

BEHIND-THE-SCENES IN THE ESTUARIUM: EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES

By Kenneth R. Kaumeyer, Curator of Estuarine Biology

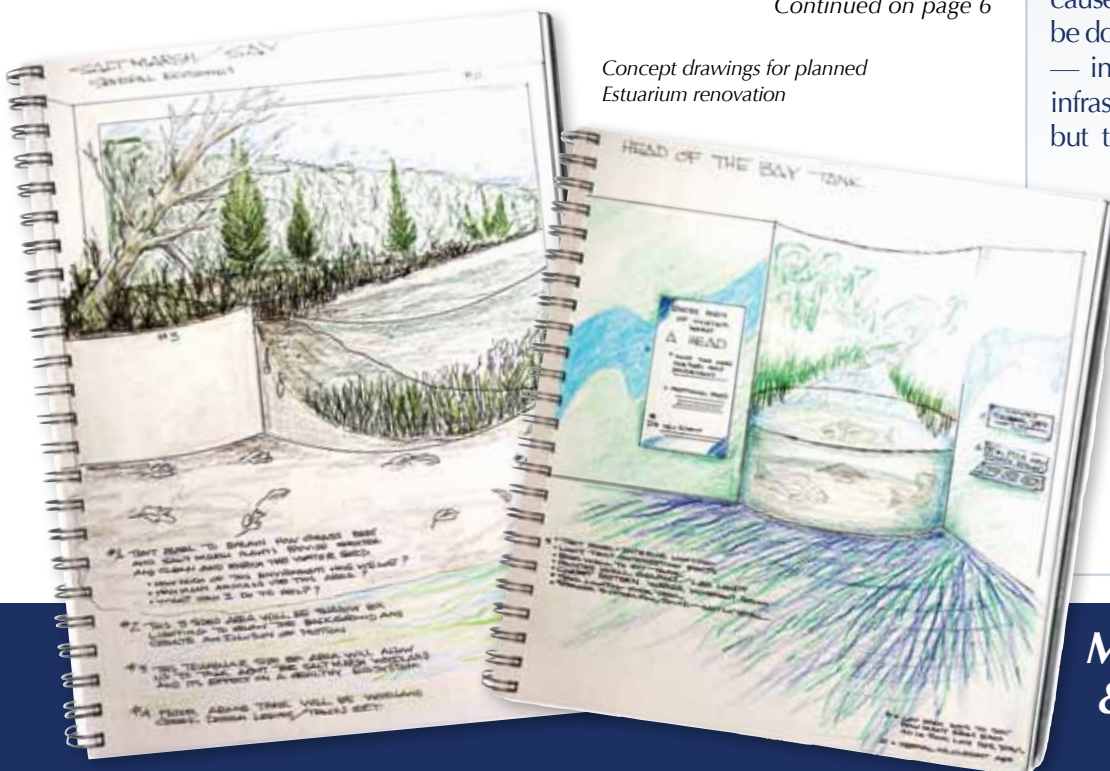
The aquarium exhibits at the museum opened in 1992 and were designed to showcase the aquatic life of the Patuxent River to help visitors develop a greater appreciation for the life that existed there. Much has changed since that time. The population of the area has grown substantially and tourism is now a dominant feature of the local economy, bringing in many people from outside the region. The original story that the Estuarium was designed to tell is no longer big enough, and the exhibits themselves are outdated. With the rapid technological advances of the past several decades, we now have the ability to develop much more exciting and appealing presentations. Computer graphics and lighting design options are now virtually unlimited, and visitor expectations parallel these changes in exhibit design. With this in mind, we have begun to rethink the gallery with an eye toward updating both the approach and the presentation.

The BIG Idea:

Anticipating an overall updating, we are planning to expand the theme from the Patuxent River to the entire Chesapeake Bay. Spatial and financial constraints prevent us from making major changes to the size of the existing aquariums, but we plan to change their inhabitants and the story they tell, as well as the way that story is presented. Bright colorful graphics, lighted wall panels, motion lighting, and new floor and wall treatments will all serve to improve visitor experience.

