SOUTHERN MARYLAND IN DEEP TIME:
A Brief History of Our Geology, Part V: Out of Africa — The Grand Voyage
By Peter R Vogt

Since the publication of Part IV (Plate Tectonics on the Modern Earth) in last winter's Bugeye Times, Southern Maryland has moved a little more than 1/2” farther from Los Angeles (on the Pacific Plate) and about 3/4” farther from London (on the Eurasia Plate). On the other hand, we are now about 5/8” closer to the site of the recent Olympics — Sydney, Australia, located on the Australia Plate. How can we be sure of this? As explained in Part IV, the same GPS satellites whose signals help Chesapeake boaters locate themselves are also routinely used to measure ongoing plate motions.

Southern Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic states are today near the middle of the North America plate, about 2,300 miles from the San Andreas Fault in California, where our plate ends and the Pacific Plate begins. We are nearly as far from the underwater rift valley of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge to the east, where our plate ends and the Africa plate begins. (See Fig. 1) It is in this rift valley where our two plates are pulling apart, causing new oceanic crust to be formed in the space between. The new crust starts its life as molten rock, intermittently squirted into widening rock fissures and occasionally spilling out on the seafloor as lava flows. This same slow process, operating now for some 175 million years, has formed the modern DEEP Atlantic Ocean between what were once parts of one supercontinent — called Pangea by Alfred Wegener — and which today we call “Africa” and “North America.” (I said "deep" Atlantic, because the shallow shelves are just submerged continental edges, formed of thick, ancient continental crust. When we parted company with Africa, the opening began not below Ocean City, on the present coastline, but some fifty miles to the east.)

Marine geophysicists have mapped the parallel traces of many “transform faults” on or below the Atlantic Ocean floor. These are like the infamous San Andreas Fault in California in that they trace the DIRECTIONS along which our plate and the Africa plate have moved apart through the ages. (The San Andreas, however, traces the direction our plate is SLIDING PAST the Pacific Plate, whereas the transform fault traces below the Atlantic record the direction our plate has MOVED AWAY FROM the Africa Plate.) A transform fault that had existed since the time of initial breakup would have left a trace from one side of the ocean to the other, connecting previously attached points on the continental edges and crossing the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Such traces are called “flowlines,” and can be generated by computer, even where no transform faults exist, once the plate motions are known. Flowlines running across the central Atlantic have some gentle bends, corresponding to past changes in the direction of plate motion. Geometry tells us that the relative motion of rigid plates on a sphere have to be described as rotations about a pole, so flowline bends reveal past changes of the poles of rotation of our plate with respect to our neighboring, African plate.

Scientists have also mapped the history of the SPEEDS (RATES) at which we have moved “out of Africa.” The modern rate, measured along the “flowline” connecting the nearest point on the North American crustal boundary (now about fifty miles east of Ocean City) with its conjugate point on the African crustal boundary near Cape Blanc (on the edge of the Sahara Desert), is about an inch per year. This is the rate of present opening at the point where “our” flowline crosses the Mid-Atlantic Ridge plate boundary at about 26 degrees north, some 2,200 miles east-southeast of Southern Maryland and the Chesapeake region. (Note that opening rates decrease northwards along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge plate boundary, i.e., towards the plate rotation pole for the two plates.)

Our entire flowline is about 4,100 miles long. At the modern rate of separation of one inch per year, the Africa-North America
COVE POINT LIGHTHOUSE
AT LAST!

After reports for several years of the pending transfer of the Cove Point Lighthouse to Calvert County as an added attraction for CMM, the event finally occurred on October 31. Coast Guard Vice Admiral John E. Shkor was on hand to turn over the facility to the County Commissioners during a ceremony attended by Senator Paul S. Sarbanes—whose efforts were essential throughout the transfer process. Also attending were county and museum staff, family members of former keepers at Cove Point, nearby residents, and other guests. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary raised the county's flag at the light station for the first time. Tours of the 1828 lighthouse will not begin until spring of 2001, when CMM plans to transport visitors from the museum grounds in order to keep traffic through the Cove Point community to a minimum. More details of the museum's plans for Cove Point will appear in the spring issue of the Bugeye Times.

(Top): Former residents or descendents of former keepers of the Cove Point Lighthouse at the dedication ceremony on October 31. Pictured here are (left to right): H. C. Groom and wife Lillian, Elsie Somers Seevers, Mr. Knott, Eunice Metivier Knots, Virginia Sadler Fisher, Sally Sadler Callis, and Jim Somers. CMM photo by Bob Hall

(Bottom): Senator Paul S. Sarbanes speaking at the transfer of the Cove Point Lighthouse to Calvert County. Seated are Coast Guard Vice Admiral John E. Shkor and County Commissioner Linda Kelley. CMM photo by Bob Hall

BLUES ARTIST DEANNA BOGART
TO PERFORM AT CMM

Waterside Music Series kicks off its 2001 season with an energetic evening by Blues Artist Deanna Bogart on Saturday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m., in the museum auditorium. Tickets will go on sale two weeks prior to the concert date. For up-to-date ticket information, please call the Development Department at 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17, or 18.

With her piano, saxophone, and band in tow, Deanna Bogart proves her mettle with an honest, entertaining, energy-to-spare show. Deanna’s distinguished hybridized blues style was assimilated from many bands in the Baltimore-Washington area, including Cowboy Jazz from 1981-1986, and later with Root Boy Slim’s band, Capitol Offense. In 1990, Bogart’s first solo release, “Out to Get You,” captured Best R & B album at NAIRD and a Billboard Merit Award for the jazz instrumental featuring Danny Gatton. She has since released “Crossing Borders” and “New Address,” and has earned eighteen WAMMIES (Washington Area Music Awards).

The Washington Post may have best described Deanna Bogart with three words, “Luster, Sophistication, and Soul.” Her live performances are ones you don’t want to miss.

“The goal when we play live,” says Bogart, “is to create a fusion with blues and boogie genuinely at the core.”

For more information on Waterside 2001, please call 410-326-2042.
Help support the opening of the Cove Point Lighthouse by sending your annual appeal gift today!

The Calvert Marine Museum is hard at work preparing the Cove Point Lighthouse for its opening in the spring and our Annual Appeal has been hard at work raising funds to bring these efforts full-circle.

We are still accepting tax-deductible gifts to support the opening of the lighthouse and sustain its long-term care and upkeep. Your Year-End Appeal gift will assist with many immediate and visible projects, such as building the informational billboards on the site, paving walkways for shore stabilization, and assisting in the restoration of the cottage and keepers quarters.

In last year’s appeal, 175 members contributed $13,770, all of which benefited our Maritime History preservation efforts directly. Please help us to double that amount!!!

If you were unable to send a gift by the end of calendar year 2000, feel free to send one now. It’s never too late. The 2000 Appeal continues until the last gift arrives, whenever that may be!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

A hearty welcome to the 65 new members that have joined the Society since the start of the fiscal year! Special thanks to these new premium level members: Contributing: Mr. & Mrs. John Burke III, Mr. & Mrs. Ordice Gallups, Ms. Donna Oslund, Mr. Herbert Reid Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shelton, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Skane, Ms. Alice Stroman Sustaining: Mr. Greg Farmer, Mr. Steve Roberts, Mr. Robert Whitehead Bugeye Society: Mr. & Mrs. Craig Clark. A special welcome to Lee Pratt, M.D., who upgraded his longtime membership with the museum to the Bugeye Society level.

TAKING MEMBERSHIP TO A HIGHER LEVEL are those members who chose to upgrade this quarter: Bill & Kathleen Glascock • Larry Harwick • Alta G. Mitchell • Dave & Kandy Spain • David & Donna Heidelbach • Chuck & Doreen Gantz • Ms. Carol Gotsch • Eric & Susan Jones • Robert & Redonia Radcliffe • Ms. Cheryl Trossbach • Mario & Elma Andrea • Tom & Linda Arnold • Robert & Karen Bohn • David & Angel Propst • Herbert Reid, Sr. • Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Stamper • Jeff & Barbara Weathers • Keith Drieber & Linda Wells • Frederick Arend • Shannon Campbell • Dallet & Kathryn Jensco • Dr. Susan Langley • Laurel Potyen • Yehuda & Leesa Shem-Tov • Mary-Stuart Sierra • William Yates, Jr. & Karen V. Upperman • Marcia Early • Steve & Janet Visser • Mark & Amy Henderson • Dr. & Mrs. John Knowlton • Ian Seeley • George & Carolyn Beaven • Rachel Brown • Martha Eney • Paula Fabella • Laurie Kauffman • Doris Matteson • Mr. & Mrs. A. Wm. Patterson III • Charles Strickland & Diana Strickland • Robert Waller • Ann & David Brownlee • Ms. Barbara Rolston • Ms. Dorothy Van Pelt • Carl Tankersley • Mr. Richard Borst • Debra Groat & Don Russo • Ms. Trish Schiele • Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lake • Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Shafer • Mr. Lee Allen • The Hon. & Mrs. Thomas Curtis • Mr. & Mrs. Gondolf • Ms. Emily Harman & Mr. Bruce Wilhelm • Wm. & Lora Jarboe & Family • Ms. Mary Lou Baldwin • Mr. Robert S. Devos • Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fernandez • Mr. & Mrs. James Warnock • Dudley & Anne Windes • Mike Redshaw • Martin O'Byr • Mary Keeley • Belinda Oldershaw • Charles Redder-McClure • Oscar & Joan DeWitt • Harold & Barbara Pevy • Greg & Jen Douglass • Mark & Laurie Lee Mueller • Morgan E. Russell

Our warmest thanks to all who supported the Calvert Marine Museum through membership in the Society in 2000!
Non-Traditional Ways to Volunteer at the Calvert Marine Museum

Do you ever think about becoming a museum volunteer but do not think you have the time? Perhaps you may not feel you have enough experience to work in our Paleontology Prep Lab or do not want to show visitors our collection of marine creatures at the Touch Tank. There are still a wide variety of ways to get involved. Here are a few:

Special Events Helpers — Throughout the year we present many special events and need help with set-up and clean-up, general hosts, and people to run various activities.

Flyer Distribution — Choose a local route and post our event flyers while doing personal errands.

Ticket Sellers — Periodically for our concerts and other events, we need volunteers to spend a few hours on the weekends to sit in the lobby and sell tickets — a fun way to meet people.

Waterside Music Festival Helpers — For our outdoor concerts, we need several people to help set up chairs and take them down afterwards — a wonderful family activity.

Clerical Work — Sometimes our administrative offices need an extra hand with filing and phones.

Proof Readers — Help us catch our mistakes before our periodicals, flyers, etc., are published.

Yard Sale — Every other year, the Volunteer Council has a yard sale at Family Discovery Day. We are always in need of people to help put prices on the merchandise, set up, and collect money. And, if you are truly inspired, we are always looking for someone to organize this event.

Baking — Some of the best food comes from our volunteers. For receptions, parties, and bake sales, we are always looking for people who will volunteer to make goodies.

Phone Tree Callers — Help us get the word out about events and museum needs. We will even provide a place for you to make the phone calls.

If any of these interest you, please give our volunteer coordinator, Leslie King, a call at 410-326-2042, ext. 19, or email her at volunteers@calvertmarinemuseum.com. Even if you only have a few hours to give, every little bit helps. All it takes to become an official Calvert Marine Museum volunteer is to work twenty-four hours a year (that is two hours a month), go through our orientation and training process, and be a member of the Museum Society. In return, you will receive a permanent name badge, 20 percent discount in the Museum Store, a monthly publication updating you on museum happenings and opportunities, invitations to volunteer-only parties and events, and the chance to become an active part of your community.

