ATLANTIC STURGEON: GHOSTS FROM THE PAST
A New Museum Exhibit Examines Their History and Ecology
Ken Kaumeyer, Jimmy Langley, Stephen Godfrey, Skip Edwards, Laura Magdeburger, and Tim Scheirer

In the earth’s murky past, giant sturgeon roamed the ancient seas during the age of the dinosaurs. Dating back seventy million years, and possibly twice that, sturgeon are relic fish which have changed little over time. These huge fish, which can reach fifteen feet or more in length, survived the cataclysmic events that destroyed the dinosaurs, but now face a very uncertain future due to human impacts and a curious life cycle. This article will describe briefly the sturgeon’s long journey through time, as well as current efforts to save the few remnants in the Chesapeake Bay.

When the Chicxulub (Chic-za-lube) meteorite slammed into the Yucatan Peninsula sixty-five million years ago, it caused one of the greatest extinction events recorded in the fossil record. For years after the impact, the earth apparently became inhospitable for most life. All non-avian dinosaurs, pterosaurs (flying reptiles), plesiosaurs (marine reptiles), mosasaurs (giant marine lizards), and a host of other terrestrial and aquatic organisms perished. Although we do not know the exact details of this catastrophe, the sky was darkened with vaporized rock dust, temperatures fluctuated widely, and the air became acidic. How could sturgeon have survived in this terrible environment? One possible explanation is that adults have the ability to go several years without eating. Most likely they survived on very limited food supplies while the earth’s environment slowly recovered. This theory is supported by the fact that another survivor, horseshoe crabs, which have existed relatively unchanged for over four hundred million years, can also live for extended periods without food.

Unlike the Plymouth colony, which was established for the purpose of religious freedom, the Jamestown settlement was a commercial venture, and the investors in England expected profits. Because of the high cash value, the Jamestown settlers made several early attempts to produce caviar for export. These efforts were unsuccessful, however, as they did not know the proper procedure, and the caviar spoiled before reaching England. They soon turned to the more profitable tobacco crop as a source of income. Although sturgeon continued to be caught for personal consumption, there was little effort to harvest them commercially for many years.

In the early nineteenth century, sturgeon were regarded as a terrible nuisance to fishermen. Early accounts note that the rivers perished. Lacking nets, the settlers were able to catch the sturgeon by hand as they waded in shallow water.

Captain John Smith noted that between May and September 1607 they lived upon sturgeon, sea crabs (probably horseshoe crabs), and oysters. He wrote: “Wee had more Sturgeon then could be devoured by dogge or man; of which, the industrious by drying and pownding, mingled with caviare, sorrel and other hearbs, would make bread and good meate.”

Excavations at the recently discovered site of the original Jamestown Fort demonstrate that sturgeon were a major source of food for the settlers, as substantial amounts of sturgeon remains have been unearthed. Sturgeon were extremely easy to capture in shallow water, being speared or literally picked up by hand. This ease of capture, which allowed the early settlers to survive, would prove disastrous for the sturgeon two centuries later when they became one of the East Coast’s most valuable fisheries. The Jamestown Recovery Project of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has been kind enough to loan several fishery related artifacts recovered from the Jamestown Fort for CMM’s exhibit.
CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM'S STRONGEST FRIENDS, THE BUGEYE SOCIETY

At every Calvert Marine Museum concert, international dinner, reception and opening, at all the most lively events produced for the museum, an ‘inner circle’ of business and community leaders can be found. These honored guests are not only major museum donors, but volunteers, planners, event administrators, and front line workers as well. They are Bugeye Society members.

The Bugeye Society, chartered in 1993, is the highest museum membership level available. Each member has agreed to the $1000 annual fee, with the understanding that Bugeye Society membership conveys with it both tangible and intangible benefits. They’ve committed themselves to share responsibility for maintaining and even enlarging museum programs and facilities. They’ve assumed leadership when special fundraising efforts are called for, and have set a sterling example for the rest of us by giving not only funding assistance, but business services, manpower, and invaluable guidance at a moment’s notice.

They also serve as museum ambassadors by encouraging their peers in the community to join CMM and participate as fully as they do.

Naturally, the CMM administration and Board of Governors have gladly extended premium benefits to thank the Bugeye Society members in return for their important role. They are consistently recognized during VIP events, their names are carried within the text of our Bugeye Ball and Waterside programs. They are also gratefully acknowledged by name on a beautifully handcarved plaque in the museum Exhibit Hall. Each is extended courtesy premium tickets for our major Waterside Music concerts, and they enjoy extensive facility use privileges and no-cost Wm. B. Tennison charters for cruising with friends or business associates.

Thanks to Bugeye Society partners, Calvert Marine Museum enjoys a great deal of support and commitment. Our reach into the Southern Maryland communities as well as to the Mid-Atlantic region grows further every year, in large part because Bugeye Society resources have given us the foundation we need. To belong to the Bugeye Society is to become a part of that foundation, where members can network with one another in a private and comfortable setting.

We invite all of you to consider Calvert Marine Museum’s Bugeye Society. Consider the following: What can your commitment bring to you in terms of a greater forum to share resources and ideas? Can more exposure to other corporate leaders in Southern Maryland help your own business group? Will the events and receptions confirm your sense of fellowship with people devoted to preservation and education? Can the Museum Society’s 501(c)(3) designation ease your tax burden when you make a bigger contribution? And finally, does the idea of keeping the Chesapeake Bay region’s shared heritage alive for tens of thousands of children and adult visitors each year appeal to your sense of pride in our beautiful home?

Take these questions with you over the next few weeks, and please, contact us if you’d like more information before deciding to join. Your contribution may be the one that makes Calvert Marine Museum’s long-term goals for Southern Maryland become realities. As a Bugeye Society member, you’ll be in the best company this organization can offer. Call CMM director Doug Alves or membership coordinator Vanessa Gill at (410) 326-2042 to be counted among us.

Calvert Marine Museum Bugeye Society members include: Ted and Jennifer Stanley; Pat and Celeste Furey; Mr. and Mrs. Rick Bailey; Paul and Doris Berry; Baltimore Gas and Electric; Direct Mail Group; Asbury Solomons; Solomons Landing; Barbara and Harold Gill; Ralph’s Dodge of Prince Frederick; Farmers Bank of Maryland; Marianne and John Harms; Mimi Lacouture; P. Chrismian Iribe & Family; SMECO; George Tilghman; Electa and Lee Phillips; Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Zahniser III; Isabelle Woodburn; Bill and Robin Fetsch; Sheldon Seidel; W. Alan and Thelma Raffensperger; Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Rowe; Amos Hutchins; Phyllis Lantz; Matt Gambrell; Solomons Veterinary Clinic; The Candace Milczarzyk Family; Carmen Nance Sanders; Holly Property Management Corp. LLC; and Bell Atlantic.

Museum donors enjoy the “Tropic Nights” evening event on July 24.
CMM photo by Dodds

Bugeye Times
Quarterly Newsletter of the Calvert Marine Museum and the Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc. (ISSN 0887-651X)
C. Douglass Alves, Jr., Editor
Paul L. Berry, Editor

The bugeye was the traditional sailing craft of the Bay, and was built in 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:
Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc.
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The Wm. B. Tennison - Part II
By Richard J. S. Dodds, Curator of Maritime History

The previous issue of the Bugeye Times gave a historical overview of the museum’s tour boat and floating exhibit, Wm. B. Tennison, on the occasion of her centennial. At the time, research into her history was still ongoing. The following are some of the highlights of this research that build on the work already done.

The Builder

As mentioned in the previous article, the builder of the Tennison was Frank Laird of Monie in Somerset County (or to give him his full name, Benjamin Franklin Washington Laird). He was born near Crisfield in 1851, the youngest of four children. In 1856 his family moved to the small community of Little Creek near Monie. It was there at the age of sixteen that he helped build a barge for which he was paid eight dollars a month.

In 1875, Laird built his first barge, the 36.5-foot Eula. Thereafter, he would typically build a barge in the summer, dredge her that winter, sell the boat in the following spring, and then build another. One exception was the Estelle, built in 1884, and named after his daughter. As perhaps his favorite, he held on to her for a number of years. The museum is aware of seventeen barges built by Laird, either for his own account or commissioned by others. Undoubtedly, there were more. Like the Tennison, all were of log-hull construction.

Frank Laird married the former Mary Emily Wilson in 1870 and they had six children (two daughters having died in infancy). By 1908 he had given up boatbuilding and begun farming about twenty-five acres of cleared land belonging to his wife’s family. The soil was poor and it was a struggle. When he first began farming, his Uncle Obad commented: “Frank, it is absolutely useless to try to do anything with this land. It’s so poor a frog would have to pack a lunch to hop across it.”

For twenty years Laird persisted, but in 1928 his beloved wife Mary died after fifty-eight years of marriage. Laird himself passed away in 1935. A staunch Methodist, he is buried in St. Peter’s Church cemetery in Oriole. He never learned to drive an automobile, preferring to use his reliable old horse, “Billy Sunday.”

The First Owners

Much less is known about the Tennison’s first owners, the brothers Benjamin P. and Rufus L. Miles. Both were born in Mathews County, Virginia, the sons of Jonathan H. and Charlotte Miles. Why they wound up across the bay in Somerset County in the 1890s is not known. There were Mileses in Somerset County already, but the relationship, if any, has not been determined.

The brothers went into the oystering business, like their father, and appeared quite successful, owning a number of locally built oyster dredge boats. A close relationship existed between Frank Laird and the Miles brothers, and at least three barges were built for the latter. Both brothers married local girls — Rufus to Julia A. Lawson in 1895, and Bennett to Clara B. Hall in 1896 (his first wife having died). In the 1900 census, B. P. Miles was described as a merchant and Rufus as an oyster planter. They lived in neighboring houses near Oriole.

It was shortly after this that the brothers moved to Norfolk, Virginia. Their father started J. H. Miles and Company of Norfolk around 1900. It was described in 1911 as “one of the largest exclusive oyster packers in the city of Norfolk,” with premises on the
Preparing shark masks/hats was a popular activity during Sharkfest! on July 17. CMM photo by Lance Strozier

Opening ceremony on August 7 for "Solomons: Cradle of Invasion '99". CMM photo by Bob Hall

The simulated landing on the beach at the Naval Recreation Center from the liberty ship John W. Brown (background) during the August 6-8 weekend of "Solomons: Cradle of Invasion — World War II Living History Program." CMM photo by Bob Hall

A young participant in Sharkfest! on July 17. CMM photo by Lance Strozier

Volunteer Al Lavish (left) and boatwright George Sargent (right) bore the shaftlog for the museum's reproduction draketail. CMM photo by Richard Dodds
**HOLIDAYS 1999**

By Maureen Baughman,  
*Museum Store Manager*

Some people believe that this will be the last Yule Season of the century. Some people believe that this may be the last Yule Season, period! I, for one, plan to make it a memorable Holiday Season.

For me, the Holiday Season begins with Thanksgiving weekend during the *Friends of Calvert Hospice Festival of Trees* at the Holiday Inn in Solomons. Beginning this year, the Museum Store will be supporting hospice by participating in the Festival of Trees Shopping Spree, which runs in conjunction with the festival itself. It’s a wonderful way to support a great organization, and to get a head start on your holiday shopping!

The following weekend, December 4 and 5, the Museum Store will once again set up shop at Baltimore’s historic Evergreen House for the Annual Museum Shop-Around. Shoppers will be able to purchase unique gifts for everyone on their lists from twenty participating museum stores.

And then on December 10, 11, and 12 comes my personal favorite for setting the mood for Christmas — the Solomons’ Christmas Walk. The luminaries light your way as you stroll around the Island and the surrounding area. Sample baked goodies, musical performances, a visit to Santa, and — of course — more shopping! The museum is opening for the evening on December 10 and 11 (free admission) and hosts many of the musical performances.

