Get ready to travel back in time, as we explore the fossil record of sharks, rays, and chimaeras found along the world-famous Calvert Cliffs. The new exhibit “Sharks! Sink Your Teeth In!” showcases the diversity of cartilaginous fish that inhabited Calvert County approximately 20 to 7 million years ago. During that time, known as the Miocene epoch, Calvert County was submerged under water in a shallow marine environment in which sharks thrived. Let’s take a glimpse behind the scenes to see what went into creating this new exhibit!

The first stage of any exhibit is to define its scope and purpose. What topic do we want to cover and what message do we want to express to our visitors? The planning began with a broad topic—sharks. From there, we specified that the scope of the exhibit would focus on the fossil sharks found along the Calvert Cliffs, rather than attempt to cover all fossil sharks that can be found in Maryland. We also decided to include examples of sharks’ close relatives, the rays and chimaeras.

With the scope defined, we could begin to think about the specific goals of the exhibit and how they relate to the museum’s mission, which is a dedication “to the collection, preservation, research, and interpretation of the culture and natural history of Southern Maryland.” With that in mind, the purpose of this exhibit is to highlight the marine diversity that once inhabited the area to give visitors an appreciation of our local natural history and what it can teach us. Further, we want visitors to think about how fossil sharks connect to our local cultural heritage and the importance of sharks in our modern ecosystems.

Once our scope and goals were defined, we needed to determine what materials we had available in our museum to populate this exhibit and how they would be displayed. In our Paleontology research collection, we have over 90,000 curated fossils of sharks, rays, and chimaeras. Our paleontology staff combed through these fossils to select the best representatives of the different species that can be found along the Calvert Cliffs.

(A) Modern sevengill shark jaw (aka the cow shark), Notorynchus cepedianus. (B) Fossil sevengill shark composite dentition, Notorynchus primigenius, from Calvert Cliffs. The fossil teeth are on loan from avid fossil collector, Daryl Serafin. (C) Illustration of the sevengill shark by Tim Scheier. (Scale bars equal 4 cm.)
Roaring Back

Nearby everywhere you look, things are starting to improve. People are traveling, events are happening, and families and friends are reuniting after long separations. As a result, the museum welcomed more visitors in May and June than in quite some time.

The sudden removal of masking and social distancing requirements in May did catch us a bit off guard, but staff moved quickly to fully reopen and restore most program offerings. Back are the sights and sounds of visitors climbing the stairs to the Drum Point Lighthouse, boarding the Wm. B. Tennison for a boat ride, or taking their own ride around the boat basin in one of the museum’s small craft. Children and families are once again playing in the Discovery Room, smiling as they watch the otters, and marveling at our massive megalodon replica. We’re back — and does it ever feel good!

One aspect of the guest experience that has remained at the forefront is the planning and implementation of new temporary exhibits. An exhibit on the Waterside Music Series was canceled due to the pandemic, but planning and installation of others have continued unabated. CMM’s talented Exhibits Department recently replaced the “HERstory: Celebrating Southern Maryland Women” exhibit with “Race to the Pearl: Black Voices from the Packinghouse,” to coincide with the celebration of Juneteenth. Both are also virtual exhibits on the CMM website. A new exhibit titled “Sharks! Sink Your Teeth In!” is installed in the Mezzanine Gallery. Its opening dovetailed with the return of the popular Sharkfest event on July 10. Other upcoming temporary exhibits are currently in the planning stages.

The increased number of visitors has also helped push near-record sales volumes in the Museum Store. Guests are eager to bring home nearly everything our unique store has to offer. This is a great problem to have, but vendor shipping and supply chain issues have presented challenges, as some items in the store have completely sold out. Interim Director of Retail Operations Kim Zabiegalski and her staff are doing everything they can to try and keep new items coming in and customers happy. Next time you visit CMM, make sure you come to the Museum Store to see what’s new.