PRAD 2000

The annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days on October 7 and 8 were as successful as ever, with no weather problems and plenty to see and do. A few of these activities are pictured here, but there were many other things going on — including the traditional parade on Sunday — to hold the attention of the many visitors.

Visitors at Richard Day’s display of his marine engine collection. CMM photo by Bob Hall

The Solomons Island Model Boat Club entertained visitors both days with races. CMM photo by Bob Hall

The museum’s Volunteer Council sold “goodies” and raffle tickets. CMM photo by Bob Hall
“PEPPER” LANGLEY HONORED IN TWO EVENTS

It's been a busy fall for James LeRoy “Pepper” Langley, the long-time associate of the Calvert Marine Museum and Solomons resident. On September 26, “Pepper” was honored during a ceremony in the museum's auditorium by having the fishing pier near the museum named for him, in recognition of his long career as a waterman — in his personal life and throughout his work at the M. M. Davis & Son Shipyard and at two of the local naval installations, the Mine Warfare Test Center and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. This recognition of “Pepper” was initiated by Maryland State Senator Roy Dyson and approved by the County Commissioners.

In early November, the museum opened an exhibit in the lower gallery featuring “Pepper”’s original carvings — an activity through which he is well known to museum visitors. The exhibit includes carvings, photographs of works in progress, and tools of the woodcarving art. Visitors in the past have viewed “Pepper”’s work from a few items on display in the exhibition building and also in the woodworking shop where “Pepper” often was available to talk with visitors and discuss his work on carvings and models.

A memoir of his life was written in 1990, described in this newsletter, and published under the title I Remember: Recollections of “Pepper” Langley Growing Up in Solomons. Copies are still available in the Museum Store. Earlier in 2000 “Pepper” was honored by an “Appreciation Day,” and the current exhibit also included a reception in mid-November. Be sure to plan a trip to the museum before the end of February to see “Pepper” Langley - A Carving Legacy. The exhibit is free to the public.

REBUILT DRAKETAIL DEDICATED

After an effort spanning nearly ten years, museum boatwrights and volunteers completed their work to rebuild the Alpheus Sewell draketail, a workboat built at Broomes Island in 1936 for Sewell's son Clarence and donated to CMM in 1979. Progress of this work has appeared in the Bugeye Times from time to time. In mid-September, work on the draketail in the Patuxent Small Craft Guild boatshed was completed. With the assistance of Cove Point Marine Transport, the boat was transported from CMM to Washburn’s Boat Yard across Back Creek where she was launched and towed to CMM. On September 30, the museum hosted a ceremony during which the workers were honored, but particularly the descendants and friends of Alpheus Sewell. Clarence Sewell worked the Patuxent in the boat for many years, as reported by his wife, Helen, and several family members at the dedication ceremony. Helen Sewell recalled that the boat was “cherished” by the Sewell family, both for working the water and for bathing and fishing parties. The Reverend Linwood Benton, pastor and family friend, noted that Clarence never named the boat, but suggested that the museum consider naming her "Helen." Visitors to the museum will now be able to see the Sewell draketail in the boat basin and occasionally under way in the Patuxent.
SOUTHERN MARYLAND IN DEEP TIME:

(Continued from Page 1)

split would have occurred about 265 million years ago. The actual date is more like 175 million, because plate motion was faster on average in the past. From about 110 to 80 million years ago, part of the “age of dinosaurs,” we were racing away from Africa at two inches per year!

