Patuxent River Appreciation Days Successful

The first annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) drew an estimated 10,000 persons during the two-day event. Held on the Museum grounds, the festival drew people from all over Southern Maryland, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Virginia. The two most popular features were the Drum Point Lighthouse and free boat rides from the Museum to Chesapeake Biological Laboratory which held an open house during the event.

The Fireman's Parade on Sunday had over 70 pieces of firefighting equipment stretching more than a mile. One unit came from as far as Hooper's Island on the Eastern Shore. Miss Maryland and several marching units also appeared.

The oyster shucking contest was won by Teresa Josey with a time of three minutes and 36 seconds and Conroy Butler with a time of three minutes and six seconds.

In addition there were pie eating contests, apple bobbing, nautical skills and demonstrations, movies, exhibits, a boat show, arts and crafts, food, pony rides, games, and a fast pitch contest.

To all the staff, sponsors, participants, visitors, and supporters, congratulations for a job well done. Can next year be even better?
**CHRISTMAS AT CMM**

Thanks to the efforts of three volunteers, the Museum was again beautifully decorated for Christmas. Ellen Zahniser made two holly wreaths and an evergreen center piece for the front entrance. Ellen’s efforts made this year’s decoration the most attractive we’ve ever had.

Linda McGilvery, a volunteer who drives from Arlington, Va. (our most distant volunteer at present), decorated a tree with handmade ornaments in the Museum lobby. This is the first year for a tree which we hope will become a tradition at CMM.

Anna Weems Ewalt and her helpers tackled the Drum Point Lighthouse. Anna tried to decorate as close as possible from her early recollection of Christmas in the station as a little girl. The tree was always a cedar, cut from the slopes on Drum Point. The ornaments were all handmade. Anna related a story where her grandfather used to save tobacco foil to wrap walnuts for ornaments. The traditional strung cranberries and popcorn were used as well as cookies hung by ribbons. Crocheted snow flakes, heavily starched, also decorate the tree. Behind every picture is a sprig of evergreen for good luck.

If you didn’t visit your Museum decorated for Christmas this year, you missed it at one of its loveliest times. The CMM gift shop is always a good place to shop for Christmas as well. Remember us next Christmas.

**Underwater Cultural Resource Survey Begun In Patuxent River**

An ongoing underwater archaeological survey and inventory of shipwreck sites in the Patuxent River is being jointly sponsored by the CMM and Nautical Archaeological Associates, Inc., of Upper Marlboro. The project is designed to evaluate known shipwreck sites on the river, and to locate a number of historic ships, including vessels belonging to Commodore Joshua Barney’s gunboat flotilla, which was blown up in the river in August 1814. Of more than fifty recorded sites, the investigations thus far have yielded four shipwrecks, a drowned prehistoric terrestrial site, and the remains of a colonial harbor facility. One of the vessels located is believed to be Barney’s Gunboat No. 137 or 138. The second vessel located is the HENRIETTA BACH, a schooner constructed in the 1880s and sunk early in the twentieth century. The third vessel is, as yet, unidentified, but is believed, from associated artifacts, to be of colonial vintage (ca. 1760). The last vessel is believed to be a small river craft, possibly a ferry, and lies beneath eight to ten feet of mud. Artifacts associated with this last vessel include military hardware, cooking utensils, a variety of shard fragments, wood fragments, bone materials, and an abundance of pipe bowls and stems. Dating of the pipes has provided a median date of 1720. Sites, believed to be the wrecks of the merchant sloop LAFAYETTE (ca. 1855) and the United States Navy blockship SCORPION (1814) have yet to be investigated, as have a number of unidentified wreck sites. A remote sensing survey is being considered for the early spring with assistance from the Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Annapolis.