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Concept drawings for planned Estuarium renovation



The new master plan adopted in 2009 calls for updating all three of the permanent exhibit areas in the museum's exhibition building. Part of that process involved going through an "Interpretive Planning Process" to help us sort out what we wanted to do in these areas. As we work through the exhibits, we are consciously trying to do a better job of integrating or relating the information, making it more relevant to our visitors, and more exciting to see, hear, and touch.

We have completed the paleontology gallery, adding a new entry hall, video component, sound, and interactive computers. We are in the process of updating the maritime gallery, and hope to receive a grant to complete the last section next fall.

The final gallery is the Estuarium where we display live animals. Because of financial constraints, we will be doing a "front of house" renovation — in other words, not changing the infrastructure that supports the tanks, but the way the information is displayed and presented. Unlike the other two galleries where we are dealing with artifacts and information, live animals present an entirely different set of challenges. There is a great deal that goes on "behind the scenes."

*Sherrod Sturrock
Deputy Director*

**Maritime Performances
& Concert Information**

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MARITIME PERFORMANCE SERIES

The museum is pleased to announce its second Maritime Performance Series. Starting in June and extending through October, you are invited to join us for outstanding performances by a remarkably diverse and talented group of traditional performers. The performances will take place in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. See calendar or CMM website for ticket information.

► **Saturday, June 25 – Magpie:** Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner began to play music together in 1973 and have never stopped. Both are gifted singers and instrumentalists, and in their performances they play guitar, dulcimer, mandolin, and harmonica. Greg's outstanding guitar fingerstyle provides the basis of Magpie's versatility, eclectic musical styles, and powerful sound. Terry and Greg are internationally known for their musical work in the environmental movement. They have performed across the county and received the "Wammie" award as traditional folk duo of the year in 1998. They currently reside in New York.



► **Friday, July 22 – Dramtreeo:** Dramtreeo has been a popular folk group performing throughout the mid-Atlantic region of the United States since the early 1980s. The original members took their name from the story of the "Dram Tree," a legend about an old cypress tree in the harbor of Edenton, NC. According to this tale, sailors would gather at the tree prior to their voyages to have one last dram of rum for good luck. Throughout Dramtreeo's career, the group's thick multi-part vocal harmonies and fine musicianship have helped create a warm, family-oriented style rarely found since the folk boom of the early '60s.



► **Friday, August 26 – Bob Zentz:** Bob Zentz, a favorite at the museum, is a well known maritime musician hailing from Norfolk, Virginia. As a performer, Bob is a prolific musician, playing several dozen instruments in a repertoire of more than 2,000 songs. His albums span the genres of folk, traditional, Celtic, and maritime music and beyond, and his recordings also appear on other artist compilations. Bob has represented America and its folk traditions across the country as well as performing in Finland, Scotland, and at the Australian National Folk Festival in Canberra in 2004.



► **Friday, October 21 – Gordon Bok:** Gordon Bok grew up around the boatyards of Camden, Maine. In his early years, as he worked

on a variety of vessels, from passenger schooners to yachts, he learned many tunes, sea songs, stories, legends, and ballads from the people he worked with. Where he couldn't find songs that matched his experiences or needs, he began to write his own, and has kept up a lively flow of poems, songs, stories, choral, and instrumental works. He has performed extensively in the United States, and in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. Gordon's music has been sung by many other performers and has been used for films, most notably the documentary "Coaster: The Adventure of the John F. Leavitt" for which he won an award. His legacy includes over thirty recordings featuring his own compositions and folk tunes from around the world. ▲



SHARKFEST
A FRESH ATTACK

SATURDAY, JULY 9
10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

CLIMB INTO THE SHARKCAGE
Join photographers Nicholas Caloyianis and Charita Berger for Show and Tell Shark Adventures Around the World

