Lecture*.** A gathering to explore a topic (or two) of interest to volunteers and staff relating to London Town. If you have any suggestions please tell us.

**Wednesday, June 16; 10:00 – 12:00, *Garden Guide Graduation and Lunch*.** The new crop of garden guides will be showing off their new-found skills and knowledge. Come to London Town this day to take one of their tours so they can torture practice on you. Graduates will be taken out to lunch in celebration of their new status as Garden Guides.

**Wednesday & Thursday, 16 & 17 June; 10:00 - 2:00, *Volunteer Open House*.**

**Wednesday, 23 June; 10:00 - 1:00, *Tag-a-long Tours*.** RSVP for this day to **Vicki Lerch** at 410-222-1919 x204 or via email: [curator@historiclondontown.org](mailto:curator@historiclondontown.org)

**Saturday, 3 July; 10:00 - 1:00, *Tag-a-long Tours*.** RSVP for this day to **Rod Cofield** at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Saturday, 21 August; 9:30 - 2:30, *Junior Docent Gathering*.**

**Wednesday & Thursday, 25 & 26 August; 10:00 - 2:00, *Volunteer Open House*.**

**Thursday, 26 August; 4:00 - 6:00, *Volunteer Appreciation Reception.*** Come to our fun Volunteer Appreciation Reception to congratulate your fellow volunteers (and yourself) for the many jobs well-done throughout the year.

**Tuesday, 31 August, *Interpretation Workshop.*** More information forthcoming.

**Tuesday, 7 September; 10:00 - 12:00, *Education Docent Training.***

**Wednesday, 8 September; 10:00 - 12:00, *New Volunteer Training.***

**Wednesday, 8 September; 1:00 - 3:30, *Historic Area Docent Training.***

**Thursday, 9 September; 10:00 - 12:30, *Historic Area Docent Training.***

**Saturday, 18 September; 9:30 - 2:30, *Junior Docent Gathering.***

**Thursday, 23 September; 1:00 - 4:00, *Tag-a-long Tours.*** RSVP for this day to **Vicki Lerch** at 410-222-1919 x204 or via email: [curator@historiclondontown.org](mailto:curator@historiclondontown.org)

**Sunday, 3 October; 12:00 - 4:00, *Tag-a-long Tours.*** RSVP for this day to **Rod Cofield** at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

**Tuesday, 12 October; 10:00 – 12:00, *Topical Discussion/Lecture.*** A gathering to explore a topic (or two) of interest to volunteers and staff relating to London Town. If you have any suggestions please tell us.

**Saturday, 16 October; 9:30 - 2:30, *Junior Docent Gathering.***

**Saturday, 30 October; 12:00 – 4:00, *Camellia Day Garden Guide Training.***

Follow an experienced guide to learn about London Town's camellia collection and its role in the development of cold-hardy camellias. Recommended for new Garden Guides.

**December; 6:30 - 8:00, *Holiday Gathering and London Town Foundation Update.*** Day and date forthcoming.

## **2010 Volunteer Opportunities**

Additional volunteer opportunities will develop as the year progresses.

### **Maryland Day**

*Sunday, March 21, 12:00 - 4:00pm*

Historic London Town and Gardens will celebrate Maryland's birthday by offering free admission to the public on Maryland Day. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact Rod Cofield at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

### **Third Annual London Town Benefit**

*Friday, March 26, 6:00 – 9:00 pm*

London Town's popular annual benefit returns with food, drink, and auction. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more information.

### **Member's Appreciation Preview Sale**

*Friday, April 23, 4:00 – 7:00pm*

Box collectors, tag pullers and set-up and restocking crews are always needed. To help, please contact **Cathy Umphrey** at 410-222-1919 x205 or via email; [gardens@historiclondontown.org](mailto:gardens@historiclondontown.org)

### **Spring Plant Sale**

*Saturday, April 24, 8:00am – 12:00pm*

Box collectors, tag pullers and clean-up crews are always needed. To help, please contact **Cathy Umphrey**. See above for contact information.

