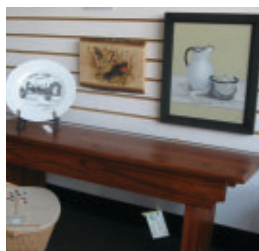


The Heron's Flight



www.somdtrails.com



Explore a new interactive map of the Trails and find news and updated site information at www.somdtrails.com



The *Heron's Flight* is not a linear trail. Instead, a cluster of sites near the center of Charles County forms the core, and various offshoots branch out to the water's edge in all directions. The first five sites (the core of this Trail) are in La Plata's downtown on Charles Street and St. Mary's Avenue; they are all within walking distance of each other, although parking is readily available.

1 Charles Street Bakery & Cafe

507 East Charles Street, La Plata

A perfect beginning to any Trails trip, latte drinks and delicious pastries by owner Deborah Taylor will ensure you're energized and ready to meet the day. Her baked goods are made with local eggs and fruit when possible. Take home a treat for your family or guests, or join the "regulars" who lunch here. Her specialty is wedding cakes if the need arises. *Open Mon. – Fri. 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat. 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.* ♿ **f** (301) 392-6344, www.charlesstreetbakery.com

On Charles Street in downtown La Plata.

2 Bernie's Frame Shop

205 East Charles Street, La Plata

Tucked away in this busy frame shop are some delightful surprises...original paintings, photos and prints by area artists and handmade furniture by a Southern Maryland woodworker. Locals have long known that this is the place to go for a meaningful gift for a retiring co-worker, graduating senior or good friend who is leaving the area. Purchase a framed piece, or get something from the print bin and owner Debora Almassy will help you decide on the perfect mat and frame. *Open Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.* **f** (301) 392-5322, www.berniesframeshop.com

On Charles Street in downtown La Plata.

3 The Royal Tea Room and Restaurant

110 East Charles Street, La Plata

The spacious porch and charming dining rooms of The Royal Tea Room and Restaurant set the stage for an elegant meal or high tea. This is a building "steeped" in history: built in the 1920s, it was first the home of one of La Plata's oldest families and eventually became the rectory of the adjacent church. Today, it's the perfect place for a meal, private/business event or evening dinner. Be sure to browse the antiques and tea accessories! They offer a large selection of wines and an extensive tea menu featuring more than 40 teas. Call for hours and reservations. (Reservations are recommended but walk-ins are welcome.) You can text "TEA" to 55469 to join the VIP Club! *Call for hours.* ♿ **f** (301) 392-1111, www.royaltearoommd.com






Just off Charles Street on St. Mary's Avenue.

4 Crazy for Ewe

6 St. Mary's Avenue, Suite 102, La Plata


"Go play in the yarn!" That's the suggestion on the Crazy for Ewe website, and owner Ellen Lewis has the perfect playground on St. Mary's Avenue. Peruse an extensive selection of fibers and yarns, join a club or take a class. Everything you need to create your own wearable masterpiece or handmade work of art for your home can be found here, including lots of support from skilled staff if you run into any snags or tangles on your current project. **Open Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.** ♿  (240) 349-2853, www.crazyforewe.com



On Charles Street in downtown La Plata.

5 Port Tobacco Players

508 East Charles Street, La Plata

In the years after WWII, the notion was born to create a theatre troupe that would raise money for the restoration of Charles County's iconic Port Tobacco courthouse. For the next 20 years, this troupe performed in high school auditoriums, courtrooms and village greens, finally raising enough money to fulfill its original dream. By then, the group had become a shining star in the cultural landscape of the county, and in 1974, it moved into a permanent home—a 1940s movie theater on the main street in La Plata. Today, more than 65 years after the troupe's conception, PTP continues to entertain, educate, uplift, challenge, enlighten and enrich its audiences. PTP performs six shows per season on the main stage and countless road productions with its Encore and Encore Kids touring companies. **Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 3 p.m.** ♿  (301) 932-6819, www.ptplayers.com



www.somdtrails.com



The Heron's Flight Accokeek Branch



You'll have a Wing-Side Seat

Charles County is a haven for birders; it boasts 322 different bird species and the second largest bald eagle population in the state of Maryland.

The ACCOKEEK BRANCH of the Heron's Flight: *This branch arches west toward the Potomac River and ends in Accokeek. Grab your camera and get a gorgeous photo of birds or wildlife, or buy one at the gallery!*

From the intersection of Route 301 and Route 225 (Hawthorne Road), go WEST on Route 225 0.9 miles to this site on RIGHT.

