Reflections from the Third Director

By Sherrod Sturrock

“...all museums are essentially living in a theatre of dynamic change and movement... and there are more ways than we could imagine, to grow, adapt, change, and increase resiliency and sustainable development at every phase.”

From a blog by Selma Holz and Maite Alvarez, Remix: Changing Conversations in Museums in the Americas

One of our founders, Alton Kersey, was volunteering for First Free Friday teaching kids how to tie knots and “lasso” pilings. Alton asked a boy if he liked the museum. He answered, “I love this place! It’s the best place in the whole world!” And that, said Alton, is what it’s all about. For one of the museum’s founders to hear that excitement and passion from a child was a dream fulfilled. I had the privilege of being part of this very special place and the responsibility of carrying on the legacy handed down from people like Alton.

In 2016, I was named director of the Calvert Marine Museum. Working with Doug Alves as the deputy director since 2004, I gained valuable insight into the museum’s culture of mutual support which he fostered. I will always be grateful to him for inviting me to join the staff, and for the support he gave me to do my job.

It was obvious early on that the museum’s success was a collective endeavor that involved every person there.

From my first day on the job to the day I retired in 2019, I loved the work. Of course there were tough days, but even on the most difficult, I could take a walk and look out over the Drum Point Lighthouse or go and watch the otters cavorting through the water or chat with a visitor who was delighted by what they were learning and know it was all going to be ok. When my extended family gathered for the Thanksgiving holiday, I could not stop talking about all the fascinating things I had learned at my new job about fossils and sea life and boats and lighthouses and the state of the oysters in the bay and... well, you get the picture. And that is one of the true gifts of the museum — there is so much to learn, so many

Continued on page 3

Reflections

By Jeff Murray, Museum Director

Throughout this 50th Anniversary year, the Bugeye Times has documented the evolution and development of the Calvert Marine Museum. In the Winter 2019/20 issue, Rachelle Green and Robert Hurry shared the museum’s beginnings in Volunteers With Vision, an origin story that celebrates the local volunteers who banded together to preserve local history. In the Spring 2020 issue, Dr. Ralph Eshelman regaled you with tales of the museum’s adolescence with Reflections from the First Director, as he and his staff figured out how to be a museum. The Summer 2020 issue featured Doug Alves with Reflections from the Second Director. During his 25-year tenure, Doug brought the museum into its maturity with a strong focus on completing the first ambitious master plan, interspersed with the stories he is so well known for. In this issue, Sherrod Sturrock shares her perspective in Reflections from the Third Director. She oversaw a period of transition and rapid change at the museum. She also hired and mentored me in preparation to assume the position as the fourth director of the Calvert Marine Museum. Taken together, it is quite a story spanning 50 years of celebrating the prehistory, natural history, and maritime heritage of the Chesapeake Bay.

Former and current directors, from left, are Dr. Ralph Eshelman, Doug Alves, Sherrod Sturrock, and Jeff Murray. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
Turning 50 in a Pandemic: New Pathways for New Challenges

A

utumn is my favorite time of year. Cooler temps and colorful leaves bring out nature's beauty and make for great hiking, biking, and working in the yard days. This year the season also marks a very special milestone for the Calvert Marine Museum, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary. Unfortunately, this hasn't quite been the 50th anniversary year that any of us had envisioned. The pandemic has rendered in-person gatherings and celebrations of any size impossible for the members and volunteers as I am at this moment! They have worked tirelessly over the last six months to limit exposure, suggest new and creative ideas for how to maintain social distancing in our spaces, re-think the ways in which we develop and deliver programs, and re-open the museum in the safest and most welcoming environment possible.

Because of their efforts, there is good news to report! Despite COVID capacity restrictions which limit visitation to a maximum of 225 guests each day, attendance has thus far beaten expectations. Our Museum Store is doing VERY well, with good sales throughout the summer and September sales being nearly what they were for the same month during the past two years. Our two boats, the Wm. B Tennison and Dee of St. Mary's, are operating at or near capacity for their public sails. Vacation rental demand at Cove Point Lighthouse is strong since it serves as a very nice place for guests to socially distance away from the large city.

Our most important number, however, remains at zero. We have thus far had no positive tests for COVID-19 among our staff, volunteers, or family members. However, we are prepared should that happen. CMM’s various departments have developed backup and emergency plans for coverage should one or more staff test positive in their area, and many staff have stepped up and cross-trained to work in a different department for a short time if necessary. Since CMM’s re-opening to the public on July 15, front-line staff have been exemplary in the positive and proactive ways they have worked with museum visitors. It is they who are making great sacrifices, including wearing their masks for hours at a time and policing the mask use of our patrons — not always an easy task. I would like to express my personal thanks each of them for maintaining the visitor experience at such a high level day after day. Deputy Director Rachelle Green merits additional praise for authoring and obtaining Health Department approval for the museum’s reopening plan, which guides what we do each and every day with respect to the virus.

The pandemic has forced the museum to make some difficult financial decisions, cutting back in certain areas due to the temporary dormancy of some of our revenue streams. Wherever possible, we have applied for and received COVID-related relief funding and were successful with multiple applications. In addition, the museum’s Board of Governors has formed a COVID fundraising committee and already raised nearly $10,000 in their first effort, a 50th Anniversary Appeal. Their second effort is being led by board member Nancy Wieck and is a challenge to walk 50 miles for 50 years in honor of CMM’s 50th anniversary — look for information about this fundraiser elsewhere in the issue. 2021 will bring different ideas for fundraising as we continue to navigate the new normal.