Everyone always has a great time at the Members’ Yule Party, Sunday evening (December 12). There is plenty to eat, friends to visit, and fun for the children — even Santa Claus! Don’t forget that only during the Yule Party will members receive 20 percent off most items in the Museum Store, and 10 percent off books. It is an excellent time to purchase a Chesapeake Bay throw, those beautiful earrings that your sister admired this summer, a *Wm. B. Tennison* Centennial mug, of that area rug your spouse keeps mentioning. There are plenty of items in the Children’s Corner to make your child’s holiday complete. Don’t forget that the Museum Store carries a wonderful selection of books. There’s sure to be something for everyone on your list.

May you all have a memorable Holiday Season!

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**PERSONNEL MATTERS**

The museum’s new curator of exhibits is James F. “Jimmy” Langley, formerly the museum’s modelmaker, replacing Tom Ewart who resigned in July. Jimmy is well known to visitors, particularly on weekends, who watched him work on models and woodcarving in the Woodshop Building. He has also been very active in the Solomons Island Model Boat Club. A native of Solomons and a current resident, Jimmy worked at the Columbia LNG Plant at Cove Point and the Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Activity (NESEA) before joining the museum staff in April 1983. He would welcome suggestions from museum members for future exhibits.

Master woodcarver “Pepper” Langley, Jimmy’s father, at 84 has recently given up his duties in the Woodshop on weekends. Moving into Jimmy’s position is James F. “Skip” Edwards, a museum staff member for several years. There have been no other staff changes in recent months.

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Prentiss H. Porter, a former member of the museum’s Board of Governors and prominent community leader, died in August. He served on the museum’s board in 1984 and 1985.
Atlantic Sturgeon

Continued from Page 1

would contain thousands of these huge fish as they migrated to tidal freshwater spawning areas. Sturgeon are powerful swimmers, and their large size (up to eight hundred pounds) caused them to destroy the nets that were set up to catch shad. As they had no value, sturgeon were killed whenever possible to protect the shad fishery. Sturgeon were also dangerous to boaters, as they have the curious habit of jumping straight up out of the water and landing in passing vessels. There are many accounts of large sturgeon jumping into boats, causing injury and general mayhem. One large sturgeon even jumped through a steamboat porthole near Philadelphia.

Everything changed later in the century, as European immigrants brought the knowledge of how to prepare caviar, and a market for smoked sturgeon developed in New York and Philadelphia. A large fishery, which was centered in Delaware and New Jersey, quickly developed after 1870. Many individuals were employed in boatbuilding, net making, harvesting, transporting, and processing sturgeon. The two species of East Coast sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus) and the smaller shortnose sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum), were both caught, but due to its larger size, the Atlantic represented the vast majority of the fishery.

Each spring, fishermen would place large gill nets in the spawning rivers and catch the sturgeon as they migrated to fresh water. Seasonal sturgeon camps would be set up along the river banks to collect, sometimes process, and ship the fish and caviar. Skipjacks from the Chesapeake Bay would often spend the spring in Delaware and New Jersey, quickly developed after 1870. Many individuals were employed in boatbuilding, net making, harvesting, transporting, and processing sturgeon. The two species of East Coast sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus) and the smaller shortnose sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum), were both caught, but due to its larger size, the Atlantic represented the vast majority of the fishery.

A Solomons' resident, Joseph C. Lore Sr., who later founded the Lore oyster business, was an early producer of caviar. In the late nineteenth century he traveled to Virginia each spring to buy sturgeon and process caviar there. He then shipped the caviar to German buyers in Delaware and New York.

The fishing pressure was so intense that the sturgeon were virtually eliminated by 1900, and the fishery collapsed. The rivers full of large migrating sturgeon existed only in memory. This ancient fish which had thrived for eons was in serious danger. By the middle of the twentieth century, it was a very rare occurrence for a sturgeon to be captured in the Chesapeake Bay. Today, shortnose sturgeon may have already been eliminated from the Bay and only a few Atlantic sturgeon remain. Due to their scarcity, harvesting of sturgeon has been banned along the U. S. East Coast.

Since there has not been any significant Mid-Atlantic fishery in over eighty years, why have they not recovered? Rockfish rebounded from over-fishing in just a few years, so why haven’t sturgeon? Other species of sturgeon exist on the West Coast and in the Great Lakes, so why can’t a fish, which tolerated events that destroyed the dinosaurs, survive here anymore?

