

“MARITIME PATUXENT: A RIVER AND ITS PEOPLE” REVISITED *The Reworked Maritime History Gallery at CMM*

As a visitor to the museum, you will notice some changes as you go through the maritime history gallery. Even though you have seen it many times, we think you will be impressed with these changes. While the general content has not changed significantly, the enhanced presentation of topics will enable you to gain a better understanding of our area’s rich maritime experience.

When the museum’s new exhibition building opened in January 1989, the spacious exhibition areas were mostly empty, awaiting the installation of the various exhibits. During the first two weeks in January 1989 some of the exhibits from the old museum were placed in temporary locations in the new building, and there were lectures and other activities scheduled for the new discovery room and the auditorium. During the next few months the maritime history exhibit began to take shape in the largest of the exhibit areas — over 5,500 square feet.

The museum’s then curator of maritime history, Paula Johnson, received a planning grant in 1986 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which she used to obtain the talents of a consultative group to set out the broad concepts of the exhibit. From this support developed the original design of “Maritime Patuxent: A River and Its People,” which was then implemented by another major grant from NEH and matched by support from museum members and friends in a special campaign. During the summer of 1989 museum staff and others

installed this first permanent exhibit, even constructing the mezzanine gallery for future changing maritime-related exhibits. When the maritime history gallery opened with an official ribbon cutting on November 3, 1989, it was divided into five sections, featured some five hundred artifacts, and traced the history of human interaction with the river.

After twenty years, however, it was time to review what was offered and to benefit from visitors’ comments over the years. In 2009 the Calvert Marine Museum Society received a Project Challenge Grant from the Maryland Historical Trust for \$27,000 toward the cost of updating the maritime gallery. Most significantly, the exhibit had no introduction, was not connected to the other areas of the museum — which were developed subsequently — and it lacked a “voice.” The labels were too low and poorly lit, the typography was too small, and the information presented in a dry and passive style. Our goal in reworking the exhibit was to use existing cases, maintain the basic exhibit layout, and continue to interpret the history of human life along the Patuxent, while applying new interpretive standards and exhibit techniques to tell the story in a fresh and more engaging way.

We were dealing with artifacts in glass cases with small numbers next to them that corresponded to information printed in a text panel below. It was difficult to connect the artifact to the

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The original “steamboat” case from 1989.
CMM photo by Rob Hurry



The reworked “steamboat” case of 2010 showing new treatment of labels and artifacts.
CMM photo by Rachel Reese

MUSEUM BOARD FOR 2011

Since the report in the *Bugeye Times* in December 2009 on the museum's Board of Governors, the Calvert County Commissioners have appointed four new board members. To fill vacancies on the board, two members were appointed by the commissioners on May 11, 2010.

David E. Butler of Solomons, who served on the board for two terms from 2003 to 2008, returned for a three-year term. He is retired from the General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems and currently enjoys boating as a member of the Southern Maryland Sailing Association.

Mark N. Fisher of Owings is a consultant with Telecom Capital Group, LLC, is a trustee of Calverton School, executive director of Grays' Field Foundation, and a member of the Maryland Economic Development Association. He was recently elected to the Maryland House of Delegates from Legislative District 27B. On November 16, 2010, **David B. Campbell** of St. Leonard was appointed




Museum director Doug Alves (left) comments on the year's accomplishments to board members and guests at the annual board dinner on December 8.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

to fill another vacancy. He holds an important position with the National Science Foundation and has extensive classroom and field experience in marine science education. To fill the expiring term of board member James B. Perkins, **James R. Tate** of St. Leonard was appointed to a three-year term. Mr. Tate was trained as a chemical engineer and attorney and is currently in private practice in Virginia.

He served in the Virginia legislature in the 1970s and on a number of boards. His appreciation of the Chesapeake Bay and its history has been gained as a sailor. These new members joined present board members at the annual board dinner on December 8.

Board members who will continue in 2011 are Anthony J. Benn, Pat G. Carpenter, Robert S. Currie, Wanda W. DeBord (serving a second term), Karen Everett, Marianne Harms, Donald P. McDougall, Mark A. MacDougall (second term), Lyn Striegel, Frank E. Taylor and Nancy Wieck. Ex officio members include County Commissioner Gerald "Jerry" Clark, CMM director C. Douglass Alves Jr., and Capt. Stephen A. Schmeiser, USN, executive officer at NAS, Patuxent River. The Board of Governors also serves as the Board of Directors of the Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc., responsible for fundraising. 

BUGEYE TIMES

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The bug-eye was the traditional sailing craft of the Bay, and was built in all its glory at Solomons, the "Bugeye Capital of the World." Membership dues are used to fund special museum projects, programs, and printing of this newsletter. Address comments and membership applications to:

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**CALVERT
MARINE
MUSEUM**



MORE GRANTS FOR CMM


The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, working through the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium (SMHAC), has awarded a grant of \$90,000 to the Calvert Marine Museum Society for further work on restoration of the Cove Point Light keepers' house. Cove Point Light is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in Maryland, dating from 1828. This current project will complete Phase II of the restoration of the duplex residential dwelling, built to house the keeper and assistant keeper and their families. The goal of the restoration is to create a structurally sound, weather-resistant, and building-code-compliant historic residence that will offer new opportunities for tourism and educational programs for the museum.

The museum received two mini-grants from the SMHAC. One provided support to bring Daniel "Firehawk" Abbott from the Eastern Shore Nanticoke (Nentego) tribe to demonstrate skills in many of the prehistoric functional arts including stone and bone tool manufacture and fire making. Dressed in traditional coastal Algonquin clothing, during his appearance at the Corbin Pavilion on Saturday, November



CMM photo by Bob Hall


13, he highlighted village life in Stone Age America. The second grant provided funds to support the Sunday Afternoons With Chesapeake Authors series.

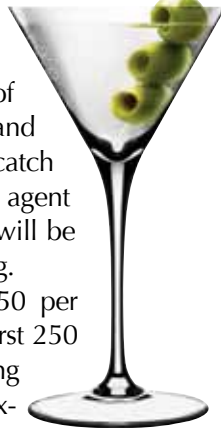
The museum also received a regional grant of \$6,500 from SMHAC for the Calvert Marine Museum to take the lead in managing the funds and production of a Southern Maryland 1812 Map and Guide, showing historic sites that are accessible to the public. All three counties – Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's – as well as Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum and Sotterley Plantation, are partners in this project. 

MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Bugeye Ball Coming in February

Experience *Shaken Not Stirred: Bugeye Ball 2011* on February 26, 2010. This is a must-attend evening of dining, dancing, gaming tables, raffles, and adventure. "Shaken, not stirred" is a catch phrase of fictional British Secret Service agent James Bond, but we can guarantee there will be nothing fictional about this elegant evening.

Tickets for the Bugeye Ball are \$150 per person, and attendance is limited to the first 250 guests. Sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 are available. Tax-deductible donations in any amount are also welcome. Please contact Vanessa Gill at 410-326-2042, ext. 18, or gillvl@co.cal.md.us, for more details about the event or to discuss sponsorship. Formal invitations will be mailed in January. 




Exciting Membership Trips Being Planned for 2011!

Two very exciting membership trips are being planned for 2011. The first trip is tentatively scheduled for January 30. Plans are still being finalized to attend a production of

Shear Madness at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. *Shear Madness* is the comedy whodunit that lets the audience solve the crime! Set in present-day Georgetown, *Shear Madness* engages the




audience as armchair detectives to help solve the scissors-stabbing murder of a famed concert pianist who lives above the *Shear Madness* hairstyling salon. *Shear Madness* has been running at the Kennedy Center for over twenty years giving more than 10,000 performances, making it the second longest play in the history of American theater. Guest ticket price includes lunch at the quaint Kennedy Center Café. Watch your inbox for more information once this trip is finalized.

The second trip in the works will have us putting the cold, blustery winter weather behind us and bring about visions of a field of dreams dancing in our heads. Southern Maryland loves baseball and we love our Southern Maryland division champion Blue Crabs. Watch this space in future issues for more information on this family-friendly event. 



Members' Yule Party 2010... Fun for One and All

Guests enjoyed festive music, face painting, local celebrity clowns Bunky and Blondi, holiday goodies, shopping in the museum store, and visits from the North Pole's own Santa, and from Squeak, the river otter. Spending time with our members and getting to know them is one of the true pleasures of the Yule Party each year.

Wishing all of our members and friends a happy and prosperous New Year! Looking forward to seeing you at the museum in 2011. 



Magan MacAdams with Santa (volunteer Ken Spring) at the Members' Yule Party, December 5.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

The party buffet table.

CMM photo by Bob Hall



The clowns Bunky and Blondi (Bob and Teresa Gretton) entertaining the younger guests during the party.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

PATUXENT RIVER APPRECIATION DAYS

October 9 and 10, 2010

The thirty-second annual celebration of the Patuxent River (PRAD) was very successful, thanks to a beautiful early fall weekend. Visitors enjoyed music, food, boat rides, and, of course, the parade.



PRAD attendees visiting vendor tents and food stalls. CMM photo by Bob Hall



The boat basin activities also attracted many visitors. Photo courtesy of Carrie Munn, ©2010



Museum volunteers Dennis Baker and Denita Sanders with the "goodies" sold at the Volunteer Bake Sale table. CMM photo by Bob Hall



Model boat building — popular as always with the younger visitors. Courtesy photo



Eric Skow (left) and Bob Pfeiffer entertaining visitors in the Corbin Pavillion. CMM photo by Bob Hall



The parade prize winner passing the J. C. Lore & Sons Oyster House: "The Pink Pirates" of Girl Scout Troop 5147 of Port Republic. Photo courtesy of Carrie Munn, ©2010

CMM'S 40th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

As readers are aware, the museum this year has been celebrating its fortieth anniversary with many events and articles in the *Bugeye Times* supported by the Community Bank of Tri-County. The climax was the official **BIRTHDAY BASH** that took place all day on Saturday, October 23, with the museum admission-free to the public. Activities included a costume parade and contest, crafts for the kids, clowns, Badd Company Dance Company demonstrating and teaching dances from the '70s, free hotdogs and pizza, and a play entitled "Solomons — Our Own History" in the auditorium in the afternoon. As a grand finale of the day, there was the cutting of two cakes: the Drum Point Lighthouse and the *Wm. B. Tennison*. Special thanks are due to our Birthday Bash other sponsors — Maggie Moo's Ice Cream of Dunkirk, Papa John's, and Sugar Rush Cakes and Confections.



An early event was an "otter" parade, led by CMM's "otter" (volunteer Anne Harrison) and Traci Cimini (right), CMM development/public relations associate, along the boat basin walkway.
CMM photo by Bob Hall



The Drum Point Lighthouse cake designed by Sugar Rush Cakes and Confections for the anniversary celebration.
CMM photo by Bob Hall



State Senator Roy Dyson cuts the *Wm. B. Tennison* cake, provided by the museum founders, in celebration of the CMM anniversary and the 111th anniversary of the *Tennison*. Looking on in the center are Alton and Joann Lore Kersey, the owners of the boat prior to its purchase by Calvert County for use by CMM.
CMM photo by Bob Hall



Presented in the auditorium was "Solomons — Our Own History," a choral reading written by Barbara Lorton. Pictured left to right are: Beth Wagner, Janet Cross, musicians; Sherrod Sturrock, one of the narrators; Barbara Lorton in the role of Susie Magruder; Denny Schroeder as Isaac Solomon; Jim Langely as his father, "Pepper" Langley; Ken Kaumeyer as W. W. Dowell; Lexie Anderson in the role of a young Anna Weems; and Ron Clark as Jim Hutchins. The other narrator, Doug Alves, is not in the picture.
CMM photo by Bob Hall

“MARITIME PATUXENT: A RIVER AND ITS PEOPLE” REVISITED (Continued from page 1)

information, and the information presented was text heavy and needed review. We recognized the need to present information in such a way that engaged visitors at different age and interest levels. Another issue was one of content. Even though we were dealing with history, history has a way of being reinterpreted when viewed from different periods. Twenty years ago the African-American experience and contribution was largely ignored — an oversight that needed to be corrected. The condition of the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River has been drastically altered by humans, and that needed to be added. Individual voices were largely missing from the narrative. Overall, the gallery was a static display with virtually no interactive components or moving parts.

The exhibit development team was made up of the curator of maritime history, Richard Dodds, the museum’s registrar, Robert Hurry, the curator of exhibits, Jim Langley, and the deputy director who also oversees education, Sherrod Sturrock. A museum professional, Dean Krimmel, was engaged to assist the CMM group in rewriting the exhibit text for new panels. The exhibit design and most of the fabrication and installation was done “in-house” by our own exhibits staff. We moved the information about artifacts into the case next to the object. Text was rewritten using a clear, personal, active voice. We teased out the stories of interesting individuals, using them to help tell the history. Text panels have been reoriented for ease in reading, and back-lit, incorporating images and photographs to add interest, and the dull uniform gray has been replaced with colorful cases creating a color-and-symbol map for visitors as they move through the gallery.

We added sound, interactive elements, and video, allowing the people behind the artifacts to tell their own stories. To help illustrate each area, our talented muralist researched and created backdrops for the Native American, Colonial, and War of 1812 cases. Far more than a pretty picture, these historically accurate drawings depict everyday life of the early native peoples and

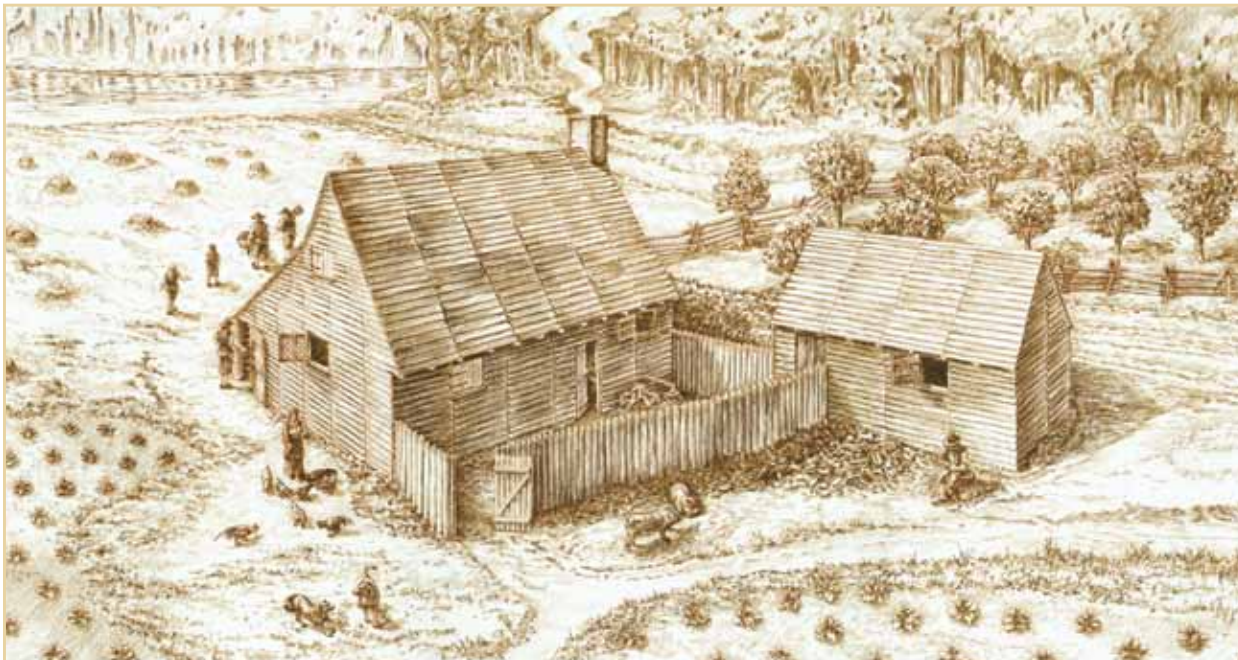


The 2010 “War of 1812” case with new labels.

CMM photo by Rachel Reese

the colonial period, and most spectacularly the raging battle of St. Leonard Creek, with remarkable detail. There is much to be learned from studying these drawings.

Photographs are used to help tell each story: drawing from the rich resources in our archives, we identified dozens of photographs from the early twentieth century to incorporate into the exhibit. Instead of writing a label saying “sailing work boats were commonplace,” the background of the “sail to steam” case shows the Patuxent River dotted with the sails of working watermen — highlighting both the style of boat and the prevalence of watermen in 1920. Placed within the context of the photographs are models, many museum-built, of these workboats. The large scene of folk waiting on the steamboat landing in Solomons in 1920 is rich with detail. On your next visit take a moment to study it and discover how much you can learn




The mural for the “Colonial Patuxent” case.

Original drawing by Tim Sheirer

from the attitude, dress, and carriage of those people captured in a moment so long ago.

As you move through the gallery, it is with a growing awareness of the changes that have taken place over time in this place. Right here, the native Patuxent Indians trod thousands of years ago; slaves lived out their lives toiling in tobacco fields; privateers fought the British to maintain control of the Chesapeake; watermen pulled in the riches from the bay so that enterprising businessmen could process and ship oysters, clams, crabs, and fish across the continent. Boats of all kinds were built here. Men trained for a war that took them halfway around the world, many never to return, while other military facilities supported testing and weapons' research. Scientists have used the area to research the bay and to educate other scientists. And long before any of this, the giant sharks and whales swam in a warm ocean, leaving behind bones and teeth buried in the cliffs — clearly depicted in the paleontology exhibits in another part of the museum — the same cliffs that Capt. John Smith named. It is a powerful thing to sense all that has happened in a place over time; to understand that you are part of the flowing stream of history.

We hope that you will visit the maritime history gallery many times and will find new inspiration from the reworked exhibits here. In fact, there are still more changes to be made during the next year, so keep coming back. (Sherrod Sturrock and Paul Berry) 



Each of the major sections has a logo, this one for the Native American section.



At the reopening of the gallery on October 5, 2010, County Commissioner President Wilson Parran (center) viewed the reworked exhibits.

CMM photo by Rob Hurry

A new video presentation was viewed by attendees at the reopening in October.

CMM photo by Rob Hurry



REPORT ON THE 2010 STATE OF THE RIVER SUMMIT:

The Impacts of the Executive Order for the Chesapeake Bay

The 2010 State of the River Summit was held at the Calvert Marine Museum on Friday, October 8, with the focus on the mandates of President Obama's executive order. Former state senator Bernie Fowler opened the summit with his perceptions of the situation based on over forty years of work on achieving cleaner water in our bay and rivers. He was followed by William Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, who laid out the broad outline of the 2009 lawsuit that CBF and others had filed against the Environmental Protection Agency, which was a catalyst for greater action. Carin Bisland, associate director for ecosystem management at the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, provided the basic tenets of the executive order, stressing that never in the history of the agency has such a sweeping program been attempted.


The executive order rests on the concept of TMDLs — the Total Maximum Daily Load of pollutants that a waterway can

absorb before becoming unhealthy. Every state and jurisdiction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed must develop a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for achieving the TMDL for every waterway. It is a monumental task that involves not only agriculture and wastewater treatment plants, but also lawn treatment, pet waste, septic systems, air pollution from engines, storm runoff — in other words, everything.

Ann Pesiri Swanson, the executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, provided an overview of the work that has been done, and is still to be done to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. She reviewed the history of efforts that have been undertaken over the past forty years to return the bay to health. Her message was that this is an enormous task that cannot be accomplished by government alone, but must involve everyone who lives in the watershed.

The responsibility for implementing the order falls to the state and local governments. Speaking for the state of Maryland, Dr. Robert

Summers, assistant secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, said that Maryland was completing the required watershed implementation with plans that will guide changes. Greg Bowen, director of Calvert County Planning and Zoning, represented the local level. He talked about the historic rationale for some of the actions that are now identified as key problems, like septic systems and land use. He agreed that it would require much more than changing laws or better enforcement, it would require a lifestyle change to make a significant impact on long-term water quality.

During the second half of the summit, Dusty Rhoades moderated a question-and-answer period with the audience. A lively exchange ensued during which citizens expressed their frustration with the slow pace of improvement, the lack of enforcement, or the inability of property owners to get exceptions to the existing rules. (Sherrod Sturrock) 

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

The CMM volunteer family has done it again! They have collectively logged 23,700 volunteer hours for fiscal year 2010, which is equivalent to \$517,371 of in-kind service. We have such a diverse and dynamic group of individuals that come together to create a powerful team of volunteers. The ideas and observations that our volunteers bring to the table are critical to helping staff respond to the needs of our visitors. Working hand-in-hand with staff, the volunteers keep a tight focus on the mission and goals of the museum, always working to make the experience richer. Their very presence and their wealth of experience and knowledge allow us to offer far more programming than paid staff could ever manage alone. Thanks to the CMM volunteer family, we have another successful year on the books. We couldn't do it without you!

A typical event during which staff and volunteers participated was the twenty-sixth annual Solomons Christmas Walk on December 3 and 4 (December 3 was also First FREE Friday). The museum was filled with the sights and sounds of the holiday as our visitors were entertained with live musical performances by the Cosmic Flute Choir, Patuxent Voices, Southern Maryland Sound, Patuxent Pearls, The Good Stuff, and Joyce Kinser. Our guests were also treated to lots of homemade cookies, punch, coffee, and hot chocolate. Of course, the celebration would not have been complete without crafts for the kids and appearances from the "otter" and Santa! 🚢



Longtime volunteer Al Lavish was honored by Calvert County on September 21 as one of the county's "Beautiful People."

Photo courtesy of Calvert County

The museum "otter" (volunteer Jane Kostenko) entertaining Hanna, Brandon, and mom Archea Simonelli during the Christmas Walk.

CMM photo by Bob Hall



Museum store customers are served by staff and volunteers during the Christmas Walk, as they are throughout the year.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

STAFF NEWS

Meet Lisa Howard new Membership Coordinator

Museum members and staff welcome **Lisa Howard**, from Lexington Park, to the museum family. Lisa comes to us with experience in fundraising, capital campaigns, membership databases, and event planning. She has worked at the United Way of Calvert County and the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, and she has volunteered her talents at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum Gala and as a local Girl Scouts of America assistant troop leader. Lisa has received numerous awards for Outstanding Performance, Outstanding Volunteer, and Employee of the Month. She is married with two beautiful little girls who keep her quite busy all the hours she's not at the museum, and is excited about the opportunity to work for a place she and her family have loved and supported for years. Lisa will be attending all our membership events to make sure she gets to meet as many of our members as possible. If you would like to give Lisa a call and welcome her, she can be reached at 410-326-2042, ext. 16.

Part-time museum interpreter **Tom Lewis** spends much of his time away from CMM in working out. At a competition on November 20 and 21 in York, Pennsylvania, he bench pressed a world record 520 pounds at the International Powerlifting Association's event. 🚢



Lisa Howard (right) with her family: husband Michael and daughters Cassidy and Katie. Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo