



SULTANA PROJECTS
PRESERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

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Press Release

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**Sultana Projects Wins Prestigious NMHS Walter Cronkite Award
for Excellence in Maritime Education**

For the second time in four years, Chestertown-based Sultana Projects will be presented with the prestigious Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Maritime Education by the National Maritime Historical Society. The award will be made in person by Walter Cronkite during a black-tie dinner at the New York Yacht Club in Manhattan on Thursday, October 25. The award is being given to recognize Sultana Projects' recent accomplishments with the Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project.

This is the first time that an organization has received the Walter Cronkite award for a second time. Sultana Projects previously received the award in 2004 for its work building and launching the schooner Sultana. The Walter Cronkite Award is presented on a semi-annual basis by the National Maritime Historical Society to organizations that have demonstrated national leadership in the field of maritime education. Based in New York and founded in 1963, the National Maritime Historical Society (www.seahistory.org) is a not-for-profit membership organization that works to raise awareness of America's maritime heritage through publications, educational programs, sail training, and the preservation of historic ships.

"It's a true honor for Sultana Projects to receive this award," said Sultana Board Chair Joyce Huber Smith. "To have Mr. Cronkite, one of the most respected public figures in America, present it in person is just incredible!" An avid sailor and fan of maritime history, Mr. Cronkite is a longtime member of the National Maritime Historical Society and serves as an Overseer for the organization. "I can think of no more worthy recipient of the NMHS, Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Maritime Education, for Sultana is a remarkable story," commented Mr. Cronkite in a press release video taped for the National Maritime Historical Society.

As part of the presentation ceremony, Sultana Projects' President Drew McMullen and Vice President Chris Cerino will make a multi-media presentation to the assembled crowd. "We will accept the award," said Cerino, "but the credit really goes to Captain

Ian Bystrom and the crew of the John Smith shallop who did such an incredible job this past summer.”

The crew completed a 121-day, 1,700 mile voyage around the Chesapeake this past September, following the route of John Smith’s 1608 Bay explorations. The shallop and crew visited 27 towns and communities in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware as part of a major educational exhibit focusing on the world of the early 17th century Chesapeake and the environmental changes that have taken place in the Bay’s ecosystem in the 400 years since Smith’s voyage.

“Sultana’s Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project played a very significant role in winning passage last year of legislation creating the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail,” said McMullen. The trail creates both a legacy for Smith’s explorations and expands opportunities for others to explore the Bay and its many natural treasures through the only all-water historic trail in the nation.”

About Sultana Projects:

Each year more than 15,000 students of all ages take part in a unique educational experience with Sultana Projects. Whether sailing on the decks of the 1768 schooner Sultana, exploring the world of early America with the John Smith shallop, or studying the Chesapeake’s incredible history and environment through a Sultana classroom curriculum unit, students gain a greater appreciation for the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay.