SOLOMONS: THE CRADLE OF INVASION

At the beginning of the Second World War, the residents of the local area of Solomons in lower Calvert County were recovering from the effects of the long depression of the 1930s, and were certainly not anticipating being thrust into an active role of the war effort within a very few months. Water-related activities were still the mainstay of the local economy: oyster- and crabbing were among the major activities of many residents; a recreational fishing industry was strong, involving charter boats and local places of lodging; and the M. M. Davis and Son shipyard, under the direction of its relatively new owner, New York businessman George H. Townsend, was looking for buyers of custom-built yachts, but by 1942 had contracts from the Army Transportation Corps for a number of small transport boats. These activities, of course, involved the local residents without much change in their way of life. By February 1942, however, all this changed suddenly with the decision by the United States Navy to establish an amphibious training base on the Dowell peninsula and to use nearby beaches for training exercises. Now, fifty-six years later, the community will participate in a reenactment of some of the events of those days.

The Chesapeake Bay has had a long association with the United States Navy, from the Naval Academy in Annapolis to the bases in the Norfolk area. Because of its depth, the Patuxent River was the scene of several naval maneuvers, including the test of the dry dock Dewey in 1905. The navy even considered building a more permanent dry dock inside of Drum Point, but eventually abandoned the plan. It is not too surprising, therefore, that the navy looked to the Patuxent River early in World War II as a site for naval installations. During 1942 three installations were established: the Naval Air Station in St. Mary’s County, followed by the Naval Amphibious Training Base in Dowell, and then the Mine Warfare Test Center at Point Patience. Of these three installations, the one at Dowell had the greatest impact on Solomons since it involved the condemnation of the residences of several prominent citizens and brought a large number of personnel into the area. As part of its mission to document the history of Solomons, the Calvert Marine Museum has published several works outlining the history of the period, written by naval historian Merle T. Cole. The Naval Amphibious Training Base (NATB) is chronicled in his Cradle of Invasion: A History of the U. S. Naval Amphibious Training Base, Solomons, Maryland, 1942-1945, published in 1984. The mine test center at Point Patience is described in his Solomons Mines: A History of the U. S. Naval Mine Warfare Test Station, Solomons, Maryland, 1942-1947, published in 1987. Both of these publications are sold in the museum store.

This year, on August 7 through 9, there will be a commemorative program in Solomons to highlight this time period in the area’s history, and also to honor the veterans who trained here for eventual duty in both the Pacific and European theatres. Assisting CMM in this commemorative reenactment will be the United States Marine Corps Historical Company (USMCHC), Project Liberty Ship, and the United States Navy. Managed by the USMCHC, the interpretive program will present the public with a view of the average American marine, sailor, and soldier stationed here during World War II, using a combination of educational/interpretive demonstrations, interactive displays of historic artifacts, and impromptu discussions with participants. Through these "living history" events, the visitors will be able to experience a part of their heritage heretofore missing, and will have the opportunity to relate to service personnel of the 1940s as people, not just statistics. The events planned for August 7 through 9 will take place near the museum, at the U.S. Navy Recreation Center, and aboard the SS John W. Brown, a restored and fully operational Liberty ship, normally based in Baltimore.

Approximately seventy-five specially trained historians, using vintage uniforms, vehicles, and equipment will present a look at (Continued on Page 6)
Drum Point Lighthouse — You See it Everywhere!

As a symbol of the museum, as well as Calvert County and Southern Maryland, the Drum Point Lighthouse continues to be used on many publications and in all sorts of places. The current Mid-Atlantic Tourbook of the American Automobile Association, for example, features the lighthouse on its cover in full color. A more unusual place has come to the museum’s attention recently: the back of a Winnebago, where anyone following the RV can enjoy it in its (more or less) original location at Drum Point. While vacationing in Florida this past winter, Stacey Harkey, owner of Jim’s Air Rentals in Prince Frederick, commissioned Wellington Bruce White of Edwardsburg, Michigan, to create this painting for him.

