



For Immediate Release

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Sultana Projects Announces Major Expansion of Downrigging Weekend for 2008

Chestertown, Maryland: Sultana Projects unveiled plans today for a major expansion of its annual Downrigging Weekend Festival, scheduled for October 30 – November 2, 2008 in Chestertown, Maryland. Already one of the largest annual Tall Ship festivals on the East Coast, 2008 will see Downrigging Weekend expand to a four-day event that will include six major Tall Ships as well as many more traditional schooners and workboats. The weekend will feature numerous opportunities for the public to view, board and sail on this remarkable collection of historic wooden vessels. The expanded 2008 festival is being funded in part by a corporate sponsorship from PNC Bank and a grant from the “Stories of the Chesapeake” heritage area.

The Downrigging Weekend fleet will begin to arrive in Chestertown shortly after dawn on Thursday, October 30. Featured vessels for 2008 will include the official state ships of New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and Virginia as well as Chestertown’s own schooner Sultana. By dusk, more than 500 tons of wooden sailing ships will be berthed on the Chestertown waterfront, their masts and rigging dwarfing the beautiful homes of this 300 year-old colonial port.

The festival will officially open at 7:30pm on October 30th with a viewing of the film “*Master and Commander*” at Chestertown’s historic Prince Theatre. An adaptation of the beloved Patrick O’Brien novels, “*Master and Commander*” is considered one of the most historically accurate sailing films ever made. Dr. Charles Fithian, a principal historic consultant for the film, will be on hand to provide “behind the scenes” commentary during the film. The film is free and open to the public as seating allows.

On Halloween, Friday, October 31, the Downrigging Weekend fleet will welcome more than 200 students from selected schools in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and Washington, DC for a 2.5 hour educational sail on the Chester River. Later that afternoon, the public is invited to visit the Chestertown waterfront between 3:00 and 5:30pm, for free Halloween-themed tours of all the visiting ships. Halloween festivities will continue throughout the evening with a trick-or-treat open house on board New Jersey's AJ Meerwald from 6:00-8:00pm at the foot of High Street in Chestertown. At dusk, the entire fleet will be illuminated by more than 1 million watts of theatrical lighting and just after 7:00pm there will be a 25 minute fireworks display on the Chestertown waterfront.

Those interested in sailing on a "tall ship" will have three opportunities during Downrigging Weekend to voyage out onto the waters of the Chester River onboard their choice of the assembled vessels. There will be two public sails on Saturday, November 1, the first from 10:00am to 12:30pm and the second from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. There will be an additional sail on Sunday, November 2, from 11:00am to 1:30pm. Each sail will feature all of the vessels loosening their canvas and proceeding under sail-power alone. Reservations for Downrigging Weekend sails can be made by calling the Sultana Projects office at 410-778-5954. Ticket prices range from \$15-\$55 per person, depending upon the vessel.

Other highlights of Downrigging Weekend 2008 will include a nautical-themed Halloween Parade on High Street in Chestertown between 3:00 and 4:00pm on Saturday, November 1. The parade will conclude with a cannon barrage by the Downrigging Weekend fleet at the foot of High Street at 4:00pm. On Saturday evening there will be a public dinner/picnic at the Sultana Shipyard in Chestertown beginning at 6:00pm (tickets \$25 per person) followed by an 8:00pm concert at the Prince Theatre featuring the "Two Man Gentleman Band" from New York City.

For detailed information about *Downrigging Weekend* visit www.sultanaprojects.org/downrigging.htm.

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 the Chesapeake on the decks of the 1768 reproduction schooner Sultana, exploring the world of the early Chesapeake through the Captain John Smith Four Hundred Project, learning about the life of an 18th century sailor in a classroom outreach program, burning an Indian dugout canoe at the Sultana Shipyard or studying the Bay's incredible history and environment through one of Sultana Projects' classroom curriculum units, students gain a greater appreciation for the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay

Preliminary Schedule for Downrigging Weekend 2008

Thursday, October 30

Ships Arrive in Chestertown

Shortly after dawn, a fleet of Tall Ships and historic sailing vessels will begin arriving in Chestertown. By dusk, more than 500 tons of wooden sailing ships will be berthed on the waterfront, their masts and rigging dwarfing Chestertown's colonial homes.