**Max Chance Leaves CMM For Indiana**

Max Chance, CMM exhibits designer for the past three years, has taken a job as curator with the Allen County - Fort Wayne Historical Society. Max began his career at CMM as a Bicentennial intern, coming from the Smithsonian Institution exhibits department. In these three years Max helped to design and develop two major exhibits, the “Life of the Waterman” and “Fossils of Calvert Cliffs.” In addition the small craft exhibit, marine art gallery, Drum Point Lighthouse, and new library and archives are being or were developed under Max’s employment here. The museum will deeply miss Max’s enthusiasm and excellent design skills.

We all wish Max, and his wife Helen, the best of success in his new career and hope he’ll return to visit us often.

**Capt. Hezzie Celebrates His 95th Birthday**

Until his retirement in 1976, Capt. Hezekiah C. Elliott was one of the oldest active watermen “that they is.” Born in Calvert County on September 24, 1883, the same year the Drum Point Lighthouse was built, Capt. Hezzie has spent nearly his entire life oystering the Patuxent River. In an interview in 1973 he said, “Working and talking and the water is what keeps me alive. I never stay inside 'less its raining and sometimes not even then. Don’t drink, don’t smoke.” But he “loves the sugar bowl!” his wife Mary relates.

As recently as a few years ago Capt. Hezzie was often up at 4 a.m. and out on the Broomes Island oyster bar by dawn. Early afternoon he spent walking and talking to the old timers who couldn’t walk to him. Late afternoon he’s out fishing and by early evening it might be time for a little boat ride.

Even today Capt. Hezzie sits on his porch overlooking Nan’s Cove in Broomes Island, wishing he were out tonging with the rest of the fleet.

Oral interviews and taping sessions with individuals such as Capt. Hezzie help the Museum preserve the local history and earlier ways of life that will otherwise be lost forever. If you might be interested in helping us in these projects, contact the Museum. It is not only fun but most important.

Capt. Hezzie, we hope you’ll be here for the centennial celebration of the Drum Point Lighthouse. Happy Birthday.
CMM RECEIVES FIENE PAINTING

One of the Museum’s more recent acquisitions is an Ernest Fiene oil painting depicting assistant light keeper Earl Harris at Drum Point Lighthouse. Painted in the mid '50s, it shows Harris standing in the bell room of the lighthouse. The painting was donated by Fiene’s son and daughter, Paul and Maria Fiene of Westbury, New York.

Fiene also did a painting of light keeper John Hanson at about the same time, showing John standing in the cupola with the lens in the background. The Museum hopes to get this painting on loan for a future Fiene showing.

WANTED! VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer service is the life blood of the Calvert Marine Museum. Without it the Museum would not be open on any Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. Without it exhibition rooms would not have been completed on schedule; artifacts would not have been recovered or displayed so soon, no log canoe on display, no ship's anchors flanking the entrance, no lighthouse furnishings so attractively arranged, no painted fence, or grass cut for two years, or gift shop kept. Volunteers have done all of these things and so many more than cataloging them would exhaust the space in this paper.

Hours spent in service since July 1975 boggle the mind. One man has spent 180 Saturday mornings here; he has kept no private log of the additional hours which run into the hundreds. One master carpenter has put in 2654 hours, another 350, still another 116. Four lady shopkeepers have averaged more than two hundred hours each. Others who do such things as arrange programs and tours, decorate for special seasons, provide cookies for evening programs, mail out the BUGYEYE TIMES, conduct group and school tours keep no record of hours spent - they do it just to enhance the image of the Museum in the public eye.

You may have been one of these helpful persons, and if so, we thank you. If not, perhaps you would like to get involved and find the satisfaction which comes to those who are. Here are some ideas for starters:

--- Stand duty as host or shopkeeper on a regular basis.
--- Assist with refreshments at lectures on a rotating schedule, probably once in three months.
--- Participate in a two- to three-hour training session, then assist as guide when groups tour the Museum.
--- Plan, as one of a committee, the lectures, classes, trips sponsored quarterly by the Museum.
--- Collect materials and prepare kits to be used at the Museum and in schools. Your hobby or special expertise in any marine oriented topic can be used.

If any of this sounds good to you or triggers another idea, won't you please let us know? Either phone 326-4162 or write: PROGRAM, Calvert Marine Museum, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, Md. 20688 ... We need your help!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ELLEN ZAHNISER, ANNA W. EWALT and LINDA McGIVERN for a superb job in decorating the interior and exterior of the Museum and Drum Point Lighthouse.

ACQUISITIONS

EMILE HARTGE: 1932 Hall-Scott engine and bow section from yacht NO FOOLIN'
WILLARD PRENTICE: navigational scale used on whaling ship
H. GRAHAM WOOD: half model of SS RICHMOND
CDR. M. McMILLEN: photographs of anchor off HMS DIC-TATOR
RUSSELL BOYD: steamboat pictures painted by Bohannon
BETTY BUNCH: log canoe and Palmer engine
MICHAEL F. MARKEL: mounted white marlin and dolphin
FRANCIS W. BROWN: pictures of Rousby Hall, ox team, Dixon's store at Plum Point
JOHN M. OLSEN: funnel and measuring cup used to service buoys on Patuxent River
KENT MOUNTFORD: 14' lapstrake Whitehall-type pulling boat
CDR. WM. B. MATTHEWS: navigational books
JOAN SIMKO: photographs
ROBERT E. WEEMS: Miocene fossils
TOM WISNER: color photograph of Suzy Brinsfield
HARRY M. ZACHARY: diving helmet w/hose and air pump, and photographs of same
PRESTON LORE: model of pungy U.S. GRANT with stand
CAPT. LOU KENEDY: model of schooner ABUNDANCE with glass case
HOWARD STROTT: Miocene fossils
DAVE COMMACK: Miocene fossils
JACK LAWRENCE: matted photo of Drum Point Lighthouse
WALLACE L. ASHBY: collection of professional papers on Paleontology
GASTON C. SERVANT: display board of Miocene fossil shark teeth
O'BERRY MARINE: Tin lined oyster shipping container
ACQUISITIONS
INTER-MUSEUM LOANS

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION: loan of models LIZZIE J. COX, GERTRUDE WANDS, THELMA G. ROBERTS, Chesapeake Bay Sharpie skiff, Potomac River dory. These can be seen on display in the Ships Model exhibit.

ST. CLEMENTS ISLAND AND POTOMAC MUSEUM: loan of two exhibit cases from CMM.

WINTER CALENDAR AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE

JANUARY
10 WINTERING WATERFOWL. Slide lecture on ecology and field identification of common ducks, geese, and swans found wintering in the Patuxent and Bay areas. Presented by Steve Cardano, Biology Instructor, Charles County Community College.

13 BIRD WATCHING FIELD TRIP. Follow-up of Jan. 10 lecture. Open to first ten who sign-up at the lecture. Field trip to observe waterfowl in the Solomons area. Steve Cardano leader.

FEBRUARY
7 MOVIE NIGHT. Four films: Land of the Drowned River; Great Blue Heron; Heritage of the Chesapeake; How Indians Build Canoes.

24 SKILLS WORKSHOP. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Come try your hand at nautical knots, net making, eel and crab pot making, woodcarving, model making, nautical crafts, jewelry, potting, birds, and organizing your collection. Follow-up sessions will be planned for those who need or want additional time.

MARCH
8 FOSSIL SWAP NIGHT. Bring your fossils and your best “dickering” techniques. Take home a larger, properly identified collection.

24 D&E LAB. WATER QUALITY - Field trip on the physical and chemical properties of Chesapeake Bay and its influence on the biology of the Bay. Session to be conducted onboard the research vessel “R.V. Truitt”. Trip will be led by Tom Poe, Director of Marine Sciences, Charles County Community College. Enrollment limited to 12. Members $5.00, nonmembers $7.50. Reservations required. (326-4162)

All programs begin at the Museum at 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
All programs are free to members and $1.00 to nonmembers unless otherwise noted. For additional information call D. Ordwein, 326-4162.