Imagine that you had an interest in sharks and other fishes since you were a toddler, and then at age seven, your uncle and dad find an amazing fossil shark skeleton in your grandparents’ back yard. That’s what happened to Caleb Gibson! His dad, Shawn, and Uncle Donald were adding a sunroom to their parents’ home (Fig. 1). During the course of excavation to place a corner footing, Donald found a vertebra that he later showed family friends Pat Gotsis and Scott Verdin, who identified their find as having come from an extinct shark. When Caleb first learned of the vertebra (Fig. 2), he came along with his dad to search for more, equipped with his pocket-size shark book.

Figure 1: From left to right Donald Gibson, John Nance (CMM), Shawn Gibson, Jo Ann Gibson, and Pat Gotsis discuss how to proceed in the excavation of the 15-million-year-old fossil shark skeleton. This snaggletooth shark skeleton is the most complete of its kind ever found. (CMM photo by Stephen Godfrey)

Figure 2: One of the fossilized spool-shaped snaggletooth shark vertebra that Shawn Gibson and his son Caleb dug from his grandparents’ back yard. The shark skeleton was so close to the surface that grass roots are visible in one of the openings in the top of the vertebra that held the base of the neural arch. The backbone of the living snaggletooth shark (Hemipristis elongata) is comprised of 180 vertebrae, including tiny ones that extend to the very end of its tail. There were probably about the same number of vertebrae in the extinct snaggletooth shark. So far, the Gibsons have found about 80. Hand by M. Baughman. (CMM photo by Stephen Godfrey)

A new species of extinct tilefish was recently discovered along Calvert Cliffs. This new tilefish is named “ereborensis” after “Erebor,” the Elvish name for the Lonely Mountain in J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Hobbit.

Calvert Cliffs, like the Lonely Mountain, hold a treasure trove of fossils.

Like some of their living relatives (fish in the family Malacanthidae), these prehistoric tilefish tunneled into the sea floor where they made homes in which to take refuge. As the cliffs erode, these sediments, once part of the ocean floor, preserve the fossil burrows and the fossilized skeletons of some of these extinct fish. The fossilized remains of fish along Calvert Cliffs are very rare, so when fish

Prehistoric Tilefish continued on page 4

Fossil skull (16 million years old from Calvert Cliffs) of a new species of tilefish (Malacanthidae); Lopholatilus ereborensis in left lateral view. (CMM photo by Stephen Godfrey)
and a couple of tools. He spent an entire day off from school working alongside his dad, in search of more vertebrae — being rewarded for his efforts by finding more in the soil that had been dug out and thrown off to the side (Fig. 3). Excavations to uncover more of the shark continued until they realized that there were lots of teeth arranged in rows just like in the jaws of living sharks.

On the morning of Halloween, Shawn Gibson contacted me about an unusual fossil-find that his brother, Donald, had made. At that point, the museum became involved. Shawn’s description of the skeleton of a fossil shark was so unlikely and yet so compelling that I just had to see it, and the sooner the better. Both John Nance and I were wonderstruck at what they had unearthed — an undisturbed skeleton of a fossilized snaggletooth shark from the Miocene epoch. Later that day, John and I returned and with help from Shawn, Pat Gotsis, and Bob Hazen, we applied the right kind of protective covering to enable us to lift it safely out of the ground. As we dug around the shark skeleton and wrapped it in protective plaster bandages, Caleb was there to watch. A couple of days later, he and his dad were back to dig some more. This time they unearthed another shark vertebra and Caleb found other kinds of fossil shark teeth.

Why in their back yard?
Millions of years ago, the Gibsons’ back yard was the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. The ocean covered southern Maryland and other parts of the Atlantic Coastal Plain because during most of the Miocene epoch, global climate was warmer than it is now. The polar ice cap did not exist, so that extra water allowed the Atlantic to reach inland to Washington, D.C. When their subdivision was built, bulldozers removed younger sediments leaving only a thin veneer of Miocene sea-bottom covering the fossilized remains of this shark ... serendipity at work! There’s no telling what else might be buried around the other homes in that community.

What did this shark look like?
The closest living relative to this extinct Miocene shark is also known as the snaggletooth or weasel shark (*Hemipristis elongata*; Family Hemigaleidae). It is found in the Indo-West Pacific, including the Red Sea, from southeast Africa to the Philippines, north to China, and south to Australia, in coastal waters at depths of 4 to 400 feet. The living snaggletooth grows up to eight feet in length, and preys upon crabs, cephalopods, other sharks, rays, and fish. The teeth of the
The Right Place and Time! (Continued from page 2)

extinct snaggletooth shark are larger and wider than those of its living relative (Fig. 4). In life, the Gibson’s snaggletooth shark was probably ten feet long (Fig. 5).

Course correction!
We originally thought that the shark had been buried upside down, the usual way in which carcasses settle to the ocean floor (decomposition gases in their abdomen help to invert the body). However upon closer examination of a set of snaggletooth jaws (Fig. 6) just donated to the museum by shark expert Bill Heim, it became clear that this snaggletooth was lying right side up when it was buried in sand. Geologist Dr. Peter Vogt has already suggested that a storm-driven sand-wave might have covered the shark carcass before it was scavenged or destroyed.

What next?
The field jacket is at the museum, but not yet on display. Assistant Curator of Paleontology John Nance has removed some of the sediments that covered the teeth and vertebrae. But before they are exposed, we will have the jacket CT-scanned. The resulting CT-scan images will come from x-rays that penetrate the plaster jacket and entombing sand, allowing us to see the arrangement of the fossilized teeth in the jaws and the vertebrae behind them. Knowing how the teeth are arranged is important scientifically, but also, the distribution of teeth will help us decide if and how best to remove the sand from around the delicate fossil. Once that is done, we hope to be able to put the skeleton on display.

We were very fortunate that professional videographer Robert Cantrell (AllFinsOn.com) filmed and photographed the excavation. Might there be a documentary on the horizon? To tell this story in film and include the living snaggletooth, that would be a lot of fun …

Positive experiences
When I think of Caleb’s good fortune of being in the right place at the right time, it reminds me of experiences that shaped my life, particularly those orchestrated by my parents, seeing an opportunity and taking advantage of it for my benefit. In my case, many of those consisted of visits to museums, or taking me to places and allowing me to collect stuff for my bedroom museum like pine cones, sea shells, fossils, and road-kill skeletons that sharpened my interests in the natural world. At this juncture, it is impossible to know how and to what extent this experience will shape Caleb’s future interests. Suffice to say that this was a good one and it’s not over yet. 🦈

Figure 5: Life drawing of what the extinct eight-foot-long snaggletooth shark might have looked like. (CMM drawing by Jolene Schafer)

Figure 6: Jaws from the living snaggletooth shark, Hemipristis elongata that inhabits the Indo-West Pacific Ocean. The jaws are seen as if the shark were swimming directly towards you. The many very pointed lower teeth are very effective at puncturing and holding onto the body of a slippery fish, while the serrated upper teeth are superbly well-suited for cutting! (CMM photo by Stephen Godfrey)
bones are found, they are usually alone, and not as part of a skull or skeleton. However, because these extinct tilefish were tunneling into the Miocene sea floor, and sometimes died in their burrows, their home literally became a coffin, greatly improving the odds that their intact skeleton would become fossilized.

Sixteen million years ago during the Miocene epoch, these tilefish were swimming about in that part of the prehistoric Atlantic Ocean that had flooded over the Atlantic Coastal Plain. At that time, global climate was warmer on average than it is today and polar ice caps were smaller to non-existent. That extra water in the oceans flooded low-lying continental areas. For millions of years, rivers flowing into the Atlantic Ocean carried sediments eroded from the Appalachian Mountains and deposited them over the coastal plain (then the Miocene sea floor) entombing trillions of fossils in the process.

In life, these fish would have been about 18 inches long. To date, fossils of this fish have only been found in Maryland and Virginia, in places where accessible eroding sediments from that time preserve their skeletons. During the Miocene, these fish probably lived throughout the North Atlantic, but until more of their fossils are found elsewhere, we won’t know for sure.

International convention has it that when a new species is named, at least one specimen be designated as exhibiting the features

Interpretive drawing of the fossil skull. (CMM photo by Stephen Godfrey)

Schematic showing three Miocene tilefish burrows. The fish in the burrow on the right has taken refuge in its completed tunnel. The fish in the burrow on the left is actively excavating a new retreat. The center burrow has been infilled, preserving the skeleton of a fish that died. (CMM photo by Stephen Godfrey)

Continued on next page
that define its uniqueness. That individual specimen is known as the “type.” In paleontology, there may only be one partial skull known, which then by default becomes the type specimen. In this case, many skulls of this tilefish have been collected, so the most complete skull and associated skeleton was chosen as the type. It is a Smithsonian specimen (catalogue number 467782) that was found some years ago by Roger Horman, an avocational paleontologist who has collected and donated other specimens to both the Smithsonian and to the Calvert Marine Museum.

More than 600 species (most of which are extinct) have been identified as fossils from along Calvert Cliffs. These include the fossilized remains of microorganisms like diatoms, dinoflagellates, foraminiferans, and of larger organisms like corals, mollusks, crustaceans, barnacles, echinoderms, sharks and rays, bony fishes, turtles, crocodiles, birds, seals, sea cows, dolphins and whales, and fragmentary remains of large terrestrial mammals (peccaries, rhinos, antelope, camels, horses, and gomphotheres — an extinct group of elephants).

Like the extinct tilefish, *Lopholatilus ereborensis*, and the Dwarves in the Kingdom under Erebor, our paleontologists continue to excavate to unlock the mysteries preserved in the valuable fossil resource along Calvert Cliffs.

**Contributions from people like Roger Horman serve as yet another example of how one member of a community of passionate amateur paleontologists has contributed very important fossils to our collection; thank you!** We will soon install a touch-screen monitor in our Paleontology Gallery that will feature the names of all donors to our paleontological collection.

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**MUSEUM STORE**

By Maureen Baughman, Store Manager

The Museum Store was started almost forty years ago by a small group of volunteers with a lot of vision. They began with nothing more than a small counter and a cigar box for their cash receipts. As the demand for more product grew, so did the store; first with a move to the Exhibition Building in 1989 and most recently, in 2014, with a major renovation and expansion. The newest evolution of the store has been very well received, which is reflected in how much our members and visitors are shopping. This January we will complete our sophisticated new look by adding some new book cases and clothing displays. There is an exciting year ahead of us!

New this year is our upcoming *Jewelry Trunk Show* featuring Michelle Pressler. Her modern heirlooms are inspired by the Chesapeake and have quickly become customer favorites. Come and meet Michelle in person on Saturday, February 28, 2015 and purchase one of her lovely creations for yourself, and your friends. We will be serving light refreshments and offering a free gift with your purchase, and of course your membership discount will apply!

Fans of our Clay Born Pottery by Nancy Rasch Salamon will be excited to hear that she is hosting a *Housewares Party* at CMM in late March. For years, her functional, handsome stoneware has been a favorite for home décor, birthday, wedding, and special occasion gifts. This is your opportunity to meet Nancy in person. Mary Lou Baker and Holly Smith, co-authors of *Seafood Lover's Chesapeake Bay — Restaurants, Markets, Recipes & Traditions*, will be on hand from 1 – 4 p.m. to sign their book and share their experiences while doing the researching and writing. Now on sale in the Museum Store for $19.95.

In keeping with our fresh new store we have also “renovated” our online store to create a site that is equally vibrant. Although you will not find our entire inventory available for purchase online, we have increased our product selection to include your favorites. Watch for weekly additions!

What has not changed since those early days is our commitment to bring you interesting, well-made products that speak of the Chesapeake. Many of our selections are made in America by small artisans. All of our selections are carefully considered and thoughtfully chosen before we introduce them to you. Museum members enjoy a 10% discount every day, and 20% off on the 20th of every month. Our profits support programs and projects that enrich the museum experience.
It's not often that we have the opportunity to talk with someone who lived in Drum Point Lighthouse in the 1920s. However, over PRAD weekend, one of our out-of-town visitors, Wayne Hargett, mentioned to volunteer Christa Conant that his 102-year-old mother once lived in the lighthouse. Fortunately, Christa wrote down his contact information and passed it on to me. I called Mrs. Hargett at her home in Indiana, and she graciously took the time to talk with me. She is a remarkable living link to our history. Here is a summary of her story.

Mrs. Myrtle Hargett was born October 19, 1912, to Malaki and Letitia Swain at Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, where he was serving as keeper. Letitia died in 1921, and Myrtle went on to live with various relatives, her father not being able to take care of her. Myrtle moved in with her sister, Frances, who as it happened was married to lightkeeper Cale B. Stowe. At that time he was stationed at Turkey Point Lighthouse at the head of the Chesapeake. Myrtle lived at Turkey Point until 1922, when Cale was transferred to Drum Point Lighthouse. Myrtle was the only child living at the lighthouse and remembers that there was very little in the area — “We were exiled, just out in the water.” She and her sister enjoyed spending time on the beach with the dogs, and they often brought a picnic. Myrtle had the use of a skiff, which she rowed around the sheltered waters of Drum Pt., often accompanied by the faithful dogs. She remembers that crabs and fish there were in abundance.

One incident she still remembers is being left on the lighthouse with a friend while the keeper and her sister went to Solomons to pick up groceries, via the station’s motorboat. A fog bank unexpectedly moved in and the two girls, recognizing the danger, rang a small bell (winding the fogbell mechanism would have been too much for them) until the keeper returned. Keeper Stowe commended them for a job well done. Asked about the loud clanging of the fogbell, rung in conditions of limited visibility, Myrtle remarked that it didn’t bother her: “You hear it, so you don’t hear it.”

Myrtle lived at Drum Point Lighthouse from 1922 – 1924. Keeper Stowe’s tenure was cut short as he was suffering from tuberculosis and had to leave the station several times in 1924, as revealed in the logbooks. On at least one occasion his wife, Frances, was put in charge. Cale Stowe died on October 29, 1924 at Black Mountain, North Carolina. Shortly after, on November 24, 1924, the lighthouse tender Mayflower arrived to take Mrs. Stowe and Miss Myrtle Swain and their possessions to Portsmouth, Virginia. So Myrtle departed, never to return. But in her home in Indiana is a model of Drum Point Lighthouse, a pleasant reminder of childhood days long ago.

The Drum Point Lighthouse was not always conveniently located in the Calvert Marine Museum’s basin. Drum Point started out perched just off Drum Point and was first lit on August 20, 1883. The lighthouse cost $25,000 to construct. From a height of eye of fifteen feet, the fixed red light was visible thirteen nautical miles in clear weather. In poor visibility the fog bell would ring a double blow every fifteen seconds. The first keeper was Benjamin N. Gray, who was transferred from his post as assistant keeper at Cove Point Light Station.

The museum is fortunate that the logbooks for the Drum Point Lighthouse have survived for the periods 1883 to 1943, and are preserved at the National Archives. Keepers were required to make daily entries regarding weather, work performed, and any unusual occurrences. A study of the logbooks reveals an endless round of cleaning and maintenance, but the logs also recorded strandings, sinkings, the arrival of inspectors, and visits by Light House Service steamers, trips to shore for mail, supplies, and for church visits, and the occasional visitor.

The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1962 and sat empty, prey to vandalism, until it was moved to its present site at the museum in 1975. Beautifully restored, complete with furnishings of the early twentieth century, it has become the waterfront’s main attraction and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of only three remaining screwpile, cottage-style lighthouses of the 45 that once served the Chesapeake Bay, it is also the most photographed site in Calvert County.
On November 14, the education department hosted Special Needs Family Night, a free evening event for all families with a special needs member. We partner with Calvert County Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Services for this event. Joy Weir, the Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, helps us reach the target audience through her contacts, and she and her folks help staff the event. The museum educators are joined by Kathleen Porecki from our administrative staff, and many volunteers who take special delight in participating. Kathleen, who introduced the idea for the event, states: “One of my favorite parts of this event is meeting families who have never been to our museum. They walk in not knowing what to expect and they leave knowing they will come back because they had such a great experience with their family. Seeing how happy they are to have found a new place to go that’s so close to home, that they can all enjoy together … that’s priceless.”

On November 19, CMM hosted Homeschool Day. There are over 2,000 students being homeschooled in the Southern Maryland region. Parents decide to homeschool their children for a wide variety of reasons, and the children are all over the map in terms of interests, learning styles, and abilities, making it particularly challenging to program this day. We have responded by being specific about the target age, 5 – 12, and differentiating our instruction to fit different ages and learning styles. Each Homeschool Day features a different focus at the museum. In November, we used our new exhibit, River to Bay: Reflections and Connections, as the focus and set up hands-on activities throughout the museum that reinforced or illustrated concepts presented in the exhibit. The feedback was very positive. As one participant put it, “We are members, and this is the best/most educational day we have spent here. THANK YOU!!!” The message we got again and again was — do more like this.

The education department is once again the recipient of a grant from the PNC Foundation’s Grow Up Great program. The philosophy as stated on their website: “Start Them Early. Nurture Their Dreams. Help Them Grow Up Great. It’s a time as magical as it is short: the first five years, when the world is wide open and everything is full of wonder.” The program’s goal is helping prepare America’s youngest children for great things in school and life. The grant will allow us to continue to bring special guests in for our Sea Squirts (18 months to 3 years) and Little Minnows (3 – 5 years) programs. We now offer three special events during the year that cater to the pre-school set: Dino Days, OtterMania, and Pirate Day. This grant will enable us to bring in a special performance for each event. And finally, it allows us to bring outreach programs into low income preschools at no cost to the school. We appreciate PNC’s continued support of our early learning programs.
Activities & Events

Admiral Steve Abbot, U.S. Navy, retired, addresses guests at On Watch Memorial Service on November 9, 2014. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)


Waterfront activities during Patuxent River Appreciation Days. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)

Arts and Crafts show at Patuxent River Appreciation Days. (CMM photo by Rob Hurry)

Squeak shares a hug with Natalee and Madelyn Vandeveander during Members’ Yule Party. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)
Board president Don McDougall and his wife Jean explore the new gallery at the VIP opening of the River to Bay exhibit.

Former Senator Bernie Fowler and wife Betty pose next to his storied overalls during the VIP opening of the River to Bay exhibit.

Board member Nancy Wieck watches her granddaughter play "Trophic Jenga" during the VIP opening of the River to Bay exhibit.

Betsy Montanio, winner of the quilt raffle, with Deputy Director Sherrod Sturrock. The quilt made and donated by Becky Benton and the Fiber Arts Society to support the Dee of St. Mary’s, resulting in $380 in support for the Dee. (CMM photo by Mindy Quinn)

Penny Koabele meets Santa Claus during the Members' Yule Party. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)
A very special sailboat took first in her class at the Small Craft Festival regatta, held the first weekend in October at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels. Spirit, a recently restored 22-foot sloop, was built in 1976 in Florida by Captain Ernest H. “Dick” Hartge; originally from Galesville, MD, and well known regionally for building Chesapeake 20s.

“Spirit was, I believe, my father’s favorite boat,” says Capt. Dick’s son, Totch Hartge. “He created her when he was 82 years of age, and she summed up all his ideas and best traits, turning out perfection in looks, along with speed and ease of motion. With a little more sheer than a Chesapeake 20, she looks like a thoroughbred from my angle.”

Totch continues, “Two years ago, Spirit was in my care and hanging up in my barn. She was safe but needed a home. The idea of donating her to the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) was approved by my three sisters and me, and our dear mother, Jane, in her nursing home in Florida, seems to know about it too. She smiles and says, ‘Spirit!’ when the pictures are shown to her.”

Under the direction of CMM certified Boatwright George Surgent, Tony Pettit and other volunteers from the Patuxent Small Craft Guild beautifully restored Spirit. Petit was at the helm when the start gun sounded at the Small Craft Festival. “It was windy enough that I put in a reef.” Pettit recalls. “And there were no other boats close.”

Totch is truly appreciative of the restoration efforts. “By donating Spirit to the CMM, not only have we made my mother happy, but we have the boat in the right hands, as proven by the exquisite restoration job,” he says. “It’s great for the family and great for all of the people who will get to sail one of my father’s boats. For a man with a seventh grade education, Capt. Dick was a very accomplished Chesapeake Bay designer, builder, and sailor. So thank you, CMM. Marvelous job.”
Volunteer Spotlight  By Sherry Reid, Volunteer & Events Coordinator

As I look forward to all the possibilities that a new year brings to CMM, I like to take the time to look at the past year and give thanks for our wonderful volunteer family. In 2014, there were many challenges with the renovations in the lobby area of the museum and in the Estuarine Biology gallery, but as always, our volunteer family hung in there with us and did whatever needed to be done to help make it happen. Even with being closed to the public for four months at the beginning of the year, our volunteers logged 27,625 hours in fiscal 2014 which equates to $702,504 of in-kind service — WOW!

In 2014, our volunteers assisted with four concerts, Solomons Maritime Festival, OtterMania, PRAD, Christmas Walk, summer camps, boat building, building exhibits, answering phones, canoeing, sailing both radio controlled boats and the Dee of St. Mary’s, pairing up oyster shells, all of the day-to-day operations, and everything in between. They were a busy bunch and we would never have had such a successful year if not for the volunteers sharing so much of their time, energy, talent, and ideas with CMM. We are truly blessed.

Stephen Godfrey and Bob Pfeifer perform holiday favorites for the volunteers and staff who gathered for the annual chili party. (CMM photo by Rob Hurry)

One of the major attractions is the lavish spread at the potluck chili party. (CMM photo by Rob Hurry)

The beautiful decorations in the lobby were done by volunteers Margaret and Ned Clarke. Pictured is the lobby Christmas tree. (CMM photo by Rob Hurry)

Staff and volunteers perform their unique take on “ten lords a leaping” as part of the Twelve Days of Christmas sing – and dance – along at the chili party. (CMM photo by Rob Hurry)

STORIES SKIN DEEP:
THE CULTURE OF TATTOOS

This series will explore the connections between ancient tattoo practices, the maritime influence in spreading the practice, and modern interpretation.

Sunday, March 8, 3:00 p.m. Harms Gallery
More Than Skin Deep: The History and Practice of Tattoo
Presented by Dr. Lars Krutak, Anthropologist at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 p.m.
Exploring the Connection between Modern Tattoo Art and the Maritime Tradition
Presented by Jay Coleman, tattoo artist, historian, and educator living in Washington DC

Saturday, March 21, 7 – 10 p.m.
Stories Skin Deep Living Art Event — Tattoo competitions, photo displays, personal stories, demonstrations, showing of the film Hori Smoku. Check website for more details and information on how to order tickets. Tickets are $20 per person advance sale, $25 at the door.
**DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP**

**CMM Board Members Update**

*By Doug Alves, Director*

Each year the Board of Governors (BOG) recommends five candidates to the Board of County Commissioners to fill openings on the 15-member board. Members are eligible to serve two three-year terms before rotating off the board. This year, three board members rotated off the Board of Governors after serving their six-year terms.

Frank Taylor, owner of Taylor Gas, has been a long-time member of the museum and a Bugeye Society member since joining the board. He made one of the lead donations to the Capital Campaign and has been a consistent Bugeye Ball sponsor. In addition to his generosity, he also offered up his time and business savvy in the role of Board Treasurer. He was a key decision-maker as we’ve navigated through the complicated economy of the past six years.

Marianne Harms finished up her second six-year term on the board. For the past three years, Marianne was the voice of our volunteers while serving as the board’s volunteer representative. She and her husband John also made the generous donation that enabled us to create the Harms Gallery, which opened in April 2014. Her dedication and love of the museum combined with her connections and business savvy made her a highly effective member of the board.

Donald P. McDougall, who served as board president for five of his six years on the board, is the third member rotating off. Don is a retired engineer and business owner and a Solomons resident who lives in walking distance of the museum. Under his strong, visionary leadership, the board led a highly successful capital campaign to support the renovation of the exhibition building. His guidance also helped bring the skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s to the museum collections.

The museum is very grateful for the dedication and support we received from all of our departing board members and hope to see them again soon in the museum.

Returning for a second three-year term are Eileen E. Bildman and Bruce Newell who both live in St. Mary’s County. Eileen is a self-employed commercial and residential designer and under her leadership we have had some very successful Bugeye Balls. Bruce recently retired from the Boeing Company and has been a longtime museum supporter and volunteer.

Returning to the board after serving two terms previously, 2008-2013, is Mark A. MacDougall. Mark is Vice President and General Counsel for SMECO. He is on the MD-DC Utilities Association (Board Member 2001 – present, President 2003-2004, Vice President 2001-2003); and the Maryland State Bar Association (2000-present).

We are welcoming two new members to the Board: Claude T. Dickinson III resides in Owings, Maryland, and is owner of Dickinson Jewelers. Having grown up on the Patuxent River, he has a strong interest in the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.

Gary D. McKay resides in California, Maryland, and is a self-employed business and technology consultant. Being the son of a third generation waterman, he brings a unique perspective to the board and can use his knowledge, contacts, and resources to help the museum grow and expand its mission of bringing our natural environment and maritime heritage together.

The Board of Governors has three ex-officio members, including the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Patuxent River. We are delighted to welcome Captain Heidi Fleming to the board in this capacity. Capt. Fleming is a Mobile, Alabama, native. She graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989 and is a 2009 graduate of National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where she earned her Masters of Science in National Resource Strategy and graduated from the Senior Acquisition Course. She became base Commanding Officer in September, 2014.

**Membership Update**

Lisa Howard, Membership Coordinator

*Happy New Year from your Membership and Development Coordinator!*

As 2014 comes to a close I reflect back and my, what an exciting year it has been at the museum! I have enjoyed getting to know our members and I look forward to meeting many more of you during 2015. Keep your eye on our website (www.calvertmarinemuseum.com) and your email for more information on our Spring Members’ Trip, scheduled for April 19, and other events that are exclusively for members. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your museum membership, or just want to introduce yourself and say hello, please call me at 410-326-2042 x16, email me at howardla@co.cal.md.us or just drop by – my door is always open. Here’s wishing all of our members and friends a happy and prosperous Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing you at the museum in 2015!

[Continued on next page]
Members’ Yule Party 2014 – Holiday Fun for One and All

On Sunday, December 7, guests enjoyed holiday goodies, discounted shopping in the Museum Store, laughs-a-plenty with Blondi and Bunky the clowns, and a visit from the North Pole's own Santa along with Squeak the River Otter. Every year we look forward to the Yule Party because it allows the museum staff to spend time with our members and their families. Getting to talk with each and every one of you is one of the true pleasures of the party each year.

SAVE THE DATE – Bugeye Ball Set for May 16, 2015

The Bugeye Ball is a must-attend evening of dining, dancing, gaming tables, raffles, and adventure. Mark your calendars and make your reservations early. More information will be available in February. Tickets to the Bugeye Ball are $150 per person. Attendance is limited. Sponsorship opportunities ranging from $500 and above are available. Tax-deductible donations in any amount are also welcome. Please contact Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042 x16 or howardla@co.cal.md.us for more details about the event or to discuss sponsorship.

Endowments at CMM

By Rosemary Keffler, Esq, Member of the Board of Directors

An endowment is created by a donation (or series of donations) to a fund established for a particular purpose. The fund is invested in accordance with the Calvert Marine Museum Society’s policy. The principal donation “anchors” the endowment and cannot be touched. A portion of the income generated from the investments is spent on the designated purpose, while the remaining portion is reinvested to allow the fund to grow. The goal is to provide a new source of income for the museum that lasts in perpetuity.

Endowments are critical to the museum in that they provide a guaranteed source of income that allows the museum to create new projects without the burden of securing funding year after year. Currently, the museum has two endowments: one for paleontology, and one to support education. The paleontology endowment has helped fund the creation of a remarkable exhibit within the museum, paid for part-time staff, as well as supporting the maintenance of a permanent paleontology collection of over 40,000 catalogued specimens. The education endowment has allowed for the creation of diverse educational programs, including the award-winning Distance Learning Program that reaches schools across the country.

Endowments can be created by annual donations, or by bequests in a will. The donor, in an agreement with the museum, establishes the approved uses for the funds. This allows the donor to focus on one of the many worthwhile aspects of the museum that meets with the donor’s interest. Current museum programs that are excellent candidates for endowments are the Wm. B. Tennison and the Drum Point Lighthouse. An endowment would provide a welcome source of income to help defer the investment and expense required to maintain these historical assets. An endowment can be started with any amount of money, but working to have that endowment grow is a long term project. In the examples given above, the paleontology endowment was set up in as a bequest in the donor’s will, while the education endowment was built over a period of ten years to reach the donor’s ultimate goal.

The obvious benefit to the museum is financial stability. The donor also receives a financial benefit in the form of a charitable tax deduction when the donation is received. The larger, more meaningful benefit is knowing that your donation is a legacy and will be providing for the long-term future of the museum. Each endowment demonstrates that it truly is the community investing in and building the museum.
Jim Langley has decided to hang up his coveralls and head for Florida after 32 years on the job. Jim started at the museum in 1983 working with his father, Pepper Langley, in the model shop. In 1999, he was named curator of exhibits and he has served the museum well in that capacity for 15 years. Jim’s accomplishments over the years are storied. He has been part of the museum for three-fourths of its existence. In the next issue of the Bugeye Times you can look for his reflections on CMM over his time with us. We wish Jim “Fair winds and Following Seas” on his next great adventure.

Chris Schmidt has retired from the education department — her second retirement. Chris was a long time Calvert County public school teacher before coming to CMM. She decided the time has come to focus on her family and her increasingly demanding role as Grandmother-On-Call. The good news is that she will continue to share her knowledge as a volunteer. We wish her all the best.

Eric Gronbeck was introduced in the last issue as the new back-up admissions clerk and weekend coordinator. He has now added to his list of job titles part-time museum interpreter.

Kate Dumhart is also adding job titles. She has been working as a part-time interpreter in education and was recently hired as Assistant Manager at the Museum Store. Always full of new ideas, Kate is working on combining her two hats by using merchandise in the store to generate ideas for our pre-school programs, Sea Squirts and Little Minnows.

Wm. B. Tennison crew honored

On the evening of September 6, the crew of the museum’s tour boat Wm. B. Tennison rescued a recreational boater who was in distress about a half-mile north of the Thomas Johnson Bridge. Relief captain Bill Keefe and relief mate Marvin Coon were returning from a special “War of 1812 Cruise” with 35 passengers when they spied the man in the water. With darkness approaching and stormy weather threatening, Keefe notified the U.S. Coast Guard of the situation and explained to the passengers his responsibility to render aid. The crew proceeded to rescue the man and take his personal watercraft into tow. They rendezvoused with the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department’s boat and transferred the man and his watercraft to their care.

The crew members were honored by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners on September 30 for their lifesaving actions.

Last Tribute to Keenan

Known by many as “Bubbles”, Keenan — one of CMM’s river otters — passed away on October 24th after succumbing to heart disease and associated complications. He was part of the museum family for over 11 years and he brought delight to hundreds of thousands of guests during his tenure. While Keenan is sorely missed, his legacy will continue as Estuarine Biology staff search for a suitable replacement. Our deepest gratitude goes out to the Halvosa family for providing the means to assure restoration of our river otter collection to its desirable population.

Tom Ostertag: The Voice of the Museum

The museum was saddened to learn of the loss of former staff member Thomas Ostertag, 84, on September 16, 2014. Tom began as a volunteer at the museum before being hired as an interpreter with the museum’s Education Department in 1992. From 1993 until his retirement at the end of 2003, Tom was an Admissions Clerk. Even after relocating to Texas, Tom continued to record the messages on the museum’s answering machine. The dulcet tone of his voice will be missed.