While giving my 7-year-old granddaughter a bath one night, she plucked a plastic starfish out of the water and said, “See this sea star? When it gets hungry it gets on top of a shellfish and squeezes it with its arms until the shell breaks, then it eats what’s inside.”

Surprised, I asked: “Where did you learn that?”

She gave me one of her all-knowing looks and said matter-of-factly: “At your museum, Baba.” And I thought, yes, there it is. She learned that at the touch tank!

Calvert Marine Museum visitors frequently come away with warm memories of their interactions with the people they encounter here — at the skate and rays tank or in the Discovery Room or perhaps on a tour of the Drum Point Lighthouse. These encounters shape their experience and make a significant contribution to what they take away from the visit. Although not consciously perceived as such, these encounters are a core part of our educational program at CMM. Museums are places where informal and self-motivated learning can take place — at your own pace and in your own way. And because education is central to our public service, we try to infuse it into every facet of what we do, from the feeling you get when you come through the front doors, to the way our exhibits are presented, to the interactions you have with staff and volunteers.

A report from the American Association of Museums entitled “Excellence and Equity: Education and the Public Dimension of Museums,” published in 1992, states that “The commitment to education as central to museum’s public service must be clearly expressed in every museum’s mission and pivotal to every museum’s activities.” The article goes on to detail ways that museums contribute to society, including:

- Providing meeting grounds where enriching experiences are offered both through human interaction and interaction with objects and ideas;
- Encouraging lifelong learning among people of all ages and backgrounds, at all levels of capability, mastery, and interest.

In short, the role of museums is to foster ‘communities of learners’ for diverse audiences. Here at the marine museum, we do this in every way we know how.

The purpose of museum education is to add value: the human interaction that educators and trained volunteers provide adds meaning to our visitors’ experiences. Educators instruct and engage visitors through exploration, demonstration, and discussion. The programs the museum staff and volunteers offer provide opportunities for a proactive and memorable experience in learning and discovery.

Mark van Doren, a poet, writer, and teacher, once said “The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.” Museums are uniquely positioned to help visitors craft their own learning through encounters with objects and ideas. We employ a wide array of resources to assist discovery, including exhibit interpretation, technology both in the exhibits and online via our website, publications, lectures, events, public programs, special tours, and staff-led programs. Our goal is to find a way to reach every visitor and give each one that special experience.

Continued on page 2
Education: Assisting in the Art of Discovery (Continued from page 1)

Pre-School Programs

“I love how Sea Squirts incorporates walking around the museum. My son (2 ½) was very engaged and loved it!” “I love the focus on the animals especially for this age group 18 months-3 years.” (Parent evaluations)

The CMM education team offers experiential pre-school programs for children from 18 months (Sea Squirts) through age 5 (Little Minnows), both in the museum and through outreach to preschools. These programs have been supported for a number of years through grants from PNC Grow Up Great. This grant program focuses exclusively on children from birth to age five.

School Programs

The students enjoyed the hands-on learning. The instructors were interesting and knew how to connect with the students to keep them focused. (3rd grade teacher)

Our school age programs — or fieldtrips — focus on elementary and middle grades. They are structured to the academic standards established by school systems and are designed to help teachers meet curricular objectives. These programs are either museum-based in the exhibit galleries, or field-based through the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab (CBFL) programs. The CBFL programs take classes out on the skipjack, Dee of St. Mary’s, onto a local beach to hunt for fossils, or to the J.C. Lore and Sons oyster house to learn more about oysters. We also take programs to the schools through our outreach program, and we can visit the classroom virtually via point-to-point video conferencing in our Distance Learning programs.

CHESPAX

My class attended this [CHESPAX] trip Friday, November 21, and it was AWESOME! My students had a great experience and my chaperones were very impressed with the learning that the children were able to participate in. (4th grade teacher)

Through Calvert County Public Schools, we participate in CHESPAX, a unique model instituted in 1988 that pairs local institutional resources — the Calvert Marine Museum, Annmarie Gardens, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and Calvert County Natural Resources (Kings Landing, Flag Ponds, and Cypress Swamp) — with curricular requirements in grades 1 – 7 to teach Environmental Education. For 27 years, the museum has seen every 4th grade student in Calvert County.

