Springing has sprung! And with it, Calvert Marine Museum staff are busy preparing for the upcoming season to bring back your old favorites and introduce a few new surprises. While excitement grows about vaccines and we look forward to the end of the COVID-19 crisis, we are still dedicated to the health and safety of our guests, volunteers, and staff. We will continue to comply with state and local mask and social distancing mandates. To ensure social distancing for our guests, we are still operating programs at limited capacity and encourage advanced ticket purchase for your visit.

With a bit of creativity and a gradual ease of restrictions, we are thrilled to offer more programs and activities this summer. We can't wait to see you and welcome you for another fabulous season at the Calvert Marine Museum.

**Old Favorites:**

**Drum Point Lighthouse:** Last spring, as the nation prepared for a long year of staycations and teleworking, we were enthralled by the roofing project started at the Drum Point Lighthouse. With a new roofing system in place and the much-anticipated opening of the lighthouse, we are happy to announce the Drum Point Lighthouse will reopen to visitors on May 1. Guests will be welcomed back in small groups or family groups. CMM staff or volunteers will sanitize high touch surfaces for your safety.

**Discovery Room:** This past year, the CMM Education Department brought Discovery Room activities to you in the lobby. We developed thematic days during the week for take-home crafts, animal introductions, and fossil finds. These activities will continue in the lobby throughout the summer. On May 3, we will reopen the Discovery Room! We are excited to welcome back visitors in small groups or family units for short periods of time, or “Discovery Sessions.” Guests will be able to play on the Molly Luke, climb inside the lighthouse replica, and watch their favorite Chesapeake critters in the touch tank. CMM staff or volunteers will sanitize high touch surfaces after each session for your continued safety.

**Toy Boat Building:** At various times throughout the year, we pre-packaged toy boat building kits as take-home crafts. This summer, we will offer toy boat building in the Corbin Nature Pavilion. Materials will still be pre-packaged, but families will be invited to construct their boats at picnic tables. Take-home kits will also

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Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums / [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com)
Preparing to Pounce!

The first warm days of 2021 are here! And despite my professed love of snow, when the calendar turns to spring I’m ready to feel those warm, humid breezes again. As the international COVID vaccination process ramps up, nearly everyone on the planet is dreaming of the day when things will be more like 2019 and less like 2020. While we’re still not out of the woods, and must continue to maintain care and caution, the museum has already started to bring back many of our traditional programs and events. The festivities you love, like the Solomons Maritime Festival, Sharkfest, and Patuxent River Appreciation Day, are all events you should be able to attend and enjoy in person this year.

As I write, we just completed our annual spring break programs, including the very popular fossil egg hunt! Many of these activities will be moved outdoors this year, but we’re counting on Mother Nature to help us make the best of this new normal. Should it happen to rain, come inside the museum and experience our brand-new Mezzanine Gallery exhibit, “Flora or Fauna,” hosted by the Maryland Federation of Art. You might even find a great piece of art to take home with you after the show! For those who enjoy boating, you will be glad to know that the Win. B. Tennison and Dee of St. Mary’s are set to begin cruises again in May. And if that’s not enough to get you excited, May will also bring the return of Drum Point Lighthouse tours and the re-opening of the Discovery Room!

Our lecture series is back, albeit in a virtual mode for now. We are reprising the 2020 series Maryland in the Age of Sail that was interrupted abruptly last spring. Featuring Curator of Maritime History Mark Wilkins, these informative lectures take place every other Thursday evening (see the museum’s website for the link to access this free program) and are also being recorded for future viewing.

Not to be outdone, our Estuarine Biology Department recently hosted production crews from Maryland Public Television (MPT) to film some of our “residents” for a new program titled Creatures of the Chesapeake. The production crew spent many hours obtaining shots of various animal behaviors seen in the wild, which it turns out is much easier to capture in a museum environment than in the actual bay! When you watch, you won’t see the museum itself, but rest assured that the animals featured were indeed filmed at CMM! This exciting program is scheduled to air on MPT at 8 p.m. on April 20. See Perry Hampton’s article in this issue for more information on the filming.