As explained in Part IV, PAST RATES OF PLATE MOTION are measured by mapping the magnetic “stripes” — elongated zones of alternately stronger and weaker magnetic field strength. These “anomalies” are measured at the ocean surface (or above, from aircraft) and reveal belts of alternately magnetized volcanic rocks, recording the “flips” of the earth’s magnetic field and the rate of plate motion. In practice, this is like using a handheld magnetometer-type metal detector to “map” horizontal iron pipes buried in the ground. The world’s ocean crust has been compared to a giant tape recorder, so the object is to use independent information about the times of the many magnetic pole “flips” (reversals) to discover the rate the tape recorder was running at various times in the past. Using the magnetic stripes and the transform fault traces, plus other data, scientists can use computers to reverse the plate motions that have lead to our present geography. I focus in this installment on our “Grand Voyage out of Africa” — readers interested in happenings elsewhere on the earth can consult modern geology books.

It’s also possible — just for fun — to use computers to predict what a future world might look like if present plate motions continue. The result is surprising — but I will save my prediction for 100 million years in the future for the very end of the series.

The accompanying group of six figures (Fig. 2a-2f) in reverse time order, shows the central Atlantic Ocean during six stages in its opening (simplified from an article by Kim Klitgord and Hans Schouten in The Geology of North America (Boulder, CO: Geological Society of America, 1986) vol.M, The Western North Atlantic Region. See text and contact this article’s author for further information about these maps.

P.Vogt, Naval Research Laboratory

Fig. 2a-2f Central Atlantic Ocean at six stages of its evolution (“Ma” denotes millions of years ago). Simplified and modified from K. Klitgord and H. Schouten in The Geology of North America (Boulder, CO: Geological Society of America, 1986) vol.M, The Western North Atlantic Region. See text and contact this article’s author for further information about these maps.

The TIME of breakup with Africa (175 Ma, Fig. 2f) is more uncertain, as the oldest oceanic crust is buried under miles of sediment in the present Atlantic Ocean (Part II). The time could easily be off five million years younger or ten older from the 175 Ma figure I have cited. The RECONSTRUCTION GEOMETRY, however, is not much in doubt.

The actual birth of the modern Atlantic at 175 Ma was preceded by about fifty million years of “labor pains,” when the landscape between the areas that became “North America” and “Africa” resembled the modern Great Basin in the western United States. A better modern analogue is the Rift Valley area of central Africa, which is thought to be in the process of breaking apart as well. The African Rift, evolutionary cradle of the human species, may well be the site of a future ocean basin. The 220 Ma map (Fig. 3)
shows our Atlantic seaboard about the time the story of our Grand Voyage out of Africa began, if "gestation and labor pains" are included. During the time from 220 to 175 Ma, there was already some net separation between the stable interior of the two continents. This separation, however, was probably just a few tens of miles total, and was accomplished by stretching of the still-intact supercontinent — that is, by faulting across a two hundred-mile wide belt.

As indicated on the reconstruction in the "220 Million Years Ago" drawing (Fig. 3), there were lakes (stippled) which dried out during dry intervals, and in some cases left salt deposits and the fossilized tracks of very early dinosaurs. As our whole region was under protracted regional tension, blocks of crust slowly subsided along faults, forming basins in a process called "rifting." Some of these rift basins hold coal seams, representing the times the lake bottoms became oxygen-starved, like our deep Chesapeake Bay in late summer, so that organic matter could not decompose. One local fault-bounded lake basin (Fig. 4) was the Culpepper Basin, named after the Virginia town, where red sediments — ancient lake deposits — can be seen in the road cuts. Another line of basins farther southeast trends northeast on either side of Richmond, diving below the younger, post-rift sediment wedge described in Part II. This buried, long "Taylorsville Basin" is about ten to twenty miles wide, and in Maryland underlies a strip of land extending from the Route 301 Potomac River bridge through Bryantown and Hughesville in Charles County, Dunkirk in Calvert, and West River in Annapolis in Anne Arundel. The basin may continue under the bay into Queen Anne’s County.

