



SULTANA PROJECTS

PRESERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

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Press Release

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Sultana Projects Announces Tanya Banks-Christensen As New Captain for the Schooner SULTANA



Chestertown, Maryland: Sultana Projects announced today that Tanya Banks-Christensen will assume the position of Captain for the schooner SULTANA as of January 1, 2009. Banks-Christensen takes over the helm of SULTANA from Captain Robert Brittain who has served as SULTANA's Captain since 2004. Launched in 2001, SULTANA is a replica of a 1768 Royal Navy schooner that is used to provide educational programs in history and environmental science for students from around the Chesapeake Bay.

A native of Philadelphia and a cum-laude graduate of Alfred University, Tanya has an impressive sailing resume that includes previous service as the Executive Captain of the schooner QUINNIPIACK out of New Haven, Connecticut. Tanya has also served as Mate on several traditional sailing vessels including the schooners PROVIDENCE, A.J. MEERWALD, WESTWARD and SPIRIT OF MASSACHUSETTS. In 2004, Banks-Christensen served as First Mate on SULTANA, and since June of this year she has been

SULTANA's First Mate/Alternate Captain. Tanya holds a United States Coast Guard 200 Ton Near Coastal Master's License.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to promote someone who is already so invested in our mission and programs," commented Sultana Projects' President Drew McMullen.

"Having spent two seasons on SULTANA, Tanya is well acquainted with the schooner and with our organizational philosophy. She is the perfect fit for building upon the success that SULTANA has enjoyed under Captain Brittain."

One of Banks-Christensen's first responsibilities as Captain will be to interview and hire the crew for SULTANA's 2009 sailing season. Tanya will also be working with Captain Brittain through January to complete several major maintenance projects, including the rotation of SULTANA's internal ballast.

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 paddling the Chesapeake's waterways with Sultana Projects' John Smith Trail Expeditions, students gain a greater appreciation of the history and environment of the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay.