Volunteers with Vision: Origins of the Calvert Marine Museum
By Rachelle Green, Deputy Director, and Robert Hurry, Registrar

Editors’ Note — The Calvert Marine Museum is celebrating its first 50 years of operations. Throughout 2020, the Bugeye Times will feature articles reflecting on the museum’s dynamic history.

This article traces the museum’s origins and its beginnings as a volunteer-run organization under the aegis of the Calvert County Historical Society. Subsequent articles will be authored by the museum’s former directors, Ralph E. Eshelman, C. Douglass Alves, and Sherrod Sturrock, as they reflect on their times at the helm of the museum.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Calvert Marine Museum. The idea of a museum began as a shared vision of a group of local volunteers who recognized that the maritime heritage of their community needed to be preserved and celebrated. As with all origin stories, details vary, but there is no dispute that these visionaries agreed on the need to establish a museum to accomplish this goal.

During informal discussions among local residents who shared an interest in preserving the past, the idea of the Calvert Marine Museum was born. One of these founders, Solomons businessman Joseph C. Loré, Jr., was elected president of the Calvert County Historical Society in 1968. That August, the board of the society designated a “museum on Marine Life” as a special project1 and established a Maritime Museum Committee with Colonel Albert Paine as chairman. The effort received a boost when Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Patterson donated $500 that the historical society earmarked for the museum.

The museum committee met regularly, researched other maritime museums, sought advice from professionals in the museum field, and began collecting and preserving artifacts and archival items from the community. When Col. Paine stepped down as chair of the museum committee in September, 1969, he was succeeded by

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Happy 2020! Doesn’t that sound just a little bit crazy? When I was in high school back in the 1980s, I used to daydream about what life would be like in the year 2020. Perhaps by then we’d have flying cars, phones that we carry with us in our pockets, mass transit that operates automatically without a driver, and a golf club that would magically fix my slice. Alas, many of those things still haven’t materialized. However, those same intervening years have been ones of steady expansion and progress for the Calvert Marine Museum. Established in a rather modest building in 1970 by the Calvert County Historical Society, the past five decades are a story of success — the museum has grown in size, scope, and mission to become the gem it is today.

Fifty years: A golden anniversary. The new year brings a very significant milestone in the museum’s life. It is a time to commemorate and reflect upon our storied past, to thank those who have given, served, and supported, and to remember those who worked so hard to make the Calvert Marine Museum such an impressive place. It is a time to celebrate and engage our local and regional community, without whom we would not, could not, exist. It is also a time to look forward, to share our plans, and to communicate with constituents and stakeholders our vision for the future to ensure that CMM continues to grow and thrive for the next 50 years. We are planning special anniversary events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone. Following are just a few of the highlights.

To commemorate our golden anniversary, a video retrospective featuring the best images from the museum’s past fifty years will be rotated on three separate monitors. On January 22, we host an opening reception for the recently completed two-story mural at the end of the Maritime History Gallery titled “Life on the Patuxent.” This after-hours event will feature a discussion by the artist, CMM’s very own Tim Scheirer, who retired after completing this remarkable capstone project. Each of the following months, a different department will take the lead in hosting a special program, all of which will be designed to celebrate the museum and what we do from their perspective.

One of the signature highlights will be a feature exhibit on the 35-year history of the Waterside Music Series, opening in the Mezzanine Gallery in May. It will be filled with the artifacts, stories, and music of many of the big-name performers who have entertained at CMM since 1985.

2020 is not only our anniversary, it also marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women’s right to vote. To commemorate this event, Deputy Director Rachelle Green is developing a micro exhibit dedicated to the stories and endeavors of 19 different women who have positively influenced Southern Maryland.

You are all invited to come celebrate with us at a 50th Birthday Bash in October, the month in which the museum was founded. This will be a party not to be missed.

Through it all we will continue to do the things we do so well: performances, lectures, school programs, public sails, summer camps, concerts, annual events, and public programming. In short — the many activities that keep people coming — to this very special place.