We do not have all the answers to these riddles, but it appears that the sturgeon’s survival strategies, which have been effective for so long, are no longer suited for the modern environment. Unlike rockfish, for example, sturgeon mature very slowly, with the females taking fifteen to twenty years before spawning. Once reaching maturity, they also only spawn every three to six years. By comparison, rockfish females reach maturity in less than six years and spawn once a year. Thus, a fifteen-year-old rockfish may have spawned more than a sixty-year-old sturgeon. Another fish, the bay anchovy, is numerically one of the most dominant species of fish in the Chesapeake. During the summer, they essentially spawn once a day, and mature in less than a year. Anchovies, therefore, can produce huge numbers of young in a very short time. Thus, slow maturing fish such as sturgeon, which also spawn infrequently, have a much harder time recovering from over-fishing than species which mature quickly and spawn frequently.

Spawning frequency and age of maturity are only part of the
problem for sturgeon recovery. Many species of fish release their eggs to drift in the water, where young develop well if water quality and food are adequate. Sturgeon, however, are much more specific in their spawning habitat requirements. It is essential that they have a hard gravelly bottom to attach their sticky eggs. After hatching, the young hide in the gravel to avoid predators. Research has shown that much of this critical spawning habitat has been destroyed due to sedimentation from agriculture and urban development, and dams have blocked other spawning areas. Thus, even if we had mature sturgeon, there are few locations left for them to spawn.

The final difficulty facing sturgeon involves their method of feeding. They spend much of their lives in estuaries and coastal waters using their snouts like shovels to root in sediment for clams, worms, and crustaceans. They slurp their food up through a jaw that can be extended outward like a vacuum cleaner hose. This feeding habit makes them very vulnerable to capture in nets used to capture other fish. This “by-catch” destroys many of the young before they reach maturity and have an opportunity to spawn. When three thousand juveniles were released into the Nanticoke River a few years ago, they grew and dispersed well. Unfortunately, a high percentage of them ended up in pound and gill nets as they swam along the bottom in search of food. We thus have a species that is struggling to recover from earlier over-fishing because it matures and reproduces very slowly, has lost much of its spawning habitat, and is easily caught in commercial fishing nets.

Can these ancient giants once again survive in the Chesapeake Bay? It is very possible, although they will need some help. The hatchery-raised fish, which were released into the Nanticoke River in 1996, grew almost a foot in their first year, indicating that there is sufficient food for them. Those that survived commercial nets have now migrated into the near-shore waters of the Atlantic Ocean and are not expected to return for spawning until about 2010. If they do actually return, then a larger-scale restocking effort might be justified. Researchers are also continuing to develop improved hatchery techniques and to investigate their life history. It will take a long-term public commitment, cooperation from watermen, and protection of spawning habitat, but perhaps these ghosts from the past will once again return to the Chesapeake.

The new exhibit, located in the changing exhibit area of the lobby of CMM’s Exhibition Building, will be open to the public for approximately one year. The Atlantic sturgeon’s seventy-million year history is explained with fossils, artifacts, historic photographs, original paintings produced for this exhibit, and an eight-hundred-gallon aquarium with live sturgeon. Over the exhibit entrance hangs a life-size model of a fourteen-foot-long sturgeon, built by museum staff Skip Edwards, Jimmy Langley, and Stephen Godfrey.

The Wm. B. Tennison - Part II

Continued from Page 3

Elizabeth River. The brothers managed the company and were still in business in 1929, when they owned the 100-foot Fisherman, described at the time as the largest oyster boat of its kind.

Who Was Wm. B. Tennison?

The origin of the boat’s name is something that has mystified the museum for many years. One would normally expect the name to have something to do with the boat’s first owners, B. P. and R. L. Miles. There is no obvious family connection, however, leaving a business relationship as the next likely possibility.

