The story of the museum’s early years is colorfully recounted in articles by both Jim Langley and Dr. Ralph Eshelman in the last issue of the Bugeye Times (Vol. 40, No. 2). I started as director in January 1991. Looking back over my 24 year tenure, I am impressed at all that we have been able to accomplish. When I arrived, my immediate task — in addition to running a growing institution — was to complete the permanent exhibits in the Exhibition Hall and to oversee the renovation of the former Solomons School that had served as the museum for sixteen years. It became the administration building, housing the library/archives, collections storage, exhibit production, and curator and administrative offices.

In 1992, the Estuarine Biology Gallery opened followed by the otter habitat in 1994. The Paleontology Gallery, Treasures from the Cliffs, opened in 1997. Boat building and boat preservation skills are carried on by the Patuxent Small Craft Guild made up of volunteers under the direction of Boatwright, George Surgent. What started as a seasonal operation in a small three-sided open shed, unheated and open to the weather, has expanded to a year-round facility where hundreds of boats have been built or repaired as part of classes, restoration, and special projects.

By 2005, we had essentially completed the goals of the original 1979 master plan and planning began in 2007 to develop a new master plan. This plan, approved by the Board of Governors and the Calvert County Board of Commissioners in 2008, resulted in a capital campaign to raise $2 million to renovate the lobby, Museum Store, and to transform the auditorium into a much needed multipurpose space to handle our growing educational programs and events.

From the beginning, staff understood that the museum exhibits would need constant updating and renovation to keep our visitors interested and coming back. Over the last 10 years, the introduction to the Paleontology Gallery was completed, the Maritime Gallery has undergone a major updating to reflect new information and developments in exhibit techniques, and the Estuarine Biology Gallery had a major renovation that includes new tanks, new animals, lighting, interpretation, and displays.

Over the years, the historic J. C. Lore & Sons oyster house has had a complete makeover as well as structural repairs to its bulkhead and walls. Always prone to flooding, the problem has grown worse as the land sinks and bay waters rise. The future of this National Historic landmark is precarious at best.

The Cove Point Lighthouse, built in 1828, the oldest working lighthouse in Maryland and the sixth oldest lighthouse on the bay, was transferred to Calvert County government in 2000 to be administered by the Marine Museum. Extensive repairs have been made to the sea wall, light tower, cottage which is now a Visitor Center, and the keeper’s quarters, which has been converted into a successful weekly rental, earning much needed revenue for the museum.

The historic bugeye Wm. B. Tennison, built in 1899, is one of the oldest U.S. Coast Guard certified passenger carrying vessels in the country. Maintaining this National Historic Landmark is an ongoing challenge that we willingly shoulder to provide a memorable experience for our visitors. Acquired in 2013, the skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s is used as the floating classroom for the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab programs. It is also available for public sails and private charters.

The growth and success of the museum is reflected in some basic statistics. Since we started charging admission in 1991, the number of visitors has increased at a steady rate, with a notable increase in recent years due to expanding educational programs and events.
Musings on 24 Years at the Helm of the Calvert Marine Museum (Continued from page 1)

attendance has grown from 39,541 to over 77,000 in fiscal 2015, which ended June 30. Our visitors have come from all fifty states and twenty-two foreign countries. Our budget has grown along with attendance. In fiscal year 1990, the total museum budget was $1,043,931, with 77% coming from the county. In fiscal 2015, the total museum budget was $4,528,077, with 59% from the county — the balance made up through earned income and fundraising by the Society. Our staff includes 29 full-time and 30 part-time people and over 409 volunteers, who provided 31,284 volunteer hours, the equivalent of $795,552 last year.

But the main mission of the museum, the reason we work so hard, raise the funds, and constantly strive to improve our programs and facilities, is education. Everything we do is about sharing knowledge and experience, both formally and informally. We provide educational programs for all ages, from toddlers to seniors. From school fieldtrips, public programs, lectures, workshops, internships for high school and college students, to week long summer camps and distance learning programs for students around the country, we reach out to share the riches we have here at CMM.

We contribute to the history of our region through publications and exhibits on our local history and maritime heritage. The Paul L. Berry Reference Library is the repository for papers and material from such notables as educator and environmentalist Tom Wisner and former Senator Bernie Fowler, leader in the movement to clean up the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. With over 40,000 fossils, our Miocene collections are visited and researched by scientists from around the country and the world and we have discovered a number of new species of ancient whales and dolphins.