 **Heaven's Garden, LLC**
7750 Hawthorne Road, La Plata

If you are looking to spice up your garden or landscaping, you might consider that a plant from this farm is a true piece of Southern Maryland, as the farm has been in the family of owners Joe and Janet Clements for more than 200 years. They are the largest perennial grower in Southern Maryland, but annuals, shrubs and trees are abundant as well. Landscaped paths create a pretty setting and might provide inspiration for your own little bit of heaven if you have a garden at your home. **Open April through Sept., Mon. – Sat. 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Oct. through Feb. daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** (301) 934-6663, www.heavensgardenllc.com

From Route 225 (Hawthorne Road) about midway between La Plata and Indian Head, turn on Myrtle Grove Road at large brown sign. Go 1 mile on dirt road to log cabin office on RIGHT.

 **Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management Area**
Hawthorne Road, La Plata

This protected 2,450-acre tract stretches along the bottomland of the Mattawoman Creek (an area once home to the Piscataway Indians) and is comprised of hardwood forests, wildlife plantings, natural and man-made wetlands and early succession habitats. It is home to a variety of wildlife and birds, most notably the barred owl. (Its call sounds like “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all!”) Visitors will find a 23-acre lake, a 10-acre pond, two green-tree reservoirs and numerous streams. The site is great for hiking, fishing and bird-watching (look for waterfowl, bobwhite quail, mourning doves and many species of songbirds); be aware that it is also popular with hunters, so check hunting season dates and use caution. **Open daily dawn to dusk.** 📞 (301) 743-5161, www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Publiclands/southern/myrtlegrove.asp



Keep your eyes open for ospreys along the Port Tobacco River.



PORT TOBACCO PLAYERS

WWW.PTPLAYERS.COM
(301) 932-6819

- Six main stage shows annually
- Summer theater camps for kids and teens
- Gift tickets available!
- See the website for show schedule
- Purchase tickets on-line or call the box office

Live theater in Charles County for 65 years!

The Port Tobacco Players, Inc. strive to entertain, educate, uplift, challenge, enlighten, and enrich their audiences, volunteers and community by providing consistent quality productions at affordable prices.



508 E. Charles Street - La Plata, MD

The Heron's Flight Accokeek Branch




From Route 225 W. (Hawthorne Road), turn LEFT on Route 224 (Chicamuxen Road), go 2.2 miles to LEFT on Bicknell Road, then go 0.4 miles to site on LEFT.

Azure B, LLC

4730 Bicknell Road, Marbury

It's all about the bees...those tiny, busy, buzzing pollinators that are the linchpins of the planet's ecosystem. In their family-run apiary and permaculture farm in Marbury, Heidi and Stefano Briguglio are committed to acting as stewards and advocates for the honeybees, and to being the voice of the revolution in respectful, chemical-free beekeeping. They offer education for beginners or seasoned beekeepers, including one-on-one mentoring, hands-on classes and general expertise and support, as well as a varied assortment of handmade, high quality hives and other beekeeping products. (And, of course, bees!) They also offer "fruit shares" consisting of figs grown on their farm plus other hand selected products that are responsibly grown. While you're there, ask about composting. They can help you purchase a composter and adopt your own "squirm," a tiny squad of worms and other composting critters. **Open by appointment or see the website for class schedule.**



 (301) 743-2331, www.azurebllc.com



From Route 224 S. (Chicamuxen Road), turn RIGHT on Sweden Point Road, go 0.4 miles to RIGHT on Upham Place. Go 0.3 miles to gallery (follow MCAC arrows).

Mattawoman Creek Art Center

5565 Upham Street, Marbury

This beautiful waterside gallery features soaring cathedral ceilings, contemplative views of Mattawoman Creek and an ever-changing arrangement of art by member artists and guests. Featured shows (a new one each month) include an annual juried show of local high school students, an annual member holiday show, a fascinating collaborative show of artists and floral designers, as well as individual presentations by sculptors, painters and designers throughout the region. There is a permanent outdoor sculpture garden and gift shop on the site and an ongoing series of lectures and hands-on workshops. You can even rent this space for a day or evening event. (No extra charge for fabulous sunsets!) **Open mid-Jan. through mid-Dec. Fri., Sat., Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**   (301) 743-5159, www.mattawomanart.org

www.somdtrails.com



From Route 224 S. (Chicamuxen Road), turn right on Sweden Point Road, go 0.3 miles to park on LEFT.

Smallwood State Park

2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury

Along the miles of hiking trails in this park, you'll find details to explore whether you're a nature-lover, history buff or just someone out for a relaxing stroll. You might get a glimpse of beaver dams, birds and other wildlife as you trek along the tributaries of Mattawoman Creek. There is a reconstructed tobacco barn to remind you of the area's agricultural heritage, and Smallwood's Retreat, the restored home of General William Smallwood, a native-born Charles countian and the fourth governor of Maryland. Occasionally, costumed docents give tours of the plantation house, which reflects Smallwood's lifestyle as a gentleman planter. You'll also find a boat launch, camping sites, picnic facilities, a camp store, fishing piers and the Sweden Point Marina as you explore the park. You can even stop in the newly opened Sweden Point Discovery Center to see live animals and learn more about the many wonders of the area. *Park open April through Oct., 5 a.m. to sunset and Nov. through March, 8 a.m. to sunset. For hours for the General's Retreat or the Discovery Center, call (301) 743-7613.* 🏠 Pavilion and campsite rentals: (888) 432-2267, dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/smallwood.aspx

From Route 210 N. (Indian Head Highway), go LEFT on Chapmans Lane. Go 0.1 miles to RIGHT on Chapmans Landing Road, then 500 yards to LEFT into parking area at Ferry Place.