CMM will soon embark on the development of a new strategic plan. Since the plan was updated in 2008, much has changed and many goals have been achieved. Committee members will carefully consider the objectives of the 2018 Site Master Plan, which outlines plans for the development of the museum’s outdoor spaces. The ultimate goal is to provide a map for the CMM’s next 10-15 years—one that includes resource development, staffing and resource allocations, off-site exhibits, collections storage needs, and interpretive plans. We will build upon our successes and plan for a future in which visitors can learn and enjoy in a dynamic environment for generations to come. This work is also very timely and highly relevant as the museum prepares for its American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation in 2023.

The historic J. C. Lore Oyster House off-site exhibit will receive a facelift over the next few months, as staff and contractors replace the siding, fix the building’s north wall, and repair and replace areas of the primary roof. This National Historic Landmark is nearly 90 years old and in need of some serious attention to stabilize the exterior and prevent further deterioration. Additional renovation and interpretive plans for the building will be part of the museum’s upcoming strategic planning process.

Looking ahead to fall, CMM is planning an in-person paleontology lecture series, a vibrant Patuxent River Appreciation Day event complete with an evening river party that will feature live music from Wylder and local favorite Robbie Boothe, and a Labor Day Weekend visit from the tall ship Pride of Baltimore II. Keep an eye out for more details soon. Winter will bring a return of the popular Maritime Performance Series in the Harms Gallery, and the outdoor Waterside Music Series will return in summer of 2022.

If you’ve been away for a while, that’s certainly understandable. I invite you to come and experience the magic of the Calvert Marine Museum. Take a boat ride, visit a lighthouse, watch the otters play, and learn about sharks — both ancient and modern. All this and much more awaits you and we sure would love to see your smiling faces! 🦈
In addition to our fossil collection, we have a comparative anatomy collection, which includes jaws of modern sharks that are used to aid in identification of isolated fossil teeth. From these jaws, we selected species that closely relate to those found along the Calvert Cliffs for use in the exhibit.

As visitors explore the exhibit, they will be able to compare the local fossils, side-by-side, to their living counterparts. This emulates how paleontologists interpret the past and gives visitors the opportunity to closely examine the differences between the marine predators of the past and present.

For many of the fossil species, we reconstructed composite fossil dentitions, which are hypothetical arrangements of the fossil teeth for one individual. These reconstructions showcase the variability of tooth shapes within the jaw of a shark. Just like humans, many sharks have different types of teeth in different parts of their jaws. These different tooth shapes reflect adaptations for feeding on different types of prey.

To display the fossils and modern jaws in a professional and visually appealing manner, our Exhibits team created vitrines (custom cases) to display the modern jaws. The vitrines that house the modern shark jaws were made with a material that filters out ultraviolet light to protect the jaws from being damaged while on display. Floor-mounted displays were repurposed from past exhibits to reduce the cost of materials.

Towards the end of the exhibit, visitors will encounter unique fossils that tell interesting stories of ancient predator-prey interactions. These rare fossils capture direct evidence of sharks’ feeding behavior and diet. Again, vivid illustrations transform these inanimate objects into life-like scenes of the interactions they represent.

A Miocene tiger shark biting into a marine crocodile. Visit CMM to see the fossil that inspired this illustration. The original drawing was made by Tim Scheirer and color was added by Clarence Schumaker.

Our local fossils have captivated the curiosity of people for thousands of years and continue to do so. Fossil shark teeth found in archaeological sites offer evidence of Native Americans utilizing them as tools and for personal adornment. Join us in celebrating our local heritage and the ancient marine environment. This temporary exhibit is staged in the Mezzanine Gallery of the Exhibition Hall through December 2022. Don’t miss your chance to witness the wonderful world of cartilaginous fish up close and personal! 🦈
Unlike the various artifacts and fossils at the museum, the Estuarine Biology Department’s collection consists of living specimens with finite life spans. While we always strive to provide the best care possible for our animals, we periodically need to replenish their populations in order to maintain well stocked exhibits. We are sometimes asked how we go about acquiring new animals when the need arises. I will discuss each of the various sources we use.