### **Revolutionary London Town**

*Sunday, July 11, 11:30am – 4:30pm*

Our well-received Living History Day with a revolutionary theme returns. If you are interested in volunteering (either in or out of costume) please contact **Rod Cofield** at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

### **Fall Plant Sale**

*Saturday, September 18, 8:00am – 1:00pm*

Box collectors, tag pullers and set-up and clean-up crews are always needed. To help, please contact **Cathy Umphrey** at 410-222-1919 x205 or via email: [gardens@historiclondontown.org](mailto:gardens@historiclondontown.org)

## **Camellia Day**

***Saturday, October 30, 12:00 – 4:00pm***

As the late-fall and early-winter camellias begin to bloom, Camellia Day offers our guests hourly tours of the Woodland and Ornamental Gardens on this day. If you want to help highlight our beautiful and important camellias, please contact **Cathy Umphrey** at 410-222-1919 x205 or via email: [gardens@historiclondontown.org](mailto:gardens@historiclondontown.org)

## **Market and Trades Weekend**

***Saturday, November 6, 10:00am – 4:00pm &***

***Sunday, November 7, 11:30am – 4:30pm***

During this weekend, we offer visitors a variety of workshops on Saturday and an exciting Living History Day on Sunday. We need volunteers on Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering (either in or out of costume) please contact **Rod Cofield** at 410-222-1919 x206 or via email: [rodcofield@historiclondontown.org](mailto:rodcofield@historiclondontown.org)

## **Education Docents**

Energetic and interested individuals are needed to assist with our Education Programs which has become a year round event with School Tours, Homeschool Days, Scout days, and summer camps. We need volunteers mainly Wednesday through Friday, although there are a growing number of weekend events as well. If you are interested in volunteering (either in or out of costume) please contact **Lisa Robbins** at 410-222-1919 x212 or via email: [education@historiclondontown.org](mailto:education@historiclondontown.org)

## **Forthcoming London Town Events**

### **Greens Sale**

***Starts Saturday, December 5***

Get your holiday greenery here! Berries, greenery, swags, boxwood trees, centerpieces, kissing balls and London Town's own Holiday Critters ornaments will be available for sale.

### **Holiday Workshop**

***Saturday, December 5***

***10:00 am – 12:00 pm***

Make your own custom wreath or holiday centerpiece using London Town materials. For an additional charge, participants can make two projects.

***\$40 first project; \$25 second project.***

*Prepaid reservations required.*

**Annual Meeting and Holiday Party**

*Thursday, December 10*

*6:30 – 8:30 pm*

Come to the Pavilion to see our holiday decorations while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

**RSVP** by Monday, December 7 to:

410-222-1919 x200 or

[londontown@historiclondontown.org](mailto:londontown@historiclondontown.org)

**Winter Lecture Series**

*Tuesdays, January 26 – February 23*

*10:00am*

*Archaeological Discoveries of the Chesapeake*

**January 26** : Dr. Julia King, St. Mary's College, *The Search for Zekiah Fort and the Charles County Courthouse.*

**February 2** : Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City, will discuss the new St. John's archaeological exhibit at Historic St. Mary's City.

**February 9** : Bly Straube, Curator at Jamestown Rediscovery, *Digging up Dirt on Jamestown: 15 years of Archaeological Investigation.*

**February 16** : Dr. Al Luckenbach will reveal the newest discoveries from Pig Point, an important Native American site in Anne Arundel County.

**February 23** : Dr. Cary Carson, former Vice President of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Topic TBD.

**Free for volunteers**

**Proprietors, Patrons, & Peons:**

**Women's Roles in Public Houses**

*Tuesday, March 2, 10:00am*

Join London Town's Rod Cofield as he explores the role of women in inns, ordinaries, and taverns during the colonial period.

**Free**

**Garden Workshop Series**

*Thursdays in March*

*10:00am – 12:00pm*

Join us in March for lectures and workshops about practical gardening.

**Free for volunteers**

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Daffodil Show**

*Friday, April 9, 2:00 – 5:00pm &  
Saturday, April 10, 10:00am – 5:00pm*

**Summer Solstice Concert**

*Sunday, June 20*

**Garden News** by Cathy Umphrey

**Party time!**

As the year winds down and the holiday season revs up, be sure to put two dates on your calendar:

**Thursday, December 10, 6:30 – 8:30pm is our Annual Meeting and Holiday Party** for all supporters, volunteers and members of London Town. Although it starts out with announcements of serious Board business, it soon becomes a fun and festive get together with good food, drink and cheer. We hope to see you!