The basic layout of this old basin/lake bed is revealed by a few boreholes, but mainly by a belt of a slightly weaker gravity force (an average adult would weigh about one teaspoon of water less), reflecting the lower density of the lake sediments filling the basin, compared with the adjacent dense Piedmont-type crystalline rocks of much greater age.

The Culpepper and Taylorsville basins can be thought of as "failed" Atlantic Ocean basins. When the final break occurred, it followed a line of basins farther east. Think of how our geology and geography might have been different. If the final break had followed the Taylorsville Basin northeast, the central and lower Eastern Shore, as well as all of Southern Maryland southeast of the basin would now be part of Africa. The crust under modern Plum Point, Prince Frederick, Solomons, Lexington Park, and Norfolk would be thousands of miles to the east, across a wide ocean, from Fredericksburg, Washington, or Baltimore, which would now be coastal cities like modern Ocean City!

The 220 Ma map (Fig. 3) shows the modern coastlines only for reference purposes: the actual shorelines at that time were surely different. Similarly, I have placed some modern latitudes and longitudes on the map, along with some modern cities and, in Africa, also nations. This kind of information is put there to help readers "locate" themselves. The part of modern Africa that was once next to what are today the Mid-Atlantic states extends from Nouakchott, Mauritania (about 100 miles south of modern Cape Hatteras in the reconstruction), to Cape Bojador, Morocco, about 100 miles off modern Cape Cod. From the Calvert Marine Museum to the nearest point on the modern African mainland, near Cape Blanc, Mauritania, an imaginary time-traveling crow (not yet evolved!) would have had to fly about 150 miles, a bit less than from the CMM to New York. The modern African coast lies only fifty to seventy-five miles east of the lower Eastern Shore in the 220 Ma reconstruction.

The stars on the 220 Ma map show then-active volcanoes (in what is now southern Georgia), while to the north, masses of molten rock rose and consolidated below the earth’s surface — a classic example is the famous Palisades sill, on whose surface runs the Palisades Interstate Parkway, following the west bank of the Hudson River from New Jersey north into New York. A borehole in Lexington Park recovered intrusive rocks of the same type and age.

There is one other feature on the 220 Ma map — a black line with triangular "teeth" that marks the "suture" along which an earlier ocean, a previous Atlantic called the "Iapetus Ocean," had closed some seventy million years earlier.

Note: Dr. Vogt is a geophysicist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington and a long-time resident of Calvert County. He can be reached at: Vogt@qur.nrl.navy.mil.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

PAT and NED SPRAGUE
Volunteers of All Trades
By Janet Addis, Volunteer Council President

As Pat and Ned Sprague headed to Southern Maryland back in 1976, they never thought they would be as involved in the Calvert Marine Museum as they have become — and, thankfully, they continue to do so. They had property in Hayes Beach in St. Mary's County, but spent only summer vacation time and whatever weekend time they could steal from their busy “city” life. Both Ned and Pat are New Englanders — Ned from Connecticut and Pat from Maine. The Solomons area has a little New England flavor that seems to catch many people, and it obviously had gotten them. Ned believes in maritime history preservation and knows that lighthouses are jewels of this history. For the past six years he has been an interpreter in the Drum Point Lighthouse, and looks forward to the Cove Point Lighthouse when it is opened by the museum. Lighthouses are not his only contributions to CMM, by any means: he helped the Development Office put together grant requests that obtained funds for the Estuarine Biology Department; the Spragues have been doing Waterside Music Festival volunteering since the early 1990s, making many wonderful friends over the years through that participation; an early CMM assignment was at the information desk; Ned has been very active with the Canoe Club, serving in the past as president; and, most recently, he was president of the Volunteer Council for the year 1999-2000.

Pat has worked in the Discovery Room, taking great pride in this children’s area of the museum. In the library, Pat selected and filed newspaper clippings that helped maintain records for others to learn from and to preserve our local history. She has worked very hard in helping with the Members’ Yule Party and other social events at CMM — most notably, the New Year’s Eve 2000 celebration. Pat now works in the Museum Store.