From modest beginnings, with community and national support helped by the dedication of hundreds of staff and volunteers over the years, the Calvert Marine Museum has made a significant and positive impact on our county, our region, and our visitors. I have been privileged and proud to lead such a dedicated, professional, hard working group of staff and volunteers and to have experienced the grateful and constantly positive feedback from those whose lives we have touched. I thank you, our members, for your support. I hope you visit often, volunteer if you can, support us, and continue to be part of the museum family. We’ll keep the light on for you.

from page 1

Opening day ceremonies at the Calvert County Historical Society’s Maritime Museum, 1970.

Calvert County Historical Society’s Maritime Museum building.

Our Lady Star of the Sea School children and teacher in front of Maritime Museum building.
Photo Retrospective on the Early Years

Workers pouring concrete slab for first Maritime Museum building.

Exhibits on display in the Maritime Museum.

Exhibits on display in the Maritime Museum.

Calvert Marine Museum dedication ceremonies, raising Calvert County flag.


Paleontology Gallery.

Museum library was completed in 1978.

Life of the Waterman exhibit was dedicated in 1976.

Maritime History Gallery.

M. M. Davis Shipyard exhibit.
The Children’s Maritime Garden at the Calvert Marine Museum

Last year, members of the Yard Arms met with museum staff and presented an exciting idea. They wanted to create a children’s garden that would reflect the museum’s themes. They fleshed out the idea, studied the campus and selected the best site in terms of sun, visibility, and lack of interference with other activities, and researched funding opportunities. Today, the museum boasts a thriving Children’s Garden located in front of the Development office facing Solomons Island Road — thanks to the initiative, hard work, and creative thinking of our Yard Arms and other volunteers.

— Sherrod Sturrock

The Children’s Maritime Garden, designed, installed, and maintained by the Yard Arms, celebrates the connections between land and water. Boat-shaped planting beds reflect the museum’s themes and commitment to the environment: Bay and Seashore; Paleo Plants; Animals and Birds; Bees and Butterflies; and a Sense-Sational bed designed to engage the senses.

The Children’s Garden has been a collaborative project from the beginning. Working with CMM staff, a number of grant requests were submitted in the hopes of garnering the financial support needed to create the garden. To everyone’s delight, every grant request was fully funded! We received support from Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, the Calvert Garden Club, the Chaney Beautification Fund, and the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth. This funding ensures that the full vision can be realized, and allows funding for on-going maintenance.

The Yard Arms turned to Patuxent Small Craft volunteers for help with construction, and Jim Wilson volunteered to build the boat-shaped planting beds. Involving children in the construction was always part of the plan, and Our Lady Star of the Sea School (OLSS) students proved ready and able to help. Beth Oster and Lynn Jensen were extremely organized in their coordination with the OLSS principal and teachers. Art teacher Sherry Mervine worked with the students on artistic touches for the plant tags and planting bed labels. The entrance to the garden is lined with flower boxes and lattice, installed by volunteer John Okay, which support sunflowers planted by third grade students from OLSS.

Pre-K – 8th grade students from OLSS spent several mornings with Yard Arms members creating the decorated stepping stone walkway that runs through the garden. They filled cardboard forms with Sakrete, and then used colored stones and shells to decorate them. Yard Arms members Mary Bahniuk, Donna Porter, and Nan Suydam designed and sewed the burgees that designate each garden and Ed Bahniuk made the wooden burgee holders. Judy Okay was the project leader for the garden. Judy spearheaded and coordinated the other Yard Arms and CMM maintenance staff, who were extremely helpful with the project. It is another tribute to the collaborative spirit that thrives at the museum.

Once completed, the Children’s Maritime Garden will be incorporated into educational programming and events at the museum — adding another important element in our ongoing efforts to be good stewards of our environment and share information with others.

Yard Arms: Mary Bahniuk, Carolyn Chandler, Kathy Elwood, Jeff Hall, Eileen LaForge, John Okay, Judy Okay, Donna Porter, Nan Suydam

The Children’s Garden will be dedicated during PRAD on Saturday, October 10, at 1:00 pm.

(Photos by Rob Hurry)
Ped-L-Craft Project Update

In the Spring 2015 issue of the Bugeye Times, Robert Hurry told the story of the Pedal-L-Craft, a pedal boat built in 1939 by shipbuilder M. M. Davis & Son, Inc. of Solomons. The boats were built for the Pedal Boat Company of New York which provided them to various waterside amusement parks and the New York World’s Fair.