WORK CONTINUES ON COMMODORE BARNEY’S FLOTILLA

As planned at the close of the summer season in 1997, field work has resumed this year in an effort to find other evidence of the vessels used by Commodore Joshua Barney during the naval engagements of 1814 in the Patuxent area. As described in the Bugeye Times in the summer 1997 issue, the action of Barney’s “Chesapeake Flotilla” of barges, gunboats, and row galleys was a valiant attempt by American forces to defend the bay from the Royal British Navy. After early engagements in St. Leonard Creek, the vessels were moved upriver where they eventually were scuttled near the present-day Bristol in lower Anne Arundel County. While last summer’s work was useful, it did not produce the definitive finds of sunken vessels at the site of the former St. Leonard’s Town on upper St. Leonard Creek. Work is continuing this year at the St. Leonard Creek location under the direction of Dr. Susan Langley, who heads Maryland’s underwater archaeology program, and Dr. Ralph Eshelman, project interpretive coordinator, with funds provided by the United States Navy through the Maryland Historical Trust. There will again be assistance from the students of East Carolina University’s Program in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology. These students are also studying artifacts at CMM from the underwater exploration in which the museum participated from 1977 through 1980. Future work on the flotilla project is largely dependent on the availability of funding, but it is anticipated such research will include ground-penetrating radar and testing of sites believed located in the upper Patuxent River.

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is again much involved in this year’s work. Any findings from the underwater archaeology on the flotilla will be brought to the recently dedicated Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory at the park for study and conservation at this state-of-the-art facility. On Saturday, July 11, JPPM will present “A Look at the War of 1812,” a reenactment of the naval engagement. Details can be obtained from the park at 410-586-8501.

Combined Admission Tickets

Try a combined, one-time-use admission ticket during your visit to Southern Maryland this summer. For $16.00 for adults and $10.00 for children, you will have admission to CMM, Historic St. Mary’s City, Sotterley Plantation, and St. Clement’s Island Potomac River Museum. While in Southern Maryland, you will also want to visit other museums and parks where no admission is charged. For details, call CMM at 410-326-2042.

STAFF NEWS

There have been a few changes in staff this spring, mostly in the education department. Melissa McCormick is now the group services coordinator, replacing Anne Larsen who resigned. Taking Melissa’s place as education assistant is Robert Boxwell. Interpreters this summer include Diane Milgrim, Don Fink, and Timothy Brown.
**RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

The museum's library and archives constitute one of the important assets of the institution, in continued demand by staff, volunteers, and outside researchers. Its growth over the past twenty-three years has been due largely to donations, with the limited available funds going to the purchase of new titles and magazine subscriptions. This past year has seen a number of valuable additions to the library and archives and to other parts of the museum's collections.