Slide down the mouth of a 33-FOOT SHARKSLIDE

SHARK FRENZY Filmfest

SHARKFACT Stations

SHARK MURAL Painting

Fossils/Shark Teeth

Admission and fees apply
www.calvertmarinemuseum.com
Book your ticket online at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com
Event Location: Parking World and Seawater Hallway on

BUGEYE TIMES

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and Sherrod Sturrock

The bugeye 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



REPLICA BUGEYE TO REPLACE THE MARIE THERESA

Visitors to the museum or those passing on foot or by car have grown accustomed to seeing the 1906 skipjack *Marie Theresa* in the front grounds near the south door of the Administration Building. This thirty-foot, scaled-down version of the traditional oyster skipjack was placed there in 1994 as a dry land, hands-on exhibit. Time and weather, unfortunately, have taken their toll on the wooden boat, so she has recently been removed. In place of the *Marie Theresa*, the members of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild are now in the process of building, on site, a scaled-down version of a traditional Chesapeake Bay bugeye, the schooner developed in the second half of the nineteenth century to dredge oysters from the shallow bay waters. When completed, this bugeye, yet unnamed, will also serve as a hands-on exhibit. For the present, however, visitors will be able to watch guild members at work on the bugeye. ▲



CMM photo by Rob Hurry

MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT



Larry the Cable Guy Entertains Over 4,000 Fans!

Despite the threat of heavy storms, the rain held off and over 4,000 fans enjoyed a great night of comedy and music. Local band "No Green JellyBeanz" opened the night and comedian Reno Collier was the lead-in act for Larry the Cable Guy. The crowd roared as Larry took the stage and did not stop laughing until the very end! In true Larry the Cable Guy fashion – he **Got-R-Done!**

Country Superstar Martina McBride to Perform at CMM on July 30

On Saturday, July 30, Prince Frederick Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge invites you to the Calvert Marine Museum's 2011 benefit concert series with country music sensation Martina McBride. Special guest — to be announced. Gates open at 6:00 p.m.; showtime is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$55 for premium seats and \$45 for reserved seats; service charges are additional



Best known for hits such as "Independence Day," "Concrete Angel," and her most recent, "Teenage Daughters," Martina has established herself as one of the most acclaimed artists in music today. See you at the show!

For additional information, please visit the CMM website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com. To reach a staff person, or to become a museum member, please call 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17, or 18.

Be the Ultimate Fan for Martina McBride or ZZ Top & Joan Jett and the Blackhearts!

Experience CMM concerts as never before by placing your bid on the VIP Ultimate Fan Experience. This is a rare opportunity to get up close and personal to your favorite performers. The Ultimate Fan Experience includes:

- ▶ 2 front row seats
- ▶ Autographed poster
- ▶ Early admission to the concert grounds
- ▶ Premium parking spot in the annex lot on the grounds
- ▶ Dinner for two at one of our food court vendors (Sunshine's Catering, Lenny's, Bear Creek BBQ, Grizzly Mountain Grill, Papa John's Pizza, or Roy Rogers)

Visit www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/ufe to get more details and bid on the Ultimate Fan Experience. Proceeds from the auction support the education programs and activities at the Calvert Marine Museum.

She Said YES!

Ultimate Fan Winner Tommy Maddox proposed to now fiancée Allison Smith, with a little help from Larry the Cable Guy! Congratulations Tommy and Allison!



ZZ Top & Joan Jett and The Blackhearts Rock into Town Sunday, August 21



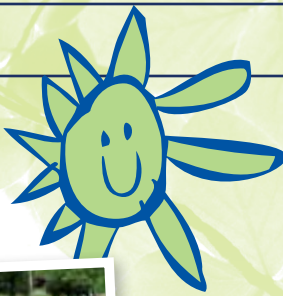
The Good Ol' Boys from Texas and the true American Original will hit the Calvert Marine Museum stage on August 21. This is sure to be a concert that many will talk about for years to come!

