

# Meadowood SRMA Natural and Cultural Resource Interpretation Newsletter August 2012

In 1871, the naturalist John Muir wrote in his notebook, *I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can.*

We are happy to announce that we will soon begin work on an interpretative model for the natural and cultural resources at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), which is under the stewardship of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lower Potomac Field Station. Meadowood SRMA occupies a special niche between cosmopolitan Washington, D.C., and Mason Neck, Virginia. Mason Neck remains a largely undeveloped preserve of rich estuarine natural resources and nationally and internationally important historic and archaeological sites. It is a special place.

The interpretive model will encourage conservation and enjoyment of the unique natural and cultural resources in Meadowood and for resources throughout Mason Neck. It will be prepared through a collaborative process that considers the ideas and information of nearby citizens and communities.



How can Meadowood SRMA serve as a gateway to Mason Neck, making visitors aware of the many opportunities to learn about the history and natural wonders there? These include the important site of Gunston Hall, magnificent vistas of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and vital habitat for many animals, including waterfowl, bald eagles, blue herons, screech owls, bluebirds, and tree frogs. Visitors to Meadowood will also be introduced to both the visible and hidden histories of Mason Neck, the scene of battles, skirmishes, and troop movements during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

## PUBLIC SESSIONS

Please join us in a discussion of *Interpreting the Natural and Cultural Resources at Meadowood.*

There will be two public sessions at:

**Gunston Hall  
10709 Gunston Road, Lorton, VA**

**Please save the dates!**

Wednesday, October 10, 2012, 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 6-8 p.m.



There are many important stories to be told about Mason Neck: of the Native American villages seen by Capt. John Smith during his exploration of the Chesapeake, of colonial plantations, the terrible institution of slavery, and of early industrialization that shaped the subsequent history of the United States. Which should we tell? We will also consider how the presentation of the history and natural environment will be coordinated with and enhanced by the Potomac Heritage Trail and the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route.

The BLM will hold two public sessions as a part of the planning process. The first will present the scope and intent of the project and will describe the ways in which all interested parties might participate and provide input. The second will provide an overview and analysis of the input that has been acquired and acquaint attendees with opportunities to provide additional input. The first public session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2012, and the second is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2012. Both will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Gunston Hall.