Within the museum itself, there are some brand-new reasons to come (or come back). The Exhibits Department has just put the final touches on both the USS Calvert exhibit in the military history section of the Maritime History Gallery, and also completed installation of a new Mezzanine Gallery exhibit, Faces of the Chesapeake. We continue to renovate and improve infrastructure at our three locations. Having recently finished renovation projects on the Drum Point Lighthouse roof and on the Cove Point grounds and fog building, we now turn our attention to the bulkhead in the boat basin under the Drum Point Lighthouse, and the Lore Oyster House. The former will replace a bulkhead that is due for repair, and roof and siding projects at the Lore Oyster House will stabilize that historic building in preparation for future renovations.

We are also adding new team members! As you’ll read about elsewhere in this issue, we have two new staffers joining us this season: Dr. Victor Perez will complete his post-doctoral fellowship at the museum serving as the Assistant Curator of Paleontology, and in the

Continued on page 3
knowledgeable people with amazing experiences who are eager to share, that you can spend years there and learn something new every day.

As the museum’s first deputy director, I was charged with overseeing the Education Department and the day-to-day operations of the museum, including new exhibits. It was an exciting time to jump into the fray. Working with staff and volunteers, we embarked on an ambitious plan to renew all the permanent exhibits. To this day when I see a visitor reading exhibit text, I thank them. It is impossible to fully appreciate the time, energy, emotion, arguments, and effort from a talented team that goes into every aspect of exhibit creation. It is like a giant puzzle and we all had ideas about how the pieces fit together to make the exhibit interesting, informative, inviting, and true. That is no small task when your audience ranges from kids to experts!

Over time, the team renovated the Discovery Room, the entrance to the Paleontology Gallery, updated the Maritime History Gallery which had been substantially unchanged for 20 years, and completely renovated the Estuarine Biology Gallery. Exhibit work never stops — the process of renewal, the re-evaluation of content and, the re-interpretation of message means the museum is always changing to stay current and relevant. This is done by listening to our visitors and volunteers and community and finding ways to bring those ideas into the exhibits.

When we were redesigning the Discovery Room we asked the volunteers who had worked in that space what we should keep. They said that kids loved the touch tank, the fossil sand box, and the dress ups. That feedback helped shape what happened in the space within an educational framework. When we started working on the entrance to the Paleontology Gallery, we wanted to create a graphic that could communicate how old the earth is — a difficult concept to teach. We put up drawing after drawing, asking for visitor response. And we kept going back to the drawing board until we got it right. When we renovated the Estuarine Biology Gallery, we met with focus groups to get input about what you wanted to know, whether the approach made sense to you, if the digital elements worked. These comments, assessments, and questions helped guide the paths we took.

The update of the Maritime History Gallery presented a different kind of challenge. When it was originally designed and fabricated in the late 1980s, few African Americans were included. We wanted to reflect the whole community and so that part of our local history was added to the new exhibit. The stories of local people of color are woven into each exhibit throughout the gallery. I was giving a county employee a tour one day and she was surprised to recognize a photograph in the exhibit of her uncle, an African American boat captain. She had never seen that picture placed in the context of the community’s history before.

There is an undeniable connection, a sense of ownership that people feel toward the Calvert Marine Museum. One day a man stopped me and asked if I worked there. He said he had been coming to the museum for many years and every time he visited, he found the experience richer and more rewarding. “Everything here supports your mission,” he told me. He felt that connection. You sense it in the volunteers and their enthusiasm to share their knowledge with visitors. You see it in the children who take parents by the hand and tell them all about the skates and rays or the megalodon. You experience it in the remarkable caring and dedication of the staff. Over and over, visitors commented that their interaction with someone in the Museum Store or the lighthouse or the Discovery Room was a highlight of their visit. I spoke with a
Canadian couple who were traveling by boat. She told me that they had visited museums all over the world, and that this was one of the best they had seen. When I asked what she liked, she commented on the quality of the exhibits and the rich variety of information, but what made the difference was the people she talked to who brought the stories to life.

Volunteers are a huge part of the museum’s success. One volunteer suggested building cardboard boats, and out of that grew a remarkable cardboard boat camp and morphed into a real boat building camp for middle school students. Kids built boats with the help of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild volunteers, learning skills not just about construction, but about math, water safety, cooperation, maritime history, and navigation. I have never encountered such a talented, committed, and qualified group of individuals so dedicated to the mission of an institution. Many times, volunteers came to see me to suggest ways to make the museum better, more welcoming, safer, or more fun for kids. Our fossil collection has grown in no small measure because of the donations made by volunteer avocational fossil collectors. The *Dee of St. Mary’s*, our skipjack, is part of our permanent collection because the volunteers maintain it. Our grounds, the Museum Store, the concerts, the public events, and the educational programs all depend on volunteers. Working with and for them was a privilege. And now, I have joined their ranks as the volunteer assistant editor of the *Bugeye Times* — another legacy of a stalwart volunteer, Paul Berry.

Being an integral part of the community meant comparing the programs we were offering to the needs, both expressed and perceived, and developing programs accordingly. We created programs for pre-school age children, home schooled children, special needs children, and even kids in other states through a distance learning initiative. We took kids out on the water, onto the beaches to search for fossils, into the lab, and into the marsh.