Chapman State Park

3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head

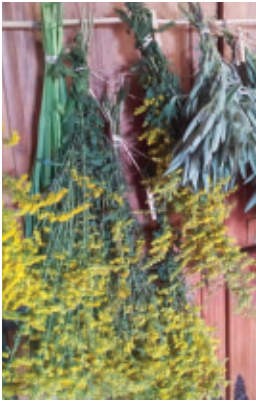
Chapman State Park is one of Maryland's unique places, with more than 2,000 forested acres, more than two miles of Potomac River shoreline and Mount Aventine—a Colonial tidewater historic site crowned by an 1840s manor house. Visitors can tour the manor house itself on "open house" days throughout the year (call for dates). The grounds, including miles of trails and spectacular river views, are open daily. You'll find stands of old-growth trees here, as well as more than 50 endangered plant species, mostly spring ephemerals. *Open year-round from dawn to dusk. Park at gate and walk in.* 🏠 (301) 743-7613, dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/chapman.aspx



Tell them you found them on the Trails!




The Heron's Flight Accokeek Branch



From the intersection of Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) and Route 227 (Marshall Hall Road) in Bryans Road, go NORTH on Route 227 for 4.3 miles to LEFT on River Road. Go 1.2 miles to LEFT on Chester Avenue; go 0.1 miles to site on LEFT.

Centro Ashé Farm and Herb School *1620 Chester Avenue, Bryans Road*

Ashé is the “energy of creation,” the Spirit behind movement, a catalyzing and creative energy, and the driving force behind this unique destination...a combination medicinal plant sanctuary, farmstead and education center. The land surrounding the homestead contains hundreds of species of medicinal and native plants, open pasture and forest, fruit trees and more. Owner Molly Meehan, founder and steward, has a deep commitment to fostering strong connections between our communities and the earth, our food and medicine, and our cultural traditions. She and others here grow plant medicines and food, save seeds and continually find new and creative ways to encourage a passion for herbal medicines and for sustainable agriculture. In addition to ongoing day and weekend classes, the center offers a Grassroots Herbal Intensive Program, which includes options for one or two years of in-depth study of folk herbalism from various traditions and nature’s ability to support our health, strength, and vitality. Also available are seasonal herbal CSAs, herbal wellness consultations and a line of herbal products, seeds and more. ***Open during public programs or by appointment.***  (301) 375-6082, www.centroashe.org

www.somdtrails.com

Our Heritage Lives On

... in the names of our region’s towns, rivers and roads. Piscataway, Patuxent, Potomac, Chaptico, Accokeek, Aquasco, Mattawoman, Nanjemoy and even Chesapeake are just a few of the places in Southern Maryland named for (or by) the indigenous tribes that once called this region home.





Farmers' Markets

on the Heron's Flight


La Plata Farmers' Market
 March through late November. Sat. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wed. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Located on Talbot Street next to the Charles County Courthouse

Waldorf Farmers' Market
 Early May through mid-December. Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June through August.
 Sat. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wed. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Located at O'Donnell Street
 and St. Patrick's Drive in St. Charles.

Download the full So. Maryland, So Good Farmers' Market Guide at smadc.com.

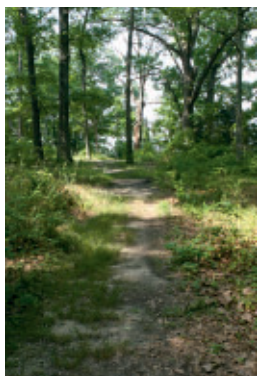
From the intersection of Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) and Route 373 (Livingston Road) in Accokeek, go WEST on Route 373. Take immediate RIGHT on Biddle Road, then immediate LEFT on Bryan Point Road. Go 3.2 miles to park gates. Follow signs to parking area.

Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek

Start at the visitors center to get your bearings, and then branch out to one of several distinct and interesting experiences found within this unique "farm within a national park" site. The National Colonial Farm offers a look at the lives of 18th-century agriculture including heritage breed animals and heirloom crops. It also hosts family-friendly events throughout the year. At the Ecosystem Farm, you'll see sustainable, organic farming practices in action. All produce from the farm is direct marketed to consumers at the Saturday On-Farm Market. The farm offers a myriad of homesteading workshops open to the public, as well as volunteer opportunities. The land in this park was preserved to protect the viewshed of Mount Vernon, and so the area looks much like it did in George Washington's day. Miles of trails lace the grounds and a colorful, autumn hike might be graced with the sight of bald eagles lazily circling overhead. Visitors can picnic in the pavilion or fish from the pier. *Open daily dawn to dusk (National Colonial Farm area and Visitor Center open March through Dec., Tues. – Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ecosystem Farm open Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)*  (301) 283-2113, www.accokeek.org



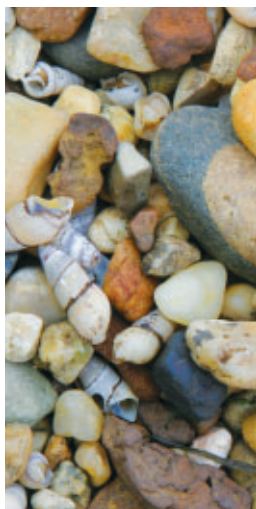
The Heron's Flight Nanjemoy Branch



Leave No Trace

Well-kept trails make for happy campers (and hikers and bikers, etc.) In environmentally sensitive areas, keep group sizes small and walk single file. Stick to established trails.

Take out what you bring in, and never remove anything from natural areas. Avoid hiking, biking or horseback riding when trails are wet and soft. Report trail damage or potentially hazardous situations.




The NANJEMOY BRANCH of the Heron's Flight: *This branch features some of Southern Maryland's most remote and least developed areas, so make sure you have a full tank of gas, a cell phone and bottled water.*

From the intersection of Route 301 (Crain Highway) and Route 6 (Port Tobacco Road), go WEST on Route 6 for 15.2 miles to RIGHT on Green Leek Hill Road. Go 0.1 miles to RIGHT on Sandy Point Road at fork; go 1.3 miles to LEFT on Route 224 (Riverside Road) at stop sign. Go 3.7 miles to parking area on LEFT. (Main trail to water's edge begins on opposite side of the road.)

Purse State Park

Riverside Road, Nanjemoy

If you are looking to "get away from it all," this secluded spot is the perfect destination. The 90-acre reserve remains virtually untouched by development and is one of the area's secret treasures for fossil hunters, and game hunters as well. From the parking lot, a half-mile walk through old-growth trees leads to a beautiful view of Wade's Bay and the Potomac River. Here, you'll find the crumbling remains of an old brick chimney, maybe a few leftover daffodils from a long-ago resident and a steep hike down to the water. If you are planning to hunt for fossils, be sure to arrive at low tide, when you may find fossilized sharks' teeth, bones and shell fragments along the water's edge. (At high tide, there is very little beach available.) Herons, osprey and bald eagles frequently make an appearance along this stretch of shore. The trails on the opposite side of the road (same side as parking lot) are also popular with bird-watchers. These trails meander through a forested area and along the edge of a small wetland. **Note: These trails are not marked and you should come prepared with map and compass.** This area is also open to hunting, so please be mindful and wear bright orange when hiking during hunting season. *Open year-round sunrise to sunset.*
 (301) 743-7613, dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/purse.aspx





Follow directions to Purse State Park. Continue past the park entrance and go an additional 5 miles to RIGHT on Rick Hamilton Place. Go 0.7 miles to park entrance.

15 Lions Camp Merrick 3650 Rick Hamilton Place, Nanjemoy

This 320-acre site on the Potomac River is the perfect setting for family reunions, church retreats, company picnics, company team building sessions, weddings and youth retreats. In addition, the site provides youth with an overnight summer camp experience where they enjoy swimming, a climbing wall, canoeing, archery and many other outdoor activities. The primary focus during the summer is working with children who have type 1 diabetes, children who are deaf or blind, and underprivileged youth. The facility allows kids to enjoy nature and experience wildlife on the nature trails, observation decks over marshlands and on the waterfront, where they often get glimpses of beavers, wood ducks, ospreys, blue heron and bald eagles. Other activities available are fishing, horseshoes, basketball, volley ball and field games. Cabins and tent site rentals are available. (Note: this site is not available for walk-ins; you must make reservations in advance to camp or stay.) *Open year-round by appointment 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.* ♿ (301) 870-5858, www.lionscampmerrick.org



At Low Tide, Life's a Beach

If you are planning on fossil hunting or just combing the beach, be sure there'll be a beach when you get there. In many places, it's often best to go at low tide, since at high tide the usable beach area may be slim or even nonexistent. (You can easily check tide tables on the web.)