- The largest-ever collection of books was donated by F. Ross Holland, noted author and "dean" of America's lighthouse historians. His personal library was built up over a thirty-year career with the National Park Service and later with the Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. He and his wife, June, reluctantly had to part with the collection of nearly 3,000 books, plus periodicals, when they moved to Calvert County. The lighthouse-related materials will eventually reside in a planned National Lighthouse Center and Museum.
- The family name of Weems and the history of Southern Maryland are inextricably intertwined. On behalf of the family of Gustavia Wemyss Perry, John A. Perry Jr. recently donated a collection of papers and photographs relating to George W. Weems, founder of the steamboat line bearing his name, and his descendants. Included are letters, photographs of Weems family members, a rare 1897 Weems Steamboat Company promotional brochure, and a handwritten account of a voyage on the schooner Sidney, during which she ran aground in an electrical storm, with lightning subsequently killing the captain and two crew.
- When Carmen Sanders, owner of Carmen's Gallery, purchased the old home of Marcellus M. Davis on Solomons Island, she came across some long-forgotten papers in the attic which she generously donated to the museum. Included were three daybooks from the M. M. Davis & Son Shipyard, a correspondence file dating to 1908-10, also from the shipyard. Additionally, there were records pertaining to the Calvert Conclave of the Improved Order Heptasophs, one of a number of fraternal orders popular in Solomons in the early twentieth century. The shipyard papers are now reunited in the CMM archives with others found in the same house by Arnold Humphreys and donated in 1977, as well as a larger M. M. Davis collection obtained when the shipyard closed.
- Another Solomons' business which made a valuable donation to the library was Hightide Marine (formerly O'Brien Marine). Owner Herb Rose gave a number of Cruis-Along promotional brochures from a scrapbook compiled when O'Brien's was a Cruis-Along dealership, shortly after World War II. The collection was given in the name of O'Brien Marine, to commemorate their long-standing name in the community.
- The house recently owned by George and Carolyn Beaver in Solomons was for many years a well-known guest house, starting in the early part of the century as "The Maples," and then owned by Dr. William Marsh and his wife, Mary. The Beavens donated a guest book that begins in 1944 and includes a number of entries for servicemen and their wives who were stationed in Solomons during World War II.
- Long-time resident Gladys Bowers also donated a collection of books and photographs of Solomons.
- We are always eager to add to our photograph collection, and we have this past year been fortunate in copying a number of family photographs for the archives, many of which have to do with Cove Point Lighthouse. Herman Metivier was assistant keeper at Cove Point from 1930 to 1939. His daughter, Eunice Knott, loaned a number of photographs taken at Cove Point and Point Lookout Lighthouse, where he was later stationed. A second daughter, Esther Rowland, also provided additional material on life at Cove Point Lighthouse and a group photograph of the Metivier family with Herman in his uniform.
- Horace C. Groom was keeper at Cove Point from 1931 to 1944. His son, Horace Groom, graciously allowed us to copy three photographs of Keeper Groom at Cove Point. Horace C. Groom's grandson, John C. Groom, also allowed us to copy several old family photographs. We are also fortunate to have copy photographs from Sally Sadler Callis, daughter of Charles L. Sadler, assistant keeper at Cove Point from 1944 to 1953. All will be of great value in future exhibit plans at Cove Point Lighthouse.
- Other additions to the growing photograph collection include those loaned for copying by Pauline Elliott Simpson of the family home and popular guest house in Solomons known as "Sunset View." Vance Kopp Jr. also permitted the museum to copy photographs of a number of family members. The Kopp family was one of the first to settle on Solomons Island in the late 1860s. Mr. Douglas Bivens Jr. brought in for copying six early photographs of the Solomons School, 1925-26, now the museum administration building. Douglas Bivens Sr. was the first principal of the school. Lynn Perry permitted the museum to copy photographs of sailing vessels from his two scrapbooks. Lynn and his childhood friend Arthur Van Name Jr. started taking photographs in the late 1920s of the last of the commercial sailing vessels which frequented West Point, Virginia, where they lived. Together, their record of the last days of sailing are an invaluable archive of maritime history. We are currently in the process of making prints from the negatives of Dr. Van Name's collection.
- Not all donations are destined for the library, of course. With the help of Alton Kersey and Douglas Huether, chairman of the Independent Can Company, a large 2,500-pound CANCO double seaming machine was donated to the CMM archives at the CMM Archives in 1979. The company beautifully restored the machine, used for sealing the tops of small retail seafood containers, to full working order. The machine was transported to the museum, courtesy of Warren Denton Seafood Company of Broomes Island. It is now installed in place, although not yet operational.
- On the subject of local seafood industry, Joe Niemann, current owner of the property on which stood the Lowery Seafood Company on Broomes Island, donated a number of objects still remaining from the company's heyday. Orem and Antonia Lowery started a successful clam shucking business in 1957. At various times they also shucked oysters and bought and sold a variety of seafood. The shipping containers, shucking stalls, oyster skimmer pan, and clam shucker's bucket join other artifacts from the company donated in the early 1980s. (Richard J. Dodds)
Visitors Pam Johnson and her nephew Vaughan Evans (left) talk with Jeffrey Bolster following his April 3 CMM lecture on his book, Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail.

CMM photo by Debra Yorty

Over 4,000 music fans attended the B. B. King Concert as part of the Waterside '98 series – the first event in the new pavilion donated to CMM by Washington Gas. The opening event was Primitive Mind, shown here in performance.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

Estuarine biology curator, Ken Kaumeyer (left), speaks with residents of the Asbury-Solomons retirement community during a special day for community residents on May 13. Asbury-Solomons supports CMM through membership in the Bugeye Society.

CMM photo by Debra Yorty

State and county officials and guests gathered at the rebuilt bulkhead of the J. C. Lore and Sons Oyster House for a dedication ceremony on May 19. Over the years the bulkhead had deteriorated and needed rebuilding, with funding provided by the state.

CMM photo by Robert Hurry
The museum's Volunteer Council again had a successful "yard sale" at Patuxent Family Discovery Day on May 2, thanks to the special efforts of a group of volunteers who collected, priced, and sold various items donated for the sale. The $1,500 raised will help support museum activities.