Formed in Houston, Texas, in 1970, ZZ Top evolved out of the city's psychedelic scene. Fueled by a series of memorable, tongue-in-cheek videos, ZZ Top scored several international hit singles, including the million-selling "Gimme All Your Lovin'." "Sharp Dressed Man" and "Legs" were also enormously infectious songs. Over time, ZZ Top has created a truly memorable set that established them as one of the world's leading live attractions.

Joan Jett continues to be one of the most durable live concert attractions, and has set a standard for women in the industry. *Joan Jett and the Blackhearts*, became a staple in the Top 10 charts and claims the #28 song of all time, "I Love Rock n' Roll," which was number 1 on the *Billboard* charts for two months.

Members pre-sale starts Tuesday, June 28, at 10 a.m. — visit www.calvertmarinemuseum.com to purchase your tickets. Password: **sunglasses**.

Spring 2011



It was an unusually busy spring at the museum, with a great variety of events and educational activities. Many of the events are shown on these two pages, while others appear elsewhere in this issue.



▲ During the May 16 Maritime Festival, there were activities throughout the museum. The parking area and entrance lawn featured the antique boats and marine engines.
CMM photo by Bob Hall



▲ The skipjack Ada Fears and the tug John Arthur were tied up near the Drum Point Lighthouse; the museum's Wm. B. Tennison provided free cruises; model boats were sailed in the boat basin (foreground); and other museum boats were on display.
CMM photo by Bob Hall

► Out front, the Color and Light Society helped young visitors with a maritime-theme mural.
CMM photo by Rob Hurry



◀ Riverside South performed on the traditional music stage in the Corbin Pavilion.
CMM photo by Rob Hurry



▲ During the First FREE Friday on May 6, the new wooden boatbuilding exhibit was officially opened on the mezzanine gallery of the maritime history gallery. A number of living boatbuilders mentioned in the exhibit and members of their families were invited to attend, and many did, viewing the photographs and items from the museum's collections or on loan. The exhibit will remain through the end of 2012.
CMM photo by Rob Hurry



▲ The Color and Light Society opened their annual show in the Exhibition Building lobby on June 3 for First FREE Friday.
Photo by Don Thieme



▲ Making fishing poles was one of a series of activities offered during Spring Break Week in April.



▲ The ever-popular construction of toy boats appealed to the visiting home-schoolers during their day at CMM on April 6.

▶ At another home-school day activity, volunteer Bob Platt shows the students various items from the museum's paleontology collection.



▲ "Sea Squirts", a twice-monthly program, draws a lively response from the young participants and their parents.



▲ Teachers in the Teach American History: Roots of a Nation program listen to Ralph Eshelman (center), Tim Scheirer, and Don Shomette (back to the camera) talking about the War of 1812. CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock

What's New in Education

Education is the core to the museum's existence, and we are constantly exploring new ways of engaging visitors of all ages in our mission. This April, we offered our first **Home School Day Sampler**. The day was a great success. Look for more Home School programs in the upcoming year.

The department is also participating in the three-year Teach American History teacher training program entitled **Roots of a Nation: Chesapeake Journey**. The museum is focusing on the War of 1812. So far, we have offered three courses, and will have a week-long seminar the first week of August. Our ever-popular **Sharkfest!** is taking a fresh attack this year, shifting the focus to all things shark. Featured guests Nick Caloyianis and Clarita Berger, well known underwater shark photographers, will be on hand with their shark cage. In September, we will kick off our speaker's series — **PEM Talks: Lost Landmarks**. All around us lie the bones of the past, if we but had the knowledge to see them. This series, which offers a talk each month September through April, will guide us in this art of seeing beyond the present.

As the museum begins to plan a capital campaign to raise funds for renovating and expanding the exhibition building, we look forward with tremendous anticipation to having more space for educational programming. Unlike the "build it and they will come" scenario, we are building in response to a clear and growing demand for the educational programs we offer. (Sherrod Sturrock)

Behind-the-Scenes in the Estuarium: Exploring the Possibilities (Continued from page 1)

Our main objective is to show the Chesapeake Bay as a dynamic estuary that is in a constant state of flux throughout the year. Responding to variations in temperature, salinity, and their own reproductive and survival needs, the plants and animals in the estuary are constantly changing their behavior and location. Another key objective is to demonstrate that these diverse communities of plants and animals are all linked in a complex web of life. If changes are made in one component of the system, such as decreasing a specific population of fish, there can be profound consequences throughout the entire ecosystem.