Mallows Bay: A Ghostly Graveyard Teems With Life

One of the most fascinating natural areas in the state lies in a one-mile cove called Mallows Bay on the western border of Charles County. Actually, it didn't start out as a natural area at all; throughout the first half of the 20th century, ships were brought here, scuttled, scrapped and sunk and the area was turned into one of the largest graveyard of ships in the United States. Viewed from the air, the bay seems to be teeming with "schools" of these empty, ghostly, fish-shaped hulls. Today, mini-ecosystems have evolved with the sunken 9 ships as a foundation. Fish, crabs and an abundance of underwater creatures give new life to these ghost ships from another time, and make it one of the most unique spots on the Trails for fishing and kayaking. (It's accessible only by boat.)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • AUGUST 30-31, 2014

Spent the weekend in...
Charles County, MD!

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the 1812 era as Charles County commemorates the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812.

Benedict is a premier location to visit during this commemoration time period. Enjoy waterfront views, walks, and dining in the small quaint village of Benedict; which is still surrounded by fields and the historically famous Patuxent River.

TOUR Serenity Farm and learn about the farmer and plantation life from local farm owner and historian.

Visit Harvest House, purchase locally produced meats and vegetables.



VISUALIZE over 40 British ships in the Patuxent River from the porch of the Harvest House... the area where many 1814 artifacts were found.



EXPLORE a petting zoo, enjoy a walk to the river, live music, artisans, crafters, local food, kids rides, and evening entertainment.

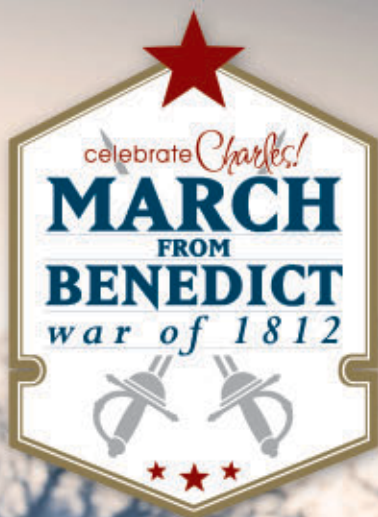


Just down the road is Maxwell Hall, the site of the War of 1812 Bicentennial, a Star Spangled Celebration. Tour Maxwell Hall on **SATURDAY, AUG. 30**, for an exciting look into a late 18th century home with central stair passage, gambrel roof, and massive end exterior brick chimneys. Maxwell Hall is situated in the center of Maxwell Hall Equestrian Park on 600 plus acres and the middle of the first foreign invasion of the United States.

Be part of living history, experience a wedding of 1812 and find out how the war impacted a young family. Learn the history of the Keech family and their lives during this tumultuous time. Stroll the booths of crafters, lace making, quilters, corn husk crafts, blacksmiths, basket makers and shop the market for unique treasures.



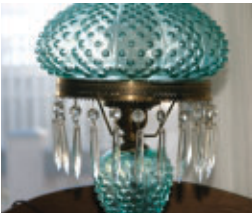
Charles County Govt. • Office of Tourism • P.O. Box 2150 • 200 Baltimore St. • La Plata, MD
301-645-0550 • MD Relay: 711 • Relay TDD: 1-800-735-2258 • Equal Opportunity County



For more information and your free
Charles County Visitor Guide, visit:
www.CharlesCountyMD.gov
or call 800-766-3386.



The Heron's Flight Cobb Island Branch



From here, you can continue on Route 234 EAST to join the Barnwood and Beach Glass Loop.



The COBB ISLAND BRANCH of the Heron's Flight: *Are you hungry? This branch takes you to great seafood, mouth-watering art and views that are a feast for the eyes!*

From Route 301 S. (Crain Highway), go LEFT on Route 234 E. (Budds Creek Road). Go 2.7 miles to LEFT on Stines Store Road, then 0.2 miles to the village of Newport.

16 The Inn at Newport


10595 Newport Church Road, Charlotte Hall

Even many long-time residents of the region are amazed to discover that this quiet niche of the county, called Newport Village, was a bustling, Colonial-era town. The inn itself, built around 1900, is one of the fascinating few remnants of that time and place, and so much history is ensconced within these walls that even the briefest exploration of the inn and the surrounding grounds is an adventure. You can book one room or several for as long as you like; the inn functions as a B&B as well as a venue for a variety of indoor and outdoor events. Friendly farm animals abound, and the original tobacco barns are still standing, complete with a rare tobacco press and other ag equipment. If the history doesn't thrill you, there is also a pool, lots of amenities and a nearby race track. Innkeeper/owner David Gerrie will be happy to fill you in on the details and generally make your stay a delight. **Reservations by appointment.** (301) 934-9670

From Route 301 S. (Crain Highway), go LEFT on Route 234 E. (Budds Creek Road), go 3.7 miles to LEFT on Plater Road, 0.2 miles to LEFT on dirt lane, then 0.2 miles to studio/barn on LEFT.