Behind the scenes it’s been a very challenging time in which to build budgets, but our board members have stepped up and done some heavy lifting, including many long meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee, to successfully see us through this period of lean revenues. I want to especially thank Board of Governors Treasurer Charles “Chip” Jackson, who has tirelessly persevered in helping us to organize and better manage the resources we have now so that those dollars continue to grow and are available to serve the museum and its mission tomorrow.

I am also especially proud of how CMM staff members have handled this pandemic. Nothing came easily over the last twelve months, but because of their herculean efforts and willingness to be flexible and do a LOT of things very differently, we have been open and safely serving the public continuously since last July. Many of those same staff members have worked on the front lines with their masks on for the better part of the past nine months. Others have periodically worked from home or are working a hybrid schedule between home and office to get the job done while still staying safe. Everyone’s sense of duty and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

Our volunteers, too, are essential pieces of the puzzle at CMM. The Volunteer Council Executive Committee has continued to meet virtually throughout the pandemic to provide their support, and I have recently seen quite a few volunteers make it back to campus after many months away. They are beyond eager to resume activities or begin new ones at the museum, and we thank them for their dedication. The positive difference volunteers make in our visitor experience is incredible!

Looking forward to summer, our youth camps will take place in a hybrid format, each with two days on campus and two days of virtual fun. The “Sharks! Sink Your Teeth In!” exhibit will open on July 1, just in time for this year’s Sharkfest event on July 10. In addition, toy boat building, fossil field experiences, and more will all return. Are you excited? I sure am!
be available depending on your comfort level. Picnic tables will be spaced six feet apart with one family per table. Each table will be sanitized after each use by CMM staff or volunteers. Check the CMM Toy Boatbuilding page for dates and times: Toy Boatbuilding.

**Solomons Maritime Festival:** Last year, we invited the community to celebrate our annual events virtually. This year, with the continued use of masks, social distancing, and the introduction of vaccines, we plan to host events on campus once again! Utilizing timed entry and advanced online registration, we will stagger entry times for guests to control crowd size and capacity. Vendors and demonstrators will be outside to greet you with information and activities focused on maritime culture in Southern Maryland. Visitors will still be invited into the Exhibition Hall and the festival will mark the start of our cruises on the historic Wm. B. Tennison. For more information about event activities, please visit [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com)

**New Surprises:**

**Hybrid Camps:** Summer camp registration is open! This summer, we are excited to welcome campers back to the Calvert Marine Museum for hybrid programming. While we slowly begin to expand our on-site programs, we have developed camps that keep our participants and staff safe. Our four-day camps will feature two days of in-person activities and two days of virtual participation with at-home activity kits. CMM will provide packaged kits containing materials for the program that can be safely picked up from the main museum campus. Camps for children entering grades 1 to 6 include: Pirates and Scallywags, Marsh Detectives, Sharks! Sink Your Teeth In!, and Jr. Paleontologist Camp.

**Mornings at the Museum:** In addition to summer camps, the CMM Education team has developed three new, uniquely themed youth programs that will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings throughout the summer. In “Things That Bloom and Buzz,” nature enthusiasts ages 5 to 7 will join museum educators for a morning of exploration, crafts, stories, and fun related to plants and pollinators. “Fossil Adventures” invites children ages 8 to 12 to the Cove Point Lighthouse to explore the beach and search for fossilized shells, bones, and sharks’ teeth. After collecting, participants will work with the museum educators to identify any fossils they have found. Finally, “Summertime Blues” is a youth program aboard the Wm. B. Tennison for ages 8 to 12 with an accompanying adult. Participants will learn how to identify male and female crabs, discover the history of the blue crab fishery on the Patuxent River, and explore the ins and outs of our annual blue crab harvest. Please note that pre-registration is required for all Mornings at the Museum programming.

**Reading Nook:** Upon reentering the Discovery Room, you will quickly notice a brand-new area for toddlers and pre-K children (and their caregivers!). Over the past year, we reimagined the staff desk space and removed the furniture to provide a reading nook for our young explorers. Complete with a bench for caregivers, we’ve included fish-shaped sit spots for children to read the new books located on floating shelves. All of our books can be found at the Museum Store if you want to read them at home too! Our favorite staff picks include: *Splish-Splash, Seahorse!, Good Night Maryland* and *That’s Not My Otter...*

**Exhibits:** This summer CMM will present TWO new exhibits!

Opening June 19 is “A Race to the Pearl: Black Voices from the Packinghouse.” Driving through Southern Maryland today, the remains of a once thriving seafood industry are abandoned and deteriorating. Survivors, such as the museum’s J.C. Lore & Sons Oyster House, give us a glimpse of that rich history. Explore a collection of images and personal stories from the African American men and women who engaged in the oyster industry in the twentieth century.

Opening July 1 is “Sharks! Sink Your Teeth In!” Discover the great diversity of the past and present, as we dive into the marine life of the western Atlantic Ocean. We invite you to take a close look at our modern shark jaws and compare them to their ancient relatives that swam here 20 to 10 million years ago. These specimens showcase evidence of evolutionary relationships and tell tales of ancient battles between predator and prey!

Whether you are a fossil enthusiast, maritime historian, or an otter aficionado — there is something for everyone at the Calvert Marine Museum this season!
Most of us are familiar with the opossum. They are a common mammal here in Maryland, although they’re officially known as the Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*). Opossums are very beneficial animals to have around and we should not fear them or kill them when we encounter them. They do resemble a large rat so it’s not unusual for those to be the first reactions when someone sees one. But there is so much more to opossums than meets the eye.

Ranging in size from 4 to 13 pounds, opossums are comparable to a small to medium-sized dog. They are completely covered with fur, except for their ears and those large prehensile tails. Opossums make their homes in many different habitats and are basically nomads that don’t really have a strong territory or permanent home. They are nocturnal and this is why we see them infrequently. Opossums are found in woodlands, marshes, open fields, and suburban areas, and they are also known to adapt quite well to urban settings. Additionally, opossums are found throughout Central and North America, inhabiting areas east of the Rocky Mountains and along the Pacific coast from California to British Columbia.

Opossums are omnivorous, meaning they will eat almost anything from insects to fruit and other plant material, small mammals, worms, or even small birds. They wander at night looking for food and usually find shelter during the day in hollow tree trunks or under decks.

These unique creatures are North America’s only marsupial or pouch-bearing mammal. Mating occurs from January to July, and just 13 days later, the babies are born, no bigger than a honeybee! They continue to grow in their mother’s pouch and emerge two months later. At that point, they’re ready to spend some time riding on their mother’s back for protection. Opossums are natural climbers, using their opposable thumbs on each hind foot and long prehensile tail to get a firm grip. Contrary to popular belief, that tail is not used to help this mammal hang upside down.

Why are opossums so good to have around? Well for one thing, they eat ticks, and lots of them! Each adult opossum has exactly 50 teeth — the most of any land mammal in North America and they know how to use them. They are great for other pest control around your home too. They eat cockroaches, rodents, and dead animals. They will also devour slugs and non-desirable insects. They are non-aggressive and will flee not fight. Even if cornered, they may just freeze, pretending to be dead (“playing opossum”) until the assailant goes away. Another noteworthy fact is that opossums very rarely contract rabies because of their highly efficient immune system and low body temperature.

So, what do you do the next time you see one of them in your yard? Leave it alone of course! They are nomads and won’t stay long. They will generally go about their business quietly and without aggression. These pouched wanderers are truly a unique and beneficial animal to observe in your yard or garden.

While the Calvert Marine Museum does not currently display any opossums, we are considering the possibility of expanding our live animal collection in the future by acquiring a very limited number of small mammals and birds. These new additions could include anything from mammals like opossums, skunks, or raccoons to birds like crows or other small raptors. These critters would most likely be acquired as non-releasable animals from rescue/rehab facilities and would serve as ambassador animals for educational purposes.
In recent months, the popularity of sea shanties in social media circles has risen dramatically. As I started to explore this digital phenomena, I first asked the question: What exactly is a sea shanty? In the simplest terms, a shanty, or chantey, is a song sung by sailors in rhythm with their work. These traditional sailing folk songs have a long history on the high seas, especially on British, European, and New England ships. Although not a Chesapeake tradition, they are in a category of rhythmic work songs once heard in lumber camps, packing houses, farm fields, and other workplaces.

Traditionally, sea shanties were sung on ships to keep rhythm while doing hard labor. This could be hauling up an anchor while winding the capstan, raising or trimming sails, or swabbing the deck. Sea shanties usually follow a call-and-response form, where the group leader, bos’n, or a high ranking deckhand, sings a lyric and the crew responds. One such shanty sung while rounding the capstan is *Haul Away Joe*. The chorus goes:

Away (Ho!) haul away! we’ll haul away together!
Away haul away, we’ll haul away Joe.
Away (Ho!) haul away! we’ll haul for better weather.
Away haul away, we’ll haul away Joe.

The rhythm of the call-and-response form allowed the crew to keep in step with each other and synchronize their movements. Singing also served to elevate morale and build comradery among the crew. Some boat captains would not invite a crew member back the next season if he didn’t get along with the rest of the crew and sing along.

Not all shipboard songs were shanties. Some songs were for leisure and reminded sailors of home. One such song, *Leave Her Johnny*, sings of an old salt telling a younger sailor that he has been out to sea for too long and it is now time to go home:

Leave her, Johnny, leave her!
Oh, leave her, Johnny, leave her!
For the voyage is long and the winds don’t blow
And it’s time for us to leave her.

During the 19th century, there was an influx of immigrants fleeing economic hardship, as well as newly freed slaves, all seeking a better life. Many found work on the Chesapeake Bay dredging or tonging for oysters, net fishing, or toiling in packing houses. They brought their traditional songs with them. Their spirituals and folk songs made the work seem easier and the days shorter.

To this day, some songs continue to feature in our popular culture. One may recall the Beach Boys version of *The Sloop John B*. I remember my father telling me stories of when he was on the USS Saratoga, and when the ship was coming into port at Norfolk, the song would be played over the IMC (public address system) and the crew would sing along, celebrating the end to yet another six-month deployment.

So why the popularity now? As my kids tell me, it all started from the social media and video sharing platform, TikTok. Experiencing the boredom of being quarantined at home, these simple songs can be sung by anyone and no instruments are needed. They provide a diversion and make work go by faster, just as they did on the sailing ships of the past. The popularity has also reached some recording artists, such as the Dreadnoughts, Flogging Molly, and the Dropkick Murphys, all of whom also sing traditional folk songs with a modern twist. TikTok users also invent unique, contemporary lyrics sung to the traditional shanty melodies. These songs, as well as modern derivatives, are relatable today, as some people may see themselves on long voyages through life, just as sailors did when sailing the high seas.

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**Sea Shanties in Social Media**

By Jeff Nikolaus, Exhibit Interpreter

**AROUND THE Boat Basin**

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild members have been busy this spring cleaning, repairing, and repainting CMM’s boats. It is great to see so many volunteers helping to make the museum shine!

Volunteers apply a new coat of bottom paint to the sailing bateaux Witch of the Wave.

A new lighthouse boat is beginning to take shape in the Small Craft Center.

(Photos by Rob Hurry)
Museum Mourns the Loss of Norm Riker

The museum is saddened by the loss of Norman Levi Riker (1940-2021) of Dowell, Maryland. He was an avid fossil collector, a superb craftsman, and longtime friend and supporter of the Calvert Marine Museum. Norm served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1961 and his last duty station was the Naval Ordinance Lab and Test Facility at Solomons. While there, he met and married a local girl, Janice Hill, and they settled in Dowell.

In the 1960s, Norm worked at Cruis Along Boats and the Century Boats Cruiser Division at Solomons, where he honed his skills as a boat carpenter. After leaving the Solomons business, he commuted to a boat yard on the South River near Annapolis where he worked on custom yachts. When the yard closed, he started his own business in his backyard at Dowell. He specialized in customizing motor yachts at his dock on St. Johns Creek.

Ralph Eshelman, the first director of the Calvert Marine Museum (1974-1990) recalls:

“Norm and I were friends since 1974. Within weeks of my arrival at the museum, Norm suggested an effort was needed to salvage artifacts from the recently closed M.M. Davis Shipyard. It was scheduled to be bulldozed, so we salvaged all the records and plans we could from the office. We also collected artifacts lying around the yard such as an old post drill, bags of trunnels, vices, tools, pitch pots, etc. We even salvaged some of the siding of one of the sheds. These items were used to recreate a boat building shed exhibit that was part of the first of the Calvert Marine Museum.”

One of Norm’s passions was fossil collecting. He was a founding member of the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club and was part in every museum excavation team that recovered whale and porpoise skulls from Calvert Cliffs in the 1970s and 1980s. As a small token of Norm’s contributions, a species of a beautiful snail known from Calvert Cliffs was named after him — *Ecphora rikeri*.

Norm was also an extremely skilled model boat maker. The last model he made was of a famous yacht, the 92-foot schooner *Manana*, built in 1931-32 at M.M. Davis & Sons at Solomons. Norm used the plans salvaged from the shipyard in 1974, but they were design drawings. Norm realized, based on photographs, that the rigging was different from the drawings so he conducted meticulous research to determine the design changes. Norm brought the model by the museum’s model shop on occasion to show staff and volunteers the progress he was making. The end result is a magnificent scale model, made completely from scratch.

In addition to Norm’s generous support over the decades, he recently donated his fossil collection to the museum. His contributions to the museum have been significant, but most of all Norm was a respected friend, colleague, and supporter.

CMM is fortunate to have a large pool of passionate avocational fossil collectors who donate scientifically important specimens to our permanent collection. One such example is a moderately large Miocene sperm whale tooth that was found by Jordan Lee along the St. Mary’s River some years ago. Recently, he donated it to our permanent paleontology collection.

There are two named Miocene sperm whales known from this region (*Orycterocetus* and *Aulophyseter*). There were other kinds of sperm whales because large teeth are rarely found that don’t belong to either of the known forms. However, we have yet to find their skulls. The tooth donated by Lee is from the skull of a very large macro-predatory sperm whale. (Macro-predatory means that the sperm whale sometimes fed on prey that it was not able to swallow whole, and their prey had to be bitten down to size.)

Most of what is preserved in this specimen is the root of the tooth. The enamel crown consists of the small blackened area at the top of the tooth. Originally pointed, the crown was worn down as it occluded with another tooth in the opposing jaw. Sperm whales are unique among whales and dolphins in that they add layers of cementum to the root of their teeth as they grow. As they age, their teeth become larger in diameter even though the enamel crown of the tooth does not grow. In the photo, these growth rings are visible just below the crown of the tooth in the space between my thumb and middle finger.

It would be awesome to find the skull of this kind of sperm whale and would almost certainly represent a new and hitherto unknown species. ☢️
The Calvert Marine Museum Education Department welcomed the return of spring in mid-March with Homeschool Week. We had a tremendous turnout with over 700 participants during our five days of programming! Arriving families chose their own museum adventure with self-guided activity kits and multiple scavenger hunts, keeping families busy buzzing around the galleries.

Families celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution through a fun, hands-on exploration of the museum’s “HERStory” exhibit. This exhibit shines a light on some of the pioneering women found throughout Maryland’s rich history. Like paleontologist Dr. Susan Kidwell, participants could identify fossils, learn to tie knots like Captain Edie Taylor, and get up close with stingrays like Dr. Eugenie Clark.

Others chose to explore museum exhibits that introduce the Chesapeake Bay as an estuarine habitat and watershed. Together, families learned the importance of water clarity for the health of plants and animals in the bay and experienced hands-on science by measuring and recording water clarity, discovering a wide variety of animal adaptations, and reflecting upon the impact that humans have on the bay.

Throughout the week, families enjoyed discovering many of the hidden pictures in the museum murals by using the clues from our unique scavenger hunts.

Coming this summer! Keep your eyes open for two brand new activity kits to accompany our latest exhibits: “Sharks! Sink Your Teeth In!” and “A Race to the Pearl: Black Voices from the Packinghouse.”

By Rachelle Green, Deputy Director

Homeschool Week a Success!

Family searches for hidden images in our “Life on the Patuxent” mural during Homeschool Week. (Photo by Lori Cole)

Students learning how to tie knots and read about Capt. Edie Taylor as they explore the “HERstory” exhibit. (Photo by Lori Cole)

Students learning how to tie knots and read about Capt. Edie Taylor as they explore the “HERstory” exhibit. (Photo by Lori Cole)
**Volunteer SPOTLIGHT**

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer and Events Coordinator

**2020 Nominees for Volunteer Awards**

Congratulations to the many deserving nominees for our annual Volunteer Recognition Awards! The 2020 winners will be announced, along with the 2019 winners, at our Volunteer Recognition Reception. Currently, we are planning for the reception to take place in the fall. Below are our 2020 nominees. They have all continued to give their time and talent, even throughout the pandemic. If you have the opportunity to thank them for their service, please do!

**Volunteer of the Year 2020:**

Ellen Curran continued her volunteer work as soon as CMM reopened. She provides reliable support for the Museum Store with positive energy and a smile on her face. Ellen also stepped up and helped the Administration Department by answering phones so staff could take their lunch breaks.

Miranda Shaw has been volunteering since July 2019, while going to school full time at the University of Maryland, College Park. As a member of the library team, she took on several projects in the archive’s administration and collections management.

Taylor Swanson has been working mainly in the paleo prep lab, testing different preparation techniques on a wide variety of specimens. Taylor also assists with educational content, creating original video content on the preparation of a partial Squalodon (fossil dolphin) skeleton.

Autumn Walls began volunteering with the Education Department in the skates and rays exhibit one day a week. Today, she is very dedicated to volunteering and we frequently hear visitors mention her by name. Autumn’s engaging presence at this exhibit surely contributes to a positive guest experience.

**Group Achievement Award:**

The Garden Guild worked a shortened schedule in 2020 but still made the museum grounds beautiful. They couldn’t wait to get back to the museum to begin working again. Year after year, their work is admired and enjoyed by the volunteers, staff, and visitors.

Stephen Groff and Marcus Jones are avid fossil collectors who have donated numerous specimens to the permanent collection and have volunteered at CMM for years. They were recently honored by having a fossil cobia (fish) named for them after finding part of its skull along Calvert Cliffs.

Museum Store COVID-19 Volunteers, Ellen Curran, Peggy Smith, Lynne Pickering, and Mary Kraus have been the Museum Store’s frontline team during the pandemic. They have taken on the daunting task of ensuring visitors are wearing their masks properly and sanitizing their hands before entering the store. They also make sure the store does not exceed capacity limitations. With hidden smiles, they entertain the guests who are waiting to be invited into the store and ensure all feel welcome and safe.

Patuxent Small Craft Guild Pedal Boat Building Team designed and constructed two wooden pedal boats in 2020 to celebrate the museum’s 50th anniversary. They will replace the plastic pedal boats that visitors use during many museum waterfront activities. Both boats were completed and tested by the team in late 2020.

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**In partnership with the Maryland Federation of Art (MFA), the Calvert Marine Museum is pleased to present a themed fine art presentation titled “Flora or Fauna.” This MFA-organized juried art exhibition displays selected works in the Mezzanine Gallery through May 15, 2021.**

The original works of art depict a broad range of animal and plant life in a variety of styles and mediums. Artists residing in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico were invited to submit entries, and selections were made by juror Jack Rasmussen, Director and Curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center.

We hope you’ll make a point to visit during this limited time exhibition, perfect for welcoming in the spring season!
During the months of January and February, the museum played host to Filmmaker Nick Caloyianis and Producer Sarah Sampson from Maryland Public Television. They were here to film a variety of animals for a program on aquatic life in the Chesapeake Bay. Knowing that it would be very difficult to locate and film many of the species in the open waters of the bay, particularly in winter, they approached us about the possibility of filming the animals here at the museum. Over the course of 12 days, the Estuarine Biology staff worked with them to film seahorses, blue crabs, jellyfish, horseshoe crabs, cownose rays, skates, terrapins, and an assortment of small fishes and invertebrates for a program entitled “Creatures of the Chesapeake.” It will be broadcast on MPT during Chesapeake Bay Week, first on April 20 at 8 p.m., followed by a second showing on April 23 at 11 p.m. (Some ray and terrapin footage will be shown in a longer version to be broadcast later in June.)

While there will be some sequences that were shot in the open water, most of what you will see took place in temporary aquariums or dioramas that were set up behind the scenes here at the museum. Filming animals in aquarium tanks allows us to create and control conditions like light levels and water clarity in order to approximate those found in nature. It also allows us to get very close to the subject, something that can be difficult with many animals in the open water. Still, whenever you try to film animals whether in an aquarium or the open water there are challenges that require creativity and patience to overcome.

One of the sequences Nick and Sarah hoped to capture was to show how cownose rays chew up their food. Since their mouths are located on the bottom of their bodies, this meant placing the camera beneath the ray and shooting upwards. To accomplish this, we built a short “table” with a clear acrylic top upon which the food was placed, with the camera in a waterproof housing underneath. We weren’t entirely sure whether the ray would take the food from the top of the table. It took some time for him to find the food in that new location, and in many instances when he did find the food, he dragged it off and chewed it up out of view of the camera. Finally, our patience was rewarded when he stayed on top of the table chewing his food long enough to get the footage we were after.

Another species they wanted to feature was the terrapin. These turtles are unique because they prefer to live in brackish water, unlike most aquatic turtles that prefer freshwater or the seven species of sea turtles that live in saltwater. Since terrapins spend some of their time on land, it was necessary to create a convincing artificial beach indoors. We set up several tables in an unused room at the museum, covered them with a large tarp, then added sand, rocks, shells, driftwood logs, and vegetation. Of course, all of this had to be properly lit to create the illusion that the terrapins were outdoors in their natural environment.

Continued on next page
Now, you may be asking, “Why go to all this trouble and not simply take our terrapin outside and film it in a nearby marsh?” There are several reasons we didn’t do this, but most importantly it was still very cold outside at the time of the filming and we didn’t want to expose our terrapins, who had been acclimated to being in a warm environment, to the cold air.

Filming animals is almost always unpredictable since you have little or no control over what “the talent” will do. Of all the sequences Nick and Sarah wanted to obtain, I thought their desire to get footage of a blue crab eating would be the easiest. If there is one thing you can count on in life besides the inevitability of death and taxes, it is that a blue crab will never turn down food — that is until you want to film it eating. Perhaps because they were disturbed by the unfamiliar environment of the tank in which they were being filmed, the bright lights, or something else, none of the three crabs we attempted to feed for the cameras were very interested in eating. After a great deal of effort and patience we did manage to get a few seconds of one of them chewing on a piece of food. Whew!

It was a great pleasure to be able to work with such professionals as Nick and Sarah for this production. We hope that viewers will enjoy learning about these wonderful and important creatures and will be further inspired to help protect their fragile ecosystem.

(Photos by Perry Hampton)

Staff UPDATE

DEPARTURES:

Communications and Marketing Coordinator Anjelica Eitel left the museum in late February. She has joined the staff of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis as their Digital Engagement and Social Media Manager. Since coming to CMM in 2018, Anjelica elevated our marketing presence, especially in the digital, virtual, and social media arenas, to a completely new level. This new direction helped to support growth across the museum — from educational programming to the Waterside Music Series. Last year, when the pandemic limited physical access to the museum, Anjelica quickly transitioned to providing virtual museum resources to our public. She is a stellar colleague and collaborator, and will be missed. We wish Anjelica all the success in the world in her future endeavors.

ARRIVALS:

We are pleased to welcome several customer service staff to CMM. In January, Portia Ackridge joined the museum as customer service attendant at the admissions desk. She also works part time at the Hall Aquatic Center and has a strong background in customer service.

Shayna Zabiegalski, who has been a volunteer at the museum for many years, has become an “if and when” customer service attendant at the admissions desk and the visitor center.

Rae Dera, who already works as a customer service attendant at the admissions desk and as an assistant manager at the Museum Store, has been hired to work at the visitor center on an as-needed basis.

(Photos by Perry Hampton)
Welcome New Board Members:

In January, the Calvert Marine Museum welcomed three new board members.

**Helen G. Daugherty, Ph.D.,** is a retired Professor of Sociology and the G. Thomas and Martha Myers Yeager Chair in the Liberal Arts at St. Mary’s College of Maryland. She was a delegate to the International Interdisciplinary Congress of Women and vice chair of the Community Development Corporation of St. Mary’s County. Helen also served as chair of the St. Mary’s County Department of Social Services and co-chair for the St. Mary’s County Hospice House’s capital campaign.

**Jaymi K. Sterling** is the Assistant State’s Attorney for Anne Arundel County, and previously served for nine years as the Deputy State’s Attorney in St. Mary’s County. She is co-chair of the Local and Specialty Bar Liaison for the Maryland State Bar Association and a past president of both the St. Mary’s Bar Association and the Republican Women of St. Mary’s. Jaymi also serves on the boards of the St. Mary’s Sunshine Center and St. Mary’s Shop with a Cop, Inc. She has two children who love to visit the Calvert Marine Museum as much as possible.

**Henry S. Trentman** is retired after founding and operating two separate businesses, one specializing in semiconductor processing and chemical analytical processing equipment, and the other the largest worldwide publisher of unabridged audio books in the English language. More recently, he spent ten years on the Calvert Memorial Hospital (now CalvertHealth) board and was chair of the Project ECHO board. He also served as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps.

Farewell to Board Members:

The Calvert Marine Museum said farewell to three board members at the end of 2020. We express our sincere appreciation for the contributions and support of these outgoing board members.

**Claude Dickinson,** owner of Dickinson Jewelers in Prince Frederick and Dunkirk, has been a longtime sponsor of CMM’s Bugeye Ball fundraiser, served on the Budget and Finance Committee, and supported the committee that selected the Site Master Plan consultant team. He remains on the museum’s Budget and Finance Committee as a non-voting member.

**Mark A. MacDougall,** general counsel for SMECO Solar LLC and Senior Vice President for the Southern Maryland Electrical Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO), served on the Budget and Finance Committee, and could always be counted on whenever the museum needed a partner at SMECO to get something done. Two such instances of this partnership were the lighting of the museum’s northeast field and obtaining the equipment to remove and replace the mast on the *Dee of St. Mary’s* when it needed to be inspected and refinished.

**Scott Sanders,** a retired U.S. Navy rear admiral, is Principal Program Director for Envistacom and owner of the Tobacco Barn Distillery in St. Mary’s County. Scott joined the board in 2017 and served on the Development Committee where he supported museum events and proposed innovative fundraising efforts.

Membership

**By Lisa Howard, Membership & Development Associate**

**Make the Most of Your Membership**

Can you believe it’s been nearly nine months since we’ve reopened the museum?! During this time, one of my favorite things to see has been the return of our awesome members. We’re gradually bringing back more and more of what you love about CMM, and that means your member benefits will continue to provide that great “bang for your buck.”

Before we get into our busy season, now is an ideal time to make sure that your membership and contact info are up to date. Even with the four month extension, some memberships are due for renewals. Before your next trip to the museum, take a few minutes to double check your expiration date. If you’re not sure when that is or how the extension affected your annual renewal cycle, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Lisa.Howard@calvertcountymd.gov. I’m always happy to help! 🕵️‍♀️
Discover Your Museum Store!

By Maureen Baughman, Director of Retail Operations

Endless Possibilities

Spring has arrived and all sorts of unique, beautiful, and fun new merchandise has arrived in the Museum Store too! Think of us as your local destination for birthday, special occasion, and everyday gifts as well as a friendly and safe place to enjoy a little shopping. We are maintaining capacity limits, social distancing, and mask-wearing to keep you safe, but also love doing Zoom shopping sessions and curbside pickup for anyone who prefers that method of shopping.

Many of our new things are intended to make you feel a little better because it has been a challenging year. Our new “LOVE” megalodon shirt is perfect for fossil fans and shark lovers. Who hasn’t felt a chill while holding a meg tooth?! These exquisite note cards are a lovely way to reach out to your friends and loved ones who you haven’t seen for a while. Breathe in the spring air while you walk the beach with the kids. Our book collection is standing by if you’d like to learn more about what you saw. Of course, we will always have lots of yummy treats on hand to give or keep for yourself!

Your support makes a difference — all of the proceeds from the store support the programs and projects at the museum. Members enjoy a 10% discount every day and 20% off on the 20th of every month. It’s our way of saying thank you!

▲ Nature-theme note cards.
➤ Love megalodon t-shirt.
◄ Beach Walk educational book.
▼ Crabby friend and Beach Nut Gourmet Peanuts.