CMM Boatwright George Surgent became intrigued with the idea of building a full size replica of a M. M. Davis-built pedal boat of wood and metal, with some minor modifications. The Patuxent Small Craft Guild agreed to pay for the costs of the project and provide most of the labor. Construction began in early 2015 and the two floats, platform, seats, and cowling have largely been completed. The latter is painted in a striking red, white, and blue paint scheme. Fabrication and installation of the bicycle-like mechanism that turns the paddle wheels has been the most difficult challenge to date but it is hoped to have the pedal boat ready for its public debut at PRAD on October 10/11.

Museum to Host USS Calvert Veterans

Veterans of the USS Calvert (APA-32) and family members will be visiting Calvert County for the first time on Friday, October 2, as part of their annual reunion in Baltimore. The USS Calvert Associates was started in 1979 by the late John Cole to bring together former crewmembers of the USS Calvert and their families. The Calvert Marine Museum serves as the repository for the USS Calvert Collection — objects, documents, and other memorabilia donated by members over the years. Some of this collection is on display through October at the Prince Frederick Library. Veterans will visit the former site of the Naval Amphibious Training Base in Solomons, the Calvert Marine Museum, and the exhibit at the Prince Frederick Library.

The first USS Calvert was a Maryland Conservation Commission police boat taken up for service in the Navy during 1917 and 1918. The second USS Calvert had a much longer career, being laid down in 1941 as Delorleans by Bethlehem-Sparrows Point Shipyard in Baltimore and launched on May 22, 1942. The ship was acquired by the Navy and renamed USS Calvert (AP-65), later reclassified APA-32. The amphibious assault ship went on to participate in Operation Torch, the landings in North Africa later that year, and the invasion of Sicily in 1943. She spent the remainder of World War II in the Pacific earning further battle honors in landings at Makin Island, the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and the Philippines. The ship continued to serve through the Korean War, and the early years of Vietnam and was decommissioned in May 1966. USS Calvert was sold for scrap on February 14, 1977.

Activities & Events

Boat Camp participants race in the Patuxent River. (Photo by Bob Hall)

The Barenaked Ladies perform on the PNC Pavilion stage at the July Waterside Music Series. (Photo by Tim Reese)

Kids Kampers try their hands at sailing radio controlled Victoria class boats in the museum’s boat basin. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Education Interpreter Candi Claggett assists Kids Kampers building toy boats. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Volunteer Chuck Kohls shows a diamondback terrapin to visitors at First Free Friday. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Volunteer John Johnson demonstrates knot tying at First Free Friday. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

GrooveSpan entertains audience in Harms Gallery during August First Free Friday event. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
U.S. Navy Band Commodores performs on the PNC Pavilion at September First Free Friday. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Curator Dave Moyer shows a chain dogfish to visitors at SharkFest. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Pirate Campers visit the beach at Cove Point. (Photo by Lori Cole)

Volunteer Mike Ellwood shares his knowledge of fossils with visitors at SharkFest. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Volunteer Brian Forsyth helps Sam Barry and Xavier Holloway build their boat during Boat Camp. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Guests enjoy the last public sail of the season aboard the Dee of St. Mary's. (Photo by Carole Pierson)

Jim Shepherd, Jim Langley, Melissa McCormick, and Skip Edwards with the newly installed Solomons Island sign. The sign was funded by the Solomons Civic Association and built by CMM staff Langley and Edwards at the request of the late Alton Kersey. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Model of the Wm. B. Tennison, built for Alton Kersey by “Pepper” Langley, is on display in museum lobby. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
THE MUSEUM STORE

Chesapeake Inspired

The fall is a special time around the Chesapeake Bay. The osprey fly south, the crabs are fat, the leaves are slow to turn, and boaters dot the sparkling water.

We have carefully chosen merchandise for the store that compliments and enriches your life whether you live in the area or just want to remember the time you spent in “Chesapeake Country.” Whether you’re looking for a small gift or a showstopper, a child’s toy or a fine piece of jewelry, a good book or a stylish jacket — we have something for you. If you can’t make it in, our online store is open for business! The proceeds from your purchases in the store help us to pay for programs and projects at the museum.