Collecting From the Environment

The museum has special permits issued by Maryland and several surrounding states that allow us to collect certain specimens from nature. While the regulations vary slightly from one state to another, all need to be reissued annually and a report of any specimens collected in the past year must be submitted before a new permit is granted. None of the permits allow us to collect threatened or endangered species.

Most of our specimen collecting consists of excursions on either our 26’ C-Hawk or 16’ Boston Whaler boats to various locations in the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries. We most often use a hand-held seine net to catch small fishes along gently sloping beaches, but sometimes rod and reel fishing or fish traps are used, depending upon what we are looking for.

Once the specimens have been collected, they are placed into a container on the boat with recirculating water and an air bubbler to maintain proper dissolved oxygen levels. When we get back to the museum they are carefully moved to one of our behind-the-scenes holding tanks where they go through a period of quarantine to ensure that any parasites or diseases they might have are not transmitted to other specimens already in the exhibit. Sometimes we must administer medications to control any such parasites before ultimately moving them to one of the exhibits.

Once in a while we may hand collect certain reptiles and amphibians for our Discovery Room terrarium exhibits. They also go through quarantine before joining other exhibit animals.

Purchases

Occasionally, we will purchase some specimens from reputable specimen collectors, breeders, or aquaculture facilities. Some species, while found in our area, can be difficult to locate or capture easily. One example is seahorses. A particular species of seahorse, *Hippocampus erectus*, more commonly known as the lined seahorse, is found throughout the Western Atlantic from Canada to Venezuela, and in the Chesapeake Bay. Loss of important seagrass habitat has made them hard to find around here, so it is usually easier for us to purchase them from suppliers in other areas.

Donations From Government Agencies

Sometimes government agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will get animals that need to be placed in a zoo or an aquarium such as ours. These are usually animals that have become injured in some way, resulting in a determination that they would not survive if released back into the wild. Currently the only animals we have received from a government agency are our two snakehead fish which were donated by Maryland DNR. We received them under the terms of a special permit that allows us to keep and display them to educate the public about the dangers of invasive species. Snakeheads are an Asian fish that were accidentally or intentionally introduced into many of America’s rivers, lakes, and streams. Because they are voracious predators, they have outcompeted many native species, leading to local extinctions.

Donations From Individuals

On very rare occasions, we will take donations of animals that are offered to us by members of the public. These offers usually consist of animals that have been kept as pets but, for various ways. In the past, we have supplied sea nettles to the National Aquarium in Baltimore.
reasons, can no longer remain in the home. We also sometimes receive offers of things that are caught by recreational or commercial fishermen. Whether or not we can accept these donations depends upon what the species is, how it was obtained, and a variety of other considerations.

An example of something that we will readily accept are seahorses that are sometimes accidentally caught in crab traps. We breed most of our seahorses but are always looking for new, wild brood stock to ensure good genetic diversity.

In the case of pets, it’s important to understand that we decline most of the offers we receive because they are usually not something we need for our collection. The vast majority of these offers concern turtles, and most of those are red-eared sliders. We do not need any of these. They are not native to our area, so they don’t belong in most of the exhibits. The museum does have one that we display in an exhibit that is meant to educate people about invasive species, but we don’t need any more of them. Sometimes people will come across a wild turtle that they think needs to be rescued and call us offering to donate it. In most cases it is best to leave the turtle exactly where you found it. More often than not, these animals are fine and should just be left alone in their natural habitat.

**In-House Breeding Efforts**

Another way to add animals to our collection is to breed them ourselves. Modern zoos and aquariums strongly emphasize conservation of natural resources and have developed cooperative breeding programs for many of the species in their collections. Every animal bred in captivity is one that does not need to be collected from nature. For many species, this has become the rule, due to their threatened or endangered status. In fact, breeding in zoological facilities may ultimately be the last hope for saving some animals that are critically endangered. We don’t have any endangered species at the museum, however we do conduct some efforts at captive breeding. Moon jellyfish, seahorses (there they are again!), chain dogfish, skates, and mosquitofish are a few of the species we have bred at the museum. 🦈
After four decades of working and volunteering at the museum, Boatwright George Surgent retired from his position in May 2021. A native of Michigan, George spent time paddling canoes on its lakes and was introduced to sailing while attending the University of Michigan as an art student. While there, he began repairing his first sailboat.