We expanded offerings for families with our First Free Fridays, holiday programming, and seasonal events. We enhanced adult programming by offering themed lecture series in partnership with other organizations and creating the Maritime Performance Series celebrating American roots music. We began to recognize our members more thoughtfully with special Museum Store opportunities and members-only events and offerings. And we found many new ways of getting people out on the water using pedal boats, skiffs, canoes, and our historic work boats, the *Win. B. Tennison* and *Dee of St. Mary’s*.

When Doug Alves retired in April, 2016, after 25 years as director, the museum entered a period of transition. The recent renovation and turnover in the leadership team, which included three long serving curators, meant more change. Change can cause uncertainty and anxiety about the future that needed to be channeled into positive energy. With a spirit of optimism and a little bravado, we joined forces and moved full speed ahead. Managing change is about shared decision-making, and that’s exactly how we approached the next three years.

The first phase of the Exhibition Hall renovation project was finished, but the education center had been deferred due to lack of funding. Finally, with an architectural design and adequate funding in place, we could move forward with transforming the second floor. On May 14, 2019, we dedicated the Benning Education Center with the benefactors, Barbara and Stan Benning, there to enjoy it.

Continued on page 5
Education was not the only department that exploded in productivity. Paleontology staff and volunteers were constantly making new discoveries about the Miocene era. In 2018, the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press published *The Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology of Calvert Cliffs* edited by CMM Curator of Paleontology Stephen Godfrey. This book is now the authority on this topic and an example of the quality of research that takes place at CMM. The paleontology collection had expanded into every available space. When Governor Larry Hogan toured the museum before a Waterside Music Series concert, he was impressed by the fossil collection. Seizing the opportunity, we suggested that CMM could be the state paleontology center. “Who else is doing this?” he asked. No one, we replied — and to underscore that bold assertion, Stephen Godfrey solicited support from every institution in the state that dealt with paleontology or geology.

On May 15, 2018, at a bill signing in Annapolis, the museum was recognized as the State Paleontology Collections and Research Center. I attended the signing along with Stephen Godfrey and board member Marianne Harms. Three college-age paleontology interns joined us, capping a summer of experience they will never forget. Someday, there will be an actual paleontology center built to house the significant work that this department produces.

The commitment and dedication of CMM’s volunteers is well documented. What many people forget is that members of the Board of Directors are also volunteers. These individuals are called upon to support the director in good times and bad, to make difficult decisions, and to ensure the future stability of the museum. CMM has been fortunate to have truly courageous and visionary board members through the years. In 2018, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of two adjacent parcels of land to secure the museum’s future needs. Design Collective, a firm out of Baltimore, worked with us to incorporate the additional acreage into a master site plan. The plan also designated the site of a future paleontology center and envisioned overall long-range development of the campus. Circumstances and resources will dictate when and how the plan gets implemented, but the process of creating this innovative vision generated a shared sense of purpose and renewal. We now literally had a picture of what the future campus could be.

Looking back over my 14 years at CMM as deputy director and director, there are clear themes that emerged: a core belief that museums are educational institutions and that every person who works at the museum shares in the responsibility to educate; that this place has always been and will continue to be an island of decency where ideas are respected and everyone is welcome; that volunteers are our best and ablest ambassadors and critical to our ability to fulfill our mission; that challenges always present opportunities and mistakes are where learning happens; and that my job, as director, was to empower every employee to reach their fullest potential.

When I retired, I left the museum in the capable hands of Jeff Murray. We had worked together seamlessly for two years, always with the intention that he would step up. But neither of us could have envisioned the challenge that lay ahead. To quote Thomas Paine, “These are times that try men’s souls.” Paine was talking about fighting for independence against the overwhelming might of the British. Today, museums around the world are fighting for their very existence. I strongly believe that museums and other cultural institutions hold the key to helping us understand our shared humanity. Just as the Calvert Marine Museum invests in young people, so I trust that they will support the institutions that safeguard our history.

The Calvert Marine Museum is celebrating its 50th anniversary during this strangest of times. It has come such a long way from those early years, a remarkable achievement that reflects the power of synergy. And yet, there is much work still to do, work that needs each of us to stay involved. It is, as that young boy said, the best place in the whole world and well worth the effort. I am humbled to have been a small part of this remarkable legacy. 🦈
New Dust Extraction System for Fossil Preparation Lab

The museum and the Paleontology Department are blessed to have a dedicated pool of volunteers who are passionate about preparing the fossils that we collect principally from along Calvert Cliffs. They love to demonstrate the process of fossil preparation for the public. However, when our volunteers work to remove sediments that entomb the Miocene fossils, it causes dust that can remain suspended in the air in the prep lab. Furthermore, the fumes from glues and consolidants that we use to strengthen the delicate fossils can also fill the lab. Over the years, a variety of extraction systems have existed in the prep lab, but none of them have worked to our satisfaction.

Now, under the guidance of Paleontology Collections Manager John Nance, a new dust collection system has been installed. The setup consists of two long and flexible suction hoses that can access anywhere in the prep lab. These large-diameter hoses are attached to ductwork that leads to an industrial filtration unit located in the mechanical space behind the lab. When the unit is turned on, it becomes a giant gentle vacuum cleaner, sucking up fumes and airborne dust and effectively removing them from the air.

Prep lab volunteers Pat Gotsis, Bill Prochownik, and Stephen Groff were a great help in assembling the system. Thank you all for contributing so much to the museum!

Volunteer Mike Elwood using the new system while preparing a fossil.

Photos by Stephen Godfrey
Early Bay Pilots and their Boats

By Mark Wilkins, Curator of Maritime History

Calvert Marine Museum is in the early planning stages for a temporary exhibit on Maryland boat pilots. There is a rich tradition of Marylanders piloting vessels in the Chesapeake Bay, dating back to the early 17th century. Solomons is home to a busy Maryland Association of Pilots station and a major maintenance and repair facility for many of its pilot launches.

Prior to 1829, there was only one way to enter the bay, a 12 mile span between Cape Henry and Cape Charles at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Most mariners knew about this entrance, but few knew the dangers awaiting them just inside: the Middle Ground, Horseshoe Shoals, and many other hidden perils. If the mariner was experienced in bay travel, he would know that certain landmarks indicated specific challenges to navigation. If he had less experience, he needed to employ a pilot—a mariner that knew the bay like the back of his hand and could steer the boat to safety. The earliest known pilot was Virginia colonist John Clark who was imprisoned when he refused to help the Spanish navigate their passage up the bay. In 1661, the Virginia General Assembly passed an act creating the Office of Chief Pilot of the James River. As bay traffic increased, piloting became more competitive. A fast, weather-worthy boat, similar to the shape of the already developing clipper schooner, evolved during the mid-18th century for use as pilot boat. Additional laws dictated that inbound ships were required to accept the services of the first pilot to reach the vessel, and whoever had the fastest boat and keenest sailing skills would win. Howard I. Chapelle speculated that the earliest pilot boat design was borrowed from the Bermuda Sloops that were trading in the bay by the early 1700s. Geoffrey Footner argued that the boat’s design was ‘home grown’ along the shores of the Chesapeake. The Virginia pilot boat was the first type of schooner to work the bay and was widely copied by Maryland boat builders. Built entirely for speed, they measured around 50 feet or less, had a flush deck and short low quarterdeck that formed a cramped cabin. In the larger boats, pilots may have had a small hearth or cookstove. Crew crawled to their bunks forward through the main hatch, usually where the stove was located.

The pilot boats were characterized by sharp deadrise, narrow beam, fine long run, flush deck, low freeboard and draft, and deep drag aft to aid in sailing to windward. The mainmast had a gaff headed sail with boom; the foremast sail was gaff-headed and loose footed, to allow easy access to the main hatch. The only other sails that these boats may have carried were a jib headed and loose footed, to allow easy access to the main hatch. The Virginia pilot boat was the first type of schooner to work the bay and was widely copied by Maryland boat builders. Built entirely for speed, they measured around 50 feet or less, had a flush deck and short low quarterdeck that formed a cramped cabin. In the larger boats, pilots may have had a small hearth or cookstove. Crew crawled to their bunks forward through the main hatch, usually where the stove was located.

The pilot boats were characterized by sharp deadrise, narrow beam, fine long run, flush deck, low freeboard and draft, and deep drag aft to aid in sailing to windward. The mainmast had a gaff headed sail with boom; the foremast sail was gaff-headed and loose footed, to allow easy access to the main hatch. The only other sails that these boats may have carried were a jib headed and loose footed, to allow easy access to the main hatch. The Virginia pilot boat was the first type of schooner to work the bay and was widely copied by Maryland boat builders. Built entirely for speed, they measured around 50 feet or less, had a flush deck and short low quarterdeck that formed a cramped cabin. In the larger boats, pilots may have had a small hearth or cookstove. Crew crawled to their bunks forward through the main hatch, usually where the stove was located.

The earliest plans for a schooner built showing the influence of the Virginia pilot boat was the St. Ann, an American boat that was ‘slightly built.’ She arrived in Portsmouth in 1736 flying a Portuguese flag. Chapelle commented that her real advantage was her ability to reach high speeds in a variety of wind conditions. Pilot boat design stayed fairly consistent until the early to mid-1800s, after which they became larger like the Commerce of Baltimore (1850s), and were more comfortable for their crew than the early pilot boats. The pilot boat York of Baltimore, built in 1848, served as a Maryland pilot boat until she was sold to Virginia pilots in 1854.

A lasting legacy of these early pilot boats was that these trim, swift, and seaworthy vessels lent themselves well to yachting. Practically all schooner yachts, until about 1870, were inspired by pilot boats. The best known example was George Steers’ yacht America of 1851, which stole the 100 Guinea Cup away from the British—hence giving it the moniker “America’s Cup!”

Sources:
Snediker, Quentin, and Ann Jenson, Chesapeake Bay Schooners (Centreville: Tidewater Publishers, 1992).

Recent Losses

Three longtime supporters of the maritime history program at the museum passed away this summer and will be missed.

• John Richard Knott, Sr., was a local farmer, waterman, oyster house operator, buyboat captain, historian, and writer who was of great assistance to the museum with the development of our books and exhibits on seafood processing and boatbuilding.

• Calvin “Buddy” Parks, Jr., was a contributing author to our book Thrills and Spills on boat racing who shared his passion for classic boats and motors. He generously loaned his Whirlwind runabout for display in the museum’s outboard motor exhibit and his race propeller collection for our powerboat racing exhibit.

• Joseph L. “Fuzzy” Norris was a talented boat builder who allowed us to document his rebuilding of a locally built boxstern dory boat. He was instrumental in reviving the Southern Maryland Boat Club and always participated in the CMM Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show where he proudly displayed his restored Whirlwind runabout.
The loggerhead sea turtle, at up to three feet and 250 pounds, is the largest living hard-shelled turtle with a lifespan estimated to be 30 to 60 years. Loggerheads have a long, reddish brown carapace, and a broad, strong head that is the source of its name. They are the most common sea turtle in the Chesapeake Bay and may be seen from May to November. Adults stay mainly offshore, while juveniles may be found in the Chesapeake Bay, south of Baltimore. Boaters often spot them as they spend a great deal of time floating on the surface. Adult females who have reached sexual maturity nest on the beaches of the Carolinas, and in recent years, as far north as Assateague and Fenwick Islands. Their diet consists mainly of horseshoe crabs, fish, shrimp, sponges, and jellyfish. The conservation status of loggerheads is threatened, meaning they are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

The Kemp’s Ridley is the smallest of the sea turtles and has a heart-shaped carapace which is smooth and olive green, grey, or black. Their lifespan is 30 to 50 years. Kemp’s Ridleys are the second most common sea turtle in the Chesapeake Bay, with around 200 to 300 turtles visiting from May to November to feed on a variety of crustaceans. They use the Virginia waters of the bay as a summer feeding area and seek out eelgrass and other underwater grass beds. This is the largest concentration of juvenile Ridleys in the world, traveling here from their nesting site in the Gulf of Mexico. Their diet consists of blue crabs, fish, sea urchins, squid, and jellyfish. Threats to sea turtles include poaching of females and eggs, pollution (especially plastics), light pollution on nesting beaches, bycatch, and habitat degradation or loss (especially due to sprawl and climate change). Their conservation status is endangered, meaning they are in danger of becoming extinct.

Maryland Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response Program

Maryland’s Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response Program responds to marine mammals and sea turtles in Maryland waters including both the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.

The most commonly stranded sea turtle in Maryland is the loggerhead. On average, Maryland has 25 dead sea turtle strandings reported each year. Most strandings occur along the Atlantic Coast, but sea turtles have stranded as far north as the Magothy River in the Chesapeake Bay. Sea turtles strand due to a variety of natural and human causes including old age, disease, predation, and cold stunning (hypothermia). Human induced strandings may be caused by hunting, boat strikes, fishing gear entanglement, and habitat degradation.

Sea turtles, alive or dead, are protected under the Endangered Species Act (1973) and Maryland Non-Game and Endangered Species Conservation Act (1975). Collecting sea turtle remains is also considered a violation.

To report a live, entangled, or dead sea turtle please call: 1-800-628-9944 (24/7, toll free in Maryland). Entangled turtles, turtles with deep cuts or embedded hooks need veterinary care. Call Stranding Responders immediately at 410-373-0083 or 443-758-6607 or US Coast Guard on CH-16 on your VHF radio. [https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/oxford/stranding.aspx](https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/oxford/stranding.aspx)
Learning from home? Join CMM for VIRTUAL fieldtrips this fall!

Fieldtrips are an exciting part of the school year for millions of children across the globe. With the recent COVID-19 health crisis, these enrichment opportunities for students have moved to a virtual platform. While many museums and cultural institutions have been able to reopen to the public, our capacity to invite groups of students for in-person programming is still not safe for participants or staff members. Instead, our team has developed five new unique education programs specifically for learning from home. Our virtual fieldtrip experiences are available for public, private, and homeschool groups through program registration and the receipt of a hyperlink to the specific program webpage. Each program includes teacher resources, lesson plans, videos (filmed on-site at CMM), and additional activities for students. The CMM Education Department is also in the process of converting our Calvert County Public School Chesapix program and our Chesapeake Bay Field Lab program to virtual platforms for the 20-21 school year.

All of our programs align with Maryland State Curriculum Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Because we are going virtual with our field trip offerings, we are excited to reach out to schools and educators beyond the southern Maryland region. Our goal is to make CMM programs about paleontology, estuarine biology, and maritime history of the Chesapeake Bay available to students in all regions of Maryland through virtual learning opportunities.

Below is a listing of fieldtrips and corresponding grades offered during the 20-21 school year. Registration and full descriptions of these field trip opportunities are available on the museum’s website.

• Miocene Mysteries: Clues to the Past (Grades 3 – 5)
• Life on the Water: Maritime Heritage on the Chesapeake Bay (Grades 3-5)
• Squeak and His Salt Marsh Friends (Grades K-2)
• The Chesapeake Bay: Animal Adaptations (Grades K-2)
• Chesapax: Fossils and Adaptations (Calvert County Public School, Grade 4)
• Chesapeake Bay Field Lab (Grade 7)
• Chesapeake Bay Watershed Field Guide (Grades 3 – 5, this program is intended for small homeschool groups or scout groups interested in visiting the museum for a self-guided program)

Celebrating the 50th anniversary has given us an opportunity to revisit the people, events, challenges, and accomplishments of the Calvert Marine Museum over a half a century. The most accessible way to review these years are past issues of the museum’s quarterly newsletter, the Bugeye Times. First published in the spring of 1976 as a modest four-page, black and white newsletter, the Bugeye Times reported on the news of the young museum. As we peruse these issues, it is easy to see that the Bugeye Times has grown and evolved along with the museum. By 1984, the newsletter had doubled in size and was edited by longtime volunteer Paul L. Berry. In the fall of 1996, the newsletter became a full color publication, winning several Print Quality Awards from the Printing Industries of Maryland. The last paper issue of the Bugeye Times was printed in the of summer 2009. Since then, the newsletter has continued to evolve as a digital publication that is available on the museum’s website.

In addition to the news of the museum, the Bugeye Times routinely features scholarly lead articles based on original research. Contributions by volunteers, staff, and the museum’s research associates cover topics that relate to the museum’s mission. Stories that detailed new fossil discoveries like the complete hammerhead shark skeleton found in Chesapeake Beach, articles that published original research on chapters of local history, like the series on the M.M. Davis shipyard, and reports on the development of new exhibits and ideas. Some stories remain constant, like Patuxent River Appreciation Days which began in 1978, and others document exciting changes at the museum — all faithfully reported in this rich documentary of the museum’s history.

If you want to explore the history of the museum in more depth, review our activities, events, and celebrations, or research a particular subject related to the museum’s mission, all 179 issues of the Bugeye Times are available to readers on the CMM website.
Reopening Preparations

To provide surfaces that can be sanitized, Carpenter Maia DiLorenzo covers picnic tables with plastic. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Exhibits Curator Carey Crane places social distancing signage in the Museum Store. (Photo by Anjelica Eitel)

Exhibits staff Carey Crane and Maia DiLorenzo install museum safety guidelines for returning visitors. (Photo by Anjelica Eitel)

Some museum features with high touch surfaces are off limits to ensure the safety of our visitors. (Photo by Anjelica Eitel)

Director of Promotions Vanessa Gill welcomes Barbara and Stan Benning back to the Exhibition Hall. (Photo by Anjelica Eitel)

Interpreter Kevin Allor prepares to greet visitors at the touch tank in the Harms Gallery. (Photo by Anjelica Eitel)

Deputy Director Rachelle Green with first visitors during CMM’s Membership Appreciation Days. (Photo by Anjelica Eitel)

Maureen Baughman and Kim Zabiogalski offer a safe environment for shoppers visiting the Museum Store. (Photo by Anjelica Eitel)
Activities & Events

Patuxent Small Craft Guild volunteers painting two pedal boats they began building before the pandemic. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Communications and Marketing Coordinator Anjelica Eitel poses an “Ask a Curator” question to Carey Crane as part of the museum’s virtual outreach program. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Special outdoor sidewalk sales were offered by the Museum Store while our buildings were closed to the public. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The new HERSTORY exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Selected women who contribute to our history and culture, like Capt. Edie Taylor, are featured throughout the museum. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Volunteers Ray Brule and Brian Forsyth repairing the deck of the Sewell draketail workboat. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Carey Crane installing the title for the A. Aubrey Bodine photograph exhibit in the Mezzanine Gallery. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

Museum staff gathered in person at the Corbin Nature Pavilion to bid Dawn Wood a fond farewell. (Photo by Rob Hurry)

The Wm. B. Tennison resumed tours on a limited schedule at reduced capacity. (Photo by Rob Hurry)
Volunteer Council Annual Meeting

On Tuesday, September 15, the Volunteer Council held its annual meeting, via ZOOM, with the main order of business being the election of officers for the upcoming year. The meeting was formally opened by Lowell Martin, council president. He shared the accomplishments and challenges of the last year due to the pandemic. The biggest accomplishment was the scholarship program, which awarded two scholarships in the amount of $750 each. Challenges included not being able to gather together so the council had to get used to meeting via ZOOM. Another challenge was figuring out what to do about the yard sale that was to take place in May, 2020, as it had to be rescheduled and items needed to be stored until the sale can be held in 2021.

Ray Brule, a member of the nominating committee, presented the slate of officers: Lowell Martin, president; Rae Dera, vice president; Larry Fullerton, treasurer; Margo Sinback, secretary; and Denita Sanders, corresponding secretary. With no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers was approved. CMM Director Jeff Murray thanked the Volunteer Council for another great year and congratulated them on their accomplishments. CMM Deputy Director Rachelle Green talked about how impressed she is with the council and that she looks forward to working closely with them in the upcoming year. I also took a moment to thank the officers and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication during the last year and to let them know I look forward to working with them in the upcoming year. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ray Brule, Past President
Lowell Martin, President
Rae Dera, Vice President
Larry Fullerton, Treasurer
Margo Sinback, Secretary
Denita Sanders, Corresponding Secretary

New Exhibit Opening in the Mezzanine Gallery

By Rachelle Green, Deputy Director

Calvert Marine Museum is delighted to present “Faces of the Chesapeake: Photographs by A. Aubrey Bodine,” a new exhibit in our Mezzanine Gallery. Bodine’s methods of getting just the right picture are legendary and he went to great lengths to achieve the right effect. Often going out very early in the morning, he waited until the light was exactly right. In order to gain the perfect vantage point, he carried a machete and shovel in the trunk of his car to cut down or remove anything that obscured the shot. And unlike most professional photographers, Bodine was so confident in his abilities that often he would take only one shot of his subject.

The power of Bodine’s photography, his subject and composition, goes beyond the frame and reaches the reflection of the observer as we identify with the faces of the Chesapeake. The isolation of the recent pandemic draws us further into the photographs of A. Aubrey Bodine to explore the warmth, pain, joy, and exhaustion expressed by generations that struggled with the loneliness of labor. A. Aubrey Bodine examines the grittiness of the brackish waters of the Chesapeake Bay with the sweet tenderness of a tired smile. His images celebrate the most common and sometimes unusual occupations up and down the waterway.

In 1985, 15 years after his death, Nancy Bodine donated this collection of photographic prints made by her husband. We invite you to explore the Chesapeake through the unique lens of A. Aubrey Bodine.

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer and Events Coordinator
Discover Your Museum Store!  By Maureen Baughman, Director of Retail Operations

Let’s have some fun and go shopping!  … while social distancing and wearing our masks of course!

Every single day we hear from shoppers how safe they feel in our store. It’s the nicest thing anyone can say to us! It is our goal to keep our staff, volunteers, and our shoppers safe and we will continue limiting store capacity and ensuring masks are being worn properly so that everyone feels comfortable in the store.

At the recent Museum Store Association Virtual Gala and Awards Night, our store was honored with the “Museum Store Sunday — Best Event” award for 2019. We were so thrilled that we are still dancing around! Last year there were 1,423 museum stores in 22 countries on 5 continents participating in the event held the Sunday after Thanksgiving and they picked us!

We are working hard to create another great event this year while we keep you safe, so we have created Museum Store Sunday and Monday — November 29 & 30, 2020. Two days will allow our shoppers to spread out and browse comfortably and we are going to spill our displays out into the lobby so that there is even more room to shop. CMM members save 25-40% during the event while the general public gets a 20% discount with one lucky shopper pulling a FREE ticket from the basket! Yes, someone really took home all of their goodies, over $200 in merchandise, for free last year! The year before, the lucky winner took home almost $400 in free merchandise! We’ll see you there!

We have noticed that a lot of people are starting their holiday shopping early this year and we’re ready with beautiful new gifts, plenty of puzzles and activities, fun PJs, your new favorite books, and more! Remember that CMM members save 10% every day and 20% on the 20th of every month.

If you aren’t ready to shop in person, email Maureen.Baughman@calvertcounty.md.gov and set up a Zoom shopping session for a private, fun, and easy way to browse our store. We can ship your items or arrange for curbside pickup — whatever you prefer!

Finally we would like to say thank you to all of you for your support. We feel like we are greeting old friends when you come in to browse and just seeing you fills our day with happiness. We could all use a little extra happiness these days!

We hope to see you soon!

Ducks, posters, pajamas, and pewter bookmarks are all available from the Museum Store!
The Calvert Marine Museum Society (CMMS) continues to grapple with the unprecedented effects of COVID-19. Because it is our responsibility to raise funds to support the museum’s mission and the pandemic has temporarily eliminated our traditional revenue sources, this has been a particularly difficult challenge. The museum’s largest fundraiser, our Waterside Music Series, was canceled this past season and the Museum Store, facility rentals, and events were put on hold. This led to substantial budget cuts, including the Board of Governors’ decision to lay off longtime Director of Promotions Vanessa Gill. CMMS has a reputation for being resilient and resourceful, but, as we develop creative ways to respond to this new reality, we need your help now more than ever.

Seeing members return to the museum, shoppers in the store, and renters at Cove Point Lighthouse give us optimism, but there are many small ways where you can help. If your membership has not yet expired, consider renewing early or even moving up a level this year. With the holidays rapidly approaching, you can support the museum by gifting a membership to loved ones or shopping at the Museum Store often, and especially on Museum Store Sunday (which will now be extended to Monday).

Have your 2020 travel plans been put on hold? The Cove Point Lighthouse Keeper’s House is the perfect place for a socially distant vacation, with expansive views and a private beach. Steps are also being taken to reopen the museum for private rentals, including micro-weddings. If you know someone who is looking for a unique, intimate venue that prioritizes health and safety, keep us in mind!

And, of course, general donations are always gratefully accepted. You will likely be seeing us more frequently in your inboxes as we get closer to #GivingTuesday and our annual end-of-year appeal. Please stick with us through this season of giving — I promise to keep the emails interesting and even link an otter video or two.

The mission of the CMMS is to support and promote the efforts of the museum. This includes educational programs, preservation efforts, the exhibits, and all the things you love about CMM. We have been able to carry out our mission for many years, but right now, more than ever, we need your support.

Speaking of otters, you’ll also be seeing more of this guy soon! Dreamt up by board member Nancy Wieck, the 50 Miles for 50 Years Virtual Challenge begins on October 18, the museum’s 50th Anniversary. From that date until November 18, we are inviting the community to participate by completing 50 miles of activity at your own pace and at your own place. This could mean walking, running, biking, hiking, swimming, or even skipping. All you have to do to participate is register online at calvertmarinemuseum.com/50for50. Share your progress and stay connected to other participants through the event website and on Facebook. Each week, you’ll receive a challenge card related to what we do here at the museum. Participants also get a commemorative die-cut sticker of our otter mascot, ready for exercise! If you’ve seen our new selection of stickers in the Museum Store, these are the same great quality — perfect to stick on your car, laptop, or cooler. For more information about this virtual event, to register, or make a donation, visit calvertmarinemuseum.com/50for50. To become a sponsor, please contact Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042, ext. 16 or Lisa.Howard@calvertcountymd.gov.
Welcome Back to the Calvert Marine Museum!

Our members are our most loyal guests. We are glad that you are back—and we will continue to welcome you with great thought and care.

We implemented a policy to offset the unexpected closure period, and have extended your membership for four (4) months. New membership cards will not be sent out, but rest assured, the extension will be reflected in your onsite file.

We understand how much excitement, thought, and time goes into planning your Calvert Marine Museum visit. Please know we will be here to help you as we remain focused on delivering a wonderful, and safe experience for everyone who visits the Calvert Marine Museum.

If you have any questions, please contact the membership office at 410-326-2042 x16.

Paula Grover Gray joins the CMM Board of Governors

Paula Grover Gray, a life-long Calvert County resident, officially joined the Calvert Marine Museum Board of Governors on September 15. For the past four decades, Paula served the citizens of Calvert County through her work in county government. She began her career in 1979 in the Administration and Finance Department. In 1988, Paula transitioned into the newly created Human Resources Department. Working her way up, she served over twenty-six years as the Deputy Director of Human Resources. In 2015, she was appointed by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners to serve as the Human Resources Director, a position she held until her retirement in 2020.

The Calvert Marine Museum and Solomons Island are near and dear to Paula. She grew up in Solomons and it is the place she considers home. Her father volunteered at the museum in the 1970s and her sister, Cindy Smith, worked at the museum for 22 years as the assistant to the director. Paula has been a long-time member and frequent volunteer for concerts and events.

Paula is very active in the community as a volunteer. She has served on the Calvert County Employee Recognition Committee, the Calvert County Commission for Women, the Human Resources Association of Southern Maryland, the Board of Directors for Southern Maryland Community Network, and currently serves on the Mill Creek Condominium Association Board of Directors. “It is an honor to be able to serve the Calvert Marine Museum and to continue my service to Calvert County. I look forward to assisting the museum in achieving its mission and working with the creative staff.”

Paula holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland in Technology and Management with a Labor Relations Concentration. She lives in Solomons with her husband Scott.

Departure of CMMS Board Member Don McDougall

Don McDougall has been a long-time museum friend and supporter. He served an initial six-year term from 2009 to 2014, five as president of the board. In 2017 he agreed to return for a second term. In 2020, he decided to step down to focus on other priorities.

During his time on the board, Don was an enthusiastic supporter of acquiring the Dee of St. Mary’s, immediately recognizing how important having a skipjack in our collection would be. He also worked closely with Vanessa Gill on the expansion of the Waterside stage to manage larger acts. During the museum’s first capital campaign, Don was part of the team that spearheaded the successful effort to raise over $750,000 toward the renovation. He was also a strong proponent of the acquisition of additional land for the museum. Through his time, his support, his clear-eyed vision, and his bold leadership, Don served the museum well. We are grateful that he shared so much of his time with us.
DEPARTURES:

Vanessa Gill, the longest serving director of development for the Calvert Marine Museum Society, departed from the museum in July. Vanessa joined the Society as its membership coordinator in the fall of 1998. When Director of Development Lee Ann Wright retired in 2006, Vanessa was hired to fill her position. She grew into her new role and excelled at her job. Leading her talented Development team, she diversified the museum’s funding sources by attracting new corporate sponsors, growing CMMS membership, networking with the community, and expanding and promoting the museum’s income-producing concert venue and rental facilities.

As director of promotions, Vanessa worked tirelessly as an ambassador and fundraiser for the museum. She grew the Waterside Music Series into a major funding source by booking nationally recognized performers who attracted diverse audiences. This, in turn, increased the museum’s membership rolls and introduced new demographic groups to the museum. In 2014, Vanessa oversaw the expansion of the PNC Waterside Pavilion to accommodate larger scale acts. After years of lobbying and negotiations, in 2016 she successfully booked Toby Keith who played to an unprecedented audience of 6,500. In 2019, Kane Brown entertained an enthusiastic crowd numbering 7,800!

During her tenure, Vanessa was involved in many projects that will continue to benefit the museum. One of her lasting accomplishments was assisting then Curator of Maritime History Richard Dodds with the renovation of the Cove Point Light Station keeper’s residence. Vanessa had the vision and perseverance to keep the focus on this project over the several years it took to complete. Through her networking with sponsors, contractors, and designers, and her keen sense of style, the waterfront duplex was transformed into a premiere rental facility that generates a reliable revenue stream for the museum.

Vanessa’s leadership abilities, professional demeanor, and warm smile will be missed at the museum, but we know she will prosper and thrive in her new endeavors. We wish her every success.

ARRIVALS:

The Department of Paleontology is delighted to welcome **Dr. Victor Perez** as a Post-Doctoral Fellow and Assistant Curator of Paleontology. Six years ago, Victor was an intern with us for one year. Following that, he was accepted into a Doctoral program at the University of Florida as a National Sciences Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. During his tenure here, he will work on a new exhibit on fossil and modern sharks for our Mezzanine Gallery, as well as working with the Education Department and conducting original research on Miocene fossils. When asked about his return to CMM he responded: “I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to return to the Calvert Marine Museum and work within this incredible community.”

CMM is pleased to welcome Chesapeake Beach resident **Clarence “Shoe” Schumaker** as Exhibits Technician I. Mr. Schumaker has a degree in painting and illustration from the University of Maryland, 1988. He has operated Daybreak Studios as sole proprietor for thirty years, providing original sculptures, illustrations, and models for museums and interpretive centers. Outstanding examples of his work are featured in National Park Service sites including Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, and The Old Post Office and Washington Monument in Washington, DC.

During the interview, Shoe demonstrated his broad scope of fabrication skills, experience in the exhibits field, and ability to consistently deliver high quality work on a deadline. Additional experience in commercial construction, graphic design, and technical drawing will enable him to support all aspects of exhibit design, fabrication, and installation at CMM. These skills, combined with his open and easy-going manner, promise that Shoe will make a welcome addition to the CMM family.