According to the 1900 Maryland census, there was only one William B. Tennison listed in Maryland, a forty-five-year-old commercial traveler living in Baltimore with his wife and three daughters. Tennison was born in St. Mary’s County, the son of Absolem and Jane Tennison. By 1883, perhaps growing resolute with life on the farm, he had moved to Philadelphia and set himself up as a “first-class restauranteur.” It was here that he probably met his first wife, Mary. The business may not have been a success, as in 1887 he was in Baltimore in partnership with George G. Hayden and operating as Hayden & Tennison, Wholesale Grocers and Confectioners. In 1889 he formed the new partnership of Tennison, Crew & Thomas, Confectioners. Seeking business, Tennison traveled the Tidewater area extensively in the 1880s and 1890s.

By 1905, Tennison was the proprietor of a hotel at 117 W. Lombard Street, Baltimore, appropriately named the “Hotel Tennison.” Regular advertising was placed in the newspapers of Southern Maryland proclaiming its convenience for travelers arriving in the city by steamboat. William B. Tennison passed away in 1918 and was survived by his second wife, Jessie.

Unfortunately, we have nothing positive to link William B. Tennison of Baltimore with B. P. and R. L. Miles of Somerset County. As a commercial traveler in the 1890s, it is certainly possible that Tennison would have come into contact with the Miles brothers, who were quite prominent in business circles in Somerset County at the time. It is unclear, however, just what would have led them to name one of their oyster boats after him. In the writer’s opinion, this is the most likely source for the name but the search continues for that one reference that will link the two names together.

Note: The museum would like to thank Robert E. Laird Jr. for supplying much of the biographical information on his great-grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Washington Laird.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT –

Education Department Volunteers

By Beverly Walker, Education Department Liaison

If you serve as a volunteer in the education department, you are one of many. This is the department that boasts of having the largest number of volunteers at CMM, and these eager, active, talented people chalk up an astounding number of hours in the logbook every year.

Education volunteers can be found performing almost any sort of activity one can imagine. We interact with the public, both in the museum and off-site; all ages, from the tiniest tots to learned senior citizens make our acquaintance. Behind the scenes, we can be tracked down sewing, painting, doing carpentry, and a variety of tasks too numerous to mention. This is education!

What, specifically, is it that we do? A considerable portion of our time is devoted to instructional/interpretive duties. We instruct the children who visit as members of school groups from local districts and more distant ones, and we provide the fourth-grade element of Calvert County’s environmental education curriculum, CHESPAX (approximately 1,200 students this past year). We assist the staff at each of the summer camps, acting both as instructors and jacks-of-all-trades. On the adult level, we serve as guides for Drum Point Lighthouse tours and as hosts at the J. C. Lore & Sons Oyster House. Volunteers also assist in some of the programs offered at our semiannual Elderhostels.

We can be found at all of the special events here at CMM: Family Discovery Days, Sharkfest!, and Patuxent River Appreciation Days. Those paint-spattered people helping your children create T-shirts that turn out to be artistic marvels are none other than education department volunteers! We are also visible at the annual Celebration of Chesapeake Bay Lighthouses and the Cradle of Invasion World War II weekends.

Increasingly popular are the monthly Girl Scout overnights (and we’ve hosted a few Boy Scout troops as well). The crafts are taught by volunteers, but only after they have devoted many long and arduous hours to the preparation of materials for the projects. One of the most intriguing volunteer jobs in this realm is SLEEPING. Indeed, two of our volunteers log in their hours doing just that — while serving as overnight chaperons to the scouts. (Now, just how does one record THAT in the volunteer logbook?)

One of the truly outstanding tributes to our volunteers’ talents is our splendid Discovery Room. Until recently it was maintained almost entirely by volunteers who created bulletin boards and a variety of other decorative effects, designed and stitched costumes, crafted toys, boxes, and all the wonderful gadgets your children and grandchildren love to play with on their visits. In short, education department volunteers made the Discovery Room the showplace it is today.

Okay — that’s what we do here at CMM. But you can also find our smiling faces meeting and greeting the public at an assortment of fairs and festivals held throughout the warm-weather months. Look for the CMM display when you visit Bay Country Boat Show, the Southern Maryland Spring Festival, Children’s Day on the Farm at JPPM, the Maritime Festival in Havre de Grace, Youth Day at the Calvert County Fair, the Blessing of the Fleet at the Potomac River-St. Clement’s Island Museum, the Point Lookout Lighthouse Open House, and this year at the first annual Tales of the Haunted Trail at Annmarie Garden.

Yes, we do it all — and we are always eager to welcome newcomers to our ranks. We truly believe that we can provide you a volunteer job you’ll enjoy in the education department whatever your talents, interests, or time constraints may be. Please call Leslie Scher Brown at 410-326-2042 and become a part of the BIGGEST team at CMM!
WATERSIDE '99: SEPTEMBER 4 WITH DELBERT MCCLINTON/LITTLE FEAT: AN INSIDER’S LOOK

With the help of hundreds of CMM volunteers and good friends, Waterside concerts traditionally come together like fine art...slow and sometimes tedious...but always worthwhile in the end. The September 4 production of Delbert McClinton and Little Feat was no exception.

Saturday the 4th started out early. Key staff and volunteers were on hand at the museum at 7:30 a.m. to meet with sound and lights vendors and begin setting up for the big night. While hard labor was going on outside, inside, the Waterside Master Ticket List was being finalized. Volunteers began swarming the grounds at 9:00 a.m. to assist with such tasks as answering the ever-ringing CMM phones; setting up tables for ID Stations, ticket taking, ticket selling, and vendor booths; serving as roadies with Little Feat and Delbert crews; assisting with food court preparation; and a hundred other things. As the cloudy and humid day progressed, phone calls increased. Questions about Tropical Storm Dennis’s whereabouts came fast and furious. Waterside volunteers began answering the phone with “Calvert Marine Museum...Rain or Shine.” It seemed the tropical weather was on everyone’s mind. While rain poured on surrounding counties and most of Calvert, the CMM “weather chants” proved powerful enough to keep the concert area nearly bone dry, as if protected by a giant umbrella.

The clock approached 2:00 p.m., and casual visitors could sense a pick-up in worker intensity. Signs and tables were in place, and 4,000 chairs began going up. With their capable captain at the helm, the chair team turned an empty parking lot into a magical concert setting. A security force of eighteen met with production staff to confirm safety plans for the evening. Around 5:20, as chairs were stickered with seat numbers, a team of staff, security, and volunteers prepared the CMM lobby for the pre-show sponsor Meet-and-Greet with Delbert and Little Feat. At the same time, front and back gate volunteers got ready to open the “doors” to the crowd slowly building along Solomons Island Road. Tickets, programs, ID checks...so much to remember.

Promptly at 7:00 p.m., Delbert McClinton was on the Washington Gas Pavilion stunning the crowd with a captivating voice complemented perfectly by brass instrumentation. The audience grew more lively as this set played through; when Little Feat came out, the crowd got on its feet. As concert workers, we try to take a moment to absorb the performance and the guests. It is that moment when the planning, orchestration, and physical work all come together to create an exciting and profitable event.

Looking over the crowd, we saw guests of all ages joining one another in our little backyard to enjoy not only one, but two nationally known recording artists, and all the work we put in made perfect sense.

The crowd of thousands saw the show and went home happy and satisfied. For many of us, however, who have worked months to put this show together, the job of tearing down the concert venue and reinventing the serene museum grounds took at least two more hours. At the end, we were each filled with a sense of pride for having produced this special evening, together, for the good of Calvert Marine Museum.

For now, it’s time to rest and recuperate, but in a few months, we’ll start the process all over again for Waterside 2000. Thanks to all who made Waterside ’99 with Little Feat and Delbert McClinton a success. We hope to see you again for the next show!