Making It Work:

Coming up with an overall concept is one thing, but deciding which species and concepts to present is another. There are so many fascinating species of life in the bay, diverse strategies for survival, and important ecological processes that interact to make the system work that it is difficult to decide which is the most important to include. We also want to consider our visitors' desire to see interesting and diverse marine life.

And again — coming up with ideas for animals is only the first step. Our live exhibits also present the additional challenges of figuring out how to collect, feed, and maintain the species that we want to display. Not a simple process.

Our Track Record:

In an earlier article in the *Bugeye Times* about our skates and rays exhibit (winter, 2004/2005), we described the two-year process that we went through to learn how to keep them in captivity and get them to reproduce in our workspace so that we would always have a supply of embryos for visitors to observe in the gallery. This had to take place before we could begin the design and construction of what has turned out to be a very popular exhibit. We became so successful at raising skates that we were able to supply them to other aquariums.



Behind-the-scenes tanks and life-support equipment used for supporting the skates and rays exhibit.

CMM photo by the author

Update on Jellyfish:

The most recent *Bugeye Times* article about estuarine biology (fall, 2009) focused on our plans to raise jellyfish so that we could exhibit them year-around. We are happy to report that our efforts are beginning to show success. To get adult jellies, the first step is to “convince” the microscopic sea anemone-like polyps to reproduce. In the wild, this occurs naturally with changing temperature, salinity, light, and food availability each spring. We had to figure out the correct combination of these factors to get them to produce young jellyfish. We did all the homework, consulted with other aquariums, built all sorts of equipment, and “pleaded” with them to reproduce, but nothing happened. They would produce more polyps, but no young medusae — the adult stage of their life-cycle. We tried manipulating the temperature, adjusting the salinity, changing the diet, and adding chemicals that normally induce them to reproduce. None of this had any effect. So, we went back to the drawing board.

The jellyfish project was in the same room in which we grow algae and brine shrimp to feed to the seahorses. This requires about fifteen hours of intense light; perhaps too much light for the jellyfish reproduction. We tried putting black plastic around each jellyfish polyp tank, but that produced no change. We then constructed a large ten-foot-tall curtain around the



Equipment and tanks built by museum staff for raising jellyfish. Six-week-old, quarter-sized moon jellies can be seen in the tank.

CMM photo by the author

lights and algae to dim the light levels. Within two weeks we had hundreds of baby moon jellyfish! Something was finally working.

Once we had the young jellyfish, the next challenge was to keep them alive and get them to grow large enough to exhibit. They started out so small that it was difficult to see them. We sucked them up with a turkey baster and transferred them to small trays that had a slight amount of water flow. The trick was to keep them from sinking to the bottom after they were fed, but not having the flow too high to beat them to death. Since their density was changing due to rapid growth, we were constantly making water flow adjustments to keep them suspended in the water. It was also necessary to feed them at night, which was a problem as no staff volunteered to come in at 2 a.m. to do it. We needed a way to slowly drip-feed microscopic plankton into the jellyfish tray to supply food. Remembering that medical IV rigs have a small valve to adjust the drip flow, we visited a local hospital and obtained a supply, which we then modified for our needs. These worked great and all the young jellyfish thrived. After a month we moved them into a series of larger tanks, and after two months, we put them on exhibit. Next time you visit the



After three months the young moon jellies are several inches in diameter and almost ready to go on exhibit.

CMM photo by the author

museum, but sure to check them out. This kind of experimentation is constantly going on behind the scenes, and will intensify as we think about our new exhibits.

New Directions:

There are many ideas under consideration as we begin the process of planning and testing new exhibit concepts. One is to display some of the many species of amphibians that live locally, but are rarely seen. We are in the very early stages of learning how to collect and keep them alive, trying to understand their behaviors and what they need to survive in captivity.

This spring we set up a series of amphibian habitats in the workspace and collected a variety of species. The biggest challenge with the test habitats is to work out designs that allow visitors to actually see them in their native environment.



Our spotted salamanders, Sam and Sally, explore their new home as we begin developing exhibit habitats.

CMM photo by the author

These species tend to be secretive and to hide. Since visitors generally prefer to see things moving, or at least be able to “explore” the habitat and find them, we have to design the habitat so the animals are accessible without stressing them. Some species spend the majority of their lives underground, or hidden underneath rocks or logs, so we are considering ways to illuminate their habitat with wavelengths of light that do not disturb them, but allow them to be seen when a visitor activates the light. We will begin to introduce some of these small prototype exhibits in the Discovery Room to test them.

There are other concepts under development that do not involve live animals. Some things are difficult to replicate in

captivity but can be captured on video. We are working on a time-lapse video of blue crab shedding, to be placed next to the crab tank. The majority of people never get a chance to view this in the water, as it takes several hours for the crabs to work their way out of the old shell.

Another challenging aspect of live animal exhibits, as alluded to above, is getting the lighting right. We are presently exploring different ways of improving the aquarium lighting by incorporating some of the new LED and fiber-optic systems that are becoming available. We have obtained some of the new lights for testing and will try various techniques to improve the visual effects inside the tanks. We wanted to try and create sunbeams in the bay tank, so I lowered a fiber-optic light bundle into the water to see how well it would work. There was an immediate SMASH! and a wall of water soaked me as a red drum violently attacked the light. Although by adding a hook there may be potential for a fishing lure here, I think we need a different approach for creating sunbeams. We are also working on creating light beams through the jellyfish tank that slowly change color. This would provide a spectacular effect as the jellyfish slowly pass through the ever changing lights, reflecting and refracting it.

Whenever I visit a zoo or aquarium I like to think about all the activity that goes on to plan, produce, and maintain the exhibits. All aquarists have good stories to tell about the trials and tribulations of the job. Some of you may have had the good fortune to visit the New England Aquarium in Boston. We were marginally involved with developing their new exhibit on cow nose rays. After investing several years to design and construct the exhibit, they had to figure out how to capture seventy-five rays in the Chesapeake Bay and transport them live to Boston. That’s where we got involved. The final solution involved large trucks, aerated tanks, and relay stations, as the rays were captured and rushed up I-95. The effort paid off, and the aquarium now has a very impressive and popular exhibit that is about the size of our entire Estuarium. I wonder how many of those visitors stop to consider the incredible planning and effort that went into creating that exhibit. You can bet it’s the first thing an aquarist would think about.

Going Forward:

We will not attempt anything on that large a scale, but we hope that the planning and behind-the-scenes testing that we are doing will lead to an exciting new gallery for visitors to enjoy while they learn about the complex and fascinating world of the Chesapeake Bay. Stay tuned, and keep an eye out for new things happening in the Estuarium. 🚧

Just as the aquarists experiment with lighting, how to keep different animals in an exhibit environment, and new ways to showcase them, the exhibits staff begins to play with presentation concepts and ideas long before any formal designs are drawn up. In the two images on page 1, notice how the sketch extends beyond the actual tank to show ways of creating a sense of the animal’s environment, the location of information, suggestions of movement and color. As one designer put it, each exhibit should appear to be a stage set with the animals as the actors.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

“THE MUSEUM AWARDS” — A HOLLYWOOD THEME IN SOLOMONS

For the third year, the staff of the museum honored the CMM volunteers at the annual recognition event on April 14, again following the Hollywood Oscar awards theme — complete with red carpet, the flash of the photographer greeting arriving “stars,” presenters in formal apparel, the “envelopes,” and even a “Golden Otter” trophy. Some 115 museum volunteers were greeted by director Doug Alves, in tux, Kathleen Porecki, in an “Oscar night” dress, and CMM’s Lori Cole in the otter costume, in a production event managed by volunteer coordinator Sherry Reid. As with any Hollywood event, the evening ended with a celebratory buffet.

