Ghost Schooner: The Wreck of the J.R. Moffett

By Robert J. Hurry, Museum Registrar

Tom Wisner (1930-2010) was an environmental educator, artist, writer, and folksinger with a passion for the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its people. He loved learning about the history and culture of the area from its storytellers who lived and worked around the water. One such storyteller was Capt. Watt Herbert (1911-1989) of Coles Point, Virginia, who told Wisner his story of a ghost ship that he saw as a boy.

In 1983, Wisner composed a song titled “The J.R. Morphy,” later retitled “The Ghostship Morphy,” with lyrics that he based on Capt. Herbert’s account of the sinking of a cargo schooner in a 1919 storm. The accident that sank the vessel claimed the lives of its crew. Just days after the accident, Herbert and his father witnessed what he described as the ghost of the schooner sailing down the Potomac River.

Watt Herbert first told his account of the ghost schooner to Wisner in October 1982, but he had related the story many times before and retold it many times thereafter. As the story goes, he was helping his father catch seed oysters in Upper Machodoc Creek on the Virginia shore of the Potomac River when a violent spring thunderstorm hit. The Herberts were in their thirty-two-foot Potomac River dory boat and stayed sheltered in the creek during the ensuing gale that lasted a couple

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days. While in the creek, they learned the storm had caused the loss of a schooner, which he called the J.R. Morphy, and its crew off the mouth of the Wicomico River.

When the weather finally improved, the Herbergs entered the river and began sailing downstream past Nomini Cliffs, tacking against a strong southeast wind. In the distance, they spied a freight schooner with all its sails set and running with a northwest breeze through Kettle Bottom Shoals. They slackened the dory boat's sails and set a course to cross the river to catch the northwest breeze home. After a while, they looked for the schooner, but it had vanished. Soon, the tops of the masts of the sunken sailing vessel came into view in the morning haze. When it capsized days earlier, the schooner had settled upright on the bottom of the river with a portion of its masts visible above the water.

They never did find the northwest breeze and were convinced the schooner they had seen sailing was the ghost of the J.R. Morphy. Herbert said he knew watermen who had reported seeing the ghost of the schooner on this and other occasions.

Watt Herbert was just an eight-year-old boy when the incident occurred and was not an eyewitness to the actual accident. To fill in some details and make the story more dramatic, Wisner used a bit of poetic license while composing the lyrics to the song. However, Wisner often wondered whether the passage of time had altered Herbert's recollection and how much of his story was based in fact.

In 2008, a quarter-century after writing the lyrics, Wisner contacted the Calvert Marine Museum and inquired whether any documentary evidence existed for a schooner named J.R. Morphy.

Happy Sails to You...Until We Meet Again (Continued from page 1)

tirelessly to make it a happy, productive, and welcoming place. His leadership style is not dictatorial or autocratic. He is the most democratic of leaders, trusting the people he hired to do the jobs they were hired to do. This museum is his legacy. He has a great deal to be proud of. We hope the next chapter of his life is as rich and fulfilling as this one has been.

Earlier this year, Doug was invited to participate in a survey that was used in an article on museum leadership in the Winter 2016 History News: Magazine of the American Association for State and Local History. The following is drawn from his responses to that survey and subsequent conversations.

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I have always been a museum director, though in my first job as “director,” I was the only paid staff, which meant that I did everything from lead the local historical society to clean the toilets. I’ve been at the Calvert Marine Museum since 1991 — the longest job I’ve ever had, the longest time I’ve ever lived anywhere. This is where my kids grew up and went through school. Mary and I have put down roots and plan to be here for years to come. It’s been my life.

So much has changed during my career in museums. When I graduated from George Washington University with a MAT in Museum Education in 1976, the museum field was just starting to become “professional.” I can’t believe now how unprepared I was for an administrative position. I had little training in budgeting, and no training in dealing with boards, personnel issues, and staff management. I learned a lot by the seat of my pants.

Leadership is the ability to get people to be on the same page, to accomplish an agreed upon mission/goal, while having fun. Hiring the best and brightest, finding the resources for them to do their job, mentor and guide when needed, and then get out of their way. I don’t take credit for the museum; it is always a team effort — always a “we”.

Sometimes I think I should have moved around more. I have had only three professional jobs in my career, but didn’t want to uproot the family, take the kids out of school and away from friends. Plus, I have never been out to make a name for myself and advance my career. Advancing my museum is more important to me.

I love this place, and leaving is bittersweet — although as I keep telling the staff, I’m not going away. I am looking forward to having time to do the fun stuff — working with the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, crewing for the Dee, volunteering in the store — the stuff that, as director, I never had the time to do.

The museum is in the best shape it’s ever been in — financially, in terms of visitation, the exhibits, quality of programs — by every measure. I feel good about that. Being the director here has allowed me to shape and guide this wonderful place and feel confident that when I retire, the institution will go on. I am really proud of my people; they are my family, my kids. The goal is to make the institution, volunteers and staff, a better place when you leave than when you came. It must be able to stand on its own and not fall apart when the director is gone. 🌟 C. Douglass Alves, Jr.
Ghost Schooner: The Wreck of the J.R. Moffett (Continued from page 2)

that had sunk in the Potomac. Consulting a compilation of vessel losses extracted from the List of Merchant Vessels of the United States, a close match to the name and circumstances was the schooner named J.R. Moffett. Armed with the schooner’s actual name and official registry number, Wisner contacted the National Archives and obtained copies of the Consolidated Certificate of Enrollment and License for the J.R. Moffett. The document confirmed that the vessel, captained by John Rainier, had indeed foundered on March 27, 1919, in the Potomac River and both men aboard were lost. Despite the slight difference in the vessel’s name, Watt Herbert had correctly related the basic facts.

Reports of the Accident

Knowing the name of the schooner and the date of the incident, museum staff began reviewing newspapers and other sources. The earliest published eyewitness account was found in the March 29 edition of the Washington Post. E. Madison Hall, aboard his passenger steamboat by the same name, was en route from Nomini, Virginia, to Washington, D.C., when he witnessed the accident. Hall was about a half mile from the schooner that was in an area he called Kettle Bottoms. He saw the squall cause the schooner, which had all its sails down, to careen twice with its masts nearly touching the water. The third time it careened, it capsized and settled on the bottom of the river in an upright position with about a third of its masts above the water.

The 409-ton, 166-foot paddlewheel steamer E. Madison Hall weathered the squall and proceeded to the accident scene to render assistance. There, Hall and his crew readied buoys and lifelines to assist any survivors. After standing by the capsized vessel for thirty or more minutes, there was no sign of the crew. The steamboat resumed its trip to Washington where the sinking of the unidentified schooner was reported.

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Hall stated the capsized vessel posed a hazard to navigation.

The next newspaper account of the incident was reported in the April 3 edition of the St. Mary’s Beacon. The newspaper described the March 27 weather in Leonardtown as “one of the most violent storms that this section has ever known.” A separate article describing the effects of the storm in the Seventh District stated that a schooner, thought to be the Harry P. Eli (sic), sank mid-stream in about thirty feet of water between Nomini, Virginia, and St. Catherine’s Island off the Maryland shore. Chapman Slye, captain of the E. Madison Hall, stated that the steamer reached the stricken schooner about ten minutes after it capsized, but no survivors or bodies were sighted.

On April 8, the Washington Post stated that the Leonardtown newspaper’s report had misidentified the vessel and the Harriet P. Ely was not the schooner that had foundered in the Potomac storm. It had been chartered by Wathen & Co. of Baltimore and had gone to the Rappahannock River two weeks earlier.

In Virginia, the Mathews Journal newspaper reported in its April 10 edition that:

“There is every reason to believe that Captain John Ranier (sic) of Blakes and Chris Brook (sic), colored, of the same place lost their lives in the Potomac river during the terrific gale last week. The schooner, J.R. Moffett, owned and run by Captain Ranier (sic) was known to be bound to Alexandria with a load of shells about this time and investigation by relatives shows that she has never reached that place.”

A week later, the St. Mary’s Beacon identified the vessel lost as the J.R. Morlett (sic) of Rappahannock River. The schooner was “loaded with oyster shells for a lime factory at Alexandria.” The same day, the Mathews Journal reported “Parties that went in search of missing vessel located it the last of the week and it lies in an upright position about two miles southeast of Cobb Point Lighthouse. It is not known if the men’s bodies were ever recovered. The reader may not believe in ghosts, but Capt. Watt Herbert was a believer and was convinced of what he and his father had witnessed on that late March day near the mouth of the Wicomico River. They knew they had seen the ghost of the schooner J.R. Moffett and its crew heading back home under full sail. As Herbert stated in later years, “there’s a lot of mysteries about the water.”

John Rainier and Chris Brooks could not have imagined the effect of the severe weather conditions on their heavily laden vessel on that fateful day in the Potomac. Any efforts to salvage the sunken vessel were unsuccessful. According to Beitzell, the government later dynamited the schooner because it posed a hazard to navigation. The Report of the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1920, confirms that the U.S. tug boat York removed the wreck of the J.R. Moffett from an area of the river about two miles southeast of Cobb Point Lighthouse.

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en route from the Piankatank River to Alexandria with a cargo of oyster shells. Like the St. Mary’s Beacon, the Enterprise called the schooner the J.R. Morlett (sic). It further stated that a son of Capt. John Rainier had visited the scene on April 13 and identified the submerged vessel. It concluded its report, “Efforts to have the boat raised are now under way.”

Historian Edwin Beitzell recorded other contemporary accounts of the incident in his Life on the Potomac River. Capt. Harding Daiger of Virginia stated “I can recall, when the schooner, Moffett, sank off St. Katherine’s (sic) Island in the Potomac in a March gale.” Beitzell goes on to state that his uncle, Fred Cheseldine, then living on St. Margaret’s Island, was watching the vessel during a gale when it was hit by what he described as a waterspout. Beitzell himself had seen the tops of the sunken schooner’s masts the following summer while visiting his uncle Charles Beitzell on St. Catherine’s Island.

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CMM Orientation Video Wins a 2016 Telly Award

The Calvert Marine Museum’s new orientation video produced by Think Speak Act, LLC was a Silver winner in the 37th annual Telly Awards. With nearly 13,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents, receiving a Silver Telly Award is among the most prestigious recognitions you can receive from the industry for video/film production. Silver is the highest award and only 7 to 10% of entrants are chosen as Silver Telly Award winners.

Think Speak Act, LLC is two very energetic and creative people: main videographer and audio engineer, J. Michael Roche, and primary writer, producer, and editor, Tanya Spann Roche. An award-winning “green” video production company since 2004, they have over 45 years of combined production experience. “We are very excited about this award,” said deputy director, Sherrod Sturrock. “Working with Tanya and Michael Roche was a real pleasure. We told them we wanted to let our visitors see behind-the-scenes, and I think they really delivered.”

This project was made possible by a grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority/Maryland Historical Trust. The orientation video is a winner in the non-broadcast/cultural category. Click here to view the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50PiALnVqiE.
Otter Holding Revitalization

By David Moyer, Curator of Estuarine Biology

A
fter completing the renovation of the Estuarine Biology gallery, our next focus is on the interior otter holding area, which badly needs to be revitalized. With support from the county and the CMM Society, that project is now underway and scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

Our contractor for this job is Modern Construction with a budget of just over $100,000. Highlights of the future holding area include: expanded yards and more space for the animals; a recirculating pool; all glass kenneling (for increased visibility) paired with a step-behind-the-scenes feature that will allow visitors to virtually step into the space; all stainless steel and aluminum hardware and new LED lighting. We will also mount a webcam that will allow internet users to view our animals remotely. My favorite features of the new area are the fold-away veterinary station and integrated squeeze cage — a box with a false back wall that allows the vet to easily inject anesthesia for medical procedures. Better lighting, better viewing, ease of maintenance, enhanced engagement opportunities for our guests, and improved veterinary care and access to the otters … who could ask for anything more? Except for … more otters! More to come on that in the next issue …

This project is funded by Calvert County Government (CCG), Stan and Barbara Benning, Nancy Weick, Liz Halvosa, Marianne Harms, John and Wendy Peters, Eileen and Steve Bildmann, and Colleen and Chris Romano. Special thanks to the Estuarine Biology staff for their creative insights, the CMM Development Department and Board of Governors for organizing the 2015 Bugeye Ball, and to the CCG Purchasing Offices without whom this project would still be a rough draft on my desk! 

Vanished Steamboats:
The Maritime Art of C. Leslie Oursler

T
he steamboat was once a familiar sight on the Chesapeake Bay, providing rural tidewater areas a lifeline to the bustling cities of Baltimore, Norfolk, and Washington, D.C. Artists like C. Leslie Oursler captured the stately beauty of these vanished icons and his paintings of steamboats are among the finest.

Vanished Steamboats: The Maritime Art of C. Leslie Oursler captures the spirit of a bygone age through his paintings, drawings, and ship models. This exhibition of selected works from the museum’s collection, supplemented by items from the collection of guest curator Jack Shaum, will be displayed in the Mezzanine Gallery from May 7 through the end of 2016.

Clarence Leslie Oursler (1913-1987) was a largely self-taught Maryland-born artist with a passion for depicting the ships, seascape, and waterside scenes of his beloved Chesapeake Bay region. The exhibit explores changes in the artist’s painting techniques from his realistic portrayals at the height of his career to a looser, more impressionistic approach to painting in his later years.

Pub Nights

AT THE CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM

Join the Calvert Marine Museum and local fans of maritime music for summer Pub Nights. Once a month, May through September, the museum will host a Pub Night for chantey singer enthusiasts. Led by Janie Meneely of Calico Jenny fame and Ships Company Chanteyman Myron Peterson, musicians, singers, and lovers of maritime tradition are encouraged to come and join the fray. There is a $5 cover charge; wine and beer will be available for sale. Dates are May 19, June 9, July 14, August 24, and September 22 starting at 7:00 pm.
It all began at the annual meeting of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG), in January of 2015. On the agenda was a discussion of future plans and projects. One of the ideas proposed was to construct a traditional Smith Island crab scrape, possibly propelled by an electric motor. The idea of combining old and new caught the imagination of Guild volunteers and the lines of the crab scrape Darlene were modified to create a 20-foot plywood version. To aid in construction, volunteer Al Suydam created two scale models of the future boat — a radio controlled version to help determine seakeeping and speed, and a builder’s model to guide in the actual construction. Al agreed to head the project with the help of many of the Guild’s volunteers.

Construction began in October of 2015, the boat taking shape in the customary upside down manner. The crew fitted frames, built the transom, and added the chines and laminated keel. Okume marine plywood sides and bottom have been fitted. Each new piece is weighed and recorded in order to keep track of the overall weight when finished; the boat has become something of a science project for the volunteers. While all agree that a lighter structure is required, and that electric is quite different from diesel drive, there is a wide variety of opinion on weight distribution and prop, shaft, and rudder sizing, requiring much vigorous discussion — all part of the fun. Volunteer Ed Bahniuk has taken on the important task of shaft and rudder placement through the keel.

Annapolis Hybrid Marine (AHM), our joint venture partner, is providing the electric motor, a Thoosa 7000-HT motor along with a 48-volt DC battery system. AHM also serves as a technical advisor to the project. Volunteer Butch Garren is photo-documenting every step of construction. PSCG volunteers Bill Wright, Ray Brule, and Ed Kobrinski round out the current team of builders. Bill will become the proud owner of this unique craft and is closely involved in the process. PSCG hopes to have the Carol Jeanne in the water for the Solomons Maritime Festival the first Saturday in May. In the meantime, visitors are encouraged to stop by the boat shop any Tuesday or Saturday to check on progress.

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**STAFF UPDATE**

We’re pleased to welcome our newest member of the Exhibits Department, Randy Parmer. Randy, a New York native, is the Museum Carpenter/Preparator and brings over twenty years of professional experience as a woodworker, furniture and cabinet maker, and furniture restorer. His work demonstrates exceptional craftsmanship, using both contemporary and traditional methods and materials. He has gained knowledge of museum interpretive practices though his employment as Preservation Carpenter at Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, New York. His extensive experience as a boatwright and with historic building preservation and restoration will prove an asset in advising on the care and display of the museum’s maritime collections.

“I fell in love with the Chesapeake Bay while vacationing years ago, and this job is a dream come true, making it possible for this place to be my home,” said Randy Parmer.
The Paleontology Department at the Calvert Marine Museum was recently awarded a Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Funding for the project, “Breathing New Life Into Old Bones” has allowed the Calvert Marine Museum to purchase Avizo 3D software and a MakerBot Replicator Z-18 3D printer to create models of specimens from its paleontology collection. It provides the museum the opportunity to print images and create visuals and hands-on models for use in educational programming, public exhibits, conferences, and peer-reviewed journals. CMM paleontologists may now visualize, analyze, and understand the scientific data in the collection in ways that would be unattainable by other means.

This software and printer will enhance our ability to share discoveries with the public, teach about life millions of years ago, and promote understanding of why things are the way they are today.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Their mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. IMLS grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.

An enlarged 3D printed replica (left) of a fossil tooth in the CMM collection (right). (Photos by John Nance)

Summer is a comin’! Time to get out on the water

Over the summer the Wm. B. Tennison takes guests out for a one-hour cruise every Wednesday through Sunday from May through October. In addition, the museum schedules many other opportunities to enjoy the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. Our skipjack, the Dee of St. Mary’s has a regular schedule of public sails. We have scheduled three Sunset Supper History Cruises, and have our usual schedule of Lighthouse Adventure Cruises to see lighthouses up and down the Chesapeake Bay. For details, visit our website www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/Concerts-Events-Cruises.

Dee of St. Mary’s Public Sails leave from the museum dock at 2:30 p.m. for a two-hour sail: May 28, June 25, July 23, August 20.

Our Sunset Supper History Cruise departs from the museum dock at 5:30 p.m. for an hour and a half narrated cruise on the Wm. B. Tennison and then returns to the museum for supper in the Members’ Lounge and a talk by our resident historian: June 18, August 6, September 17.

The Lighthouse Adventure Cruise departs from the museum dock on a chartered boat at 8:00 a.m. with a museum educator for a full day of seeing lighthouses, with a stopover for lunch: June 18 and August 13 cruises head to see northern lighthouses. July 23 and September 3, cruises go to see southern lighthouses.
Activities & Events

Alan Sturrock telling a story to young visitors.

Kevin Allor paints the face of a young visitor.

Nicolo Whimsey entertains visitors with his amazing juggling feats.

Volunteer Kristen Mankowski guides children in making crowns to wear.

(Photos by Rob Hurry)

CMM CELEBRATES NOON YEAR’S EVE PARTY

PEM TALKS AT CMM

Historian Chris Haley presents “The Local Legacy of Slavery” on Martin Luther King Day. (Photo by Sherrod Sturrock)

Brian Russell of Shore Thing Seafood shucks oysters for attendees of the March PEM talk. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Kate Livie reads from her book Chesapeake Oysters: The Bay’s Foundation & Future during a PEM Talk in March. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Author Milt Diggins signs his book Stealing Freedom Along the Mason-Dixon Line, following his PEM Talk in February. (Photo by Richard Dodds)
FIRST FREE FRIDAY

Crochet for the Bay, whose proceeds support the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, at the March First Free Friday event.

The Calvert High School Chamber Orchestra entertaining visitors at the March First Free Friday event.

Visitors at the March First Free Friday event enjoy the Youth Art Month exhibit in the museum’s lobby.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Guests of honor arrive on the red carpet for the Volunteer Recognition Awards dinner.

Guests enjoying the Volunteer Recognition Awards dinner.

John Fulchiron looks on as Jim Black and Frank Arbusto prepare new rigging for the Dee of St. Mary’s.

Woodburn Cabinets installs custom cabinetry in the Harms Gallery kitchen.

AND THE WORK CONTINUES

The CMM boardwalk is being replaced by the Edwin A. and John O. Crandell crew. This project was funded by the Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Program, Calvert County Government, and the Calvert Marine Museum Society.

(Photos by Rob Hurry)
The Calvert Marine Museum summer camps are run by professional educators committed to making learning fun. These are small camps, with a maximum of 12 campers, led by two adults. Campers are guaranteed to get the personal attention they deserve as they explore, discover, and delight in the wonders of our natural world. To register, go to www.bit.ly/2016SummerCamps.

ENTERING GRADES 1 – 3 FROM 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Pirates & Scallywags, July 4 – 8: Young buccaneers, led by swashbuckling Captain Kevin, wear pirate garb, eat pirate grub, talk pirate lingo, and raid Historic St. Mary’s City.

Critter Camp, July 18 – 22: FULL

ENTERING GRADES 4 – 6 FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

Guardians of the Estuary, July 11 – 15: Campers paddle, wade, hike, and sail our local waterways to explore how the animals interact in their world. Plan to get muddy and creative as you canoe, collect, and search for a model estuary ecosystem.

The Exhilaration of Otters, August 1 – 5: Explore otter adaptations and learn about otters around the world. Investigate how otters communicate, enjoy a canoe ride in their habitat, and use your knowledge to design an addition to our museum habitat for our otters to enjoy!

ENTERING GRADES 6 – 8 FROM 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Build Your Own Canoe, June 27 – July 2: (Members Only) In the course of a week, campers build a 12-foot plywood canoe that can carry two. Learn basic woodworking and finishing skills under the direction of members of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild. Sail a radio-control model boat and learn to catch crabs during a cruise on a drake tail work boat. Participate in a canoe regatta on Saturday as you race other campers on the Patuxent River. Boating safety camp offered by Spirit of America is also part of this program.


JPPM Archaeology Explorers, July 11 – 15: Spend a week at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum with archaeologists excavating for artifacts at the 18th century Smith St. Leonard site. Register through JPPM; information on our website.

ENTERING GRADES 9 – 10 FROM 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Dee Sailing Camp, July 25 – July 29: Spend a week exploring what is above and below the surface of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay from the deck of our skipjack, the Dee of St. Mary’s. Participants in this camp will spend five days aboard the Dee of St. Mary’s learning to prep the boat, sail, and navigate. Dredge for oysters, collect and identify fish in a trawl, and measure water quality. Participants will also visit an oyster hatchery and see Chesapeake Bay animals up close as we examine the ways humans impact our local wildlife.

Museum members receive many benefits, including the opportunity to order concert tickets a week prior to the general public — the best way to ensure yourselves a ticket. Renew online today at http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/FormCenter/Membership-3/Membership-45 or call 410-326-2042 x16.
Announcing 2016 Waterside Concert Series

It will be the biggest year yet for concerts at the Calvert Marine Museum! We’ve got five shows scheduled for the summer and will announce the official schedule on April 15. We know you expect us to bring great music to Southern Maryland, and you will not be disappointed with the lineup.

Concerts are the museum’s biggest fundraiser. We depend on the proceeds these shows provide for the education and preservation efforts the museum undertakes every year. Your ticket purchase to these concerts helps us care for the otters, collect rare fossils, preserve historic boats, and provide all the great education programs and events that make up the museum.

Know that by coming to a concert, you are helping to make a difference. We look forward to seeing you this summer at one of our great shows:

Announced Shows:
June 4 . . . . . . . . . .Chris Young & William Michael Morgan
August 26 . . . . . . . . . Goo Goo Dolls and Collective Soul

3 MORE CONCERTS TO BE ANNOUNCED!
Watch your email for the announcement on April 15th!

Members’ Trip 2016

On Sunday, March 6, members took a trip to visit Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens in Washington, D.C. Hillwood is the home of Marjorie Merriweather Post — the legendary heiress, pioneering businesswoman, diplomat, philanthropist, and distinguished collector. Members got a private tour of the mansion, which serves as a museum for her one-of-a-kind art collection; dined together in The Cafe; toured the estate’s lavish gardens; and were surrounded by the warmth and fragrance of Hillwood’s greenhouse — which houses hundreds of orchids blooming in concert during the month of March.

The Calvert Marine Museum plans one or two membership trips per year. Hope to see you on the next trip! If you have an idea for a future trip, please share. For information on future members’ trips, please contact Lisa Howard in the membership office at 410-326-2042 x16.

Can’t Join us at the Bugeye Ball?
Buy a Raffle Ticket!
Your chance to win!

Dinner Cruise on the Chesapeake
Aboard the 87-foot yacht Quixote with dinner prepared by “Ken’s Creative Kitchen”

Enjoy a memorable day or evening cruise aboard this luxurious sailing yacht. You and up to nine guests will be pampered by a first class chef and his professional team while your taste buds are tantalized with perfectly paired foods and wines. The crew of the Quixote and the staff of Ken’s Creative Kitchen will take care of your every need while you relax and let the wind blow through your hair.

Exquisite & Unique Jewelry
Winner’s Choice from a collection of fine jewelry

The collection of jewelry the winner will have to choose from will reflect the beauty of the sea and the splendor of the evening. Each piece is hand-selected by Dickinson Jewelers and beautifully crafted with fine metals and precious stones to ensure the winner will cherish the exquisite piece forever.

Chances are $100 each and only 150 chances will be sold. Raffle ticket proceeds will go toward the cost of major repairs being done on the Wm. B. Tennison. Fill out the online entry form and you will receive a receipt for your purchase in the mail. The drawing is to be held at the Bugeye Ball on Saturday, April 23. You need not be present to win.
JOHN BARBER PRINTS ARE BACK! By Maureen Baughman, Museum Store Manager

Limited edition, signed and numbered collector prints of John Morton Barber’s “Buying Oysters at Drum Point” are available again at the Calvert Marine Museum Store. John M. Barber is a nationally acclaimed artist and premier chronicler of Chesapeake Bay maritime life. These rare prints capturing a piece of Southern Maryland’s history are only available at the Museum Store and are the perfect addition to any artwork collection.

The original painting was commissioned by the museum in memory of James H. Buys, the first chairman of the museum board, and is part of the museum’s permanent collection. “Buying Oysters at Drum Point” depicts a typical scene that was once very common to this area, but is never seen today. Shown in the picture is the Wm. B. Tennison buying oysters from the skipjack Apollo, just inside Drum Point.

The Tennison was built in 1899 at Crabb Island, Maryland, as a sailing, oyster-dredging barge. She was converted to power in 1907 and spent her winters buying oysters from local watermen and taking them to oyster shucking houses. The skipjack Apollo was built in Solomons in 1914. The Drum Point Lighthouse in the print marked the entrance to the Patuxent River, but was moved in 1975 to the museum’s waterfront.

The “Buying Oysters at Drum Point” prints are $150 each and available for purchase in the Museum Store or online at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com. Framed prints are also available in the Museum Store. For more information, call the Museum Store at 410-326-2750.

S O L O M O N S
MARITIME FESTIVAL

SATURDAY MAY 7 2016

10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Celebrating Southern Maryland Traditions
Antique Boat & Marine Engine Show

Traditional Music, Cooking Demonstrations, Home Craft Demonstrations, Maritime Skills,
Boat Rides, Toy Boat Building, Fresh Local Produce, Locally Farmed Oysters

Thanks to our Sponsors:

Calvert County Board of Commissioners
Patuxent Small Craft Guild
Community Bank of the Chesapeake
Calvert County Watermen’s Association
Holiday Inn Solomons
Spring Cove Marina
Washburn’s Boat Yard
Zahniser’s Yachting Center

SOLOMONS, MARYLAND
On Wednesday, March 16, the staff rolled out the red carpet for the annual Volunteer Recognition Awards dinner. Director Doug Alves served as Master of Ceremonies, assisted by Deputy Director Sherrod Sturrock. Doug announced the total volunteer hours logged for 2015: 28,701! This equates to $757,993 of in-kind service. Volunteers that worked 100 hours or more were recognized with a certificate and a small gift, followed by those volunteers who achieved a 1,000 hour milestone over their volunteer time at CMM.

Congratulations to the following volunteers that were nominated by the staff for the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award: Sherry Carter works in the development office and in the education department as one of the Drum Point Lighthouse volunteers. Christa Conant works in the paleo prep lab, both lighthouses, the Discovery Room, Skates & Rays, estuarine biology, summer camps, and the Fossil Field experience. Mike Ellwood works in Paleo several days each week helping to catalog and curate the fossil collection. He also contributes to First FREE Fridays, excavates whale and dolphin skulls, and donates many important fossils to the museum’s permanent collection. Mary Krauss & Fran Grim work in the Museum Store and are complete professionals although neither is opposed to some hijinks and fun. Herb Moore has assisted with concerts for 15 years. He manages set-up for the concerts as well as coordinating concert security. Herb also helps with museum events all year long. Judy Okay has been dedicated to the marsh walk restoration effort, aiding in species selection and placement, and identification of native plant vendors. She created and maintains the floating gardens along our boardwalk and is also responsible for the Children’s Garden. Zak Lellis-Petrie works behind the scenes monitoring the aquarium chemistries weekly. His contributions enable the museum to have the amazing living collections in our exhibits. Robert Pfeiffer is a constant and dependable behind-the-scenes guy, coordinating bars at Waterside concerts, handling bar duty with Shirley during the Maritime Performance Series, volunteering for almost every First FREE Friday, running the Corbin stage for the Solomons Maritime Festival and PRAD, and playing Christmas carols with Stephen at the annual Chili Party. Al Suydam, a member of the PSCG, uses his engineering and design background to help lead the planning of Guild projects. Al built a demonstration model and a construction model prior to the construction of a 20-foot electric powered crabbing skiff. Tom & Sandy Younger are both important members of the exhibits team and provide support throughout the museum. Tom has been especially invaluable to the exhibits shop while they are shorthanded and Sandy is right in there with hands-on assistance for the projects Tom is working on.

Congratulations also go out to the following nominees for the 2015 Group Achievement Award. Lighthouse Volunteers include people who lead tours and staff both the Drum Point and Cove Point Lighthouses and they do an awesome job. Museum Store Ladies helped unpack, price, display, and store a record amount of merchandise in 2015! They also helped the store staff ring up 14,000 individual sales. Bob and Pam Platt are the “Paleo Pair.” Between the two of them they staff the prep lab and collections, help out on First FREE Fridays, with the Fossil Club events, and with other special events. Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG) regularly come in on Tuesdays and Saturdays to take care of the wooden boat collection, and also are a big part of special events including the Solomons Maritime Festival and PRAD. They are the key element in the success of the week-long summer boatbuilding camp. In 2015, they completed the Ped-L-Craft and began the design and construction of an electric powered 20-foot crabbing skiff. Solomons Island Model Boat Club (SIMBC) participates in the Road Scholar and summer camp programs using the Victoria radio controlled boats. They also participate in the Solomons Maritime Festival and have public sailing events throughout the summer. Toddler/Preschool Program Assistants Carole Purcell and Roseann Mahanes assist with Sea Squirts and Little Minnows and help keep children between the ages of 18 month to five years old together, entertained, and engaged. Waterside Music Series Volunteers are the key to the successful concerts we have at CMM. Whether they are setting up chairs, taking tickets, selling beer/wine, working in the green room, helping with security, and everything in between, we couldn’t do it without them. Yard Arms work very hard each week to make the campus of CMM beautiful for visitors, staff, and volunteers. They also work hard during the off season making plans for the upcoming year. Everyone enjoys the final product that comes from their dedication and hard work.

And The Winners Are…

Robert Pfeiffer for the 2015 Volunteer of the Year. He received a plaque, a gift, and the Golden Otter Award. He will also have a reserved parking space designated for our Volunteer of the Year.

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild won the 2015 Group Achievement Award. They were awarded a plaque and will be treated to a two hour wine and cheese Tennison cruise over the summer.

Congratulations and thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work and dedication in 2015 — you are all winners in my book!