I invite you to join us, hopefully on many occasions throughout the course of the year, and experience the many ways in which we will celebrate … museum style! 🎉
William Dovel, a fisheries scientist at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, who was a museum enthusiast. The committee looked for a suitable site, and John Bluster made available a slip of land on Solomons Island between his Pier One Restaurant and the Solomons Post Office. On October 18, 1969, a group of volunteers broke ground for the 24 by 40-foot temporary museum structure. By April, using money raised by the historical society and the donations of labor and materials by local supporters, individuals had volunteered 650 hours to the construction project. By the end of construction, the total cost was $5,366.22 and volunteers had contributed over 1,450 hours. When the museum building was complete, display cases, artifacts, and interpretive labels were installed. Hundreds more hours were volunteered by Joe Lore, Alton Kersey, Dan Barrett, Pepper Langley, and many other enthusiasts to complete the project. Local families donated an array of commercial seafood harvesting gear, ship models, shipbuilding tools, boat parts, and Miocene fossils to display in the fledgling museum. Everything was in place for a soft opening in September.

One year from the groundbreaking, the museum was dedicated and officially opened to the public with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 18, 1970. Present at the ceremony to open the museum were Joseph C. Lore Jr., president of the Calvert County Historical Society; William Dovel, volunteer curator of the museum; Jefferson Patterson, benefactor; and many volunteers and other supporters of the project. Volunteers operated and staffed the temporary museum, open to the public only on weekends. Admission was free, but donations were accepted. Although Solomons was not the tourist destination that it is today, word of the museum spread and attendance grew.

Even before the museum opened in its temporary quarters, the volunteers embarked on a campaign to expand the Calvert Maritime Museum. William Dovel, committee chair and volunteer curator, envisioned Solomons developing into what he referred to as a “Little Mystic,” patterned after the landmark on the Connecticut River. Dovel hoped that an expanded museum complex would be a catalyst for Solomons to develop into a cultural center.

The historical society board and its museum committee were also looking to secure a larger site that would allow the development of expanded museum facilities. A month before the official opening of the temporary museum, the Calvert County Historical Society, in a unanimous vote, endorsed a resolution requesting that the Solomons School property “be used as a permanent home for the Marine Museum of Calvert County.” The resolution, signed by Secretary Betty Briscoe and President Joseph C. Lore, Jr., explained the “temporary museum erected by the Society and the ground it occupies is not suitable because of size and location as a permanent home for the Marine Museum.”

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museum were used interchangeably in official documents and press reports during the early years.)

The historical society lobbied the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners for the use of the Solomons School property. After some public discussions regarding the use or sale of the property, circuit court Judge Perry G. Bowen, Senator Edward T. Hall, and Delegate Thomas Rymer endorsed the plan and the commissioners agreed to lease the land to the historical society. The county commissioners officially endorsed the plan by Resolution #14, on October 6, 1970, pending support of the incoming Board of County Commissioners. Finally, in early 1972, the Solomons School property was leased jointly to the Calvert County Historical Society and the county’s Department of Parks and Recreation.

For years, the historical society had fought to preserve the abandoned Drum Point Lighthouse. Dovel’s ambitious “Little Mystic” plan called for razing the school building and placing the lighthouse, a replica, or a building with an observation tower, at the center of the schoolhouse grounds. It would form the centerpiece with nine small structures radiating like spokes of a wheel, each with topical exhibits. The concept was introduced to the public in a January 1971 article in the Calvert Independent and Dovel elaborated on his plan in newspaper articles published in April and September. His plan includes exhibit buildings dedicated to the interpretation of native peoples, shipbuilding, sailing, steam power, seafood, biology, the military, and fossils and would feature workshops, a boat exhibit, docking facilities, and a restaurant.

