



An Observation by Wilton Corkern, June 2, 2006:

This week marked the completion of the 2006 Robert Ware Straus Lecture Series. The Board established the series in 2004 as an ongoing memorial to Mr. Straus, who always insisted that the Foundation be an innovator. "It is the philosophy of the Accokeek Foundation," he wrote in *The Possible Dream*, "that it should continue to undertake projects which are *not* being carried on by governmental agencies or other organizations. The only reason for any foundation and the special tax situation under which it operates is to do this kind of leading edge work. If successful, it will be taken up by others and, if unsuccessful, will leave *that* legacy to the general knowledge." That kind of thinking not only helped to change the course of land conservation in the United States, it brought us into the preservation and propagation of heirloom plants and heritage breed animals, it led us to experiment with living history, it inspired us to pioneer the demonstration of sustainability in agriculture.

By bringing scholars and "leading edge" thinkers here to share their ideas and their theories with us and our public, we continue the philosophy Mr. Straus articulated so clearly. We learn from them not only new facts, but new ways of seeing and understanding the facts that are already before us. Stay tuned.



Dr. John Vlach, of the George Washington University and the last lecturer in the 2006 Robert Ware Straus Lecture Series, was filmed by Channel 76 for a news brief covering his lecture on Slave Cabins and Slave Culture. Dr. Vlach challenged the Foundation to explore new ways of interpreting the history of slavery in Prince George's County. The piece aired at 4:30, 5:30, 8:30 and 11:30 pm on June 1.