Expanding the Museum’s Educational Opportunities

By Jeff Murray, Deputy Director

Museums value education. They collect, preserve, and interpret in order to provide visitors with opportunities to learn more about the world we inhabit. As a public, non-profit, educational, regionally oriented museum, the Calvert Marine Museum is no different. In fact, one could argue that the quality and diversity of the educational programs we offer are some of the primary reasons more than 87,000 visitors chose to walk through our doors over the past year. We are able to provide hands-on learning experiences that cannot easily be replicated elsewhere.

Since 2005, the museum’s education program attendance has increased by a whopping 382%! Program offerings have expanded to include pre-school programming, Homeschool Days, special needs programming, an expanded summer program, Chesapeake Bay Field Lab programming on the skipjack, Det of St. Mary’s, and special programming on all school holidays. For adults, we offer Road Scholar programs, an annual lecture series, the Maritime Performance Music Series, and opportunities to join one of our six affiliate groups.

Such vibrant success has landed the Education Department at a crossroads. The Exhibition Hall, which opened in 1989 and houses the department’s staff offices, a classroom, and storage, has in some areas become dated and inadequate. With many education programs either at or near capacity and with staff members working in cramped, poorly lit office environments and classroom spaces, physical expansion and upgrades are necessary to meet current and future needs.

The 2013 renovation was to include the mezzanine level, but funding fell short, resulting in phasing the project. The first phase – including the Harms Gallery, lobby, and Museum Store, was completed in 2014. Phase II, the mezzanine level education spaces, is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2019.

As the Deputy Director, this project was assigned to me when I was hired in April, 2017. That same month, Colimore Architectural Firm of Baltimore was selected to do the architectural and engineering design and produce construction documents. For the past eighteen months, they have worked

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hroughout this issue, you will read references to the closure of the museum for the months of January and February, while we undergo renovation. That begs the question: What does the staff do when there are no visitors to take care of? For some of the part-time staff, it means the chance for that extended vacation they’ve been dreaming about. But for most of us, it is a rare opportunity to pull things apart and put them back together again. A sort of time-out-of-time.

The museum is a seven day a week operation. That means there is virtually never any down time. Repairing exhibits, replacing lights, fixing plumbing, repainting walls, the dozens of things that crop up every day must be attended to before 10 am or after 5 pm. An entire department can never visit another museum or participate in staff training together because someone has to be on duty. Developing new programs, training staff to run them, and implementing evaluation tools is often done on the fly because existing programming never stops. Restaging the Museum Store happens in the wee early hours before the store opens. Doing deep cleaning requires working at night or coming in early in the morning. You can begin to understand why a two month hiatus from daily visitors presents an opportunity for getting things done. But it is also a time for renewal.

For staff, renewal often comes from taking a vacation, a break from work. Taking a break from daily visitation gives the museum family time for renewal. Time to step back and remember why we do this work, and who we do it for. It gives us the space to stop and refocus on what’s really important. I think most of us can appreciate how seldom these opportunities come along, and how essential they are to our overall mental health. For the museum staff, reflection can lead to renewal and renewed purpose. So while we may be closed, we are not absent or idle. Quite the contrary.

I hope that you will miss coming to the museum during the closure. I like to believe that we are part of your life. I can promise you, come spring, the museum will be back – clean, bright, refreshed, and eager to welcome you. Like a friend you have not seen for a while, I trust you will be as pleased to see us as we will be to see you coming through our doors.

Expanding the Museum’s Educational Opportunities
(Continued from page 1)

with county and museum staff to create new and improved interior spaces that will enhance and update our capabilities. Our goals for Phase II include the creation of two large, flexible work spaces (classrooms) for students; adding a unisex bathroom; segregating access to the mezzanine mechanical space by creating a new visitor walkway to the mezzanine exhibit area; establishing adequate storage; and building new office space for education staff. To accomplish this we will expand the footprint of the second floor by enclosing three additional areas over the lobby, the Skates and Rays exhibit and the entrance to the Paleontology Gallery. We will not, however, be enclosing any areas above the Maritime History Gallery.

The two new classrooms, with a combined capacity to hold up to 60, will contain a foldable wall between that can be opened to create one large programming zone. Each will also come equipped with a sink, storage cabinets, and a state-of-the-art smart television. A unisex bathroom will be located immediately outside classroom #1, and an oversized storage area with multiple staff access points will be located behind the bathroom, stairwell, and hallway. An additional new enclosed space to be built over the entrance to the Paleontology Gallery will help create room for new staff offices and a hallway. Finally, HVAC systems will be enhanced to provide conditioned air to spaces new and existing, and the mechanical systems will be jacketed to mitigate noise levels.

When the project is finished, we will have tripled the size of our dedicated storage space, more than doubled the number of persons we can accommodate in our teaching spaces, and significantly expanded the audiovisual and technical capabilities we have in our classrooms. In addition, we will have greatly enhanced our office space and gained a restroom in an area of the building where one has never existed. This is a MAJOR
A step forward! The new classrooms will also enable the Education Department to physically move current programs out of the Harms Gallery, which is intended to host meetings, lectures, and concerts and is also a room available for public rental.

Funding for the project is being provided by Calvert County through the county’s Capital Improvement Program Budget. On December 11, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners awarded the contract to W.M. Davis, a local contractor. During January and February, the museum will close to the public so that workers can frame in and close up what will become the new interior spaces. Work will continue on the mezzanine level once the museum re-opens in March, with the project scheduled for completion in May.

From the dust of late winter and early spring we anticipate a new creative environment will blossom, one that will empower the department with the tools to significantly broaden and expand the educational opportunities we offer. With a diversified set of programs and relationships with dozens of schools in Maryland and Virginia, Calvert Marine Museum is one of the largest education program providers in Southern Maryland. Closing for a few months now will enable us to serve our constituents much better in the months and years to come.

Exhibits Update

By Carey Crane, Curator of Exhibits

The Exhibits Department will be working during the scheduled closing of the museum to attend to projects that might otherwise affect our visitor’s full enjoyment during public hours. We are undertaking a complete upgrade of the lighting in the A Continuing Military Presence exhibit with LED panels. These panels will be more energy efficient, aesthetically pleasing, and artifact friendly, and far easier to service than the lights and diffuser panels that we have been using.

The Paleontology Gallery is also in need of lighting upgrades as well as general maintenance. The lighting of the mural that serves as backdrop to the Megalodon sculpture is difficult to access. As a result, it has not been addressed for some time. We plan to replace all of the lighting with LEDs that are designed to function in the florescent and incandescent fixtures already in place. Paleontology will assist us in cleaning the exhibits and to update and replace exhibit signs. We expect that our cooperative efforts will make a noticeable difference in the gallery.

We will prepare for a March opening exhibit of local photographer Jay Fleming’s photographs of work and life on the Chesapeake Bay. Paleontology will remove specimens from the mezzanine gallery exhibit Dinosaurs of Maryland. The walls will be repaired and painted in preparation for the delivery and installation of Jay’s photographs in early February. Stay tuned for details, events, and programs related to this eagerly anticipated exhibit.

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The naturally eroding sea bluffs along Calvert Cliffs are a defining feature of our landscape. They also rank among the best-known fossiliferous deposits of any age on the planet. Despite having been studied for nearly 200 years, they continue to yield insights into the Miocene epoch marine and terrestrial life that thrived here between 8 and 18 million years ago. The last review of the fossil vertebrates from Calvert Cliffs was published more than 100 years ago. Since then, a great deal has been discovered, researched, and published on this topic.

In 2006, the CMM Paleontology Department and Fossil Club hosted the Miocene Symposium on The Geology and Paleontology of Calvert Cliffs. It attracted so much interest that we agreed that the time had come for a new, updated review of the fossiliferous deposits that had been discovered. Assuming the role of editor, I worked with esteemed colleagues from the field, embarking on a journey that proved to be as demanding as it was rewarding. We partnered with the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, which has recently released the first of a two-volume work in both digital and printed form.

Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology of Calvert Cliffs, Maryland, USA describes some of the geological features of Calvert Cliffs and includes articles by eight experts in the field. The following groups of animals evidenced from fossils discovered in the cliffs are included in this volume: shark, skates, and rays, fishes, crocodilians, and sea cows. The vertebrate fossils in this publication (more than 110 species), and the sediments in which they are entombed, create a picture of the environment and the organisms that lived in the Mid-Atlantic region of North America during the Miocene epoch. It is anticipated that a future second volume will include additional contributions on the geology of the cliffs, as well as reviews of the other vertebrate groups not included in Volume 1: turtles, birds, terrestrial mammals, seals, toothed whales, and baleen whales.

To see the book as a PDF online, go to Open SI publishing portal/archive at: https://s.si.edu/2T09w63, or the SISP website https://s.si.edu/2EuJvIU. Each of these websites has links to access and download the searchable PDF at no cost.

To request a copy of the printed book Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology of Calvert Cliffs, Maryland, USA, email the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press: https://scholarlypress.si.edu/about-us/

Print copies are available free of charge upon request while supplies last. Quantities are limited.

Email Address: scholarlypress@si.edu
Subject Line of email: Print copy request
Book Title: The Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology of Calvert Cliffs, Maryland, USA

Education UPDATE

By Jeff Murray, Deputy Director

Gearing up for 2019

As we turn to a new year, it’s clear that 2019 will bring big changes, with a significant expansion of our physical footprint along with a renewal and revitalization of program and office spaces inside the Exhibition Hall. Education has been busy preparing for the change by clearing out, cleaning up, and relocating to temporary quarters for the duration.

While the museum is closed for renovations in January and February, our Chespax programs for Calvert County fourth graders will continue through the winter at the nearby Chesapeake Biological Laboratory on Solomons Island. During the closure, staff will implement a full review of current educational programs and work diligently to implement recommendations for program improvements. In addition, educators will have time to devote to new program development, team building, and educational field trips. The whole department is really looking forward to occupying their new classrooms, offices, and storage spaces that will be available in the spring.
Over the past year, Estuarine Biology Department staff have been making a series of infrastructure upgrades and improvements to the behind-the-scenes areas. The aquarium portion of the museum was part of the original construction of the Exhibition Hall that took place in 1989. Several renovations have been made to the Estuarium over the years, resulting in new exhibits, expanded storage, animal holding areas, and staff office space, but some parts of the behind-the-scenes areas were starting to show their age. Because these areas are hidden from view, much of this work will never be noticed by our visitors, but that doesn’t make it any less important. The upgrades were done with the aim of improving staff safety, protecting valuable equipment, and ensuring that we continue to provide the best possible living conditions for the animals in our care.

We constructed new wooden work platforms to make it easier and safer for the aquarists to access the exhibits when feeding animals and performing necessary maintenance. Since each exhibit layout is unique, each work platform had to be built to custom specifications in order to accommodate existing pumps and filters. For one of our taller exhibits there was no space to allow for such a platform, so we added a custom-made fiberglass safety railing and ladder to allow staff access to the top of the exhibit.

Aquarists depend heavily on electricity to power various pumps, water chillers, disinfection systems, lights, and other essential items. Over the years, our demand for electricity has grown and out-paced the capacity of the original wiring. Outside electrical contractors performed a number of upgrades to wiring in the animal back up areas. Some of these include the installation of new circuits, adding new water-resistant outlet boxes, and new, state of the art, digital timers that make adjustments to our lighting schedule for evening events much simpler than in the past.

We are also making various improvements to the pumping and filtering systems at many of the exhibits and behind-the-scenes holding tanks. We refer to these as “life support systems” because their proper operation is critical to the animals’ health and well-being. New fiberglass stands have been created to hold pumps and filters. These provide a stable base for the equipment and gets it up off the floor away from water and dust. At the same time we’re making improvements to the life support plumbing on various systems making filtration more efficient, equipment easier to operate and maintain, and to prevent water loss during power failures. In some instances, older pumps have been replaced with new ones that are more efficient.

Of course, improvements like these never really end – it’s sort of like the old saying about painting the Golden Gate Bridge – as soon as you get to the end its time to start at the beginning again. Future plans include replacing a series of individual water chillers with a more efficient central chilling unit, and the gradual replacement of older high intensity incandescent light fixtures with more energy efficient LED lights.
**Maritime Performance Series**

**March 22 | Lovejoy Group**
*A Tribute to Nat King Cole* will highlight the music, the man, and his influence on jazz. Vocalist and bandleader Karen Lovejoy fronts this talented quartet who have been thrilling audiences since the late 90s with lively renditions of American classics. The world knows Nat King Cole as the man with the golden voice that made everyone fall in love. Yet he was also considered a major jazz influence. Fall in love all over again on this musical journey of his favorite hits while exploring his influences on the jazz world. “It don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that swing.” This performance does!

**April 21 | Doofus**
Doofus is indeed a strange name for a band! While the term might mean “village idiot” to some, it’s really a token of this group’s affection for each other and the music they make together. Doofus is a lively old-time band consisting of two couples: Neal & Coleen Walters, elected to the Autoharp Hall of Fame in 2011, and John & Heidi Cerrigione. Together they sing and play guitar, autoharp, mountain and hammered dulcimer, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and acoustic bass. And boy, can they harmonize! Good times had by all.

**May 17 | Al Petteway & Amy White**
Al Petteway and Amy White have long been a favorite, with their eclectic repertoire that includes original, traditional, contemporary Celtic- and Appalachian-influenced music with occasional nods to Blues, New Age, and Jazz. Their performances feature acoustic guitar, mandolin, Celtic harp, piano, banjo, mountain dulcimer, and some of the finest vocals you’ll hear in any genre. Their music has been featured on a number of Ken Burns documentary films, most notably the soundtrack of the Ken Burns EMMY-winning documentary, The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.

**June 21 | John Conolly & Rob van Sante**
John Conolly is an internationally-respected singer/songwriter based in the British folk tradition known for his thought-provoking, tuneful, and often outrageously funny songs. He has performed in venues from concert-halls to local pubs throughout Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, and the U.S.A. His best known songs, *Fiddlers’ Green* and *Punch & Judy Man*, have been recorded by dozens of artists. Netherlands native Rob van Sante has lived most of his life in England. He has toured extensively in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Rob’s sensitive guitar accompaniments and vocal harmonies complement John’s songs, and together they provide a thoroughly entertaining evening of good music and great humor.

*The Maritime Performance Series is sponsored in part by Holiday Inn Solomons.*
The Patuxent River is the only river that begins and ends in the state of Maryland. In this region, it has shaped our history and our lives. The Calvert Marine Museum is proud to announce a series of lectures exploring the history and natural environment of this region, flowing from the common theme of the Patuxent River. All lectures will begin at 7 pm in the museum’s Harms Gallery. FREE.

**Thursday, March 28**  
*The Long Road to Chesapeake Bay Clean Waters: History, Tough Issues, and Recent Successes*, presented by Dr. Walt Boynton  
Walter Boynton is a Professor at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and has been a faculty member at CBL since 1975. Boynton’s research expertise is estuarine ecology, particularly issues related to eutrophication and ecosystem restoration.

**Thursday, April 11**  
*Anaconda’s Tail: The Civil War in Southern Maryland*, presented by Don Shomette  
Shomette is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on the history of the Chesapeake Bay region. He has written hundreds of articles and many books on the topic, including *Pirates of the Chesapeake*, *Flotilla: The Patuxent Naval Campaign in the War of 1812*, *The Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay*, and many more.

**Thursday, May 16**  
*The Patuxent River: Tidewater History of an Underappreciated Maryland Waterway*, presented by Dr. Ralph Eshelman  
Dr. Ralph Eshelman was the first director of the Calvert Marine Museum. He is widely published in and lectures on both maritime and military history, polar exploration, geology, and paleontology. His research interests have taken him to many parts of the world, in some cases serving as geologist, naturalist, and historian on expedition cruise ships. He is both an author and lecturer, and an expert on the War of 1812.

**Thursday, June 6**  
*A Shared History Since 1942: The Patuxent’s Relationships with United States Armed Forces*, presented by Mark Wilkins  
Wilkins is an historian, published author of maritime and aviation history, lecturer, boat builder, and ship model maker. He serves as the Curator of Maritime History for the Calvert Marine Museum.

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**Meet the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum**

The Calvert Marine Museum is part of the Calvert County’s Museums Division, along with our sister institution, the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum (CBRM). If you are interested in knowing more about CBRM, click here to read their newsletter. [https://bit.ly/2Etw18H](https://bit.ly/2Etw18H)

Model Train Club at the Railway Museum is developing a replica of the railway. (Photo by George Leah)
Activities & EVENTS

Patuxent Small Craft Guild members paddle restored 25-foot Old Town camp canoe after relaunching ceremony in October. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The trio Low Lily took the stage during the Maritime Performance Series in October. (Photo by Sherrod Sturrock)

Caleb Cox keeps his eyes on the train set up by the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum Model Train Club during Special Needs Night on November 9. (Photo by Michael Reid, Southern Maryland Newspapers)

Volunteers Margaret and Ned Clarke always do an outstanding job decorating the Exhibition Hall lobby for the holidays. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Museum volunteers and staff filled three large boxes to overflowing for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. (Photo by Patti Snyder)

John Johnson instructs the Gallipeau family in knot tying at Pirate Day. (Photo by Carey Crane)

Pirates Kevin Allor, Jeff Nikolaus, and Kate Dumhart lead visitors in sea chanties during Pirate Day. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

World War II veteran Bernie Fowler and NAS Patuxent River Executive Officer Captain Christopher Cox salute veterans during the On Watch Memorial Service. (Photo by Doug Hood)
Educator Kate Ufford explains navigational obstacle course to visitors to STEM Day in November. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Visitors learned the mechanical advantage of using a pulley to lift heavy objects during STEM Day. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Skipjack Dee of St. Mary's in the Boat Parade Saturday night. (Photo by Christopher Sico)

Crew of Dee of St. Mary's that participated in the Boat Parade and won the best decorated historic boat category. (Photo by Ray Brule)

The recreated bugeye Volunteer decorated by the Patuxent Small Craft Guild for the holidays. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Santa Otter joins Santa Claus in wishing a happy holiday season to all. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Patuxent High School Carolers pose with the Otter. (Photo by Doug Hood)

The Drum Point Lighthouse and Dee of St. Mary's decorated for the holidays. (Photo by Doug Hood)

The Patuxent High School Chamber Orchestra entertaining in the Harms Gallery. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
Patuxent River Appreciation Days

One of the cakes available at the PRAD Volunteer Council bake sale. (Photo by Sherrod Sturrock)

Visitors enjoying the Fine Arts Crafts Show and food court. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Mike Ellwood and Stephen Godfrey share their knowledge of fossils with visitors. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Chesapeake Swing Band performs on the PNC Waterside Stage. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Face painter Victoria Godfrey with another satisfied customer. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Activities in and around the boat basin. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Sunday PRAD Parade. (Photo by Doug Hood)
As I turn the calendar to 2019, I reflect on my many blessings of 2018. The first 476 blessings are for each of the members of our volunteer family. Our volunteers are the backbone of the museum. There is always a volunteer to take on any task that is requested. Whether the task is large or small, there is someone in the volunteer family to take care of business. Thanks to our volunteer family for all you do each and every day of the year. You make CMM the best it can be!

In fiscal year 2018, our volunteers logged 32,614 hours which equates to $896,885 worth of in-kind service. If the museum had to hire additional staff to complete all of the tasks that our volunteers handle each day, we would have to hire 19 people to work full-time – which would be impossible. Thanks to our volunteer family, we are able to be the kind of destination our visitors are looking for to enjoy an awesome experience while they learn about our three themes. Happy New Year to all!

In Remembrance

The museum family lost its longest serving volunteer on October 31, 2018, when Alexander “Al” Lavish passed way from complications of a heart attack. Al began volunteering with the museum in the late 1970s. During his decades of volunteer service, Al did restoration work on all of CMM’s floating exhibits, handling carpentry, painting, and mechanical needs. Characterized by the museum’s Boatwright, George Surgent, as “not only a volunteer, but a leader,” Al took the initiative on many projects.

Al was a co-founder of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild in 1981 and was its Secretary/Treasurer for over three decades. As a founding father of the Guild, he was instrumental in many of its accomplishments. The CMM’s very popular toy boat building program was his specialty for years, helping thousands of young people construct toy boats. Recognizing the importance of education for our children, Lavish constructed a hands-on pulley.purchase demonstration model found in the Patuxent Small Craft Preservation Center. It shows children how heavy items can be moved easily by one person using physics.

Al’s talents also extended to research and writing. In 1984, he and George Surgent wrote the pamphlet titled Early Chesapeake Single-Log Canoes that documented the construction of two styles of the craft. He was also author of a research paper on Captain John Smith’s knocked-down boats—a cooperative effort with Historic St. Mary’s City. Al was the recipient of the 1994 CMM Volunteer Achievement Award and was named the 2009 Volunteer of the Year. During his work with the museum, he volunteered over 12,500 hours of service.

Rita Adams, Membership Coordinator for the museum from 1988 to 1995, passed away October 30. While serving with the museum, Rita maintained the membership records and developed a more efficient computer system to track memberships and organize mailings. Museum membership grew to nearly 1,900, during her time at the museum, due in part to her efforts and her friendly handling of members’ questions. Rita was always on hand to greet members each year at the Yule Party and other museum member activities.

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

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Thank you!

We have enjoyed a fantastic year in the Museum Store and would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to all of our museum members who have supported us! We think that we have the most fun job at the museum – who wouldn’t like opening boxes of new merchandise and then showing it off to interested visitors? The store will be closed along with the museum during January and February but the store staff won’t just be sitting around sipping hot chocolate! We will be very busy shopping for new merchandise so that when we reopen in March we will have loads of new things to share with you. We will keep you posted on our findings via Facebook and Instagram.

See you soon!

Promotions UPDATE

Update and Thanks to our Sponsors and Friends

Dream Seats Winner – 2019

Our 2019 Dream Seats winner, Charlie Shoul, took a chance and bought a $5 raffle ticket at the George Thorogood concert. He thought it would be a nice way to support the museum, and never really expected to win 4 FRONT ROW SEATS to every concert held at the museum in 2019. But he did!

Thanks to the generosity of Bozick Distributors and Coors Light, Mr. Shoul and three of his closest friends will enjoy an opportunity that few have, they will sit front and center at every museum concert held in 2019. Each season Bozick Distributors purchases the seats and donates them back to the museum to raffle off. Not only do they purchase the seats, they also support the promotion by providing sales assistants at each show, create signs to promote the raffle, and donate giveaways like a Yeti cooler, café umbrellas, and handy collapsible lawn chairs to boost sales. Their generous support has helped raise thousands of dollars in support of the museum’s education and preservation efforts, which is over and above their two decades of sponsorship support.

Charlie stopped by the office to pick up his prize, and Bozick representative, Kenny Irwin, also surprised him with a bucket full of Coors Light goodies. Charlie had just walked his daughter down the aisle the week before, so needless to say, it was a pretty good week for Charlie. We look forward to seeing Charlie, and all of you, this summer at our concert series - we’ll announce our line up soon!

Papa Johns – Goes the Extra Mile

This past summer, Papa Johns gave the museum a wonderful gift – a coupon code – WATERSIDE. This code gave everyone who ordered a pizza 50% off their order, and of that 50%, Papa Johns donated 40% to the museum! This gift totaled over $1,100 in just over two months! Because of the success of this promotion, they are extending their gift again to us. So when you order a pizza from Papa Johns, please enter the promo code – WATERSIDE – you’ll get 50% off your order and 40% of that discount will go directly to the museum!
Aww Shucks – was Awwwwfully Fun!

On a beautiful autumn evening in October, 75 guests gathered to enjoy live music, fresh oysters, and local fare in support of our skipjack, the *Dee of St. Mary’s*.

Our annual Aww Shucks Oyster Social fundraiser was held on Saturday, October 13, under the Drum Point Lighthouse. The evening featured fresh shucked oysters from Hollywood Oyster Company and Shore Thing Shellfish LLC, as well as delicacies donated by the Ruddy Duck Brewery & Grill, Boomerangs Original Ribs, Thai Seaside Restaurant, Isaac’s Restaurant & Pub, Anglers Seafood Bar & Grill, Kingfishers Seafood Bar & Grill, Lighthouse Restaurant, Island Hideaway, Lotus Kitchen, and Charles Street Brasserie. Guests also took in the acoustic music of Gary Rue and the Smoke Creek Rounders, and sipped on our signature grog – *Dee Drink of Dee Day*!

The *Dee of St. Mary’s*, a traditional Chesapeake skipjack, is used as a floating classroom featuring educational programs that introduce children to the Chesapeake Bay, sailing, and the importance of being a good caretaker of our local waters. Proceeds from our fifth annual event go directly back to the preservation of this elegant skipjack.

We’d like to send a special thank you out to our donors and committee members for helping us keep this iconic wooden sailing vessel afloat.

Director Sherrod Sturrock welcomes Board Member Marianne Harms and our honorary otter godparents Wendy and John Peters.

2018 Board Dinner Highlights

Judges Steve and Marjorie Clagett hosted the 2018 Board Dinner at their home in Chesapeake Beach on Wednesday, December 6. Judge Steve Clagett has agreed to become the new president of the Board of Governors.

The Board and senior staff also welcomed Chip Jackson and Dr. John Weigel onto the board and said farewell to board members rotating off after serving two consecutive three-year terms.

Vanessa Gill (left) and Sherrod Sturrock (right), present Barbara Gardner with a certificate of appreciation to recognize her outstanding leadership during her six years on the board, five as Board President.

Tom Daugherty receives a certificate of appreciation for his direction as chair of the Development Committee and six-year term on the CMM Board of Governors.

Photos by Anjelica Eitel

The 2019 Bugeye Ball

It is said that the Calvert Marine Museum throws the best party of the year, and this year will be no exception. Channeling a Midnight in Paris theme, the museum will be transformed as guests dine on the delicious cuisine by Ken’s Creative Kitchen, dance to live music, and try their luck at the gaming tables. Mark your calendars and save April 6, 2019, for an enchanted evening at the Calvert Marine Museum’s annual Bugeye Ball.

We hope you will not only attend, but also consider sponsoring the 2019 Bugeye Ball, which will raise funds to support the redesign and installation of the military and Solomons exhibits in the Maritime History Gallery. This project will renovate the last section of the original 1989 exhibit, telling local stories of the town of Solomons and the impact that the military presence has had in its development. The museum has been awarded a $50,000 matching grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, and proceeds from the Ball will provide the match needed for this important project.

We hope you and your friends will join us to celebrate the success of the museum, and support its vision for the future. For more information contact Pamela Paterson at pamela.paterson@calvertcountymd.gov.
Happy New Year

As 2018 draws to a close, I reflect back and my, what an exciting year it has been at the museum! We had one of our most successful membership years to date as we welcomed 954 new members and 20 new Bugeye Society members! It has been great getting to know our members and I look forward to meeting many more of you during 2019.

Keep your eye on our website (calvertmarinemuseum.com) and your email for information on events that are exclusively for members. Some of the special members’ only benefits include:

- Noon Year’s Eve Party
- Members’ Trips in the Spring and Fall/Winter
- Invitations to special openings
- Early access to purchase concert tickets
- Access to birthday party rentals
- Member discounts in the Museum Store
- And much, much more!

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 lisa.howard@calvertcountymd.gov or just drop by – my door is always open. Here is wishing all of our members and friends a happy and prosperous 2019. I look forward to seeing you at the museum!

Longwood Gardens Members’ Trip

One of my favorite activities as the Membership and Development Associate is hosting the members’ trips each year. It gives me a chance to connect with our members on a more personal level and we always have a great time!

Our winter trip this year found our group heading to Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, to see A Longwood Christmas. The popular conservatory known for its Christmas light display did not disappoint! We participated in an organ-accompanied holiday sing-a-long and reveled in the beauty and splendor of over 50 Christmas trees in the conservatory that were trimmed in sparkling crystal ornaments. We saw thousands of floating cranberries, apples, and walnuts create an interesting mosaic in the garden; we were entertained by colorful fountains dancing to holiday music, strolling carolers singing festive tunes, and over a half-million twinkling lights. Some of us even witnessed a romantic proposal of marriage on a lit path.

When we gathered back together at the end of the day we all agreed it was a great holiday kick off. I hope to see you on one of our future trips!

Your ideas are always welcomed! Where would YOU like to visit? Call me today.

Philanthropy

Charitable Gift Annuities – The Key to Certainty in an Uncertain Economy

If you are like many people, you have seen the value of your investments fluctuate with the markets. You might be wondering if there is a way to find true security for you and your loved ones. The good news is that with a charitable gift annuity’s fixed payments, you or a loved one can find the peace of mind that you are looking for.

A charitable gift annuity is a classic way to make a gift to support the Calvert Marine Museum. You make a gift of cash or property to us. In return, we will make payments for life to you, you and a loved one, or another person. Each payment will be fixed and the amount of each payment will depend on the age of the person who receives the payments. After all payments have been made, the museum will receive the remaining value of your gift to support the causes that matter to you.

Your gift annuity payments will come to you every year for as long as you live. You cannot outlive the predictable, reliable payments. The payment amount won’t change, no matter what the economy does.

Contact Pamela Paterson at 410-326-2042, ext. 13 or pamela.paterson@calvertcountymd.gov. Or you can visit our website at www.cmmgiving.com to learn more about how to create certainty with a charitable gift annuity!

Gifts Honoring Our Friends

Thank you to the generous donors who made gifts to honor friends and loved ones. Gifts were made to honor Barbara and Stan Benning and Sue Hu. Gifts were made in memory of Len Addis, Melvin “Bud” Fletcher, Billy Palmer, and Vernon Brumbaugh.
**Staff UPDATE**

**WELCOMES:**

Veronica Jordan joined the museum on October 29 as the new Facilities and Events Coordinator. She is a lifelong St. Mary’s County resident with a background in philanthropy and business operations. Veronica has been a management and financial analyst, and entrepreneur. She most recently sold her Wine and Design businesses in Calvert, St. Mary’s, and Anne Arundel Counties. She has a strong background in strategic event planning, management, and communications. Veronica’s free time is spent with her family (Children- Evelyn (8) and Eli (6), Husband – Tyler) and renovating their 120-year-old farm house.

Anjelica Eitel joins the museum as our new Communications and Marketing Coordinator. Anjelica comes to us from United Way of Calvert County and has extensive communications and public relations experience. A Calvert County native, Anjelica has worked with Bay Business Group, Calvert Chamber of Commerce’s Young Professionals Network, and animal welfare fundraiser, Breakfast at Sniffany’s. In her downtime, Anjelica enjoys spending time with her family, exploring all that Southern Maryland has to offer. Anjelica and her husband, Eric, are raising two ferociously inquisitive children: Jenny (8) and Sean (6).

Welcome aboard to Karin Wilkins as a part-time educator. A native of Connecticut, this is her first experience living in the Mid-Atlantic. With Masters Degrees in Early Childhood Education and Moderate Special Needs, along with many years of classroom teaching experience at the Kindergarten and First Grade levels, Karin is ideally suited for a position in education. Karin is the spouse of Curator of Maritime History Mark Wilkins.

**FAREWELLS:**

Traci Cimini, Public Relations and Marketing Specialist, left the museum to retire with her husband to Wilmington, North Carolina. Traci, who began as our Development Associate in 2006, left to start her own graphic design business called “Your Cards and More.” Traci was persuaded to rejoin the museum in 2014 as the marketing specialist. She did a wonderful job of keeping the museum front and center in the public eye. We wish her the best and thank her for the dedication, knowledge, and creativity she has brought to the museum over the years.

Part-time educator Kate Dumhart has taken a position as the First Mate on the Schooner Sultana for their 2019 season. This is an exciting opportunity for Kate, as she works toward obtaining her captain’s license in the near future. She will continue to serve as either a crew member or mate on the Dee of St. Mary’s and Wm. B. Tennison during some weekend days when she’s not working for the Sultana Foundation. Kate has been highly active as part of the Education Department since 2013. She also worked as an Assistant Manager in the Museum Store since 2014, and qualified as a Mate on the Wm. B. Tennison and Dee of St. Mary’s in 2018. We wish her good luck and smooth sailing during the year ahead. We hope that she will return to the museum’s staff in the future.

Jim Nawrot, Weekend Coordinator, retired at the end of the year. Jim started as an admissions clerk in 2008, and then moved to the Weekend Coordinator position in January of 2009. Jim says of his plans: “I plan on not missing anymore grandkid stuff that happens on weekends. I am going to restart our subscription series to see plays at Arena Stage. We are going on a river cruise in the spring, probably a trip to Maui, and a joint vacation with my son and his family in Orlando.” We wish him all the best!

**COMING FULL CIRCLE:**

Cindy Smith will be retiring on January 18, 2019, after almost 22 years with the Calvert Marine Museum. For Cindy, coming to work at the museum was like coming home. She was born in Solomons and went to school at Solomons Elementary, the current Administration Building. She grew up with a number of other staff members, and laughingly said that knowing someone as a kid can make it hard to see him as a curator! Throughout her time at CMM, Cindy served as the administrative assistant for the director, as well as supporting the Board of Governors and doing many other tasks to keep the museum running smoothly.

Cindy has worked with the Waterside Concerts for years. The first concert she recalls attending was The Neville Brothers in 1997. She remembers the stage was set up against the railing with the Drum Point Lighthouse in the background. It wasn’t long before Vanessa Gill asked her to help out with taking care of the performers in the Green Room. That has been her job ever since, and she only missed one concert this past summer in all those years. She has already volunteered to continue in this capacity post-retirement.

Cindy’s connection to the Calvert Marine Museum dates back to its earliest days. Her father was a volunteer in the 1970s when the museum was housed in a small building down on the island. She said when she lived on Smith Island as a newlywed, he used to send her snapshots of PRAD or other events and tell her she needed to come to see it for herself.

Cindy has seen lots of changes at the museum, mostly, she says, for the better. It has grown and matured, and she has been here to help it along. Her institutional knowledge, coupled with her personal experience of the local area and people, has been invaluable. She will be sorely missed.