As Dovel spun grand dreams, the historical society and county commissioners considered a more practical plan to expand the museum. Calvert County provided funding to hire Dr. Ralph Eshelman as curator to direct development. Recognizing that Dovel’s plan for new buildings would require increased staffing and maintenance in addition to construction costs, planning shifted to preserve and renovate the Solomons School building to house the museum. Eshelman’s appointment in May, 1974, brought fresh ideas to the museum project. Working with the dedicated museum volunteers, his tenure marked a new and dynamic chapter in the museum’s development.

Those attending the official dedication of the temporary Calvert Maritime Museum on October 18, 1970, could not have foreseen the dynamic and vibrant Calvert Marine Museum of today. Generations of volunteers have stepped forward to lend their time and expertise to support the programs of the museum and additional support from Calvert County, state and federal agencies, private organizations, and a host of dedicated individuals create what we celebrate as a fifty-year triumph. We look forward to continued growth and many more accomplishments in the years ahead.

Endnotes


4 Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County Resolution #14, (10/06/1970).
If you have ever visited the museum’s Discovery Room touch tank, you have probably seen and learned about one of nature’s most unusual creatures, the horseshoe crab. Among the many amazing facts about horseshoe crabs is that they are not really crabs at all, but are more closely related to spiders. There are four living species of horseshoe crabs, including the local Atlantic variety with which we are familiar (Limulus polyphemus), and three species that live in Asian waters. Our local species of horseshoe crab ranges along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Mexico, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Despite the fact that they have nine eyes, and several more light receptors scattered around their bodies, they are thought to have relatively poor vision. In most cases, they are found on shallow, muddy, or sandy bottoms in near-shore waters where visibility is limited, so having good eyesight is not too important. Horseshoe crabs’ primary diet consists of mollusks, crustaceans, worms, algae, and other things they find on the bottom. As they have no teeth, they use their front legs to grind up food which is then passed to their mouths.

Perhaps the horseshoe crab’s most prominent feature is its long, pointed tail. Despite its rather formidable appearance, the tail is not a stinger or a weapon. Instead, they use it as a lever to right themselves when they get turned upside down.

Fossils of the ancestors of modern horseshoe crabs date back to the late Ordovician Period, around 450 million years ago. These fossils appear nearly identical to modern horseshoe crabs, suggesting that they have changed very little over the millennia.

Like other creatures with a hard outer shell known as an exoskeleton, such as true crabs and lobsters, horseshoe crabs must periodically shed their shells in order to grow. This process, called molting, can occur 16 or 17 times over the course of a horseshoe crab’s life. Horseshoe crabs can live for more than 20 years.

As adults, female horseshoe crabs are generally about one third larger than males. In late Spring and early Summer, they can be seen mating along the shoreline with the smaller male holding on to the back of a larger female. Females dig holes in the sand into which they deposit eggs that are then fertilized by the male. The eggs will develop for several weeks before hatching.

Horseshoe crabs are an important part of our coastal marine ecosystems. The millions of eggs laid are an important food source for other creatures, including many species of shore birds.

Horseshoe crabs play an important role in human health care. Their blood, which is blue due to its copper content, contains a compound called Limulus Amoebocyte Lysate (LAL). LAL is used to detect bacterial contamination in drugs, medical devices, and surgical instruments. Annually, over half a million horseshoe crabs are captured, transported to a lab where they are bled to harvest the LAL, and later returned to the ocean. About a third of each crab’s blood is taken to collect LAL. There is little data about how this process affects the horseshoe crab population. No one really knows how many crabs survive the capture, transport, and bleeding process, but some estimates put the mortality rate as high as 30%. Currently there are no limits on the number of horseshoe crabs that can be taken for LAL harvesting. Unfortunately, little progress has been made finding a synthetic alternative to LAL.
Since joining the CMM team during the summer of 2018, I came to realize just how special our buyboat the Wm. B. Tennison is in terms of local and Chesapeake Bay history. Wm. B. Tennison was built as a nine-log sailing bugeye, and was originally used in the oyster fishery. The vessel was built in 1899 by Frank Laird at Crabb Island, Maryland. She measures 60.5 feet LOD, with a beam of 17.5 feet and a draft of 4.5 feet. Her nine-log bottom was ideal for storing oysters below-decks as it was smooth and free from transverse framing that would interfere with shoveling out the catch dockside.

