The Ark of Hungerford Creek

By Richard J. Dodds, Curator of Maritime History

Introduction
The story of the Ark of Hungerford Creek begins in 1906 in Stettin, Germany, with the construction of the majestic transatlantic ocean liner *Kronprinzessin Cecelie* for the North German Lloyd company. The German flyer engaged in the lucrative transatlantic passenger trade between Bremen and New York until the outbreak of World War I. On August 4, 1914, after departing New York with passengers and a shipment of gold and silver, she was ordered to turn around before reaching European waters to avoid patrolling British warships. Days later, and shrouded in fog, she made a dramatic appearance in Bar Harbor, Maine, safe in neutral American waters.

In the autumn of 1914, the ship was moved to Boston and interned. After America declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, she was seized by the U.S. government and transferred to the U.S. Navy. Renamed USS *Mount Vernon*, and commissioned July 28 as a troopship, she carried many more “passengers” than as a German liner, necessitating increased lifesaving apparatus. To supplement the original twenty-two wooden lifeboats that hung under davits, ten collapsible boats and a variety of life rafts were added during her fitting-out in Boston — enough capacity for 4,150 crew and troops.

*Mount Vernon* made nine transatlantic crossings as a troopship, the most eventful occurring on September 5, 1918, when she was heavily damaged from a torpedo fired from the German submarine U-82. *Mount Vernon* made it safely back to Brest, France, where she was repaired.

The former liner made several post-war crossings bringing back American troops from Europe. On September 29, 1919, she was decommissioned and transferred to the War Department as an Army transport. In this guise she made a trip to Vladivostok, via the Panama Canal, to pick up foreign troops and refugees near the end of the Russian Civil War. She reverted to the U.S. Shipping Board in 1920 and the Emergency Fleet Corporation the following year. Towed from Boston to Norfolk in 1924, the transport was drydocked, then turned over to the Laid-Up Fleet Division. In 1927, she was laid-up in the Patuxent River, as part of the Reserve Fleet. *Mount Vernon* became a fixture in the local  

Continued on page 4
The Calvert Marine Museum was founded in 1970 and in 2020 we celebrate our 50th anniversary. Since those early beginnings in a small building on Solomons Island, the museum has grown and evolved. On the museum website there is a chronology of CMM’s history: http://bit.ly/2fO4Gb2. It is impressive to see how steadily the museum developed over time, adding new facilities, new exhibits, new events, and more staff.

In 2013, we completed a renovation of our lobby, auditorium, and Museum Store. These changes, combined with the reopening of our new River to Bay exhibit, brought a surge in visitation, resulting in two record-setting years. Our membership, volunteers, program participation, school fieldtrips, and events all continue to grow and thrive.

Now it is time to think about what lies ahead: time to grow the vision, expand our reach, and embrace a future that ensures CMM continues to be the vibrant, relevant cultural resource it has always been. We are, once again and always, on the move. Here is a snapshot of our goals for the next five years.

**Education Center**

When the museum did the initial renovation, the bids exceeded the available funds and we were forced to phase the expansion and renovation of the second level for education space. Under the direction of CMM Deputy Director Jeff Murray and C.J. Jones from Calvert County Department of General Services, Colimore Architects has almost completed the design for the Education Center. It will include two new, connected classrooms, a unisex bathroom, adequate storage space, and office space for education staff. We are requesting that the Commissioners consider moving this project forward in the county’s capital improvement program to be funded in FY 2019. Our goal is to complete this project by the spring of 2019. County funds will be matched by private donations.

**New Property Acquisition and Waterfront Opportunities**

The current museum campus is at capacity and the museum waterfront is limited to the small area next to the Drum Point Lighthouse. This greatly restricts what the museum is able to do in terms of interpreting and demonstrating our maritime heritage. This summer, the
Calvert Marine Museum Society Board of Directors decided to purchase the Clark property, which has 150 feet of waterfront. Subsequently, Marianne Harms, one of our board members, purchased the property immediately behind the Clark property, which was under imminent threat of development. These combined properties add 1.27 acres to the campus and, with the exception of one property, extend the museum’s campus to the border with the Beacon Marina.

Having additional waterfront, even when not contiguous, is a great advantage to the museum. The Patuxent Small Craft Guild, Solomons Island Model Boat Club, Canoe and Kayak Club, and educational activities all need waterfront access. With additional waterfront, the museum can host visiting skipjacks and other vessels, and develop water-based museum interpretive programs. The museum is planning to do a new site master plan this year that will incorporate the newly acquired properties.

Paleontology Research and Collections Center

The Calvert Marine Museum interprets three themes, enabling visitors to understand the Chesapeake Bay through its pre-history, natural history, and maritime heritage. Paleontology is part of our mission because the first director, Dr. Ralph Eshelman, understood the significance of the Miocene era fossils found in the Calvert Cliffs. For almost 40 years, our paleontologists have been building a collection, which now numbers over 100,000 fossils. It is the most significant Miocene collection of marine fossils found anywhere outside of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. No other institution in the state of Maryland is doing this level or scope of work in the field of paleontology.

Due to the energy and success of this department, the museum is completely out of space to house our growing collection or prepare new fossils that are found. The museum is asking the County Commissioners to consider the construction of a new Paleontology Research and Collections Center located on the recently acquired property. The Paleontology Center can house our growing collection, provide storage and preparation space, offices, the paleontology library, and a conference room. Moving these functions out of the administration building would result in more space for the maritime history collection, exhibits, and much needed space in the Paul L. Berry Research Library.

A Remarkable Legacy

The Calvert Marine Museum has a remarkable legacy, and one that I hope all Calvert County citizens, CMM members, and friends are proud of. It reflects generations of people who have invested their energy, creativity, inspiration, and talent to make this institution the exceptional place that it is. But no museum can afford to rest on its laurels or its legacy. We stay relevant by staying on the move. I hope you’ll jump on for the ride.

In the Summer 2017 issue of the Bugeye Times, we published an article by Robert Hurry titled “Tracing Jewish Merchants on Solomons Island.” As part of his research, Robert had contacted living relatives of these former shopkeepers. Following are comments from family members after reading the article.

That article gave me goosebumps. You did such an amazing job. I have the original one that you sent me years ago but I really loved reading this one with all the pictures. Thank you so much.

Fondly,
Shelley Becker Zipper

What a wonderful article. I am so thankful you wrote it. My dad, Maurice, liked to share stories about spending summers at Solomons when he was a kid. I never knew about the Becker House. I will have to visit.

Bill Becker

I am so appreciative of the superb Becker store biography you have written. I am forwarding it to my family to enlighten them and anticipate my cousins doing likewise. I do hope I shall have an opportunity to thank you someday in person.

Thank you so much.
Marvin Becker

Thank you so much for sending these articles. It was great to meet you and I’m glad we could be of assistance. We learned a lot about our family history too, thanks to you and your work. I plan to forward the articles to all of our cousins – they will love them! Thank you again.

Best regards.
Abby Smith

Thanks so much for this history, Rob! Much appreciated, and very interesting to see the entire succession of merchant families. We thoroughly enjoyed visiting with you and seeing the area in 2014.

Best regards,
Marcy Jacobs
landscape until 1940 when she was hauled away for scrapping. At various times she was joined by the Monticello, America, George Washington, Southern Cross, and American Legion, in what came to be popularly known as the “Ghost Fleet.” It was during this time that one of the lifeboats from the Mount Vernon began a new career as a land-based chapel.

A Clergyman and His Boat

Reverend Dr. Benjamin B. Lovett, an ordained Episcopal priest, has the distinction of serving all four Episcopal churches in Calvert County in various capacities: All Saints Parish, 1897-1900, Christ Church Parish (at the time sharing a rector with St. Paul’s, Prince Frederick), 1900-01 and 1904-11, and St. Peters and Middleham Chapels, 1911-13. Rev. Lovett took an early interest in boats and all things nautical. While rector of St. Peters and Middleham Chapel, Rev. Lovett and his family lived in a large rectory in Solomons adjoining the equally large parish hall. Both were located at the southern end of the island, near the “pump trees.”

Enter the Ark

In 1913, Rev. Lovett moved to a new parish in Baltimore, but he left behind many friends and acquaintances in Calvert County. Seeking a refuge from a busy clergyman’s life in the city, Rev. Lovett and his wife Ethel bought a lot on Hungerford Creek in 1935 from Solomons businessman and landowner Joseph C. Webster and his wife. In 1938, they purchased an adjoining lot from the Websters, to make 1.44 acres of waterfront property in total. Soon after acquiring the land, the Lovetts built a summer place, a small cabin without any electricity or indoor plumbing. Pictures show a board and batten style structure, with a porch facing the creek, and surrounded by trees. It came to be known as “Hawk’s Nest” in what was then the very rural community of Coster (now part of present-day Lusby).

It didn’t take the nautically-minded Rev. Lovett long to take the next step. “My second Noah’s Ark came into being through my desire to have a small private Chapel in the woods on the shore of Hungerford’s Creek . . . Recognizing the similarity in

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shape of a large life boat from the interned German steamer, the Mt. Vernon [sic], to the traditional Noah’s Ark, I purchased the boat and together with some neighbors we hauled it on the bank and secured it on cement foundations.”

Long-time local resident, Vernon McCready, was born and raised in the family home on Hungerford Creek, which adjoined the property of Rev. Lovett. In an interview in 2014, he recalled that Rev. Lovett paid five dollars for the lifeboat, and that when it was lowered from the Mount Vernon it had no paint on the hull, after years of exposure to the weather. His father, Maurice McCready, towed the lifeboat to the creek where he and his brother, James Harry McCready, used skids and block and tackle to haul the boat on shore. Harry, a skilled carpenter, built the house on the lifeboat to create a chapel. Vernon recalled that the lifeboat was still stocked with emergency provisions and his uncle was given a crate of canned corned beef.

The lifeboat that became a chapel was built of double diagonally-planked oak planking. Heavy iron lifting gear is still located underneath the small decks at bow and stern for use when the lifeboat hung from davits. On the hull, Harry McCready built a cabin that measured twenty feet long by ten feet wide. The bow section became a chapel with small altar and several benches. A movable curtain separated the chapel from a small guest room in the aft section. When placed on one side of the door it gave entrance to the chapel and when placed on the other it gave entrance to the guest room. Rev. Lovett had a door cut in the port side of the house with an entrance ramp instead of stairs.

The Ark was originally intended as a place for private services for Rev. Lovett and his family when they came on vacation. It was also used by Rev. Edmund Gettier and his family who came from Baltimore for a month, usually in August. Gettier was a fellow clergyman and friend of Rev. Lovett. If Rev. Lovett was also there, the family stayed in the cabin and Rev. Lovett stayed on the Ark. The three sons of Rev. Gettier spent most of their time on the creek but on Sundays there was always a service on the Ark, given by one of the clergymen.

Word of the Ark spread and soon Rev. Lovett was asked to perform a baptism on the Ark. The unusual location of the baptism made the local news. The Calvert Gazette of August 28, 1937, reported on “an interesting and unusual baptismal service” held on August 15 when Earlene Elizabeth McCready, the infant daughter of Earl and Ethel McCready, was baptized in the presence of twenty-seven relatives and friends. Following this ceremony, a number of other people asked Rev. Lovett to baptize their children, as well.

The Ark was also the site of a wedding on October 21, 1938, between Kenneth O’Berry and Evelyn Abbott. Ceremonies were recorded in the parish register of Memorial Church in Baltimore, where Rev. Lovett was rector from 1927-1939. The place of baptism or marriage was usually written as Faith Chapel of “The Ark,” Coster. Rev. Lovett explained the name: ‘It became necessary to give the Chapel a name and as the building of the original Ark was the result of faith, the little Chapel is called “Faith Chapel,” The Ark, Hawk’s Nest Camp, Hungerford’s Creek, Maryland.’ Lovett envisioned the converted lifeboat as a 1/10 scale replica of the original biblical Ark. In a one page history he wrote: “The use of a life boat for a little Chapel seems to have struck the imagination not only in the small neighborhood, but also far afield where news of it has been spread.”

In 1943 the Lovetts sold their property, now including the Ark, to William Bedford Glascock and his wife Sarah, heirs to J.C. Webster and his wife. They, in turn, sold the property in 1948 to Walter and Frances

Lifeboat conversions have a long history, particularly in Europe, where redundant lifeboats could be purchased cheaply, pulled up on the marshy fore-shore, and converted into houseboats or weekend cottages. A number still survive today. Rev. Lovett’s lifeboat conversion was more unusual as it was intended from the outset to be a chapel and a small scale version of the biblical ark. The term “ark” as used on the Chesapeake was often used to describe a fishing shanty or houseboat. This was typically a flat-bottomed scow, perhaps ten by twenty feet in size with a cabin built on top. They were designed to be moved as needed, although many became permanent fixtures on the shoreline.

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“Faith Chapel – The Ark” in the late 1930s. (Courtesy, Emily Ferris)

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Burke of Lanham, Maryland. In the deed is a rather curious covenant “that no spirituous, alcoholic or malt liquor beverage shall be made or sold on any part of the said premises, without the written consent of the parties of the first part had and obtained.” The Ark became a kind of office and storage room and at some point electricity was laid-on as well as a propane line. In 1990, Allan and Theresa Barrett bought the property and looked after the Ark until they sold the property in 2012 to Robert and Catherine Moeller. The Moellers generously donated the Ark to the Calvert Marine Museum in 2016 for preservation and worked with community businesses and individuals to move the Ark at no cost to the museum.

The former German transatlantic ocean liner Kronprinzessin Cecelie, and later American USS Mount Vernon, was towed from the Patuxent to Baltimore for scrapping in 1940, as war clouds gathered over Europe once more. The lifeboat that became the Ark thus became a rare surviving piece of the ship. Today, the Ark sits on a new purpose-built cradle designed to give maximum support to the aging hull. Interior drywall has been removed to expose the original construction and appearance and a ramp built to provide access. Volunteers from the Patuxent Small Craft Guild performed much of the work with funding provided in part by Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust. The Ark will be open for Patuxent River Appreciation Days this year. The plan is to have it open for special events and by appointment.

The chapel sanctuary created in the bow of the lifeboat in the mid-1930s. The original thwarts, or seats, that were fitted in the lifeboat, have been removed to create space. (Courtesy, Emily Ferris)

Family and guests attending the baptism of Ethel Yvonne McCready on October 14, 1939. She is being held by her mother, Ethel, on the right. Her older sister, Earlene, stands in front of her father, Earl McCready. Earlene was baptized on the Ark in 1937. (Courtesy, Emily Ferris)

Discovery of a Giant Ray Plate

By John Nance, Paleontology Collections Manager

Earlier this summer, I was out collecting and found many pieces of a very large spotted eagle ray upper jaw dental pavement. It was collected over a period of about five days during low tides. Each walk revealed new pieces of this fossil puzzle. The pavement measures six inches by four inches and is one of the largest and most complete ever found along Calvert Cliffs. Rays use these dental pavements to crush clams, snails, and crustaceans. We can tell that this is an upper pavement because the lower pavement is V shaped. Today these rays can reach lengths of up to 15 feet and have a 10 foot wingspan. (Photo by Stephen Godfrey)
If you’ve been following our ‘otter-saga,’ you know that the aquarists have been working hard to get our three otters to ‘play nice’ together. We’re happy to report that all is now well in the otter habitat.

Introductions of newcomers to an established group is done with great care and caution. Aggression between animals is always a possibility and one that we try to avoid at all costs. Established animals frequently view the exhibit and holding spaces as their territory, which they instinctively defend from newcomers. Males in particular will often be seen as potential challengers for dominance by other males. As you know, Chumley is our 14-year-old male who has lived at CMM virtually all of his life. Introducing a young male, Calvert, into his territory was a challenging process.

In an effort to prevent aggression, introductions are conducted very gradually and carefully. The animals first become aware of the presence of others by smell, then are allowed to have visual and limited physical contact with each other through barriers. Eventually, after the staff is reasonably certain that things will go well, the animals are allowed to share the same physical space. These first contacts are usually brief and occur under close observation. Only after the staff feel that the animals are very comfortable with each other will they allow them to have unsupervised contact.

Chessie-Grace, our young female, was first introduced to Chumley, the older male, in this manner last fall. At the time none of the staff knew just how Gracie would be accepted by Chumley so everyone was prepared to step in quickly to intervene if they started fighting. However, as Aquarist Laura Rink said, “To the great surprise of all of us, both animals immediately started cuddling with each other”.

Calvert, our younger male, was gradually introduced to Chessie-Grace early last spring, then to Chumley beginning in April. Once again, Chessie-Grace got along well with Calvert, but Calvert and Chumley did not take to each other right away. It took around three months and at least 10 short introductions for them to get to know each other before the aquarists were comfortable leaving them alone. Watching Gracie swim back and forth between them trying to broker a peace deal was quite amusing.

Now, all three otters can be kept together and they are all getting along very well, although they occasionally squabble a bit during feedings. I encourage you to check them out on our otter cams http://bit.ly/2xA2USE If you’re lucky, you’ll catch them grooming each other or napping curled together on the log. 🐻
The exhibits team is moving forward with the Recreational Playground exhibit installation. The Whirl-Wind runabout display base is completed and painted. We have installed a large photomural showing a Whirl-Wind on the water and the Drum Point Lighthouse. Custom outboard motor stands will “step” down from the large racing Chrysler 150 motor as visitors take the ramp from the lobby to the Maritime Gallery.

At the bottom of the ramp, early outboards will encircle our 1925 gasoline pump, underscoring the important role of the internal combustion engine in revolutionizing travel and recreational boating. The display case and mounts for our collection of rods and reels is completed. The popular photo of Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, and Desi Jr aboard a Cruis Along cruiser has returned to its rightful place beside our own Cruis Along.

The main upper-portion of artist Tim Scheirer’s mural project “Life on the Patuxent” is complete and sealed as he continues to work on this signature piece. Tim’s hidden surprises and visual puns can be found in the mural for those who know how to look. This project is funded by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and the Maryland Historical Trust, matched by funds raised at the 2015 Bugeye Ball.

Tom Younger and Randy Parmer (with hat) positioning outboard motors before installing display stands. Artist Tim Scheirer works above on scaffolding. (Photos by Carey Crane)

Tom Younger, Tim Scheirer, and Carey Crane inspecting mural panels in place before installation. (Photo by Rachel Reese)

Museum artist Tim Scheirer applies final additions to the upper portion of the “Life on the Patuxent” themed wall mural. (Photo by Carey Crane)
Gearing Up for Fall

Following a beautiful Maryland summer filled with dozens of warm weather programs and activities, education staff are preparing for a fully involved fall season that will bring many opportunities for people of all ages. This summer, in addition to six week-long summer camps and a three-day mini-camp, department staff developed and conducted five individual day camps that were extremely well attended! Adding the day camps introduced new types of camp programming, including our new Norse Explorer day camp.

With the advent of cooler weather, we are gearing up for the annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days event on October 7 and 8. During the upcoming school year, we plan to maximize our efforts to reach as many students as possible through our museum-based, field-based, and outreach programs. One of our newest initiatives, Gills Club, is being coordinated in partnership with the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy. Gills Club is a STEM-focused program with activities designed for girls ages 7-12, with siblings of participants invited to join in as well. Meetings are held from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month, with pre-registration required — www.bit.ly//GillsClubRegistration.

One of the department’s primary goals this autumn is to work with a Baltimore architectural firm to finalize design efforts for what will become the new Education Center on the Exhibition Hall second (mezzanine) level. This project, which involves a combination of additions and renovations, will provide the museum with additional and improved classroom space, new office space for educators, a new restroom on that level, and an increased amount of storage space. We hope to begin construction in early 2019, if funding is approved by the county. 🛠

Dee of St. Mary's UPDATE

This year marks another successful season for programs aboard the Dee of St. Mary's. By the end of October, the Dee will have carried approximately 1300 students during 25 days of educational trips. With 18 private charters and six public sails undertaken this season in addition to the educational programs, it has been a very busy season. Not counting training sessions, the captains and crew have invested over 800 hours in order to make this program successful. While the trips are broken into “education” trips, private charters, and public sails, the crew as a whole ensures that every trip is educational. Crab or oyster talks are a regular occurrence during public sails and private charters, and all of the crew is well versed about the vessel and can answer questions from the passengers. With every passing season, it is clear that the Dee is a great asset to the museum. 🛳

The 2017 Aww...Shucks Oyster Social was another great success. Beautiful weather, great food, upbeat music by the Smoke Creek Rounders, and amazing oysters supplied by Hollywood Oyster Company, Shore Thing Shellfish, LLC, and 38° North - JD Blackwell. Over $22,000 was raised and the funds will be used to start an endowment for the Dee of St. Mary's. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
The Calvert Marine Museum
Presents
2017-18 Maritime Performance Series
Doors open: 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale
Performances are in the Harms Gallery
starting at 7 p.m.
Buy tickets at: www.bit.ly//MaritimeConcerts

Friday, October 13
HARPETH RISING
Three classically trained musicians playing original music, as intricately arranged as a string quartet, lyrically rooted in the singer/songwriter tradition, and wrapped in three-part vocal harmonies reminiscent of both Appalachia and Medieval Europe. Building from the tonal depth of the cello, the trio layers in the shimmering sounds of a violin and the strikingly natural addition of banjo to create a sound at once familiar and impossible to categorize. Unapologetic genre-benders, Harpeth Rising fuses folk, newgrass, rock and classical into something organically unique. Tickets are $20 online, $25 at the door.

Saturday, October 21
BARRULE
Presented in partnership with The Celtic Society of Southern Maryland. Named after the famous Manx summit where legend says the ancient Celtic God Manannan MacLir stalked his mighty fortress, Barrule fuses three distinct musical forces: gifted fiddle-player Tomas Callister, accordion wizard Jamie Smith, and versatile accompanist Adam Rhodes on bouzouki. Together this talented acoustic unit creates a powerful and wholly distinctive sound. Tickets are $25 at the door, as available. Visit https://cssm.ticketleap.com to purchase tickets online (some discounts apply).

Friday, November 10
SIMPLE GIFTS
Two women plus twelve instruments equals one heck of a good time. Combining tradition with innovation, Simple Gifts creates some of the finest arrangements in folk music today: swing fiddle creeps into a Romanian dance, spoons show up in an Irish reel, and a blues lick introduces a Klezmer melody. Based in the hills of central Pennsylvania, these women play an amazing array of instruments, switching with ease among fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, guitjo, recorders, bowed psaltery, hammered dulcimer, baritone fiddle, guitar, and percussion. Tickets are $15 online, $20 at the door.

Friday, January 19
LULU’S FATE
Lulu’s Fate performs a mix of music from the Appalachian, southern string band, and country blues traditions, as well as early swing, gospel, original tunes and covers ranging from Hank Williams to Tom Waits. Comprised of Tom Espinola on mandolin & guitar, Kristen Jones on cello, and singer Kara Bolling, the trio blends virtuosic instrumentals with lush 3-part vocal harmonies to create new interpretations of traditional tunes. Lulu’s Fate is based in the Washington DC metro area. Tickets are $15 online, $20 at the door.

14200 Solomons Island Road - Solomons, MD 20688 - 410-326-2042
www.calvertmarinemuseum.com
Volunteer Council Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, September 12, the Volunteer Council held its annual meeting with the main order of business being the election of officers for the upcoming year. The meeting was formally opened by Ray Brule, council president. Judy Larsen, the chairperson of the nominating committee, presented the slate of officers: Ray Brule, president; Dennis Baker, vice president; Tim Wakeman, treasurer; Margo Sinback, secretary; and Denita Sanders, corresponding secretary. Following the meeting volunteers enjoyed a picnic style supper. A special thank you goes to Janet Addiss for the delicious ham and baked beans she prepared, and to Boomerangs for donating the cole-slaw and potato salad.

Volunteer Council officers (Left to right) are Denita Sanders, corresponding secretary; Judy Larsen, past president; Dennis Baker, vice president; Margo Sinback, secretary; and Ray Brule, president; not pictured is Tim Wakeman, treasurer. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Please Help Support the Troops

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, staff, board, and a few outside organizations, we have been sending packages to the troops each month since December, 2009. This is a program that we plan to continue until every member of our military is home again.

We take donations of items that can be easily shipped like gum, hard candy, playing cards, paperbacks, batteries, razors, wipes, etc., as well as cash donations to help offset the considerable cost of postage. If you would like to support this effort, please contact Sherry Reid at 410-326-2042 ext. 19 or email Sherry.Reid@calvertcountymd.gov.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of the brave men and women of our military. Please help support those that unselfishly protect and defend our nation.

Volunteers of the Year, Mike and Kathy Ellwood, shown here with the Calvert County Board of Commissioners, were recognized at the Calvert You Are Beautiful Awards. (Photo by Angela Small)
Activities & EVENTS

Volunteers with the Chesapeake Chapter of the U.S. Lighthouse Society came out in force to support the Maryland Lighthouse Challenge. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Patuxent Small Craft Guild volunteers and staff assisted contractors in moving the Ark to its new location near the Corbin Pavilion. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The winds cooperated for a successful Kite Day in August. (Photo by Lori Cole)

A new and improved orientation sign greets visitors to the museum grounds. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The Purple Martin Club was gratified to witness the return of their Cove Point Light Station seasonal residents. (Photo by Tyler Bell)

Patsy Fletcher’s “African American Leisure Destinations around Washington, D.C.” began the “At the Water’s Edge” lecture series in September. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The Yard Arms enhanced the beauty of the plantings in front of the Administration Building with the addition of a curvilinear border made of reclaimed pavers. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
In The Community

The Dee of St. Mary’s participating in the Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race on September 23. (Photo by Mike Ellwood)

Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture held their August meeting in the Harms Gallery. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Artist Suzanne Morris painting the Dee of St. Mary’s during the 2017 Solomons Plein Air Festival. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Solomons Island Model Boat Club skippers who raced in the 2017 Chesapeake Skipjack Challenge Race at St. Michaels, bringing the trophy plaque back to Solomons. From left are Chic Metler, Randy Parmer, Dana Paterson, Tom Younger, Max Munger, and Rich Navickas.

Paleontology staff and Fossil Club members participated in an outreach event at Chesapeake Beach. (Photo by Keith Pardieck)

The Dee of St. Mary’s participating in the Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race on September 23. (Photo by Mike Ellwood)
Summer intern Maddi Stanton discusses the activities of A Moment of Magic Foundation with visitors to the August First Free Friday. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Visitors to August First Free Friday were treated to an outdoor performance by the Calvert Swing Band. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Fossil Club volunteer Kathy Ellwood shares her knowledge with visitors at the August First Free Friday. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

A young visitor at September’s First Free Friday was delighted by the saber tooth tiger skull. (Photo by Auggie Selckmann)

John Johnson teaches a visitor how to tie a clove hitch at the September First Free Friday. (Photo by Auggie Selckmann)
Activities & EVENTS

Sharkfest

Fossil Prep Lab volunteer Jennifer Crump with Sharkfest visitors. (Photo by Bob Hall)

The shark slide is always a popular attraction at Sharkfest. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Volunteer Barbara McCashion fits Ansya Matadial with a shark hat. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Bella Smith has her face painted at Sharkfest. (Photo by Bob Hall)

John Levelle waits for daughter Penny as she exits the shark slide. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Freyia Raines and mom at touch tank in the Corbin Pavilion. (Photo by Bob Hall)
Summer Camps

Boat Camp construction in progress at the Corbin Pavilion (Photo by Bob Hall)

Boat campers brave the waters of the Patuxent during the annual regatta. (Photo by Bob Hall)

Coroplast Boat campers receive a water safety talk from Catie Spalding as they prepare to test their boats in the Patuxent. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Colin and Cormac screen for fossils during the Jr. Paleontology Camp. (Photo by Kevin Allor)

Critter campers got to feed the otters behind the scenes. (Photo by Corinne Rink)

Coroplast Boat Camp testing the waters in the museum’s Boat Basin. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
Guardians of the Estuary campers talk to Aquarist Laura Rink during a behind the scenes tour. (Photo by Kate Dumhart)

Guardians of the Estuary campers examine a blue crab at the J. C. Lore & Sons oyster house. (Photo by Kate Dumhart)

Guardians of the Estuary campers use a haul seine to collect specimens in the Patuxent. (Photo by camp participant)

Jr. Paleontologist campers fossil hunting at Cove Point Beach. (Photo by Cecily Hein)

Guardians of the Estuary campers team up to haul on a line on the Dee of St. Mary's. (Photo by Kate Dumhart)

Norse Day campers row a Viking longboat. (Photo by Coby Treadway)

Guardians of the Estuary campers examine a blue crab at the J. C. Lore & Sons oyster house. (Photo by Kate Dumhart)

Jr. Paleontologist campers at Bay Breeze Beach. (Photo by Becca Ratchford)
Member Specials

As summer folds into fall, we have changed with the seasons in the Museum Store and invite you to come and browse our new selections. From cocktail napkins to ceramic platters, board books to coloring books, socks to jackets, colored pencils to ornate pins — we would love to share our favorite discoveries with you!

One of the great perks of museum membership is a daily 10% discount. To show our appreciation for your support, we have some special days coming when members can save even more.

Join us for Coffee and Doughnuts from 10 – 11 a.m. on the 20th of each month. We will have a surprise free gift for our members during that first hour of the day. And don’t forget, members save 20% off all day on the 20th of every month.

For another great opportunity to save, mention “Shop Small Business Saturday” on November 25th and save 20% off your purchase. Tell your friends and neighbors; you do not need to be a member to enjoy these savings. There are a few exclusions but not many!

We’re very excited about our newest initiative, ReMember Monday! Join us for an extraordinary shopping day for CMM Members on Monday, November 27, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Draw a mystery coupon at checkout and save 20 to 40% off of your entire purchase! Or be the lucky CMM member to get your entire purchase for FREE!! We will have refreshments for you while you shop, after-hours cocktails, and prizes every hour. Arrive early or shop late — we will be stocked and ready!

Finally, museum members have traditionally saved 20% during the Solomons Christmas Walk, and we like traditions. We will have extended hours on Friday and Saturday, December 1 – 3, 6 to 9 p.m., so come on out and eat some cookies, enjoy the music, chat with Santa and the CMM Otter, and SHOP!

See you soon!
Let’s sum it up... 7 bands, 16 buses, 861 volunteers, one Governor, one scary rain storm, and 18,520 ticket buyers! Wow, what a summer!

The museum kicked off the 2017 Waterside Music Series with classic rock legends Steve Miller and Peter Frampton, who teamed up on June 26th to play three hours of live music for over 5,500 fans. Their beautiful light show and perfectly balanced sound thrilled fans and became one of our top five highest earning concerts.

Country music’s chart-topping Thomas Rhett followed up with a SOLD OUT SHOW on July 14. Despite a one hour delay due to heavy rain and lightning, 7,000 fans stuck around and enjoyed one of the liveliest, and most playful shows ever seen in Solomons. After opening act The Cadillac Three got fans singing, it was Rhett’s long list of number one hits that kept fans dancing well into the evening. Before the show, Rhett took some time to enjoy a bit of Southern Maryland culture. He and a few friends enjoyed a private boat ride to the Lighthouse Inn for lunch where he surprised diners who lined up for photos and autographs. After indulging in some crab cakes, Rhett headed back to the museum by boat, took a quick tour of the exhibits, and visited with the otters! When the evening wrapped up, Rhett hopped back on the boat and tweeted out a personal “Thank you to Southern Maryland”.

The season finale took place on August 25th with a homecoming performance from two Deale, Maryland, brothers who’ve hit it big — the Brothers Osborne. These two Southern Maryland natives drew over 6,000 fans to the area with their smooth deep voices and amazing guitar playing. The two said they were so much fun, they just “didn’t want to stop playing,” so they added a 45-minute encore for cheering fans! Opening for the Brothers Osborne were Tucker Beathard and local rising star from St. Mary’s County, Robbie Boothe, who was welcomed to the stage by Governor Larry Hogan. This was the Governor’s first visit to the museum and he quickly became a fan of our meg-alodon and pale-ontology exhibit. Thanks to the support of our Southern Maryland ticket buyers, this fundraising concert will also be added to our top five highest earning concerts list!

We would like to sincerely thank our volunteers, staff, donors, members, and ticket buyers for making this year a success. Proceeds from the Waterside Music Series support the education and preservation efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum. This series of events would not be possible without the generous support of many local businesses. Sponsors include: Prince Frederick Ford/Jeep/Dodge, PNC Bank, Bozick Distributors, Inc., Tide Water Dental, Sunshine Catering, DirectMail.com, Holiday Inn Solomons, Quality Built Homes, 98.3 Star FM, 102.9 WKIK, Bay Weekly, Quick Connections, Southern Maryland Newspapers, Isaac’s Restaurant, Papa John’s Pizza, O’Brien Realty, American Eagle Electric, United Rentals, Kelly Generator & Equipment, Comcast, Metrocast, ECS Federal, Blue Crabs, TitleMax LLC., World Gym, and Asbury-Solomons.
Give the Gift of Membership

Not just during the holidays, but at any time of the year, a Gift Membership to CMM is a great idea for friends and family. Share the secret — a museum membership offers opportunities for friends and loved ones to discover the remarkable world of the Chesapeake, where fresh and saltwater meet to form the largest estuary in North America. Membership is a gift that will offer lasting memories and first-hand experiences all year long! Call Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042 ext. 13 or email Pam.Paterson@calvertcountymd.gov

YOU Can Make a Difference!

As 2017 starts to come to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Calvert Marine Museum. Your charitable donations will not only help the museum secure success in 2018 and beyond, but it will also allow you to claim a generous tax deduction for 2017. Through your support, the Calvert Marine Museum is able to continue to deliver the kind of excellence in our many exhibits and educational programs that you have come to expect. If you are interested in giving, please contact Pam Paterson 410-326-2042 ext. 13 or email Pam.Paterson@calvertcountymd.gov

Make Sure Your Email Address Is Up-to-Date

Almost all of the museum’s communication with members is done through email. To stay current, make sure your current email address is on file with the Membership office. Please contact Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042 ext. 16 or Lisa.Howard@calvertcountymd.gov to update your email address today!

WATERSIDE CONCERTS
INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Thanks in part to The Steve Miller Band, Thomas Rhett, and Brothers Osborne, the Calvert Marine Museum has welcomed over 650 new members since March. Museum members can order concert tickets a week prior to the general public and many music fans joined CMM to take advantage of this perk. Thank you again for your continued support — the concerts are the museum’s largest fundraiser. Be sure to renew your membership to get great seats for the summer 2018 summer concert series! And now that you’re a member, use that year of free admission to check out what goes on inside the museum.
NEW STAFF:

Perry Hampton has joined the staff as the new Curator of Estuarine Biology, bringing a wealth of aquarium, management, and boating experience. For the past 20 years, Hampton has been at the Aquarium of the Pacific. He helped open the aquarium and during his time there was promoted through the ranks to become Director/Vice President of Husbandry. Before heading to California, Hampton spent 15 years with the National Aquarium in Baltimore where he was responsible for all life areas of the aquariums.

Why the Calvert Marine Museum? Hampton said while his career was fulfilling, he was ready for a change and wanted to be in a smaller facility with a nice environment and rural setting. His wife is a Maryland native, so the idea of being closer to family and friends was ideal. “Hearing other CMM employees say that I’m really going to enjoy working here impressed me, and I am very excited to begin this new stage of my life and career, as is my wife,” said Perry Hampton.

DEPARTURES:

Coby Treadway, an exhibits interpreter, has accepted a teaching job with the Prince Georges County Board of Education. Coby, who joined the museum in 2015, is now teaching second grade students at Brandywine Elementary School.

Casey Murray, a former intern and temporary aquarist who earned her master’s degree from the University of Miami in tropical marine ecology and conservation, has accepted a Senior Aquarist position at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. She will be working in the Marine Biology Department’s aquatic laboratory where she will oversee the running of their ornamental aquaculture projects. She will also be mentoring undergraduate students on their independent projects, and have the opportunity to teach classes. Casey will also be responsible for the maintenance of the local Audubon Environmental Education Center, which showcases animals from local ecosystems.

COMMENDATION:

Jerwayne Brooks being recognized as the August 2017 Calvert County Employee of the Month by the Board of Calvert County Commissioners. Jerwayne, Custodian, was commended for his quality of work, respect for fellow employees, effectiveness of public contact, contributions toward improving organizational morale, and productivity. Jerwayne was also acknowledged for exemplary performance in his new role as CMM Safety Officer and his extraordinary efforts in conjunction with the recent CMM-hosted Tri-County Job Fair.

Dawn Wood, accountant, with son Robbie, a volunteer, who was named 2017 Lord Calvert at this year’s Calvert County Fair. (Photo by Francis Lopez) 🔴

Calvert Marine Museum staff emails have changed!

All employee emails now follow this format:

Firstname.Lastname@calvertcountymd.gov