As a special treat we have invited Richard LaMotte, author of Pure Sea Glass and his new book, The Lure of Sea Glass, for a book signing on Saturday, October 10, during PRAD. He will be under the Museum Store Book Tent from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. We have many other local authors scheduled to sign books that weekend including Gene Meyer, Chesapeake Country, Peter Vogt, The Monster Shark’s Tooth, and Janie Suss, Oscar and Olive Osprey. The full schedule of author appearances is available in the store. Who wouldn’t want a signed book for a holiday gift?

Lots of ways to save! Museum members enjoy a 10% discount every day and 20% off on the 20th of every month. Saturday, November 28, is “SHOP SMALL BUSINESS DAY” and we give a 20% discount to anyone who asks for it! December 4 - 6 we participate in the Solomons Christmas Walk and members only enjoy 20% savings all three days. We are even open from 6:00 - 9:00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings so that you have plenty of opportunities to save! Mark your calendars!

Discover the Museum Store!

Give the Gift of MEMBERSHIP

Not just during the holidays, but at any time of the year, CMM has a gift that is a great idea for friends and family. A Gift Membership — share the secret that you already know — a museum membership offers opportunities for friends and loved ones to discover the remarkable world where fresh and saltwater meet to form the largest estuary in North America. Membership is a gift that will offer lasting memories and first-hand experiences all year long! Call Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042 x16.

YOU Can Make a Difference!

As 2015 starts to come to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Calvert Marine Museum. Your charitable donation will not only help the museum secure success in 2016 and beyond, but it will also allow you to claim a generous tax deduction for 2015. Through your support, the Calvert Marine Museum is able to continue to deliver the kind of excellence in our many exhibits and educational programs that you have come to expect. If you are interested in giving, please contact the Development Office at 410-326-2042 ext. 16, 17, or 18.
Fundraiser Marks Its 30th Anniversary

Not only did 2015 mark the 30th anniversary of the Waterside Concert Series at the Calvert Marine Museum, it also was a banner fundraising year, thanks to all our sponsors, ticket buyers, staff, and talented volunteers! We kicked off the summer with our 13th Rock and Roll Hall of Fame act on Saturday, May 23. Ann and Nancy Wilson, the duo known as Heart, performed for a near sell-out crowd and rocked Solomons Island with hits like Crazy on You, What About Love, and Barracuda.

We rounded out the summer season with a fun music festival featuring three acts: Colin Hay (former Men at Work lead singer), the Violent Femmes, and the Barenaked Ladies. The bands had the crowd singing, dancing and laughing for the four-hour festival. In fact, the Barenaked Ladies enjoyed their time at the museum so much they even sang an impromptu song about the museum’s Megalodon! With more than 150 performances tied to the Waterside Music Series in the past 30 years, we are grateful to still have such wonderful support from our community. We thank you for joining as a member, buying a ticket, and spreading the word about what a great place it is to enjoy a concert. We hope to see you next year — plans are already underway!

Bugeye Ball to be held Saturday, April 23

On Saturday, April 23, the Calvert Marine Museum welcomes you to the 2016 Bugeye Ball. With plans for this premier evening underway, the ball committee is designing a night to thank our friends and share our passion for the museum. Expect fabulous food, live entertainment, gaming tables, elegant décor and … the unexpected.

Don’t miss this chance to enjoy the museum. Proceeds from the Bugeye Ball will support the restoration of the Wm. B. Tennison.

Tickets for the event and sponsorship opportunities are available by calling Lisa Howard in the Development Office at 410-326-2042 x16.

APRIL 23 2016

Yule Party to be held
Sunday, December 6

Please plan to join us on Sunday, December 6, from 12 noon – 4:00 pm for the annual Members’ Yule Party. Enjoy shopping in the Museum Store, spending time with friends, and visiting with Squeak the river otter. Santa will also be stopping by in the afternoon with gifts for the children.

Admission to the party is a contribution of your favorite holiday fare on a disposable dish, and we will do the rest. Calvert Marine Museum provides drinks and sweets. Please bring the following item if your last name begins with:

A-I  Finger Sandwiches
J-Q  Fruits, Veggies, Cheeses
R-Z  Appetizers

We look forward to seeing you! Thank you for your support of the Calvert Marine Museum.