Master & Commander

Special Viewing with Commentary by the film's principal historic consultant
Event Partner – Washington College Center for the Environment & Society
7:00pm – The Prince Theatre, Chestertown

The first official event for *Downrigging Weekend 2008* will be a special viewing of the film "*Master and Commander*" with commentary by one of the film's principal historic consultants, Dr. Charles Fithian, Curator of Archaeology for the State of Delaware's Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. An adaptation of the beloved Patrick O'Brien novels, "*Master and Commander*" is considered one of the finest and most historically accurate sailing films ever made.

Friday, October 31

Educational Sails

Educational Sails for Students & Parents from Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and Washington, DC
10:00am-12:30pm, On the Chester River

On Friday morning, more than 230 students and parents from selected schools in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and Washington, DC will gather in Chestertown to participate in "*Tall Ships Mid-Atlantic*." Students will board a vessel representing their respective home state. The fleet will take students on a 2.5 hour educational sail on the Chester River.

Public Open House on the Ships (free)

3:00pm-5:00pm, The Chestertown Waterfront

The assembled fleet of Tall Ships will be open for free dockside tours from 3:00-5:30 p.m. Visitors from far and near will have an incredible opportunity to board and inspect the assembled fleet.

Halloween Open House on the A.J. Meerwald (free)

6:00-8:00pm, Foot of High Street, Chestertown

From 6:00-8:00 p.m. the state ship of New Jersey, A.J. Meerwald, will host a Halloween-themed open house for children and parents trick-or-treating in historic downtown Chestertown. Crew member will be clothed in traditional sailor's gear and the open house will feature a variety of fun, educational activities. Admission will be free, but limited to parents with children in costume.

Tall Ships Illuminated, Fireworks & Cannon Barrage (free)

7:00pm, Chestertown Waterfront

Shortly after dusk (approximately 6:30 p.m.), the assembled ships will be illuminated with more than one million watts of theatrical lighting. Trick-or-treaters, visitors and town residents will be invited to come to the Chestertown waterfront to view the illuminated ships. At 7:00 pm there will be a 25 minute fireworks display accompanied by a rare after dark cannon "broadside" firing from the anchored Kalmar Nyckel.

Saturday, November 1

Public Sail on the Ships #1 (tickets \$15-\$55)

10:00am-12:30pm, Chestertown Waterfront

On Saturday morning, more than 275 people will board the assembled fleet and embark on the first of three, 2.5 hour public sails on the Chester River that will take place during the course of the weekend. *Downrigging Weekend* is one of only a handful of tall ship festivals in the United States that offer the general public this opportunity to sail as part of a fleet of Tall Ships. Guests sign up in advance for these sails and pay a ticket price that varies according to each vessel.

Public Sail on the Ships #2 (tickets \$15-\$55)

2:00pm-4:30pm

Near the close of the second public sail on Saturday afternoon, the fleet will assemble off the Chestertown waterfront.

Chestertown Halloween Parade & Cannon Barrage (free)

3:00pm-4:30pm, High Street, Chestertown

Event Partner – Chestertown Lions Club, Washington College

The Annual Chestertown Halloween Parade will be scheduled to end at the Chestertown waterfront at approximately 4:00 pm. At this time, the crowd will be treated to a cannon barrage by the entire Downrigging Fleet. Parade participants judged as winners will have an opportunity to tour the Kalmar Nyckel.

Dinner With the Crews at the Sultana Shipyard (tickets \$25)

6:00pm – 7:30pm, Sultana Shipyard, Cannon Street

Accompanying the ships visiting Chestertown for *Downrigging Weekend* will be more than 75 crew members who hail from locations across the United States and beyond. It is rare to have so many Tall Ship sailors (many of whom sail internationally) in a single location. To take advantage of this opportunity, Sultana Projects will be the host for an informal buffet dinner for the public to be held at the Sultana Shipyard in Chestertown.