The statistics of volunteer support for calendar year 2010 were equally impressive: over 25,487 hours with a dollar value of over \$568,870. These figures were reported by the director, and their importance to Calvert County was emphasized in brief remarks by Don McDougall, president of the CMM Board of Governors. Each department described the importance of volunteers in supporting its work, followed by the presentation of the volunteer awards. The following were recognized for service exceeding **one hundred hours** in 2010: Janet Addiss, Len Addiss, Ed Bahniuk, Paul Berry, Bill Boxwell, Debbie Carlson, Harry Childers, Kay Collins, Christa Conant, Jon Dann, Peg Dann, Linda Densmore, Sylvia Dry, Karl Garland, Butch Garren, Karen Garren, Ed Gies, Bob Hall, Darryl Hansen, Anne Harrison, Dan Heflebower, Mary Heflebower, Walt Johns, Peggy Hovermale, Chuck Kohls, Mary Krauss, Bill Lake, Al Lavish, Zelma Margelos, Linda McCullagh, Ilse Metz, Shirley Mihursky, Sherma Munger, Rose Nelson, David Newton, Alison Norville, Joseph O’Brien, Tony Pettit, Robert Pfeiffer, Bob Platt, Pam Platt, Carole Purcell, Ed Richard, Alfred Rondina, Denita Sanders, Ellis “Ski” Seidenstricker, Alan Suydam, Teddie Watts, Elnora Wease, Jim Wilson, Bill Wright, Sandy Younger, Tom Younger, Eric Zabiegalski, and Kim Zabiegalski. Volunteers reaching new **thousand-hour (total hours) milestones** were: 1,000 hours — Sylvia Dry, Robert Fleming, Dan Heflebower, Mary Heflebower, Al Rondina, and Teddie Watts; 2,000 hours — Jon Dann, Anne Harrison, and Rose Nelson; 2,500 hours — Christa Conant and Ilse Metz; 3,000 hours — Bob Platt, Ellis “Ski” Seidenstricker, and Al Suydam; 4,000 hours — Shirley Mihursky; 5,000 hours — Pam Platt; 6,000 hours — Sandy Younger; 7,000 hours — Zelma Margelos and Tom



▲ Some of the “red carpet” arrivals for the Volunteer Recognition event in April. Len & Janet Addis and Anne Harrison (center).

CMM photo by Rob Hurry

▶ Volunteer of the Year 2010 — Christa Conant with the “Golden Otter” award presented by the CMM “Otter” (Lori Cole).

CMM photo by Bob Hall

▼ Volunteers exceeding 100 hours in 2010.

CMM photo by Doug Alves



▲ Volunteers enjoying the post-presentation buffet.
CMM photo by Rob Hurry



▲ Group Achievement Award, Fossil Prep Lab winners (left to right): Christa Conant, Darlene Brindley, Pam Platt, and Sandy Roberts. The other prep lab winners (see text) were not available for the photo.
CMM photo by Bob Hall

Younger; 9,000 hours — Al Lavish; 13,000 hours — Bill Lake; and 24,000 hours — Paul Berry.

The **Group Achievement Award** for 2010 went to the Fossil Prep Lab volunteers: Christa Conant, Pam Platt, Dick Hu, Kyle Jenks, Darlene Brindley, Mark Edmondson, Bregan Heffentrager, and Sandy Roberts. The climax of the evening’s ceremony was the **Volunteer of the Year 2010 Award** and the winner of the “Golden Otter” — this went to Christa Conant. The award was presented by the museum’s own “Otter” (Lori Cole). Sherry Reid closed the formal ceremony with thanks to all the volunteers for their service and to the staff for their help with the recognition event. 🚣