2015 Fall MEMBERS’ TRIP ANNOUNCED – Calvert County & Annapolis Winery Tour & Picnic

POSTPONED

Sunday, October 18 — Hop on the bus and join us for a day of wine tasting and great food and merriment as we travel throughout Calvert County and venture into Annapolis for visits to some of the most picturesque, award-winning wineries in the region. We will end our perfect fall day with a delicious picnic provided by Bear Creek BBQ under the Calvert Marine Museum Corbin Pavilion. Our members’ trips are always full of fun, laughter, and great fellowship. Hope you will join us! For the full schedule, visit www.bit.ly/FallMembersTrip.

Ticket Price is $60.00 and includes a tasting of approximately 5-6 wines at each breathtaking location. CMM will provide a snack “survival” kit for our first class luxury bus ride.

Only a limited number of tickets are available, so don’t delay! Reserve your spot today.

Call Lisa Howard in the Membership Office at 410-326-2042, ext. 16 or email Lisa at howardla@co.cal.md.us
The End of an Era –
Skip Edwards Retires

After 18 years, James “Skip” Edwards retired as the museum’s Model Maker in August. An award winning decoy carver, expert exhibit fabricator, and unequalled raconteur, he will be sorely missed.

Jim Langley initially brought Skip in on contract to build the boats you see in the Solomons model. In August 1997, he was hired as a full-time exhibit shop technician. It was during this period that he and Jim Langley created the Megalodon skeleton that hangs in the Paleontology Gallery. In August 1999, when Langley became Curator of Exhibits, Skip moved into the Model Maker position Jim had vacated. Skip and Jim go “way back.” As Jim likes to tell it, “I taught Skipper everything he knows!” which always elicited a chuckle from listeners and an eye roll from Skip. When asked how he liked working for his long-time friend, he replied: “I like to control what I’m doing, and he likes to control what I’m doing.” No further comment necessary. Once an exasperated Langley exclaimed, “Your job is to do what I tell you!” To which Skip replied, “No, my job is to listen to what you tell me, then tell you if I think it will work or not.” Life was never dull with those two around.

Skip’s father was in the navy. He retired when Skip was 11 and the family settled in Lusby. After graduating from high school he started working for the Ranch Club operating heavy equipment clearing land for the planned lake. He then moved on to carpentry and house construction. When the power plant was looking for carpenters, he joined the union so he could work as a carpenter at the plant. He also helped build the Thomas Johnson Bridge and what is now the Dominion Natural Gas Plant. Later, he traveled throughout the region doing heavy construction for the union. Eventually a back injury caused him to retire from heavy construction and he started carving waterfowl decoys full time. “Got pretty good at it too,” he says modestly. Pretty good indeed: Skip is considered a world class carver and has won first place awards and best in show at the Ward Museum World Championship Waterfowl Carving Competitions. He is also mentioned in the book Decoys: A Celebration of Contemporary Wildfowl Carving by Laurel Aziz.

Skip’s work lives on in the museum. He helped carve the sea horse you see in the River to Bay exhibit. He and Stephen Godfrey carved the sturgeon and sea cow that float overhead in the Clues from the Cliffs exhibit. Every single exhibit cabinet or display you see in the galleries, Skip had a hand in. And every piece is as finished as a piece of fine furniture. We are saddened to see Skip retire, as it marks the end of an era for the museum. We hope to see him back soon, sharing his skills with visitors in the carving shop for some time to come.

Aquarist Adventure on the University of Maryland’s Research Vessel Rachel Carson

Prior to becoming an aquarist at the Calvert Marine Museum, I was a faculty research assistant for University of Maryland Professor Walter Boynton at the Chesapeake Biological Lab (CBL) in Solomons. My duties included gathering water quality data on numerous research cruises. The main purpose of these cruises was to collect sediment cores of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. The sediment cores were analyzed for sediment oxygen nutrient exchanges and other various fluxes. Estuarine water quality and habitat conditions are directly affected by fluxes of nutrients from the sediments, especially during the warm summer period.

In the 1990s, one of the rivers that we collected data for was Back River near Baltimore, Maryland, which happens to also be the river that has the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) for Baltimore located on its shores. August 2014 and August 2015, CBL researchers invited me to assist them with their research cruise to Back River because I had the experience of working with the sediment box corer which was the main means of sediment core collection.

Tuesday, August 4, I boarded CBL’s 81-foot research vessel Rachel Carson with the research group and left the dock 0600, destination Back River near Baltimore, Maryland. We arrived at our first Back River station around 1100. We sampled various stations all day, docked overnight at a local marina, spent the night aboard the Rachel Carson, sampled more stations the next day and left Back River in the afternoon on Wednesday to head back to Solomons.

Upon revisiting the Back River last August to measure the first fluxes since the mid-1990s, CBL researchers Walter Boynton and Jeremey Testa noticed a considerable decline in sediment nutrient...
concentrations and sediment-water nutrient flux. These results would be a first glimmer that the wastewater treatment plant upgrades at the Back River WWTP that occurred in the 1990s to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharge amounts into Back River have led to a clear improvement in sediment conditions. Although water-column improvements have been seen in response to management in many estuaries worldwide, there is almost no data on sediment improvements. The 2014 samples are promising, but we needed to go back to determine if the sediment improvement was real and persistent. We are all looking forward to the results of this year’s sediment core analysis.

Aquarist Participates in Shark Tagging Program

By Linda Hanna, Museum Aquarist

The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), a division of NOAA, is responsible for the stewardship and management of the nation’s living marine resources and their habitat within the United States, which extends 200 nautical miles from the coastline. NMFS is overseen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). One of the marine animals they monitor is sharks.

The Cooperative Shark Tagging Program was started by NMFS in 1962 with a group of scientists and recreational fishermen. Since 2006, I have participated in a small portion of the long-lining study that takes place every summer in the Delaware Bay for about 10 days each month in June, July, and August.

The long lines are approximately 1000 feet long and have either 25 large “J” hooks at 40-foot intervals or 50 small “J” hooks at 20-foot intervals, and given a soak time of 2 hours or 30 minutes — respectively. Every animal hooked is recorded, every “managed” species (such as sand tiger and sandbar sharks) are tagged, and that information is recorded to be compared if the animal is ever re-captured.

Depending on research being conducted at the time by others in the Apex Predator program for NOAA, many other samplings or extensive measurements will be taken. For example, if someone is working on a DNA study, then a fin clip or tissue sample may be collected and placed in a fix vial of formalin, or if someone is researching the food sources of a certain species, stomach contents may be sampled from that species if caught on the long line.

I have a passion for sharks and have worked in Elasmobranch husbandry for about 20 years. I am happy to be able to participate in this federal conservation activity that runs on a very small budget and staff dedicated to help make it happen.

Dee Supports Trash-Free Maryland

By Mindy Quinn, Director of the CMM Chesapeake Bay Field Lab

In June, John Fulchiron, the first mate of the Dee of St. Mary’s, proposed the idea of using the Dee to assist with a research project that would take place at the end of August. Trash Free Maryland was planning to spend 15 days sailing in the tributaries of the Chesapeake, sampling for plastic pollution. Partnering with organizations throughout Maryland, Julie Lawson, Trash Free Maryland founder, wanted to collect 60 different samples of water to be analyzed by toxicologists to see how the plastics move through our waterways and into our fish.

Starting on August 31, the Dee spent three days working with Trash Free Maryland sailing around the Patuxent River and even crossing over toward Barren Island. I served as mate and was joined by Julie Lawson, Stiv Wilson with the Story of Stuff, and Chelsea Rochman, a toxicologist from University of California,
Davis, as well as other scientists, politicians, and lobbyists from various agencies. The goal was to collect as many scientific and educational plankton samples from the surface of the water as possible using a manta trawl. The manta trawl is a net system made of thin mesh designed for sampling the surface of the water. It resembles a manta ray, with metal wings and a broad mouth.

The skipjack does not have a spinnaker pole to make positioning the trawl simple, so mate John Fulchiron designed a way to make it work. The day of the first trawl, Jim Wilson and Al Rondina, both crew and members of the Small Craft Guild, designed and built a support for the manta trawl while we were underway to improve on John’s design. The trip was quite successful, producing more samples than anticipated. These samples will be sent to the Environmental Protection Agency labs for analysis. Julie’s hope is to use her data to work on the ban of microplastics and to educate people on why reusable is better than recyclable.

To learn more about this effort, visit Team Chesapeake on our website: www.bit.ly/TeamChesapeake.

Educator’s Adventure on Hog Island
by Lori Cole, Education Interpreter

The soft images of boats in the fog, the salty tang in the air, the sound of the water lapping on the Maine shore, and the chickadee’s morning call began an inspiring and memorable week this summer. I was fortunate to be the recipient of a full scholarship from the Southern Maryland Audubon Society to the Hog Island Audubon Camp, Share Nature: Educators Week, July 19 – 24. Hog Island is located in Muscongus Bay in Bremen, Maine. It has been operated as a nature study camp for educators since 1936. The 330-acre Hog Island is home to over 150 species of birds. During my week there, we recorded some 68 species collectively during our many outings.