CMM photo by Richard Dodds

B. B. King performing at Waterside '98, May 30
CMM photo by Bob Hall

One activity supported by funds from the Volunteer Council has been the purchase of a large microfilm reading machine for the museum library and archives. It will assist in viewing the microfilms of local newspapers for which the council donated funds in past years. Library volunteers Joan Sweeney (left) and Paul Berry (right) join Volunteer Council president Don Miller in examining the new reading machine.

CMM photo by Debra Yorty

Participants in the Oyster House Row on Patuxent Family Discovery Day, May 2, arrive at the newly rebuilt bulkhead of the oyster house.

CMM photo by Richard Dodds
the activities of the NATB of the 1940s. Uniformed interpreters representing marine, navy, and army personnel will demonstrate in, and interact with the public on such historical/technical areas as the operations of ship-to-shore and shore-to-shore communications; the military medical services of WWII; the advancement of small arms during the war; infantry tactics and their application and evolution in amphibious warfare; shipboard antiaircraft and surface gunnery; and amphibious landing techniques. These are just a few of the programs that will be presented.

The re-creation of an amphibious assault training landing will be the highlight of the weekend’s activities, and will be held on both Saturday and Sunday. A combined platoon of U. S. Marines and U. S. Army infantry will debark from the SS John W. Brown, climbing down landing nets into waiting navy landing craft. They will then proceed to assault the beach and secure a predesignated fixed fortification, using period assault tactics and weapons. A professional announcer will narrate the program to the public so that they may gain a better understanding of the events unfolding before them. It is anticipated that local military bases, veterans organizations, and special interest groups will be on hand during the weekend to exhibit their involvement in the community and to tell their stories with on-site displays.

A Brief History*

Soon after America’s entry into the war in 1941, there was pressure among the Allies for large-scale amphibious operations in the Pacific and in the Mediterranean. Although there had been some preparations in earlier years among the three branches of the service, it was clear that more extensive training facilities would be needed with little delay. Training exercises had been held prior to December 1941 on Atlantic Coast beaches in North Carolina and Virginia, but by January 1942 it was realized that such exercises would be exposed to marauding U-boats and should therefore be moved to the protected waters of the Chesapeake Bay. As early as February 1942 one of the choices was the mouth of the Patuxent River, despite the shortcoming of the absence of the heavy surf that might be encountered from an assault on an ocean beach. Nonetheless, Solomons was selected by March 1942, and in the next few months appropriate steps were taken to obtain land on the Dowell peninsula and to establish a facility. Even before the base was built, army and marine forces were trained from transport ships brought into the area. Some of the marines who were trained at that time were in the August 1942 amphibious assaults at Guadalcanal — “from Solomons to the Solomons.”

Construction was somewhat haphazard during the summer of 1942, but the base was usable at the end of August. In the early planning and construction it was believed that the base would not be needed for very long. Construction was therefore limited and permanent, with separate officer quarters but a single general mess, limited administration and training facilities, and minimal paving or finishing touches. Unfortunately, housing was persistently inadequate, since the number of personnel sent for training exceeded the planned billeting capacity. The first 3,300 men were sent to Solomons in July 1942 for a planned eight-week program. More men followed in the subsequent months. Even the lack of landing craft did not deter the training effort, as newly arriving crews often were sent to the boatyards to pick up new boats for their training. Under these conditions it was not surprising that morale was low, further depressed by the isolation of Solomons and the tight control on liberty. Mr. Cole describes these conditions in considerable detail in his book.

Despite the original planning for a base of only short duration, the Solomons Amphibious Training Base remained in use during all of 1943 and 1944. It was finally closed on February 1, 1945. In its operation of less than three years, a total of 67,698 officers and enlisted men were trained there. Not surprisingly, the effects on Solomons and the surrounding communities were severe. The population of Solomons increased from 300 to over 2,600 during the war years as outside labor poured in to take jobs on the construction projects at the two naval facilities in the immediate area. Oyster beds were destroyed by naval traffic and testing. Water and sewer systems were overtaxed. Although the local economy was bolstered by the large influx of payroll money, prices rose, local housing was in short supply, and there were the inevitable clashes that required the presence of navy shore patrols. Local residents did try to entertain the servicemen, but were hampered by a lack of adequate space. With community support, a USO unit was finally established in early 1944, first with limited facilities, but by December in the building that is now the Solomons Island Yacht Club. Despite the problems of the war years, Solomons survived and returned slowly to a new era of growth.