17 BJ's Studio / Betty J. Fuqua

12200A Plater Road, Charlotte Hall

Artist Betty Fuqua has created a unique space to paint and teach—her rustic studio is nestled inside a converted tobacco barn on a working farm. Students love the casual country atmosphere. She has recently begun exploring painting oils based on old masterpieces, and she uses this technique in teaching as well. Her originals and prints are for sale. **Call for appointment, day or evening.**  (301) 807-0455



From the intersection Route 257 (Rock Point Road) and Route 254 (Cobb Island Road), go SOUTH 0.9 miles to Capt. John's Crab House on RIGHT.

18 **Capt. John's Crab House & Marina Inc.**
16215 Cobb Island Road, Newburg

Entering Capt. John's is often like joining a giant party; many diners have come with groups of friends to feast on all-you-can-eat crabs or shrimp. If you feel like something a bit more intimate, sit outside overlooking Neale Sound and enjoy seafood and the quiet view of the water. The restaurant is locally owned and has been operated by the Yates family for more than 50 years. Local steamed crabs are their specialty but they also have a full menu. A room upstairs can be booked for special events. (It seats 60.) There's a marina here with all new slips for docking while you dine, so come by boat—perhaps spend the night! *Open weekdays 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Winter hours on website.* 📞 **f** (301) 259-2315, www.cjcrab.com



Explore an interactive map of the Trails at www.somdtrails.com

YOUR STAY-CATION DESTINATION

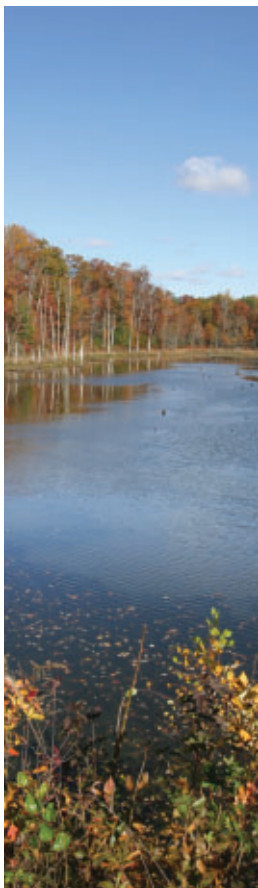
up the creek rentals

Tues. – Sun. 10 am to 6 pm
By reservation ANYTIME
(almost)

(301) 743-3733 • (240) 299-9578
(478) 363-5283

KAYAKS • CANOES • POWERBOATS • PADDLEBOARDS • BICYCLES • TOURS
DAY TRIPS • OFF-SITE RENTALS TO YOUR LOCATION

108A Mattingly Avenue, Indian Head, MD • www.upthecreekrentals.net





The NORTHEAST BRANCH of the Heron's Flight: *Formerly the Benedict branch, this offshoot has expanded to encompass a new farm, a new winery and several other interesting sites. It begins in the heart of Charles County, meanders east and loops north near the banks of the Patuxent River.*

The eastern access to the Indian Head Rail Trail (IHRT) is in White Plains on Theodore Green Blvd. (Follow signs to parking area.) Western access is at Mattingly Avenue in Indian Head. Park at the Village Green Town Park and follow signs to trail head. The IHRT can also be accessed from Bensville Park on Bensville Road (Route 229). The park offers ample parking, rest rooms and a paved connector to the IHRT near mile marker 9.

19 Indian Head Rail Trail


10390 Theodore Green Boulevard, White Plains

This 13-mile paved trail is popular with hikers, walkers, bicyclists and in-line skaters (and it's wheelchair-accessible). The trail stretches from White Plains to Indian Head. Wildlife, wildflowers and lovely views of the Mattawoman Creek are just a few of the highlights. **Open daily 8 a.m. to dusk.**   (301) 932-3470, www.charlescountyparks.com/parks/indian-head-rail-trail

This site fronts Route 5 S. (Leonardtown Road). It is 4.4 miles SOUTH of Route 301 (Crain Highway).

20 Middleton's Cedar Hill Farm

13070 Legacy Farm Place, Waldorf

Henry "Grand Pop" Middleton Jr. started a roadside vegetable stand in the late 1970s, and 40 years later, Middleton's Cedar Hill Farm is still going strong. The 250-acre family farm is open during the spring, fall and Christmas seasons. During the spring, the farm offers baby animals to visit, hayrides and strawberry picking. In the fall, visitors can enjoy a six-acre corn maze, pumpkin picking, vegetable picking and an array of farm animals. During the Christmas season, the farm offers fresh-cut Christmas trees, wreaths, swags, centerpieces, kissing balls and a "Christmas on the Farm" experience on the weekends.  **Hours vary; please visit website.** (301) 399-9812, www.MiddletonFarm.com.



Middleton's CEDAR HILL FARM



- ★ Professionally Cut 6-Acre and Kiddie Corn Mazes
- ★ Springtime on the Farm with Strawberry Picking
- ★ School Field Trips
- ★ Birthday Parties and Private Parties
- ★ Hay Rides, Pumpkin Patch and Farm Animals
- ★ Christmas Trees and Wreaths

*See the website for seasonal hours,
fees and reservation information.*

www.middletonfarm.com

The Middleton family farm provides your family an opportunity to escape to the country and take pleasure in nature's bounty.