New Initiatives

Something that I didn’t know before the fieldtrip was how much we affect the habitat causing erosion, run off, decrease of oyster population, decrease of water quality, and how our population increase can cause increase of pollution like using too much fertilizer. (7th grade student evaluation)

CBFL piloted two new programs this year: one for 7th grade students from St. Mary’s County on the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay, and one for 5th grade students from Calvert County that tied the modern Chesapeake Bay to the world that Captain John Smith explored in the 1600s. Both programs used the Dee of St. Mary’s to get the kids out on the water. The museum provided formal programs for over 4,000 Maryland school students last school year, supported by a grant from the Maryland State Department of Education. This number includes 767 Maryland students, teachers, and chaperones who participated in the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab experience using the skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s.

Public Programs

Our grandson LOVED your museum; so much he insisted on visiting it twice in the few days we were there. One of your docents was so full of information which she very ably and in a very interesting and child-friendly way shared with us. (Museum Visitor)

Public programs are another important component of museum education. Watching the skates and rays or otter being fed and interacting with the aquarists is a
Education: Assisting in the Art of Discovery  (Continued from page 2)

great way to learn about the animals. The trained volunteers who man the Discovery Room touch tank, the skates and rays tank, give tours of the Drum Point Lighthouse, and the work in the fossil prep lab are all part of our on-going public programming, doing their part to ‘aid in the art of discovery.’

Throughout the summer and during school holidays, visitors may encounter young people sharing the contents of a discovery box or an activity cart inviting them to try their hand at a game or an experiment. On Tuesdays and Saturdays, you can find volunteers in the Patuxent Small Craft Center or in the boat basin working on our wooden boat collection, and always ready to share their extensive knowledge on the subject. Every member of the museum extended family, from the maintenance staff to the curators, understands that they have a role to play in the educational mission of the museum, and every encounter is shaped by that understanding.

In addition to the public programming offered in the museum, the education team offers field-based programs. Our Fossil Field program takes participants out on a local beach to discover fossils with a trained guide, and then brings them back to the museum to learn how to identify them and to gain a better understanding of our collection. We offer many opportunities to get out on the water in our sailing skipjack the Dee of St. Mary’s, or our historic bugeye, the Wm. B. Tennison, to learn about the history and ecology of this region. Our Lighthouse Adventure Cruise takes you by water to visit the lighthouses of the mid and upper Chesapeake Bay with our resident lighthouse expert on board. Our goal through these programs is to take the ideas and themes presented in our exhibits and bring them to life, making them relevant and memorable.

Summer Programs

All I can say is you guys are GREAT!!! Thank you for the pictures and the wonderful experience that Timmy has received. I wanted to thank all the volunteers that helped with the camp. The kids had a good time and got to be part of a trade that is not seen very often anymore. GREAT GREAT GREAT CAMP. Thank you very much! (Dale Pilkerton, boat camp parent)

When school is not in session, the museum gets even busier, creating special programs every day of winter and spring breaks, and exciting summer camps for children entering 1st through 9th grades. These week-long camps give students in-depth experiences and greater exposure to opportunities that allow them to build a boat, learn how to identify, record, and prepare fossils, or sail a skipjack. During the summer, we also host Road Scholar programs, one for adventurous seniors interested in touring the Chesapeake Bay by boat to see lighthouses, and another intergenerational program for grandparents and their grandchildren.

Museum educational programs directly serve almost 10,000 people annually in staff-led educational programming, an increase of 29% over the last 10 years. Another 10,000 to 12,000 people participate in the various educational public programs and events like Patuxent River Appreciation Days and the Solomons Maritime Festival. There are three full-time and five part-time educators, augmented by a virtual army of trained volunteers, in the education department. The curators are all actively involved in educational pursuits, involving interns in research, exhibits, collecting, and animal husbandry, as well as serving as spokespersons for the museum.