Tall Ships Illuminated (free)

6:30-9:00pm, The Chestertown Waterfront

From 6:30-9:00pm the visiting tall ships will be illuminated on the Chestertown Waterfront.

Downrigging Weekend Concert (tickets \$10)

Featuring the “Two Man Gentlemen Band”

8:00pm-10:00pm

On Saturday evening Sultana Projects is planning a concert at the Prince Theatre featuring the highly acclaimed “Two Man Gentlemen Band” from New York City. With a repertoire of hilarious, up-tempo songs dating from and inspired by depression-era America, the “Two Man Gentlemen Band” will be a great complement to the fully restored, 1926 Prince Theatre.

Sunday, November 2

Public Sail on the Ships #3 (tickets \$15-\$55)

11:00am-1:30pm

The public sail on Sunday, November 2, will be the final public event of *Downrigging Weekend*. The fleet of visiting vessels will dock in Chestertown for the remainder of the day where they will be available for public viewing (no boarding). Participating vessels will depart early on Monday morning, November 3.

Preliminary Fleet List for Downrigging Weekend 2008

Passenger Carrying Vessels



KALMAR NYCKEL – State Ship of Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware

Full-rigged ship, 141' sparred length, 25' beam, 168 gross tons

Owner - Kalmar Nyckel Foundation

The Kalmar Nyckel is a re-creation of the first colonial Swedish settlement ship to arrive in America at what is now Wilmington, Delaware. Launched in the fall of 1997, this ornately carved 17th century reproduction ship sails seasonally, carrying out her mission of goodwill. The vessel provides hands-on educational opportunities for school children and serves as Delaware's official tall ship ambassador.



PRIDE OF BALTIMORE, II – State Ship of Maryland

Baltimore, Maryland

Square Topsail schooner, two masted, 170' sparred length, 26' beam, 97 gross tons

Owner - Pride of Baltimore, Inc.

Pride of Baltimore, II was commissioned in 1988 two years after the original Pride of Baltimore fell victim to a violent squall and was lost along with her captain and three crew members. Modeled after the famous Baltimore clippers, Pride II sails the globe as Maryland's goodwill ambassador.



VIRGINIA – State Ship of Virginia

Norfolk, Virginia

Two masted pilot schooner, 122' sparred length, 24' beam, 99 gross tons

Owner - Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation

The schooner Virginia is a reproduction of an early 20th century Virginia pilot schooner, originally used to help guide vessels into Virginia's ports at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Launched in December 2004, the Virginia is one of the newest Tall Ships in the United States.



A.J. MEERWALD – State Ship of New Jersey

Bivalve, New Jersey

Two masted Oyster Schooner, 115' sparred length, 22' beam, 57 gross tons

Owner - The Bayside Discovery Project

Built in Dorchester, New Jersey in 1928, the A.J. Meerwald is an authentic, restored Delaware Bay oyster schooner built specifically for that industry. Named New Jersey's official Tall Ship in 1998, the A.J. Meerwald promotes Delaware Bay's oystering history and offers experiential educational opportunities throughout Delaware Bay and the Mid-Atlantic region.



LADY MARYLAND – Living Classrooms Foundation

Baltimore, Maryland

Two masted Pungy schooner, 104' sparred length, 22' beam, 60 gross tons

Owner - Living Classrooms Foundation

The schooner and flagship, Lady Maryland, is a full-scale reproduction of a traditional 19th century Chesapeake Bay cargo schooner called a pungy. Lady Maryland is part of a fleet of vessels owned by the Living Classrooms Foundation dedicated to teaching about the history and environment of the Chesapeake.



SULTANA – Sultana Projects, Inc.

Chestertown, Maryland

*Topsail schooner, two masted, 97' sparred length, 17' beam, 43 gross tons
Owner - Sultana Projects, Inc.*

Sultana is a reproduction of her 1768 namesake used by the British Royal Navy to enforce the notorious tea taxes in the years preceding the American Revolution. Built in Chestertown and launched in 2001, the new Sultana's mission is to educate students of all ages about the history and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay.