We look forward to seeing you time and time again...

-- Mac & Joan Middleton and family

13070 Legacy Farm Place, Waldorf, MD 20601

(301) 399-9812

MiddletonsCedarHillFarm@gmail.com




The Heron's Flight Northeast Branch



Tell us about YOUR
Trails adventure at
www.somdtrails.com

From the intersection of Route 5 (Leonardtown Road) and Bryantown Road, go 1 mile on Bryantown Road to farm on RIGHT.

Zekiah Farms, LLC 5235 Bryantown Road, Waldorf

The theme here is “discover agri-fun,” and your hosts at this amazing farm have created plenty of it! If you’re a corn maze fan, they’ve got one here, and they also have a maze in sorghum. Why not build your own scarecrow, take a hayride or make friends with some farm animals? There’s a pumpkin patch and other seasonal produce available. This place is a favorite with school groups and other kids’ groups throughout the fall season, and families can find lots to do. Don’t miss the amazing farm store. They offer USDA-inspected, naturally raised meats, veggies, local raw honey, canned goods, vegetable CSAs, meat CSAs and event rentals. **Open year-round. Call or visit website for hours.**  (240) 216-4065, www.zekiahfarms.com

From Route 5 S. (Leonardtown Road), just south of the Hughesville roundabout, go RIGHT on Oaks Road. Go 0.3 miles to RIGHT on Poplar Street, 0.2 miles to driveway on LEFT at brick sign and follow the driveway to entrance on RIGHT. Check in at the main house directly in front of you; cottage is around back.



Briortia Cottage at Charlotte Hall 7535 Poplar Street, Charlotte Hall

This cozy cottage is surrounded by eight acres of undisturbed woods. Your hosts, Bob and Sharon Fastnaught, have furnished this hideaway with treasures bought on their own travels as well as some by local craftsmen. (If you were wondering, the name comes from a merging of “brick” and “Victoria.”) The first floor features a sitting room, bath, kitchenette and master bedroom, and there’s a loft (up steep stairs) with two beds and a bath. The covered porch is a wonderful spot to enjoy a leisurely breakfast (a light continental breakfast is provided). A perfect, private place for short- or long-term stays. **Open year-round 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.** (301) 884-8699, www.briortiacottage.com



A Bed & Breakfast Style Guest House



Brictoria Cottage

at Charlotte Hall

Make yourself at home in this cozy hideaway. Brictoria Cottage is fully furnished and features a complete kitchen, spacious living area, master bedroom, two-bed loft with bath, garden and patio, all surrounded by eight acres of wooded privacy.

You're just a short drive from shopping, dining, museums, galleries and miles of scenic shoreline that make Southern Maryland a perfect spot to enjoy the great outdoors.

Visit the website for a complete description of Brictoria's amenities, then reserve your relaxing getaway today.



301-884-8699 • www.brictoriacottage.com



From the Hughesville roundabout, take Route 231 (Benedict Road) EAST for 5.7 miles to LEFT on Serenity Farm Road.

Serenity Farm Inc.

6923 Serenity Farm Road, Benedict

The pastel barns and pastoral vistas of Serenity Farm have long been a landmark in Southern Maryland. But to view this farm from afar is to miss the fun details and friendly hospitality offered by the Robinson family. Begin your visit at the Harvest House, where you can purchase Serenity Farm meat (beef, pork, lamb—ask about wholesale!) as well as blackberries, blueberries, produce and more. The USDA-licensed petting pen features ostriches, goats, sheep and a regular menagerie of others, plus a varied herd of cats and dogs. This farm is a stop on the *Star Spangled Banner Trail*. Be sure to check out the seasonal events such as school tours, Kasper's Kastle and more. Rental venues available. **Farm open April through Nov., Mon. – Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** (301) 274-3829, (301) 399-1634. **Harvest House open Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kasper's Kastle open Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Petting Pen open by appointment.**   (301) 399-1646, www.serenityfarminc.com



From here, you can join the *Fossils and Farmscapes Ramble*: cross the Benedict Bridge and continue EAST on Route 231 (Prince Frederick Road) to the intersection of Route 2/4 (Solomons Island Road).

From the intersection of Route 231 (Benedict Road) and Route 381 (Brandywine Road), go 3.6 miles NORTH on Route 381 to LEFT on Doctor Bowen Road, then 0.5 miles to site on LEFT. Use lower entrance to red barns.

P. A. Bowen Farmstead

15701 Doctor Bowen Road, Brandywine

In 2009, Geoffrey Morell and Sally Fallon Morell purchased this 95-acre Maryland property with the goal of creating an integrated, pasture-based dairy farm that supplied high-quality meats and cheeses to its customers. Today, this farm couples old-fashioned grazing techniques with modern technologies, and animals are provided with a habitat that allows them to thrive—pigs root through the forests, hens roam freely and Jersey cows graze on new pasture twice daily. The farm boasts a state-of-the-art cheese production facility and classes on homestead cheese making. Soy-free eggs, poultry, beef, pork and veal are available in the spacious, on-farm store, along





with crafts, quilts and art from Maryland artisans. Farm tours, offered every Saturday or by appointment, are a true learning experience in holistic pasture and livestock management. They offer several unique classes in animal husbandry, artisan cheese making, poultry processing and more. **Open Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment.** ♿ **f** (301) 579-2727, www.pabowenfarmstead.com

From the intersection of Route 381 (Brandywine Road) and Route 382 (Croom Road), go 4.5 miles NORTH on Route 382 to LEFT on Bald Eagle School Road, then go 0.5 miles to site on RIGHT.

25 Romano Vineyard and Winery 15715 Bald Eagle School Road, Brandywine

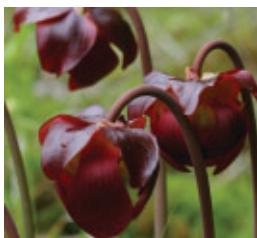
Once upon a time the fields of this Brandywine farm, owned by Joseph and Jo-Ann Romano, were filled with tobacco, and then corn and soy, and even wildflowers for the bees they raised for their signature honey. Everything that grew here flourished, and they knew that the soil was destined to produce something great. When an opportunity to grow wine grapes presented itself in 2006, the couple knew they had found the next chapter for their family farm. They went on to open Prince George's County's first winery and today, the entire family is involved in producing small lots of handcrafted wine from their own grapes and those of carefully selected custom growers. The vineyard is home to six wine-grape varieties—Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Chambourcin, Vidal, Cayuga and Traminette—as well as six table-grape varieties. The Romano family believes that wine is made in the vineyard...quality grapes make quality wine. Their attention to the vines has paid off, as this young winery has already accrued awards from across the region. Stop in and see for yourself during their scheduled wine tastings, or pick up their wine at retail outlets nearby. **Please check website for wine tasting hours. Private tasting by appointment only.** **f** (301) 752-1103, www.romanowinery.com



www.somdtrails.com



The Heron's Flight Northeast Branch



Holidays on the Trails


Winter is a wonderful time for a Trails trip! Local farms have fresh trees and greenery for your home and goodies for your holiday feasts. And what a great way to wrap up your shopping—handmade gifts by local artisans, Southern Maryland wine or a gift certificate from your favorite Trails site!



Just NORTH of the Route 301/Route 5 split in Brandywine, go EAST on Cedarville Road 2.3 miles to RIGHT on Bee Oak Road, then 1 mile to entrance/office on RIGHT.

Cedarville State Forest


10201 Bee Oak Road, Brandywine

There's much to explore in this multi-use park and five friendly trails (ranging from two to seven miles long) make it easy for hikers, bikers, bird-watchers and others to roam the grounds. The park hosts a large owl population, as well as eagles, osprey, ducks, geese and pileated woodpeckers. Another interesting feature is the Cedarville Bog, home to several species of insectivorous plants. (Northern pitcher plant and round leaf sundews can be seen in summer.) Fishing and hunting are permitted and family and group campsites with electric hook-ups are available. *Visitor Center open year-round Mon. – Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Grounds open dawn to dusk.*  (301) 888-1410 (for equestrian camping); (888) 432-2267 (for family camping, youth group camping, pavilion rentals), www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/cedarville.asp

From the intersection of Route 5 (Leonardtown Road) and Route 5 Business (Mattawoman-Beantown Road), go 0.4 miles on Mattawoman-Beantown Road to RIGHT on Poplar Hill Road, then 2.6 miles to fork. Go RIGHT on Dr. Samuel Mudd Road. Go 0.3 miles to driveway on RIGHT.

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum

3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Road, Waldorf

This privately owned museum in the family home of Dr. Mudd (best known for ministering to John Wilkes Booth after he assassinated Lincoln) preserves a look at farm and family life in Charles County during the Civil War period. The site includes a farm museum, Civil War museum, exhibit building and conference building in addition to the restored home. Fifty-five acres of the 198-acre site are farmed today. Visit the doctor's house, which has been maintained with many original furnishings from the Mudd family. For a special treat, stop in for a Victorian Christmas on the first weekend in December. This site is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* and is part of the *John Wilkes Booth Trail*. (Admission fee). *Open from the last Sat. of March through the Sat. before Thanksgiving. Sat. and Wed. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. noon to 4 p.m. Last tour starts at 3:30 every day.*  (301) 274-9358, (301) 645-6870, www.drsmudd.org





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