Our Waterside ’99 sponsors and supporters include: 97.7 The Bay; Ralph’s Dodge-Jeep; Cumberland & Erly, LLC; Solomons Landing; Woodburns of Solomons; Coors, Coors Light, and Killians; Cole Travel; Jones Communications; DM Group; Holiday Inn; C&B Texaco; Mom’s in the Kitchen Catering; Main Message Center; New Bay Times; SMECO; and Waste Management. Because of their contributions, we are able to produce Waterside events year-round and use the proceeds for museum programs and exhibits.
FALL 1999

Society Snapshot

Total Membership: 2,372
New Members: 85

New Members

Welcome New Members! We have eighty-five new members in the Society! Our new premium members include:

**Contributing** — Donald & Susan Wheeler • James Niederlehrer • Glen & Joan Mitchell • Laurie-Lee/Mark Mueller • Russell Schleeter • Mr. & Mrs. Boyce Fitzpatrick • E.C. Redmond-Younger • Mr. & Mrs. Ron & Barbara Ross • Mr. & Mrs. Mary & Peter Weiskopf • Mr. & Mrs. James & Kristine Strauss • Ms. Marion Lostrom • Ms. Barb DeGroat • Michael & Nancy Williams

**Sustaining** — Tricia & Greig Parks • Kyra Eberle • Gerry Gleckel • Dan & Karen Doherty • Mr. Henry Major • Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Joanne Van Wie • Mr. & Mrs. Michael • Gail & Randy Wilt • Owner Newspaper • Mr. & Mrs. Andrew & Kimberly Crepea • The Baranoski Family • Ms. Susan Dennis • Ms. Susan Dennis • Gail & Randy Wilt • Owner Newspaper • Mr. & Mrs. Patricia & Jimme Lutz • Thomas Scott & Mary Jo Ludvigson • John & Pamela Bone

** Patron** — Dr. Wayne O’Roark. We would also like to send a special welcome to our newest Bugeye Society member Mr. Robert Waldschmitt of Holly Property Management Corp. LLC.

Taking it to a Higher Level

The following members decided to increase their support of the museum by taking their membership to a higher level:

Timothy John Turnham • Nancy Baer • Caroline & Ken Seamon • Karen L. Timmons • Jackie & Bill Niles Cutilp • Cheryl Arvidson • Jeff & Christine Inglett • Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Hazen • Susanne & John Rohrer • Timothy & Christine Scheirer • Bruce & Wendy Burgreen • John & Betsy Dewland • Deborah Ross • Mr. & Mrs. Byrne Waterman • Monica & Joe Whitebread • Betty Bartlett • Niki Basham • Elwood & Nancy Cooke • Vice Adm. & Mrs. James Dorsey • Frances H. Fischer • John Darling & Diane Powell • Joseph E. Rankin, MD • Gordon & Lisa Rush • Elizabeth Sanders. Thanks everyone!

Members’ Yule Party

**Sunday, December 12, 1999**

Enjoy an evening of food and festivities for Calvert Marine Museum members only! For the first half of the evening our annual members’ Yule Party will feature children’s entertainment, caroling, punch and cookies, and a visit from Santa. The second half of the evening will be filled with live music, holiday fare, the door prize giveaway, and a traditional eggnog toast with the director. Participants will be asked to bring an appetizer, dessert, or finger sandwich to share that evening.

The Yule Party’s popularity means limiting it to members only. To treat family and friends to this event (and a full year of fun!) consider a gift membership. See the enclosed gift membership flier for details or call Vanessa Gill, your membership coordinator, for details.

Keep an eye out for your member’s invitation – see you December 12!

1999 Year End Appeal

Over the years, the Calvert Marine Museum has strived to surprise the public and surpass its expectations by constructing informative and interactive exhibits, devising interesting ways of learning, and creating colorful, expressive ways of bringing history to life. Producing these insightful and interesting initiatives often present unforeseen and unavoidable expenses. The museum has been lucky enough, however, to have had overwhelming support from its membership and the community through our Year End Appeal campaigns.

In the coming weeks you will receive your 1999 Year End Appeal packet. It will describe the maritime project we hope to facilitate and bring to life with your support.

Year End Appeal gifts are 100 percent tax deductible, and your gift directly supports the identified maritime project.

We thank you for your continuing graciousness and responsiveness to Calvert Marine Museum’s Year End Appeal. Be assured that your gift goes a long way in keeping CMM at the forefront of American maritime museums.

Our Condolences

The museum has received numerous donations in memory of a close friend recently lost, Mr. Joe Kersey. We send our sincere condolences to the family and thank them for having memorial donations sent to the museum to help carry on the programs the Kersey family actively supports and cares so much about.