SKIPJACK ELSWORTH

Chestertown, Maryland

*Two-masted bateau (skipjack), 72' sparred length, 18' beam, 23 gross tons
Owner - Echo Hill Outdoor School*

Owned and operated by Echo Hill Outdoor School in Worton, Maryland, the 1901, 72-foot oyster-dredging skipjack Elsworth is one of a handful of skipjacks remaining on the Chesapeake Bay. The Elsworth is currently used to provide live-aboard educational programs in environmental science and Chesapeake history.



MILDRED BELLE – Living Classrooms Foundation

Baltimore, Maryland / Chesapeake Bay Buy-boat / Owner - Living Classrooms Foundation

Traditionally used to bring oysters to market and haul local seafood and produce, "buy-boats" were once a common sight on the bay. Mildred Belle is one of the few that remain and is part of a fleet of vessels utilized by the Living Classrooms Foundation to teach students about the Chesapeake Bay.

Non -Passenger Carrying Vessels in Port for Downrigging Weekend



MARTHA WHITE – privately owned

Chestertown, Maryland

Topsail schooner, two masted, 47' sparred length, 10.6' beam

Martha White is a 65 foot all wooden schooner fashioned after the "Bluenose" of Nova Scotia. She is solely constructed (ribs and planks) from no longer available, 200 year old Long Leaf Yellow Pine and fastened with trunnels (4000 handmade locust pegs, with ends split, with 8000 wood wedges). With hardware and sails made in Lunenburg, she proudly glorifies her famous predecessor.



FAREWELL – privately owned

Baltimore, Maryland

Topsail schooner, two masted, 47' sparred length, 10.6' beam,

Farewell is a 1972, Peter Van Dine designed two-masted schooner based out of Baltimore, Maryland.

*Additional vessels will be posted on the Sultana Projects' website
www.sultanaprojects.org as they are confirmed.*

Public Sail Pricing List for Downrigging Weekend 2008

There will be three opportunities for the public to sail on the assembled fleet during Downrigging Weekend 2008:

Saturday, November 1 – 10:00am – 12:30pm

Saturday, November 1 / 2:00pm – 4:30pm

Sunday, November 2 / 11:00am – 1:30pm

Pricing for these public sails is as follows:

<u>Vessel</u>	<u>Ticket Price</u>
Kalmar Nyckel	\$55 adult / \$30 child under 12
Pride of Baltimore, II	\$45 per person
Schooner Virginia	\$45 adult / \$30 child under 12
A.J. Meerwald	\$45 adult / \$30 child under 12
Lady Maryland	\$35 adult / \$20 child under 12
Sultana	\$35 adult / \$20 child under 12
Skipjack Elsworth	\$25 adult / \$15 child under 12
Mildred Belle	\$15 per person

Reservations for all vessels are being taken by the Sultana Projects office.

Call 410-778-5954 for information and to make a reservation.

Tide Tables for Chestertown / Downrigging Weekend 2008

	Day		High	Tide	Height	Sunrise	Moon	Time	% Moon
		/Low	Time	Feet	Sunset		Rise	Set	Visible
Th	30	Low	3:43 AM	0.8	7:30 AM	Rise	9:19 AM		0
	30	High	8:35 AM	1.8	6:05 PM	Set	6:43 PM		
	30	Low	2:16 PM	0.2					
	30	High	9:29 PM	2.9					
F	31	Low	4:29 AM	0.8	7:32 AM	Rise	10:19 AM		3
	31	High	9:14 AM	1.8	6:04 PM	Set	7:26 PM		
	31	Low	2:48 PM	0.3					
	31	High	10:06 PM	2.9					
Sa	1	Low	5:12 AM	1.0	7:33 AM	Rise	11:14 AM		7
	1	High	9:56 AM	1.6	6:03 PM	Set	8:15 PM		
	1	Low	3:25 PM	0.3					
	1	High	10:44 PM	2.8					
Su	2	Low	4:55 AM	1.0	6:34 AM	Rise	11:04 AM		13
	2	High	9:39 AM	1.6	5:02 PM	Set	8:09 PM		
	2	Low	3:06 PM	0.3					
	2	High	10:24 PM	2.6					