SIRENS & SIRENIANS
A NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT

"... Where the Sirens dwell, you plough the seas;
Their song is death, and makes destruction please.”
The Odyssey of Homer, Book XII

What do sirens and sirenians have in common? For one thing, the name. The sirens of classical literature were beautiful women whose songs were reputed to lure seamen to their doom on nearby rocks. In later years they became associated with the idea of mermaids - half women, half fish, with similar fateful consequences for seamen.

More enlightened generations suspected that the mythical mermaids were actually sea cows or dugongs that at a distance seemed to resemble a mermaid. A dugong, for example, at sea at a distance from a ship might appear to be a woman when floating half upright with a baby under a flipper. That mermaid stories are told by people where sea cows to not live, however, is good evidence that they are not the only source for mermaid inspiration. In any event, when scientists began to study the aquatic, herbivorous mammals that include manatees and dugongs, they gave the name Sirenia to this group.

Within a few weeks a new exhibit will be opened in the museum's lower gallery devoted to “Sirens & Sirenians.” Although it is rare, but not unknown, for any of today’s sirenians to be found in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, there is a clear fossil record in the Calvert Cliffs. At times during the Miocene, most of the sediments that are now exposed in Calvert Cliffs were settling to the bottom of a vast but shallow arm of the Atlantic Ocean. During periods of sea level rise, sparked by global warming, the Miocene ocean extended west to the present-day location of Washington, D.C. In the warmer waters of this part of the Atlantic, sea grasses grew in profusion in the shallows and supported either seasonal or permanent populations of two, or possibly three species of sirenians. The bones of extinct sirenians are occasionally found on the beaches of the western shore of the bay, along with vertebrae, teeth, or limb and skull bones.

The exhibit, a combined effort of the Paleontology and Exhibits Departments, will provide new insights into this group of mammals, both fossil and living. It will also explore the mythology of mermaids - the “sirens” of the exhibit’s title. Viewers will see a full-scale reproduction of an extinct Miocene sea cow - Metaxytherium. Learn more about fifty-million-year-old sea cows that had four legs and were terrestrial! Descriptive and illustrated panels and murals will tell the story of both the sirens and the sirenians.

Watch for an announcement of the opening date. This is an exhibit you will not want to miss!
OVER 200 ATTEND

Bugeye Ball

An other unforgettable evening at Calvert Marine Museum took place on September 29 as it hosted the annual Bugeye Ball for 210 guests. This year's theme celebrated "The Big Island" and included elaborate island scenes and table centerpieces complete with sand and seashells. Inside the museum's Exhibit Hall, a painted seascape with real sand provided the perfect background for photographs reminiscent of a Caribbean cruise. The tropical atmosphere was designed by artist and CMM volunteer Trish Schiele.

The ball's increasingly popular silent auction raised over $9,000. Auction items included an overnight stay at The Inn at Perry Cabin, a lighthouse tray, sports tickets, and a cooler filled with boating supplies. Many thanks to Roxanne Cumberland, Phyllis Hurley, Rose Hurley, Trish Schiele, Susan Fischer, Gale Parks, and chairwoman Dawn Szot for their dedication and service to the 2001 Bugeye Ball Committee.

NEW MEMBERS ON THE CMM BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Four new members were welcomed to the museum's Board of Governors at the annual board dinner on December 19. Marshall S. Gibson of St. Leonard is a well-known local civic leader who brings experience in finance and community relations to the board; Michael L. Hewitt of Lexington Park is a businessman and civic leader in St. Mary's County, also interested in community relations; Constantine J. Pappas of Solomons is active in the Navy League of the United States and in the local business community; and Kirk L. Swain of Lusby is also active in the county's business community and trade organizations. The dedicated service of the following outgoing board members was also recognized: John A. Simpson Jr, John C. Smith, Robert L. Swann, and George C. Tilghman. Roxanne Riddle Cumberland was reappointed to a second term.

Members continuing to serve include: John P. Cook, Ralph T. Eppard Jr., Richard H. Fischer Jr., John P. Ford, C. Bernard Fowler, Mary Anne Harms, Michael S. King, Carl M. Loffler Jr., Dawn M. Szot, and Edward Gregory Wells. County Commissioner John Douglas Parran and CMM director C. Douglass Alves Jr. are ex officio members. Members of the museum's Board of Governors also serve as directors of the Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc.

SUMMER CAMP 2002

The 2001 "Boat Camp" (grades 4 and 5) out on the draketail with Richard Rogers and Annie Michnowicz. Photo by Annie Michnowicz

Registration forms for CMM's 2002 summer camp will be mailed on Monday, February 4, 2002. You must call 410-326-2042, ext. 41, and be a Calvert Marine Museum member to be on the mailing list. This popular activity fills early, so don't delay!
An appreciative crowd came out in damp weather for an outstanding November 24 performance by pianist/singer Kevin Kline. A Calvert County native, Kline wowed the crowd with his melodic voice and talented keyboard playing abilities. Playing original music and covers like Elton John's "Bennie and The Jets," Kline showed he's a talent to be reckoned with in the future.

Waterside Music Series kicks off its 2002 season with an energetic evening by popular Blues Artist Deanna Bogart on Saturday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m., in the Calvert Marine Museum auditorium. Tickets for this concert - sold out in February 2001 — 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, D.C., 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 18 WAMMIES (Washington Area Music Awards). The Washington Post may have best described Deanna Bogart with three words, “Luster, Sophistication, and Soul." A popular opener at CMM's James Brown concert this past September, Bogart puts on a live show you won’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."

Bluegrass artist Good Deale Bluegrass will continue the Waterside 2002 season on March 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the museum auditorium. Tickets for this concert will go on sale February 22 and will be available at the Museum Store or through phone charge at 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17, or 18.

The Waterside concerts are sponsored by Ralph's Dodge-Jeep and Cumberland & Erly, LLC. Call the phone numbers above for more information or visit CMM online at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.
Debbie Carlson and other volunteers participated in the annual Yuletide decorations in CMM’s Drum Point Lighthouse. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Outboard motors and Tim Scheirer’s murals attracted the interest of those attending the formal opening of the exhibit “Outboard Motoring in America” on November 7. The exhibit is located in the Mezzanine Gallery and will remain on view for some time. Articles about the history of outboarding appeared in issues of the Bug eye Times earlier this year. CMM photo by Richard Dodds

24th Annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days

Attendance at the twenty-fourth annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days on October 6 and 7 was a bit dampened by weather, but still attracted many visitors. Among the various educational and environmental displays, live performances, engine demonstrations, and the annual parade, visiting children enjoyed the opportunity to create a model boat. Offered by the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, the activity drew many to a tent near the Small Craft Building. One successful builder went away quite happy. CMM photos by Bob Hall and Leslie King
CMM provided several lighted items for the annual “Garden in Lights” at Annmarie Garden in December. Here Jim Scheirer (left) and Jimmy Langley (right) hold a mermaid as one item for the garden. Another copy of the mermaid is in place at the CMM entrance to advertise the upcoming exhibit on “Sirens & Sirenians.” CMM photo by Bob Hall.

An interesting exhibit occupied the lower exhibit gallery during October. A joint effort of the museum and the American Chestnut Land Trust, Inc., of Port Republic, the theme of Open Spaces: “Preserving Habitat Highways” featured the work of nine local artists using Southern Maryland’s greenways and waterways as their inspiration. The exhibit recognized Maryland’s landmark land preservation program Greenprint, designed to preserve more than two million acres of natural areas across the state. CMM photo by Robert Hurry.

During an educational program conducted by the Estuarine Biology Department, students from George Mason University used the recently rebuilt Sewell draketail to experience the effort required to use hand tongs to retrieve oysters. CMM photo by Ken Kaumeyer.

The Cove Point Light Station was the “star” being filmed for a thirty-second, made-for-television ad on October 18. A professional film company was brought in by the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as part of its efforts to attract visitors to Maryland through television promotion. This photo, taken at dusk, was just part of the production crew’s filming to “sell” this feature of Maryland’s maritime attractions; the ad will air on national cable channels in March 2002. CMM photo by Doug Alves.
Titanium Mining in Calvert County: A Cove Point Neighbor

By Dr. Kent Mountford*

[Editor's Note: the following article is excerpted from a longer article about Cove Point in the November 2001 issue of Bay Journal, published monthly by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. This article describes a little-known and short-lived industrial activity next to the Cove Point Light Station.]

Cove Point was created from sediments eroded from the steep cliffs and borne along shore by currents in a process called littoral shift. Biologist/historian J. Court Stevenson, of the University of Maryland's Horn Point Laboratory, has researched this unusual feature and finds that, while built of — and on — shifting sands, its configuration has been quite stable across the centuries, forming on each side a broad cove in the coastline. The cove on the east shelters mariners from westerly winds, while the other cove protects from the northerlies. These refuges - lifesaving to ships in the days of sail - are useful for small boats even today.

Cove Point is in constant dynamic equilibrium, with sand flowing in from two directions to form a long, submerged sand spit and a shallow, turbulent bar - a stark contrast in the otherwise unbroken phalanx of Calvert Cliffs, which extend without natural harbors for miles to the southwest and northwest on either side of the promontory.

During World War II, private land on nearby Solomons Harbor was transformed into an amphibious attack training facility. Cove Point, with its sandy beaches and forest-backed cliffs, was chosen for mock invasions. The beaches would soon play another pivotal role in the Cove Point community. Among the casualties of the war were ships from India traveling to Baltimore carrying titanium ore in their ballast, which were sunk by German submarines. Titanium is a light, strong and relatively rare metal used in military aircraft, climbing gear, and corrosion-proof marine hardware. Titanium dioxide is also what makes white paint "white."

Harold E. Vokes, in his Geology of Maryland (1957), reported that in 1953, ilmenite sands, rich in ferrotitanium, about half iron, half titanium, had been found near Cove Point. At that time, the resource was unexploited. Most of us, visiting Atlantic Coast beaches, have seen ilmenite. It is the fine black sand that darkens beaches when storms blow aside the lighter grains of translucent quartz. It's ironic that ilmenite, black in color, has become the source of our "whitest whites."

A private enterprise, Titanium Ore Corporation, was formed to extract the Cove Point ilmenite deposits. Solomons resident Jimmy Langley visited its plant in 1955 as part of a county-sponsored series of 4th grade field trips designed to acquaint local children with future job opportunities in the area. He remembers a barge extracting sand offshore, and conveyor belts with water sprays. Because ilmenite is heavier than quartz, it separates in a water-sand slurry, concentrating to the point that electromagnets can pick it up as almost pure ferrotitanium grains and deposit them in trucks, which hauled the mineral off to a refining facility. The separated quartz sand, Langley recalls, was returned to the Chesapeake Bay.

The large, but short-lived facility of the Titanium Ore Corporation was a significant feature of the landscape to the northwest of the Cove Point Light Station in the early 1960s.

A U. S. Coast Guard aerial photograph of the titanium plant circa 1962 shows a crane for unloading barges still on the beach. Titanium Ore Corporation's process and the available reserves were apparently insufficient, though, and the enterprise was later abandoned. The plant fell into ruin, its remains razed when Columbia Gas bought the land in the 1970s.

*Dr. Mountford is an estuarine ecologist, environmental historian, and Calvert County resident.
Make a Lasting Impression at the Cove Point Lighthouse

Remember a loved one, special date, or even the first time you came to Cove Point with a personal message engraved on a brick permanently installed on the grounds of the historic Cove Point Lighthouse.

Personalized bricks are engraved on three lines, with up to 15 characters/spaces per line. They can be purchased through the Calvert Marine Museum Society for $75 each. All brick sale proceeds benefit the preservation efforts underway at Cove Point Lighthouse. All donations are tax-deductible!

Society Snapshot!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! A hearty welcome to the 62 new members that have joined the Society this quarter! Special thanks to these new premium level members: Sustaining: Mr. & Mrs. Sanjiv Saini, Annette Gillcrist, Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Windsor, Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Volk, Curt Gutierrez, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Woods & Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Early Associate: Mrs. Shari Jackson and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Daugherty.

TAKING MEMBERSHIP TO A HIGHER LEVEL are those members who chose to upgrade this quarter: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hamilton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lightstone, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mazur, Ms. Dixie Miller and Dr. Michael Doom, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mulligan, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Okoniewski, Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Pearson, Mr. & Mrs. Al Peters, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Prince, Mr. & Mrs. George Van, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Watkins, Mr. & Mrs. James Briscoe, Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Frank, Mr. Hayden Mathews, Mr. Mathew Regan & Yoon-Young Lee, Mr. Harry Wachs.

Remember, when you upgrade your membership to the $100 Sustaining Level or above you receive the book “Working the Water” by Paula Johnson.

Thanks for Your Help!

THE 2001 YEAR-END APPEAL

Bubbles is very excited! She has seen the wonderful response we’ve received from our members in support of her new exhibit space.

This year’s annual appeal campaign is progressing nicely, and many of the donations we’ve received have included supportive personal notes from adults and children alike. After seeing Bubbles’ face on our appeal brochure, Walter and Nadine Happell’s children insisted their mom read the brochure to them and send in whatever support they could for Bubbles right away - and we thank them for their help.

We hope that all your support will fast-forward us through the planning process and quickly move us into the building stages. The expanded exhibit space will substantially improve Bubbles’ living conditions and will hopefully allow us to bring back a companion for Bubbles.

If you were unable to send a gift by the end of calendar year 2001, feel free to send one now. It’s never too late. The 2001 Appeal continues until the last gift arrives, whenever that may be!
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

The Volunteer Council Annual Meeting
By Leslie King, Volunteer Coordinator

Sometimes good deeds go unnoticed and sometimes they do not. Take Bugeye Times editor and museum librarian Paul Berry, who has been so involved with museum activities for many years that he has a staff-like appearance among the museum community. Like clockwork, you will find him in the library three days a week. He attends staff meetings, and has his own parking space (okay, that’s one perk staff do not get). It is easy to take such dedication for granted.

This was not the case during the Volunteer Council’s Annual Meeting on October 17. Held at the museum, this evening meeting resembled more of an award ceremony and cocktail hour. Volunteers and staff all convened in the auditorium for a formal presentation. Linda McGilvery, herself an honored volunteer from several years ago, began with opening remarks that highlighted Paul Berry’s long volunteer history with CMM. She also had the honor of presenting him with the Council’s Exemplary Service Award. With this he received an original Skip Edward half-model of a bugeye. Paul graciously accepted these honors with a formidable speech.

Following these accolades, the Council executive board announced the nominating committee’s new slate of officers: Shirley Mihursky for president, Richard Rogers for vice president, Maarja Volunteer Council meeting social hour, with newly elected vice president Richard Rogers at left, and president Shirley Mihursky in center. CMM photo by Richard Dodds

as well. These include Doris Sweet for administration, Bev Walker for education, Margaret Stamper for estuarine biology, Jim Wilson for maritime history, and Francis Person for paleontology. Philis Hurley is returning as co-liaison with Nancy Schnell for development.

This ended the formal meeting, so volunteers and staff returned to the lobby to celebrate the new officers of the board and Paul’s award. The past board, as well as other volunteers, provided lovely appetizers and desserts.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at CMM, call Leslie King on 410-326-2042, ext. 19, or email her at volunteers@calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Left to right: CMM director Doug Alves, Doris Berry, Paul Berry, Linda McGilvery, and Janet Addis. CMM photo by Richard Dodds.
Dear Member,

FY2001 marked another important event in Calvert Marine Museum’s history - the transfer of Cove Point Lighthouse from the Coast Guard to the Calvert County government. This official “changing of the guard” brought the oldest continuously working lighthouse in Maryland under Calvert Marine Museum’s wing.

Let me be the first to invite you to share in this historic treasure. Join us for a Cove Point tour and catch a glimpse of the light that after 170 years, continues keeping our shores safe.

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 of our three themes: regional paleontology, estuarine life of the tidal Patuxent River and adjacent Chesapeake Bay, and maritime history of these waters.
Paleontology

With the help of fossil preparation lab volunteers, CMM Fossil Club members, and generous donors, the Paleontology Department added many exciting and scientifically important fossils to its collection in FY2001.

Most notable treasures included: a partial dolphin skull of a species unknown to science; a baleen whale skull and partial skeleton; and numerous invertebrate fossils from near and far. Along with fossilized finds, the Paleo Department received a large paleontology library donation.

With funding support from the Dryden Endowment, an assistant to the curator was hired and two summer interns worked as technical artist and research associate respectively.

Extensive research on sea cows and mermaids was conducted for an exhibit scheduled for the Lower Gallery in Winter 2001/2002.

Maritime History

After a thorough rebuilding, the 1936 Sewell draketail was launched in September 2000. A dedication ceremony was held honoring the Sewell family, Patuxent Small Craft Guild volunteers, and our valuable financial and in-kind donors who make this rebirth possible.

In October 2000, Cove Point Lighthouse was transferred from the US Coast Guard to the Calvert County government, making CMM the “Keeper of the Light.” To prepare for Cove Point’s scheduled opening in May 2001, this department completed research and writing of exhibit text to be installed on site.

Drum Point Lighthouse received additional TLC repairs to its upper rails. With newly painted black rails and supporting posts, Drum Point Lighthouse returned to its 19th century youth, when it served as an active aid to navigation. February brought surprise gifts, as four screw piles from the original Drum Point site were recovered and transported to the museum for conservation.

For 21st century preservation, a mobile storage system was installed in the Administration Building’s basement, thanks to a grant from the Maryland Museums Assistance Program. In April, the first Chesapeake Antique Marine Engine Meet brought 50 exhibitors from all over the Eastern Seaboard.

Estuarine Biology

Throughout FY2001, the Estuarine Biology Department conducted extensive research into the captive breeding of seahorses. Hundreds of these beautiful and delicate specimens were raised successfully from birth to adulthood. Their display delighted visitors of all ages.

In addition to pure science, biology staff applied mechanical thinking to design and construct a chiller system to maintain the otter pool temperature at a comfortable level during hot weather. They also rebuilt the seawater intake system used to pump and filter water taken from the boat basin.

In conjunction with the Exhibits Department, Estuarine Biology staff also participated in the development of the Outboard Motor Exhibit.
Education

The Education Department hosted numerous successful events and programs in FY2001. Among those was the first ever “300 Years of Maryland Fashion,” featuring local celebrities and politicians dressed as famous Maryland citizens from 1634-1934. This fashionable evening raised $1,286, which was used to match a Wal Mart grant in support of CMM’s annual “Cradle of Invasion” festivities in August.

After cruising into Solomons for Family Discovery Day, the 65-foot oceangoing Theodore Tugboat received 1,450 touring guests. The historic bugeye Wm. B. Tennison also remained a visitor favorite with specialty dinner, Mother’s Day, Halloween, and history cruises selling out on most occasions.

CHESPAX, the joint school system and CMM environmental education program, switched gears in FY2001 with new topics featuring fossils and the extinct shark, *Megalodon*.

Grant funding received from P.R.A.D., Inc., in FY2001, led to the development of an interactive educational program designed to give local students hands-on biology and oyster knowledge by becoming “watermen.”

Physical Plant

Calvert Marine Museum grounds and outbuildings received facelifts from the Physical Plant Department throughout the fiscal year. The north entrance Administration Building columns were refurbished and concrete pedestals replaced. The North Annex received a fresh coat of exterior paint, and the crushing shed at the Lore Oyster House was pressure cleaned and re-preserved.

Further north, work focused on preserving and updating the Cove Point Lighthouse site. Many mechanical repairs to the keepers’ quarters and cottage were made, while the entire complex was re-keyed to a master system. The department also contracted for the construction of a new and larger storage shed on the lighthouse grounds.

Physical Plant staff also provided much-needed logistical support and oversight for outdoor Waterside concerts, and other public events held on museum grounds. County government support allowed us to hire a seasonal grounds maintenance assistant to facilitate building and grounds maintenance responsibilities.

Exhibits

Three major exhibits graced CMM’s galleries this past year. The Solomons Amphibious Training Base exhibit explored Solomons during World War II, and provided an inside look at the effects of war on a small town. *Pepper Langley - A Carving Legacy* took visitors through the life of a master woodcarver and craftsman, while showcasing Pepper’s carvings in various stages of completion. Now in the Upper Gallery until 2002, assembly began on the exhibit, *Outboard Motoring in America: The First Fifty Years*.

Exhibit staff regularly contributed promotional art to publicize CMM events such as World War II reenactments, the Bugeye Ball, Sharkfest, Patuxent River Appreciation Days, and the year-long Waterside Music Series.

Other exhibits featured Calvert County school projects, art shows, photography presentations, and a show by the American Chestnut Land Trust that was eventually moved to Anmarie Garden. The department also supplied interpretive panels for Cove Point Lighthouse, and a new brochure to detail and promote our newest acquisition.
Volunteers

Volunteer participation increased in FY2001 with 247 volunteers logging 18,764 hours, a 5% increase over last year. Donating hard work and relentless dedication, our volunteers kept CMM running efficiently, while also assisting in yearly production of events like PRAD, Waterside Music Series, Sharkfest, Cradle of Invasion, and the Members’ Yule Party. In May, CMM’s annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony honored George and Liz Halvosa as Volunteers of the Year, while the Museum Store volunteers received the award for Group Achievement.

Calvert Marine Museum Society

Through grant proposals, business meetings, and events, the Development Department raised funds this year for museum projects and education. The Koenig Foundation awarded CMM $25,000 for Cove Point Lighthouse and $5,000 for Lore Oyster House, while Bugeye Ball underwriters contributed $15,000 in support. One local corporation donated $10,116 for Cove Point Lighthouse grounds improvements. Waterside Concerts featuring musical greats Smokey Robinson and Waylon Jennings brought over 6,300 people to the museum grounds.

Membership figures increased 12% over the last year to 2,359, and included 29 Bugeye Society members. The Year-End Appeal, which spotlighted the Cove Point Lighthouse, also exceeded its goal by reaching $14,835. Another fundraiser, the CMM License Plate campaign, was launched in April via online auction. Museum Store sales reached $264,449, more than $28,000 over FY2000. Netting close to $69,000, the Museum Store experienced its most successful year to date.

Administration

Calvert Marine Museum continued operating smoothly in FY2001, thanks to the guidance and support provided by Administration Department staff. In June, the department brought a new business manager on board.

A synopsis of revenue and expenditure figures for FY2001 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 $2,652,290.

Revenue & Support

Expenditures

For concise and detailed financial statements regarding Calvert Marine Museum’s Fiscal Year 2001, please call our business manager at 410-326-2042 x 12, or email at weasekr@co.cal.md.us.