**Tuesday, December 15, noon – 2pm is the Gardeners Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange.** Bring a dish for the potluck and a garden- or food-related gift of no more than \$10, if you want to participate in the fun of our gift exchange. Be forewarned: any gift you select can be taken from you by some unscrupulous gardener with an eye for your treasure. Even though we are being joined by the London Town staff for this event, rowdiness may ensue. Please let me know if you are coming and what dish you plan to bring: **we are currently in need of a few main dishes.**

**Decorations, Critters, Greens and Workshops**

Thanks go to the fantastic group of volunteers who decorated the Pavilion, collected and bundled greens, and made boxwood trees, centerpieces and other holiday creations for sale. Especially wonderful this year has been our expanded “critter” ornaments program. Five volunteers met weekly through the fall to make over 200 ornaments from collected natural materials. Although they cost us virtually nothing to make, they have brought in nearly \$1,000 in revenues. Congratulations to a talented, hard-working and creative group of ladies!

**All Garden Volunteer Meeting, Tuesday, January 19, 10am.**

Our annual meeting to review goals and set horticultural priorities for 2010 will take place a little early this year, due to the return of the Winter Lecture series at the end of January. It is hoped that you will come with ideas, comments and criticisms of what you encounter here as a garden volunteer. I am open to any new ideas and will

do what I can to address your concerns. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may contact me directly so that I may either report on the issue publicly, or take it into consideration during the meeting.

## **Education News**

As the fall school tour season wraps up, we wanted to share some numbers with you that show how hard the education docents work throughout the school year. For the months of September through November, **873** students and **312** adults participated in our education programs. That is **1185** people who have been introduced to our site; many for the first time. We know it pays off because we get a small, but steady, stream of students bringing their parents back to the site and showing off what they learned. That is a most assuredly a testament to the engaging programs we offer.

There will be a lull in school tours between now and mid-March. But that does not mean we're taking a break. During the winter months we will be reviewing our education programs to make certain they reflect current research, the schools' curriculum, and our own mission and goals. To help us do that we would like to have an education programs discussion at **10:00am** on **February 10th** to review our programs, how they work, and how we can make them better. Please let Lisa know if you are unable to attend this very important conversation.

## **Historic Area Docent News**

You will find the William Brown House decorated for a Holiday Party this month. Things have been moved and it is different, so be sure you take a look before giving a tour.

Unlike today, colonists decorated for a single event, not the whole season. Winter decorations usually included greens, berries, and fruit, both fresh and dried. The elaborate decorations we think of as "Colonial" are actually Colonial Revival, popular first in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and again in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The William Brown House is decorated for a party with dancing, a popular entertainment, whether celebrating a wedding, a christening or a break in the work required by the tobacco crop.

The dance will be held in the tavern room with music and supper and desserts laid out conveniently. Drinks are served in the entry. Like most colonial parties, there is also space set aside for games, usually cards, but also board games for those who do not wish to or have had enough dancing.—this is in the River Room.

Across the passage, William Black, a factor based in Upper Marlboro and a friend of James

Dick, is recovering from a bout of the Ague (fever and chills—often the colonial name for the flu). He has an assortment of medicines and herbs, as well as the bowl and bandages set out ready for the doctor to bleed him again.

Mrs. Brown is making some last minute alterations to her daughter's gown in the bedchamber. A light tea has been set out for the girls in the parlor where Mary Jones is looking after the baby.

## **Local Activities of Interest**

### *Historic Annapolis Foundation*

<http://www.annapolis.org/index.asp?pageid=133>

### *Four Rivers Heritage Area*

<http://fourriversheritage.org/EventCal/index.cfm>

### *Watermark*

[www.watermarkcruises.com/events.htm](http://www.watermarkcruises.com/events.htm)

### *Hammond-Harwood House*

[www.hammondharwoodhouse.org/Special\\_Events.htm](http://www.hammondharwoodhouse.org/Special_Events.htm)

### *Annapolis Horticulture Society*

[www.annapolishorticulture.org/events.html](http://www.annapolishorticulture.org/events.html)