After nine years as a sailing bugeye, the Tennison was converted to powered buyboat in 1908-9. Buyboats were used to off-load oyster cargos from skipjacks and other vessels that were actively working the oyster beds, to bring the catch to market—getting a reduced rate from the watermen in exchange for allowing them to continue to fish. The conversion from bugeye to buyboat included removal of the bowsprit and trailboards, moving the reduced-sized mainmast aft—which would serve as a cargo crane, removing the mizzen mast, and installing a pilot house in place of the aft cabin. Finally, she was given a powerful engine—as the faster buyboat could beat its competitors back to market.

The Tennison’s conversion to buyboat was an early example but was indicative of a trend towards skipjacks in the oyster fishery. Of the hundreds of sailing bugeyes dredging in the 1880s, there were less than 50 by 1938. As skipjacks were easier to build than a log-bottomed boat, their use for the oyster fishery became widespread as watermen and a helper could knock out a skipjack in their yard using pre-sawn lumber and simple molds—whereas a log-bottom boat required skilled adze work, a discerning eye, and very large diameter logs which became increasingly scarce.

The Tennison had a succession of owners but concluded with her sale to the J.C. Lore & Sons company of Solomons, Maryland, in 1945. The Lores used the Tennison as a buyboat and for dredging oysters on their private beds where power dredging was allowed. They installed a 36-horsepower Palmer gas turbine engine to drive her dredge winders and lighting. The Tennison was used by the Lores until 1978 when the company closed. Calvert County purchased the Tennison and the J.C. Lore & Sons oyster house in 1979. In 1994, she was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Today the Tennison is an approximation of her appearance in 1908-9. She is the only bugeye buyboat conversion in existence and is the oldest licensed passenger vessel in the Fifth Coast Guard District and reputed to be the second oldest in the United States. Due to this unique status, we have a number of improvements planned to enhance the Tennison’s appearance.

This year, CMM staff decided to take the Tennison to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) for her annual haul-out due to the skilled shipwrights on their staff, the working marine railway that can easily haul a large wooden boat, and their unparalleled experience. (CBMM has restored their own historic buyboat, Winnie Estelle and their bugeye, Edna Lockwood). Capt. Bill Nichols brought the boat over and arrived at St. Michaels in six hours of relatively smooth cruising. Several CMM staff, including myself, were on site at CBMM for the Tennison haul-out. The operation went off without a hitch and we returned to Solomons knowing our historic buyboat was in good hands.
Norm Riker Donates Fossil Collection

Longtime volunteer and avocational fossil collector Norm Riker has donated his significant collection of Miocene fossils to CMM.

As one of the founding members of the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club, Norm Riker has seen and collected many fossils. Years ago when he worked in Annapolis (while living in Solomons), he would often get up before dawn to collect and still get to work on time. Here he is holding a box filled with shark teeth from the Lee Creek phosphate mine in Aurora, North Carolina, now no longer open to fossil collectors. Norm was among the first Calvert County collectors to donate fossils to our nascent department back in the early 1980s. He helped quarry and prepare some of our nicest and most complete Miocene dolphins, like the skull and skeleton of *Hadrodelphis calvertense*. Norm is also a contributing author to a manuscript in preparation describing a unique sperm whale tooth that he collected in the Lee Creek mine.

Education UPDATE

By Rachelle Green, Deputy Director

Gearing up for 2020 ...

As our educators are settling into their new classroom spaces in the Benning Education Center on the second floor of the Exhibition Hall, we are already adding those special CMM splashes of creativity. New in 2020, we will add the augmented reality sandbox created by the Calvert County Technology Services Department to our space. This interactive topographic map is developed to engage students in environmental scenarios such as floods, droughts, and severe landscapes. We are integrating this technology into our Chesapeake Bay Field Laboratory program for 7th graders as they explore the biology of the Patuxent River and the changing environment aboard the *Dee of St. Mary’s*. To complement the Discovery Room and the Skates and Rays exhibit, we will be adding a few new animal friends to the Benning Educational Center. Educators will be able to use our new reptiles to assist in hands-on learning opportunities in the classroom spaces.

We are also preparing for our traditional programs and events including: Ottermania in March, the Solomons Maritime Festival in May, Sharkfest in July, PRAD in October, and a variety of camps for all ages next summer! We will continue to host the Road Scholar program, “Local Fare and Lighthouses in Southern Maryland,” which showcases our region’s traditional food and lighthouse lore. And we offer the Maritime Performance Series and lecture series for our adult learners. Don’t forget to stop by the museum for Sea Squirts and Little Minnows programs as well as special programming days throughout the year.
Exhibits Update

By Carey Crane, Curator of Exhibits

Tim Scheirer’s Life on the Patuxent Mural

A master artist applies the finishing touch to an epic painting and bids farewell to a storied career at Calvert Marine Museum.

The achievement of the magnificent new painting Life on the Patuxent completes Tim Scheirer’s final creation of large-scale murals seen throughout Calvert Marine Museum. He retired from the museum in December. True to Tim’s signature practice, Life on the Patuxent includes visual puns and hidden figures and faces that reward close observation. Tim’s genuine warmth and sense of humor are evident in his art. Most of the figures depicted in the artwork are individuals with ties to the museum. “...the object is to make this of real people in real situations doing real things.” TS

Few people view Tim’s work without expressing lively appreciation of his talent. Most are not aware of how increasingly rare his talents are. Tim’s large-scale mural work at CMM is direct, meaning that he paints full-scale and directly onto the prepared surface of the wall working from scaffolding and ladders over many months. His education, passion, and experience are grounded in traditional techniques and practices of fine art before the digital age and the availability of high-resolution, large format printers. Digital design and print technology are effective, fast, and economical. However, the results lack the care, depth, richness, and presence of Tim’s direct painting. He begins by transferring drawings to the wall and proceeds with underpainting:

“I used essentially an old technique, which affectionately has been called ‘brown sauce’ over the years. It has to do with using a neutral brown to establish a light and dark underpainting and layout for everything. And that can always be augmented or changed as the process goes on depending on how everything fits together in the finished look... Sometimes a good idea needs to be tweaked just a little bit, and then the color is added over the top of that, ... interns also participated in putting down some of the color, putting down some of the underpainting...” TS.

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Exhibits Update  (Continued from page 8)

Tim is committed to mentoring young people with an interest in art and museum exhibits. Teamwork on Life on the Patuxent in part initiated CMM Exhibits Department summer internships.

Beyond his obvious artistic talents, Tim has an encyclopedic understanding of the materials and processes of art and exhibit design and fabrication. He will be missed for his many acts of kindness, ability to hold forth on virtually any topic, and inexcusable gift for spontaneous puns.

Tim’s first job at CMM was as a contractor working on the Paleontology Gallery. He created the underwater back-drop setting for the megalodon sculpture and the coastal habitat scene on the opposite wall. His initial project as a staff member over twenty years ago was producing the whale skeleton painting across from the paleo prep demonstration lab. One might say that finishing Life on the Patuxent completes the picture.

Tim’s Scientific Illustrations

By Stephen Godfrey, Curator of Paleontology

Not only is Tim a very gifted muralist, he is also a superb scientific illustrator. I continue to marvel at the many illustrations he created throughout his tenure for the Department of Paleontology.

Part of his artistic genius is his ability to take an idea and create a working sketch. From that, he produces a finished work of art, usually consisting of life-restorations of extinct organisms. His renderings are dynamic, aesthetically pleasing, and anatomically accurate. His illustrations always improve whatever exhibit or publication they grace. Fortunately, Tim assures me that he will continue to create artwork like the one figured here, to help bring the Miocene world back to life.


HERstory: Celebrating Southern Maryland Women

By Rachelle Green, Deputy Director

As the museum celebrates 50 years of education and research in paleontology, estuarine biology, and maritime history of the Chesapeake Bay region, we are creating an exhibit highlighting women who have made significant impacts in these fields and throughout Calvert County, Southern Maryland, and the state. The exhibit will be timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in the United States. Like the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame, the exhibit’s mission is “to honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural, and social life of the state and to provide visible models of achievement for tomorrow’s female leaders.” Each department submitted nominations for prominent women who have made contributions in their respective fields. We have assembled the profiles of 19 women that will be featured throughout our galleries in small vignettes or profiles — researched and compiled by staff from all areas of the museum. From Margaret Brent to Margaret Dunkle, we invite you to share in the accomplishments and triumphs of Maryland women during this very important celebration of the 19th Amendment.
Maryland in the Age of Sail

LECTURE SERIES
January 9 – April 16, 2020

Join Mark Wilkins, Curator of Maritime History at the Calvert Marine Museum, as he explores “Maryland in the Age of Sail.” This eight week lecture series includes topics such as European expansionism, the tobacco trade, the Civil War on the Chesapeake, and traditional Maryland watercraft of the 19th and 20th centuries. One-hour lectures begin at 7 p.m. in the Harms Gallery and are free and open to the public.

January 9, 2020
“European Expansionism, 1095-1500”
Investigate the need for European nations to explore the oceans and seas of the world. Due to shrinking internal commerce, sea traders ventured far and wide to import new goods to their native lands—infusing their economies with exotic goods from faraway places.

February 6, 2020
“The American Revolution and the Bay”
What role did the Chesapeake play in the War for Independence? This talk will explore the tactical and strategic importance of the bay during the Revolutionary War, including important battles and associated naval engagements and strategies.

February 20, 2020
“The Tobacco Trade”
Trace the evolution of the tobacco trade, first in Virginia and then in Maryland. Find out why this commodity was so important and lucrative to global commerce.

March 5, 2020
“Watery Highways — The Chesapeake Bay”
Before and after the advent of railroads, water was the easiest way to transport goods and travelers. The Chesapeake Bay connected towns such as Richmond, Alexandria, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Annapolis, and Norfolk, and countless smaller towns. Consider the evolution of transportation on the “watery highways” of the bay.

March 19, 2020
“Battle of Hampton Roads and the Civil War on the Chesapeake and in Maryland”
Chronicle the transition from the sailing navy to one made of iron. See why the bay was so important during the Civil War, and discover ways Confederate raiders tried to out-smart the Union blockade of the eastern seaboard.

April 2, 2020
“Steam and Sail on the Bay in the 19th and 20th Centuries”
Explore the transition from sail to steam on the Chesapeake Bay. Eventually, steam vessels replaced sail and rowed craft to facilitate movement of cargo and passengers across the bay. Review various types of 19th and 20th century steamers and sailing craft.

April 16, 2020
“Development of Chesapeake Bay Watercraft and Fishing”
Many types of watercraft were developed for use on the Chesapeake Bay. Learn about the design, construction, and history of these vessels—skipjacks, bateyes, draketails, and crabbing skiffs, as well as some lesser-known watercraft that have worked the bay.
Musical group Wylder is known for writing rhythmic, lyrically-driven indie-folk with a penchant for foreboding storytelling about family and loss. First formed in Virginia by singer/guitarist Will McCarry, the group quickly grew to include Lonnie Southall on guitar/mandolin, Mike Pingley on drums, and Jackson Wright on bass/piano.

Diane Daly is a vocalist of moody contrasts and evocative depth. Certainly one who cannot be easily pigeonholed into one particular style, Diane has spent her career exploring a world of music from the strictest classical solos to avant-garde cabaret.

Ready for a unique and talented take on a wide range of musical traditions? Claude Bourbon is known throughout Europe and America for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish, and Middle Eastern stylings into uncharted territories.

John McCutcheon has emerged as one of the industry’s most respected and loved folksingers. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammer dulcimer. His songwriting has been hailed by critics and singers around the globe.
Activities & Events

Dino Daze

Young guest crossing the “tar pit” in the Paleontology Gallery. (Photo by Doug Hood)

 Guests excavate fossils from a jacket of matrix with the assistance of volunteer Eric Frere. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Visitors excavating microfossils. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Christmas Walk

Volunteer George Leah with his model train that he shared with guests on the Mezzanine Gallery. (Photo by Karen Vogel)

Santa makes a special appearance in the museum’s lobby. (Photo by Jeff Murray)

Patuxent High School Carolers delight guests with their performance in the Harms Gallery. (Photo by Jeff Murray)

The Dec of St. Mary’s lighted for the boat parade. (Photo by Jeff Murray)
Activities & Events

Maritime Performance Series

Bumper Jacksons, September 27. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Hanneke Cassel Band, October 25. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Knuckle Dusters, November 15. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Timothy Seaman, November 29. (Photo by Doug Hood)

On Watch Ceremony

Master of ceremonies Jack Fringer, left, introducing keynote speaker Captain John Brabazon, Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Patuxent River. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Jay Bolles, American Legion Post 274 commander, lays a wreath at the On Watch memorial. (Photo by Doug Hood)
Maryland DNR’s popular Scales and Tails program shares an Eastern king snake with guests at the Corbin Nature Pavilion. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Patuxent Small Craft Guild volunteers and Sea Scouts team up to offer rides in a recently restored Old Town War Canoe. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Visitors enjoy activities at the Kids Zone, including a petting zoo. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Historic small craft, paddle boats, radio controlled model boats, and boat rides offer many opportunities to enjoy the waterfront. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Guests were treated to an extreme high tide event that flooded the toy boat building tent. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Visitors enjoy the arts and crafts show and food court in the museum’s parking lot area. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Pond Scum was one of the groups that entertained guests from the PNC Waterside Pavilion. (Photo by Doug Hood)

Local favorite Robbie Boothe and his band performed an evening concert in the PNC Waterside Pavilion to wrap up festivities. (Photo by Doug Hood)
Volunteer Mike Ellwood shows fossils to Connor Porecki and other guests. (Photo by Kathleen Porecki)

Friends Jenny Haydin, Kim Jackson, Connor Porecki, Sam Froedge, and Dustin Jackson pause in the Paleontology Gallery. (Photo by Kathleen Porecki)

Michael Chan enjoys the model trains set up in the Harms Gallery by volunteers from the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. (Photo by Kathleen Porecki)

At noon, the balloons drop to the delight of guests in the Harms Gallery. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Over 300 guests attended the members’ only Noon Year’s Eve celebration. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Nicolo Whimsey entertains guests in the museum’s lobby. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

CMM installed a display component to complement the Smithsonian Institution’s Water/Ways traveling exhibit at Calvert Library Prince Frederick. On display through February, the CMM case explores our local water story through paleontology, estuarine biology, and maritime history. (Photo by Robyn Truslow)
t’s hard to believe 2019 is behind us. We have arrived at 2020! This past year was very busy, with four Waterside Music Series concerts, OtterMania, Solomons Maritime Festival, Sharkfest, PRAD, Solomons Christmas Walk, summer camps, Road Scholar programs, the day-to-day operations, and so much more. Through it all, the volunteers were at the museum working hand-in-hand with the staff to get things done. No matter the task, there was always a volunteer willing to take care of it.

In fiscal year 2019, our volunteers logged 29,006 hours which equates to $797,665 worth of in-kind service. Because of our volunteer family, we can be the kind of destination our visitors are looking for to enjoy an awesome experience while they learn about our three themes. Thanks to our volunteer family for all they do each and every day of the year. They make CMM the best it can be!

**Staff UPDATE**

**DEPARTURES:**

Randy Parmer departed CMM after serving the museum for over three and a half years in the Exhibits Department. He is heading for new opportunities in Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, in Washington State. Randy’s most significant contribution to the museum was as lead carpenter on the Recreational Playground exhibit in the Maritime History Gallery where he managed some tricky compound miter joints and circular pedestals required of the exhibit design. Randy has many good friends and the promise of plentiful carpentry work on San Juan island. He is accompanied by his beloved Fender bass guitar. Randy says the winters are warmer, and every day is Friday. Bon voyage to you Randy, from your CMM family.

As reported elsewhere in this issue, Tim Scheier retired from the museum’s Exhibits Department after more than twenty years. Beginning as a contractor in the 1990s, Tim’s artistry appears in every gallery in the museum. His creativity, talent, and considerable contributions to the museum will be sorely missed, but we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

**ARRIVALS:**

With the relocation of the Calvert County Solomons Visitor Information Center to the museum lobby, we are pleased to welcome Beth Woodyard and Joy Meade to the CMM staff. Beth moved to Calvert County from Annapolis in 2003, but has deep roots in the county as her grandfather grew up here. According to Joy, “I have a lot of family in Calvert County and I spent all my summers in Olivet as a child. I have many, many wonderful memories of those summers and spending time with my cousin crabbing off the pier and being on the water.” Beth and Joy staff the visitor center desk on weekends.
Celebrate With Us!

The Museum Store is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the museum with the launch of beautiful new ornaments, décor, clothing, and more. Everything has been carefully selected to help tell the story of the museum. Look for new releases throughout the year such as this handsome coffee mug. Wrap up your gifts in our custom crafted fossil shark tooth gift wrap! A fabulous new eco-bag featuring our 50th anniversary logo is available for purchase or free with a minimum $50 purchase. As always, the proceeds from the store support the programs and projects of the museum.

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2019 Board Dinner Highlights

By Vanessa Gill, Director of Promotions

The Calvert Marine Museum Society held its annual holiday board dinner on December 6 at the Oyster Bay Clubhouse in Solomons. Society staff, directors, department heads, and board members came together to socialize, welcome new board members, thank those rotating off of the board, and remember the past year. The elegant evening was hosted by long-time museum supporters and board members Dixie Miller and Marianne Harms.

Museum Director Jeff Murray and Director of Promotions Vanessa Gill welcomed new board members. Martha Rymer and Ivan Behel are new to the CMM family, while Nancy Wieck and Bob Carpenter both returned as board members after a hiatus. The board thanked Joanna Yakaitis and Jack Fringer, who rotated off the board after serving two consecutive three-year terms. Joanna was recognized for her outstanding job as the treasurer, and Jack for his support and assistance with lobbying at the state level. The group took time to remember and honor board members Randy Barrett and Bob Pfeiffer, who passed away this year. Murray and Gill praised their work and dedication to the museum and emphasized the influence they had on the museum’s future.

Plans for the museum’s 50th Birthday Celebration were also unveiled, including a list of monthly events that feature the most exciting parts of the museum and offer supporters an insider’s look at the unique work done behind the scenes. New efforts that unite the data, marketing, and funding of each department will also play a big role in the plans for the upcoming year.
Happy New Year!

As we begin our 50th anniversary year, I reflect back on 2019 and my, what an exciting year it was at the museum! We had one of our most successful membership years to date as we welcomed over 1,000 new members! It has been great getting to know our members and I look forward to meeting many more of you during 2020.

Keep your eye on our website (www.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
• Access to early concert tickets
• Special member discount days in the Museum Store

It is going 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 2020. I look forward to seeing you at the museum!

Kennedy Center 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 the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., to see The National Symphony Orchestra’s Christmas Spectacular featuring Grammy and Tony award winner Leslie Odom, Jr. Santa Claus also made an appearance leading the audience in a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols.

At the end of the day we all agreed it was a great way to get into the holiday spirit. I hope to see you on one of our future trips! Your ideas are always welcome! Where would YOU like to visit? Call me today!