After the navy abandoned the base in 1945, it was used by the state of Maryland on and off for several years, notably by the Maryland Marine Police for its Tidewater Fisheries Enforcement Patrol fleet. The federal government finally sold the property to private interests in 1961 who converted it for use as the Lord Calvert Yacht Club and Marina. In 1981 the property was sold into the hands of the present owners. Although a few vestiges of the base remain, it has for all practical purposes disappeared from the local scene, unlike the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, that continues to grow in St. Mary’s County. The navy still owns the property on which the Mine Warfare Test Center was built, but it is now the recreation center at which the main events of this reenactment will take place.

*Summarized from Merle Cole’s Cradle of invasion.
Of Special Interest to Members . . .

SOCIETY SNAPSHOT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We have 209 new members in the Society! Our new premium members: Marydonna & Tom Barawoski; Charron Corthell-Dean; Michael Denny & Theresa Gomez; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hay; John & Claudia Knowlton; Carl G. Orlando; Lois Plunkert & Gerald Storch; Dr. & Mrs. James W. Preuss; Paul & Maria Rock; The Rubenstahl Family; John & Joan Stehman; Peter D. Waters; Joseph P. Wieck.

TAKING MEMBERSHIP A LEVEL HIGHER are members who upgraded recently: Ms. Joy Bartholomew; Mary E. (Betty) Bartlett; Gail & Charles Bennett; Mr. & Mrs. Edmund C. Cammack; Mrs. Edward L. Carlson; Joy Chance; David and Mary Cooper; PV2 Moira E. Crole; Mr. George Dankers Jr.; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Davis; Cheryl Easley; James & Eleanor Ferris; Dr. Richard V. Folea Sr.; Mr. & Mrs. E. William Gosnell; Mr. & Mrs. George Halvosa; Donna & David Heidelbach; Jeff & Joan Isaakson; Christopher & Lynne Jensen; Mrs. J.G. Jerome; John & Audrey Johnson; Mr. Timothy Long; Skip & Caroline Maryan; Wendy MaLaughlin; Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. Mehosky; James A. Murray Jr.; Gerardo Omeechevaria; John Parker & Family; Tricia & Greg Parks; Vice Adm. William Read, USN (Retired); Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Robertson; Mr. Richard K. Rogers; Henry & JoAnn Rosemont; Richard Smith; Cliff and Sharon Stewart; Charles & Susan Svenson; Ms. Eleanor Wachtel; Darwin Wilson.

COOK'S CONUNDRUMS

“Otterly” Calculable?

Suppose three people make the following statements about Doug, who loves otters:

Kenny says: “Doug has at least six otters.”
Richard says: “Don’t be silly. He doesn’t have that many.”
Steve says: “But he owns at least one otter.”

If only one statement is true, how many otters does Doug really have?

***************

For the solution, write or fax to Cook’s Conundrums, Calvert Marine Museum Society, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, MD 20688-0097. FAX: 410-326-6691.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY . . .

SUMMER GET-TOGETHER AT CAMDEN YARDS!

Thursday, August 20

It’s “root, root, root” for the Orioles on Thursday, August 20, when the Society takes its annual summer get-together to Camden Yards! A limited number of seats may still be available. If you haven’t placed your reservation, call right away. We’ll enjoy a memorable evening as we cheer the “O’s” to victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays!

If you ride with CMM, the cost to you is $18 per person (for game ticket and charter bus). If you drive separately, the cost is $11 per person (game ticket only). Buses are targeted to leave the Calvert Marine Museum at 5:00 p.m. and the Dunkirk Market Place between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. Estimated arrival time at Camden Yards is 7:00 p.m. Game time is 7:35 p.m.

Because the Society is subsidizing the bus transportation, we thank you for supplying your family’s peanuts and Cracker Jack! Food may be purchased at the ball park. For updated information, call Sybol Cook at 410-326-2042.

DON’T FORGET BUGEYE BALL 1998!

The 1998 Bugeye Ball will be held Saturday, September 26. Don’t forget to mark your calendar for this unique annual gala to benefit the Wm. B. Tennison in preparation for its 100th birthday.

Invitations will be mailed in August. You may place your reservation early, become a sponsor, or make a donation by returning the form below. Sponsorships and reservations are deductible at the rate of gift amount less $25 per reservation. Donations are 100% tax-deductible. Please make your check payable to CMMS, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, MD 20688.

I’m setting sail for Bugeye Ball 1998!

Reservations / Donations:

_____ Advance reservations at $75 each
_____ Donation enclosed ($_______)

Sponsorship Categories:

_____ Benefactor $1,000 (4 complimentary reservations)
_____ Sponsor $500 (2 complimentary reservations)
_____ Patron $250 (1 complimentary reservation)

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Phone: ____________________________
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT — Museum Volunteers Recognized in April

Following a new format this year, the award ceremony recognizing museum volunteers was held in the CMM auditorium on April 23, following an evening reception in the lobby catered by Maryland Country Caterers and assisted by museum staff with beverages and desserts. Over one hundred volunteers and staff assembled for the ceremony, made especially important by the guest of honor and keynote speaker, Maryland’s first lady, Frances Hughes Glendening. She was joined in recognizing the volunteers by county commissioner Mary Krug, CMM director C. Douglass Alves Jr., and volunteer coordinator Leslie Scher Brown.

Mrs. Glendening, herself a longtime community service volunteer who manages a busy schedule of work and service, addressed the guests and staff about the value of their 15,000 donated hours. In addition to her encouraging remarks, Mrs. Glendening thanked and presented certificates to each of the volunteers whose service reached or exceeded one hundred hours during the year or those whose accumulated hours reached a thousand-hour milestone. Those with one hundred hours included: Janet Addis, Doris Berry, Paul Berry, Cynthia Bonora, Rick Brice, Gordon Burton, Lori Cole, Mel Conant, Fran Damerell, Bobbe Dyke, Mike Ellwood, Doris Federline, Doris Fisk, Bob Fleming, Dan Grosso, Kathleen Haberny, Bob Hall, George Halvosa, Darryl Hansen, Kit Kearney, Dede King, Frank King, Mary Konrad, Tom Konrad, Bill Lake, Al Lavish, Ethel Manley, Zelma Margelos, Jim Marsh, Buck McCollan, Kay McCollan, Linda McGilvery, Shirley Mihursky, Don Miller, Pat Miller, Walter Nelson, Bill Poffenbarger, Ryan Polk, Eleanor Prince, Sandy Roberts, Fred Ruark, Margaret Saville, Jack Schnell, Peg Shook, Ruth Showalter, Cheryl Snelson, Skip Snelson, Ned Sprague, Pat Sprague, Joan Sweeney, Doris Sweet, Ginny Thayer, Bev Walker, Gayle Wichers, Margie Wilbar, and Shirley Wilder. The greatest number of hours in 1997 were those of Bill Lake — 916. Volunteers reaching cumulative thousand-hour milestones, to whom museum mugs and certificates provided by the Governor’s Office on Volunteerism and Service were awarded: over 1,000 hours, Dede King, Pat Miller, Ellie Mowbray, Cheryl Snelson, and Doris Sweet; over 2,000 hours, Doris Berry; over 3,000 hours, Bill Lake; and over 12,000 hours, Paul Berry.

This year’s Volunteer of the Year Award went to Bob Hall for his photographic efforts, both behind the camera and in the darkroom. He has preserved much of the museum’s recent history on film, as well as printing images from our archives. (His efforts are seen frequently in the Bugeye Times.) A new award was added this year — the Group Achievement Award — that went to the CHESPAX team of Bev Walker and Darryl Hansen. They tirelessly revamped this educational program and taught it weekly during the school year to Calvert County fourth graders. All three award winners were presented with plaques carved by Jimmy Langley and gift certificates to the Lighthouse Inn, donated by board member Susan Fischer.

Following a precedent set last year, Bob Hall and the CHESPAX team were nominated for the Governor’s Volunteer and Service Award, and they attended an appropriate ceremony in Annapolis on April 22.

Another museum volunteer, Marilyn Ruark, was nominated for the J. C. Penney Golden Rule Award in recognition of her tremendous support to the education department and the Discovery Room. As a finalist, she received a framed certificate and a $250 check for the education department.