There is a remarkable synergy that takes place as people add their knowledge and share their experience with others. It takes on a life all its own.

As we strive to fulfill our commitment to make education central to all of the museum’s endeavors and activities, we look to you — our visitors, members, and volunteers — to partner with us in the exciting and never-ending challenge to create a community of learners participating in the amazing art of discovery.

Ongoing CMM Marsh Restoration

By David Moyer, Curator of Estuarine Biology

Phase II (of IV) of the marsh restoration project — started in May 2015 — is now complete. Scouts from Troop 347 of Port Republic, Maryland, came October 24-25 to remove invasive plant species from our Marsh Walk uplands and replant with native species. Over 97 hours of volunteer time were added to this effort and another 1/3 of the project area was restored.

This exciting project was funded in part by the Calvert Environmental Trust for Youth. The museum received a $1,000 grant that was used to purchase tools and supplies, as well as to create the interpretive signage for this 12,000 square foot habitat exhibit.

In conjunction with this project, Brendan Malone of Troop 347 worked to complete his merit step towards Eagle Scout. Brendan organized 23 members of his troop and parental supporters to come to the museum. Brendan also provided his crew with training on how to recognize invasive plants in the project area and he arranged for team snacks and recognition.

Mother Nature took over after the boys completed their project. Weeks of steady rains and moderate temperatures have allowed for good root maturation before winter dormancy. I can’t wait to see the marsh this spring! 🌿

Brendan Malone and Chad Crisman planting native species (Photo by Kim Malone)

Troop 347 (Photo by David Moyer)
On Saturday, October 24, the Aww...Shucks Oyster Social fundraiser was held in the Guild Building. The event raised over $20,000 and proceeds will support replacing the rigging and repairing the mast to keep our skipjack, the Dee of St. Mary’s, sailing into the future.

Almost 100 people attended the fundraiser. In addition, event sponsors donated over $12,000. Oysters scalded and on the half shell were donated by Capt. Smith’s Seafood Market, Hollywood Oyster Company, Johnny Oyster Seed Company, Kellam’s Seafood — Point Lookout Oyster Company, Patuxent Seafood Company, and Shore Thing Shellfish, LLC. Delicious hors’ d’oeuvres were donated by Anglers Seafood Bar and Grill, Boomerang’s Original Ribs, Charles Street Brasserie, Isaac’s Restaurant and Pub, Lotus Kitchen, Ruddy Duck Brewery and Grill, Stoney’s Kingfishers, The Island Hideaway, The Lighthouse Restaurant and Dock Bar, and Zahniser’s Dry Dock Restaurant.

Live music by the waterfront was provided by Jeff Farius and Gary Rue. Seasonal brews and wine were compliments of Bozick Distributors. A silent auction featuring Dee-inspired original artwork and collectibles, as well as a private Dee sail with Captain Jack Russell, raised over $3,000. Plan to join us next year on Saturday.

Soon after the last scheduled school trip on the Dee of St. Mary’s, we began to prepare the skipjack for a major mast removal effort. We had a dedicated work crew made up of members of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild and some Dee crew members. Several days of work were required to prepare for the removal, including repositioning of all the small boats and floating docks within the boat basin. After numerous delays due to weather, we removed, inspected, and stored the main and jib sails.

On November 17, a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze, the Dee was moved from its normal berth next to the Drum Point Lighthouse and positioned in front of the Small Craft Building. SMECO covered the cost of contracting with Southern Maryland Crane (SMC) to lift the mast out. The SMC team arrived at 9 AM and set up the crane. The 56-foot boom was removed first. After the boom was safely positioned, we started rigging the strops and lines required to pull the 74-foot mast. The crane began applying a strain to the mast, but the Dee was reluctant to let it go. Finally, after some effort — and some very tense moments — the 2400 lb. mast broke free and it was placed in front of the Patuxent Small Craft Center.

We immediately began to inspect, document, and remove all rigging and hardware. With the help of SMECO, the work crew moved the mast and boom onto saw horses a week later so as to provide better access to the spars. George Surgent, CMM Boatwright, sounded the mast for an integrity check and also drilled a test bore. Everything looks good! The mast has been scraped, sanded, and numerous coatings have been applied to protect the wood over the winter. Capt. Jim Black is working to identify and locate sources for all the components that need to be replaced in the re-rigging effort.
The “On Watch” Memorial Service was held at the site of the “On Watch” monument in Dowell on Sunday, November 8. It was attended by approximately 125 people including veterans from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. We had several veterans from WWII. The American Legion Post 274 presented the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by CMM board member A. J. Benn. The keynote speaker was Capt. Heidi Fleming, Commander, NAS Patuxent River, who thanked all of the veterans who have come before as well as the active military of today. The service was followed by light refreshments and a chance to mix and mingle and to thank the veterans for their service.

On Veteran’s Day, the museum gave free admission to veterans, active military, and their families. Coby Treadway of the education team ran special activities throughout the day. Visitors signed Christmas cards, wrote letters, and made a colorful paper garland with special messages to the veterans on every link to be sent overseas and to Charlotte Hall.

CMM continues to send packages to the troops each month. In 2015, we mailed 35 packages to Afghanistan. It is thanks to the support of our staff, volunteers, and Board of Governors at the museum, as well as some community partners, both businesses and individuals, that we are able to continue supporting our troops in this way.

Museum Boardwalk Replacement: The museum has fully recovered from the renovation and we’re gearing up for the next round of improvements. If you come to visit during January or February, you may see the boardwalk in the process of being replaced. After years of wear and tear brought on by thousands of feet and constant exposure to the elements, it was overdue for attention. Don’t worry though, we’ve worked out a plan to ensure that our visitors can see the otter and get to the lighthouse throughout the construction process.

Stormwater Retrofit Project: For years the museum has struggled with stormwater issues. Heavy downpours frequently required sandbagging the front entrance, small rivers run across the parking lot, and flooding occurs in the Patuxent Small Craft Center. This spring, the Calvert County Department of Public Works will be overseeing a project to help redirect stormwater away from the buildings.

New Digs for the Otters: The Estuarine Biology Gallery boasts the beautiful new River to Bay exhibit, but the interior otter holding area is looking pretty sad. In anticipation of welcoming a new otter to the family, we are renovating that space. Look for changes in that area — and a full update in the next issue. If you are in that gallery, be sure to check out the research area at the end of the exhibit, finished in time to welcome in the new year.

Harms Gallery Update: The Harms Gallery is a wonderful space, and is well used both by museum programs and outside rentals. With the installation of custom cabinets over the next few months, the kitchen will be completed. Our audio-visual equipment is also in place and we will be able to resume our popular PEM Talks.

Maritime Gallery Completion: Those of you who are frequent visitors know that there is always something being changed, updated, improved, or moved in the museum. Thanks to a grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, the open space at the end of the Maritime Gallery will begin to take shape with an exhibit on recreation. You will also see the popular mezzanine exhibit on boat racing come down after two years to make way for a new temporary exhibit in the spring.
Activities & Events

Bumper Jacksons, part of the Maritime Performance Series, entertain a sold-out audience in November. (Photo by Kate Dumhart)

A beautiful weekend brought lots of activity to the museum’s waterfront during PRAD. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Volunteer Carole Purcell leads a migration activity during November’s Home School Day. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Solomons Christmas Walk visitors enjoy the Calvert High School Jazz Ensemble in the Harms Gallery. (Photo by Bob Hall)

The Chesapeake Biological Lab’s Center for Environmental Science engage visitors with its ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) during PRAD. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The Smoke Creek Rounders perform bluegrass music in the Corbin Pavilion during PRAD. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Children and volunteers at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Children’s Maritime Garden during PRAD. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
Director Doug Alves (right) joins Patuxent Small Craft Guild member Ed Richard to take a spin in the Ped-L-Craft paddleboat that was dedicated during PRAD. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Patuxent Small Craft Guild members Al Suydam, Bill Wright, and Ed Kobrinski working on frames for the Electric Skiff project. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Model boat building is a perennial favorite at PRAD. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Chloe Purcasey with Santa during the Solomons Christmas Walk. (Photo by Bob Hall)

A cappella group Patuxent Voices perform in the Corbin Pavilion during PRAD. (Photo by Bob Hall)

A naturalist from Maryland Department of Natural Resources’ Scales and Tales demonstrates the soaring stance of a turkey vulture to Little Minnows in December. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The Lure of Sea Glass author Richard LaMotte at the Museum Store’s book signing tent at PRAD. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
**THE MUSEUM STORE**

*My Favorite Things*  By Maureen Baughman, Museum Store Manager

We are so passionate about the things that fill our store that we claim our favorites with little signs! When you purchase one of our favorite things we are delighted that you love it too!

And so this month we’d like to know what happens to our favorite things after you take them home or give them as a gift. Maybe you use our dishes and glasses to set your table as shown in this customer photo, or your kids are snuggled up with grandma reading a favorite book in their crab PJs, or your sister loves the necklace you bought her so much that she NEVER takes it off! We want to hear from you!


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**The Meaning of Membership**

By Patricia King Jackson, Development Consultant

Membership in the Calvert Marine Museum means different things to different people. For some, it means free admission for a year. For others, it represents the chance to have your child’s birthday at the museum, secure placement in the boat building camp, or take advantage of advance sales to secure that hot concert ticket. Whatever the reason, a membership is tangible evidence of your belief in the museum’s mission. Membership is one of the indicators of a successful institution. CMM current membership stands at almost 3,000, the strongest it has ever been. As members, you are the museum’s audience and advocates.

Just as alumni support their university, so museum members channel support, time, and energy into the museum. You provide living testimony to the value of the programs and activities; you introduce your children to the museum; you help ensure a healthy future for the museum. Members who elect to become volunteers provide critical volunteer support throughout the museum. In FY 2015, volunteers donated over 32,000 hours of service, greatly expanding the museum’s capacity in every area.

Museum memberships collectively serve as the museum’s “living endowment:” an unrestricted source of funds and goes directly into the operating budget. This funding provides a foundation of flexible financial support that allows the museum to respond to urgent needs as they arise, and helps to cover the growing gap between public funding and the total museum budget. Every level of membership contains some level of philanthropic support for the museum, with memberships at and above the Bugeye Society level contributing the most. Many members make additional restricted gifts for specific activities over and above their memberships. The recent “Coming of Age” Capital Campaign raised $750,000 for the renovation. Almost all donated by current members of the museum. Other restricted gifts support special projects like the Dee of St. Mary’s or an exhibit or event. Sponsorships for special events like the Bugeye Ball, the Waterside concerts, or the lecture series, contribute to the vibrant environment that keeps visitors engaged and coming back. And among the most philanthropic types of gifts are endowments that will provide lasting benefit for the museum for future generations, like the Dryden Fund, established by bequest for paleontology, and the Benning Fund for education.

As a county museum, the utilities, facilities, and most of the staff are covered under the county budget. But public funds are necessarily limited and most of the growth in the operating budget has been met by private funds: earned income, grants, and contributions, including memberships.

THANK YOU for being a member and playing a starring role in our success story.
Calvert Marine Museum Society’s Annual Board Dinner 2015

By Vanessa Gill, Development Director

The annual Board Dinner was held in the Harms Gallery on Wednesday, December 9, to welcome the members joining the board and say thank you to members rotating off as their terms end. This year, two executive members rotated off after serving six years: Board President Dave Campbell and Secretary Nancy Wieck. Both board members played key roles in raising the $750,000 in private donations for the museum’s recent capital campaign. During their time on the board, they helped guide the museum through a recession and back to a thriving and renewed facility. Mr. Campbell and Ms. Wieck have left their mark on the museum by giving of their time, knowledge, and leadership and we all look forward to seeing their smiling faces in the museum again soon.

Joining the board for his first term is retired Judge Stephen Clagett, who served in Calvert County from 1990-2008, first as an Associate Judge then District Court Judge. Judge Clagett has years of experience working with our local and regional leaders and effecting change in our community. Randy Barrett, of R.A. Barrett & Associates, Inc., is also serving his first term on the board. Mr. Barrett’s company is an engineering, land planning, and surveying corporation and has been serving Southern Maryland since 1997. Marianne Harms is returning to the board for her 5th three-year term. Ms. Harms has been a powerful voice for the museum over the years, supporting us whether she was serving on the board or not. We are excited to have these local leaders as part of our board and look forward to the guidance and progress they will help us achieve during their terms.

Doug Alves and Vanessa Gill present plaques carved by Jimmy Langley to out-going board members Nancy Wieck and Dave Campbell. (Photos by Bob Hall)

Members’ Yule Party 2015 – Holiday Fun for One and All

On Sunday, December 6, guests enjoyed holiday goodies, discounted shopping in the Museum Store, laughs-a-plenty with Blondi and Bunky the clowns, and a visit from Santa and Squeak the river otter. We even had an elf from Santa’s workshop gathering letters to take to Santa in case the kids missed him when he stopped in to visit.

Every year we look forward to the Yule Party because it allows the museum staff to spend time with our members and their families. Getting to know you is one of the true pleasures of the party each year.

Happy New Year from your Membership/Events Coordinator!

By Lisa Howard

As 2015 comes to a close, I reflect on what an exciting year it has been at the museum! It has been great getting to know our members and I look forward to meeting many more of you during 2016. Keep your eye on our website (www.calvertmarinemuseum.com) and your email for more information on our Spring Members’ Trip and other events that are exclusively for members. It is sure to be an exciting year that you will not want to miss!

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your museum membership, or just want to introduce yourself and say hello, please call me at 410-326-2042 x16, email me at howardla@co.cal.md.us or just drop by — my door is always open. I look forward to seeing you at the museum in 2016!

NEW TAX LAW ENCOURAGES CHARITABLE GIVING

On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed into law a bill that makes permanent substantial tax breaks for individuals who make charitable gifts directly from their IRA distributions.

If you own an IRA and are 70-1/2 or older, you may contribute up to $100,000 of your required minimum distribution from your IRA. The gift will satisfy IRS requirements for taking minimum distributions and you will not need to count the distribution as income, thus lowering the overall tax rate as well as potentially lowering Medicare payments.

Contact Vanessa Gill for more information: gillvl@co.cal.md.us

Membership Trip Planned for SPRING 2016!

Details are still being finalized, but keep an eye out for our date announcement for a fun-filled Spring day visiting Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens in Washington, DC. The bus trip will leave from the Calvert Marine Museum and make a pick-up in Dunkirk. Watch your inbox for an eBlast providing more details.

Clowns Blondi and Bunky entertain children. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Museum members enjoy refreshments in Harms Gallery. (Photo by Bob Hall)
Sad Farewells & New Beginnings

Laura Magdeburger, Aquarist since 1996, announced that she is leaving CMM to accept a position with the Walt Disney World Resort at Orlando, Florida. In a letter to museum staff, Laura stated: “It was a really hard decision to make to pull up all my roots here and in the area, because I love it here. But I’m looking forward to working for Disney! They do collecting in the Keys and have opportunities with their cruise line and Hawaii location … I decided to take the leap and grow my wings on the way down … I’m really excited, and at the same time, really sad to go.”

Laura will be one of four new aquarists to work on an expansion project in Epcot’s Future World. The Seas with Nemo and Friends® features a 5.7 million-gallon main aquarium with over two hundred species of sea life. The exhibit includes dolphins, sharks, sea turtles, gliding rays, and a 500-pound grouper, as well as a rainbow of multi-colored tropical fish.

Laura will be sorely missed, but we are excited about her opportunity to embark on a new chapter in her life and wish her all the best in Florida!

Michael Godfrey has been working alongside the Calvert Marine Museum exhibits team for the past eight years as a contract employee. Over the course of his employment Michael says “My exhibits knowledge has been greatly improved thanks, in large part, to veteran team members Tim Scheirer and Rachel Reese as a software engineer. We will miss him, but wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

New Faces & New Places

Amanda Franklin began working as the Aquarist Intern in the Estuarine Biology Department in October 2015. A resident of Dowell, Maryland, she is a 2013 graduate of Valdosta State University in Georgia where she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Her favorite part of the internship is caring for the otter!

We are pleased to welcome Patti Snyder, who has been a volunteer in the Discovery Room, and Kevin Allor, a part-time member of the education team, as Temporary Customer Service Attendants who will fill in at the Admissions Desk when needed.

LIBRARY RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT DONATION

By Richard Dodds, Curator of Maritime History

Earlier in the year, the museum’s library received a large and important donation of 1,500 books from Paula A. Ray of Catonsville, Maryland, the widow of William Earl Ray. William Ray, who retired from the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Howard County in 1989, was an avid sailor and marine model maker.

Mr. Ray built his first sailboat in the early 1970s and later lived aboard the sailboat Yogo with his wife Paula, sailing the East Coast and the Bahamas. He built up an extensive nautical library prior to his death in April 2014. Faced with moving and downsizing in 2015, Paula contacted the Calvert Marine Museum. The Rays had sailed into Solomons on a number of occasions in the past, and were familiar with the museum.

The collection has been inventoried. Selected volumes have been cataloged into the library and the remainder will eventually be sold. The proceeds will be used to purchase new books. The Paul L. Berry Reference Library is located in the Administration Building and named after long-time volunteer librarian, Paul Berry, who passed away in 2013.
Volunteer Spotlight  By Sherry Reid, Volunteer & Events Coordinator

Celebrate Volunteers!

On Wednesday, December 2, the CMM volunteers and staff came together for our annual Chili Party in the Harms Gallery. It is always a lot of fun and a great way to ring in the holiday season. There were lots of variations of homemade chili for the chili cook-off. Congratulations to David Moyer for winning the top prize and to Kim Zabiegalski for coming in second. We sang a tortured version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” enjoyed a wonderful meal, laughed, and played silly games — like wrapping up your teammate. I think we all enjoy having our family together during the holidays and the CMM family is no exception.

This is the time of the year to reflect and count our blessings. I am extremely blessed to work with over 400 volunteers at CMM, and that is the museum’s blessing as well. If not for our volunteers, there is no way we could offer the variety and number of programs, activities, and events that we do each year.

In 2015 our volunteers assisted with two Waterside concerts, Solomons Maritime Festival, Sharkfest, OtterMania, Kite Day, PRAD, First Free Fridays, camps, Dee of St. Mary’s, boat restoration, fossil preparation and documentation, work in the library, Cove Point and Drum Point Lighthouse tours, the day to day operations of the museum, and so much more. In FY15, our volunteer family logged 32,373 hours which is equivalent to almost $855,000 — or a whopping 15 full time positions — wow! Thanks to each and every one of our volunteers for giving of themselves to make CMM a success — we couldn’t do it without you.

Volunteers Wanted for Yard Arms

If you enjoy being outdoors and don’t mind getting a little dirty, consider joining the Yard Arms. What, you haven’t heard of us? Stroll the museum grounds and see the beautiful gardens that surround the development and administration buildings. Walk out to the Corbin Pavilion and notice the rain garden beside it. Do you enjoy the little garden that sits up by the otter’s habitat? Ever notice the container plantings at the entrances to the museum and administration buildings? Did I mention the raised beds at the driveway entrance to the museum grounds from Solomons Island Road? Have you seen the new Children’s Maritime Garden that is in front of the development building? All of these are Yard Arms projects.

Not a gardener? No problem. If you want to learn new skills, work with fun and interesting people, and help keep the landscape at CMM blooming, please consider joining us. An informational meeting will be held this spring. If you think you might be interested and would like more information, please contact me.

Kathy Ellwood, Chair, Yard Arms
301-956-0368
Kellwood@comcast.net