It was an action-packed week. On my second day, we took a boat trip out to Eastern Egg Rock to see the puffins — one of my personal goals for the trip. Despite the foggy conditions, I saw not only puffins, but also terns, cormorants, eiders, guillemots, and several species of gulls. We also saw harbor seals and harbor dolphins. Throughout the week we were presented with many choices of excursions, classes, or programs. I participated in Birds 101, Bird Sleuthing — Habitat Connections, Geology, and Story Telling with Images and Sound. There were optional early morning programs that I took advantage of, including photography and bird banding. Optional night activities included a sensory night hike, viewing the moth collecting system, and viewing Saturn’s rings. And then there were scheduled evening programs: sing-a-longs, skits, and two speakers — Stephen Kress (Director of Puffin Project) and Dr. Chandra Taylor Smith (Vice President of Community Conservation and Education with Audubon Society), along with a trio of rotated activities (bioluminescence, astronomy, and music).

When I applied for the SMAS scholarship, I hoped to gain a better understanding of birds and to see puffins. This week far exceeded my expectations — and it is an experience I will be able to use at CMM in our educational programs. It was a remarkable experience full of unforgettable opportunities.
Volunteer Council Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, September 1, the Volunteer Council held its annual meeting with the main order of business being the election of officers for the upcoming year. Sherma Munger, the past president, presented Teddie Watts with a gift from the council to thank her for her eight years of service as council secretary. Shirley Mihursky, chairperson of the nominating committee, presented the slate of officers, which was unanimously approved. The officers for the upcoming year are Judy Larsen, president; Ray Brule, vice president; Tim Wakeman, treasurer; Margo Sinback, secretary; and Denita Sanders, corresponding secretary.

With the business complete, the meeting was adjourned and dinner was served. It was a great opportunity for everyone to mix and mingle while enjoying a wonderful meal. A special thank you goes to Janet Addiss for the delicious ham, pineapple, and baked beans she prepared and to Anne Harrison for the lovely centerpieces that adorned each table.

Congratulations to the new council members on their election. I am sure it will be another great year for CMM and our volunteer family!

Goodbye to our dear friends…

The Calvert Marine Museum has recently lost two members of the volunteer family.

Leaming James “Lee” Gandy passed away on August 19, 2015, in Solomons, Maryland. Lee was a CMM volunteer for several years and served as the president of the Volunteer Council in 2003. Giving his time and energy to the museum was just one of the many ways Lee gave back to the community. He also volunteered at SMILE and Patuxent Habitat for Humanity.

Linda McCullagh passed away on September 12, 2015, in Lusby, Maryland. Linda became a CMM volunteer in 2005. She enjoyed working with our visitors by teaching them about the touch tank “critters” in the Discovery Room during most of her volunteer time. Linda was quoted as saying, “Working in the Discovery Room has helped me think like a kid again.” She continued to volunteer until her illness forced her to retire in 2014.

Goodbye dear friends; we will miss you both.

Aww Shucks Oyster Social

Gather some friends and join us for the Aww Shucks Oyster Social, our annual fundraiser for the Dee of St. Mary’s, on Saturday, October 24. Join us at the boat basin and indulge in the fattest and saltiest oysters, both scalded and on the half shell, donated by local oyster farmers. Enjoy live music with Jeff Farias and Gary Rue, a silent auction with items such as a public cruise aboard the Dee with 30 of your friends, Dee inspired artwork, and more. Beer and wine, compliments of Bozick Distributors, along with heavy hors d’oeuvres by our local restaurants promise an evening of fun and friendship, all while supporting the Dee.

Tickets are $75 each and available online at [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com).

Since acquiring the Dee in 2013, utilization of the skipjack has increased with educational programs, private charters, public and sunset sails that have enabled many people to experience this floating classroom. Our volunteer crew has invested hundreds of hours maintaining this vessel. This year, we will work with SMECO to remove the 76-foot mast and replace all of the mainsail’s rigging — no small undertaking. With new and exciting challenges to be faced in caring for this wooden work boat, we couldn’t do it without your help.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels and include complimentary tickets to the event, along with other unique benefits. Please contact Vanessa Gill at 410-326-2042 ext. 18 or email gillvl@co.cal.md.us for more information and to join us in caring for this beautiful skipjack.