The Spragues feel that there are still many things to look forward to for the museum, and perhaps sometime we may find a sailing BUGEYE for our museum that will provide even more adventure for visitors and staff. Ned and Pat enjoy a lovely home in St. Mary’s City and have three children and one lovely granddaughter. Thanks for all you do — and have done — for the museum community.
DIRECTOR’S LETTER

Dear Member,

This year, in an effort to conserve your donated funds, our FY2000 Annual Report is now condensed and included as an insert to the January Bugeye Times. We hope that this shorter form conveys to each of you the pride and gratification we take in all the programs, exhibits, and events presented here at Calvert Marine Museum between July 1, 1999, and June 30, 2000.

We welcome your inquiries and suggestions. If you would like to find out about our planning process, donating opportunities, volunteer recruitment, or membership levels, please contact Calvert Marine Museum for assistance. Your input only serves to broaden all of our horizons.

Sincerely,
C. Douglass Alves Jr.
Director

OUR MISSION

The Calvert Marine Museum is a public non-profit, educational, regionally oriented museum. Our mission is to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the cultural and natural history of Southern Maryland...

...We Are Dedicated
To The Presentation...

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Regional Paleontology,

In FY2000, a significant endowment bequest was left to the museum with the condition that its interest be dedicated entirely to paleontological projects and research.

Preparation laboratory volunteers, CMM Fossil Club members, and generous donors have helped the Department of Paleontology add numerous exciting and scientifically important fossils to our permanent collection. The most notable specimens include a partial baleen whale cranium, a superb seal skull, an amazing pathological whale vertebra, and a partial fish skull from an electric stargazer, new to science. Cooperation with the Exhibits Department has resulted in the joint development of a new permanent exhibit on the origin and diversity of whales through time.

Partial Baleen Whale Skull Fossil

This department gained new breathing space when Calvert County government support was used to create a 2000 square foot laboratory, allowing room for culturing specialized exhibit animal diets, new fish holding tanks, and research. In addition to their constant cycles of collecting and nurturing live display specimens, Estuarine Biology staff also taught specialized courses aimed at teaching professionals and college-level science students with the Solomons Environmental and Archeological Consortium, the University of Maryland, and George Mason University.

Special successes with sea horse breeding stirred up additional interest in the museum from area media. By conducting ongoing research into this popular species and their breeding habits, the Estuarine Biology Department hopes to increase the survival rates of sea horses in captivity.

Estuarine Life of the Tidal Patuxent River & Adjacent Chesapeake Bay.

As part of an extensive overhaul, Maryland State bond bill assistance and endowment funds helped complete a series of vital repairs and refurbishments to two of our National Historic Register designees, the 100-year old Wm. B. Tennison, and the Drum Point Lighthouse. The vessel received a new engine and structural carpentry, while the lighthouse was repainted to its original colors as part of our goal to preserve authenticity.

Maritime History staff, along with the Exhibits Department, created two special exhibits, “Rock Point - At the End of the Road” and “Cradle of Invasion.” These exhibits featured photographs and artifacts, including many from the museum's own collections. Research and exhibit text were started for the permanent exhibit planned for the 2001 opening at Cove Point Lighthouse.

And Maritime History of These Waters.

Waterman at Rock Point
of our preservation and interpretation missions are those departments charged with: maintaining the beautiful 10-acre site and both its historic and contemporary facilities; providing educational programs and special events that employ the museum’s resources and collections; conceptualizing and fabricating permanent and changing exhibits; running the “business” of the museum so that gifts and fees are put to the best possible use; and the Calvert Marine Museum Society, encompassing membership services, fundraising, public relations, marketing, special events, and a prosperous Museum Store. Our Cornerstones include: Physical Plant, Exhibits, Education, The Calvert Marine Museum Society, Volunteer Coordination, and Administration.

Physical Plant

This capable department kept us running efficiently and safely by constructing an ADA-regulation ramp to the Washington Gas Pavilion, installing a central HVAC system and new sidewalks for the North Annex building, and replacing and improving the protective trellises around the Exhibit Hall entrances. Physical Plant staff put in many long days and nights to ensure that heavily-attended events such as Patuxent River Appreciation Days and the Waterside Music Series concerts were produced with all the technological and construction support possible, guaranteeing the safety and comfort of our guests.

Exhibits

Twelve new exhibits were developed and displayed in FY2000 at the museum site and as traveling ambassadors to other preservation venues. Looming large in the Lower Gallery for a year, a fourteen-foot sturgeon replica and live specimen tank defined an extensive exhibit entitled, “Atlantic Sturgeon; Ghost’s From The Past.” During the same time period, Upper Gallery features included the WWII-era Solomons Amphibious Base and the “Vanished Community of Rock Point.” Local interest in the Rock Point exhibit was so strong that a smaller version was loaned to Charles County’s Cobb Island Community Center to share the story of this once thriving 1900s town. Other exhibits included art presentations from Steichen and the American Chestnut Land Trust, photo features on the Cradle of Invasion event, as well as a permanent whale skull exhibit.

Education

The Education Department produced more than 12 programs, for 9,116 visitors, serving everyone from the very youngest guests to Elderhostel participants who choose to spend their best years in pursuit of learning our region’s natural and cultural history. This department was given a special endowment this year, in order to guarantee that supplies remain available for use in all programs and classes. Specialty activities included commemorative cruises aboard the Wm. B. Tennison in celebration of its 100-year anniversary. The most popular Elderhostel course ever featured a local history agenda entitled, “Maryland, My Maryland,” and a record audience of 870 arrived for the 2000 Family Discovery Day, which featured a visit by Theodore Tugboat, star of a PBS animated series for children.
Calvert Marine Museum Society

CMMS is the non-profit organization that raises essential financial support through the Museum Store as well as development activities and membership services. Waterside Music Series’ summer stars were a double-header of Little Feat and Delbert McClinton and the great B.B. King. Our membership figures reached 2,204, and included 46 corporate and a record 33 Bugeye Society members. Sponsorship support for the annual Bugeye Ball and Waterside reached $55,325, also a record. More than 2,700 newspaper, radio, and television spots highlighted CMM throughout the year.

Our beautifully stocked museum store revenues reached $264,449 through the sale of unusual and unique theme-related products including art, books, toys, jewelry, and design pieces. Store staff also brought in authors for booksigning and sampling sessions so that CMM members could enjoy their works even more thoroughly.

Volunteer Coordination

The list of highlights in volunteer recruitment and training this year is topped by the creation of the Mentor Program. Active and seasoned volunteers have been paired with new recruits, bringing them into service through one-on-one training and guidance until they have found their own special place in the museum circle. Staff Volunteer of the Year and Group Achievement Awards reinforced to our 247 volunteers that their 17,773 donated hours kept Calvert Marine Museum the unique and significant place that it is. As confirmation of this, the National J.C. Penney’s Golden Rule Award made one of our finest volunteers a finalist in FY2000, in recognition of her dedication and leadership skills.

Administration

CMM Welcomed 63,679 Visitors in FY2000

The Administration Department includes all the helpful voices who answer our telephone calls, providing answers and guidance to anyone seeking information about CMM and the local area. They provided each department with essential administrative support and financial oversight via our Business Manager. A synopsis of revenue and expenditure figures for FY2000 follows, and reflects both Calvert County Government support as well as CMM Society funds raised with the help of the private sector. Figures are based on an annual budget of $2,505,324.

Revenue & Support

Expenditures

For concise and detailed financial statements regarding Calvert Marine Museum’s Fiscal Year 2000, please call our Business Manager at 410-326-2042 x 12, or email at sopppa@co.cal.md.us.