After college, George was hired by Peter Van Dine who designed and built reproductions of several traditional sailing craft, including Crotch Island Pinkeys, Tancook Whalers, and Grand Banks style schooners, at his boat shop at Owings, Maryland. George eventually opened his own shop where he specialized in boat repairs, restorations, and custom sailboat building.

In 1980, George was hired by the Calvert Marine Museum as the project director of a National Trust for Historic Preservation maritime grant to construct two single-log dugout canoes. He soon recruited volunteers to assist with these projects and they became the nucleus of the museum’s fledgling Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG). In addition to building the canoes, the project resulted in the publication of the booklet *Early Chesapeake Single-Log Canoes* that he coauthored with PSCG co-founder Alexander Lavish.

While growing his business, George remained active in the small craft field, attending boat gatherings and festivals to network with others in the boating world. While their kids were still young, he and his wife Marla began volunteering to promote children’s model boat building and sailing activities. Out of this interest grew their Seaworthy Small Ships kit model business.

In 1986, the museum hired George as its part-time boatwright where he worked with the PSCG to stabilize and restore the museum’s growing small craft collection. In addition to constructing custom cradles to support the museum’s small craft collection boats, he undertook several boat restoration projects. These include the Cruis-Along Angler and three-log canoe *Carla Sue* for exhibit in the museum’s Maritime History Gallery. George and his volunteers also built the sailing skiff *Pep*, rebuilt the Sewell draketail workboat, and constructed several rowing skiffs while offering classes on wooden skiff and canoe building to help preserve and pass on traditional woodworking skills.

In 1991, George left the boatwright position for several years to spend more time with his family and devote more attention to his boat restoration, repair, and custom boat building and kit model businesses. He remained an active member of the PSCG and, when Boatwright Jack Krolak moved to another state, George returned to the museum’s staff in 1999.

Over the past decades, George and the PSCG have continued building, repairing, and restoring small craft while preserving and teaching the skills of traditional boatbuilding. Hundreds of small craft and thousands of toy boats have been built under the direction of George and PSCG members. In recent years, the PSCG have also taken on an increasing responsibilities for maintaining and repairing the museum’s larger working vessels, the skipjack *Dee of St. Mary’s* and buyboat *Wm. B. Tennison*.

George’s last day as boatwright was May 22, and he was honored with a farewell luncheon on June 18. In his retirement, he plans to remain in the area and continue working with Marla building and marketing Seaworthy Small Ships kit models. We wish them fair winds and following seas!
Remembering Shirley Mihursky

The entire CMM family is mourning the loss of Shirley Mihursky who passed away on June 24. She began volunteering at the museum in 1991 and continued until her passing. During those three decades, Shirley logged over 8,200 volunteer hours.

Working with several departments within the museum, you never knew where you would find Shirley sharing her time and talent. She began working in the Museum Store but quickly branched out and became a huge part of the Development and Education teams. She did everything from running the green room during Waterside Music Series concerts to bartending for the Maritime Performance Series. Shirley also helped with the preschool programs and was always on hand for every special event at the museum.

Shirley was selected by the CMM staff as the Volunteer of the Year in 2007, a well-deserved honor. She was also the president of the Volunteer Council for several years and served as Volunteer Council liaison for the Development Department until her passing. Her beautiful face is immortalized in our Maritime History Gallery in Tim Scheirer’s “Life on the Patuxent” mural.

Shirley was an amazing woman who gave so much to CMM and the community and will be missed by all that knew her. Shirley was a dear friend who will remain in our hearts forever.

Paleo NOTES

During the Miocene epoch, there were over 35 different kinds of dolphins that lived in this area, making it one of the richest known fossil dolphin sites in the world. *Squalodon* is one of the largest of these dolphins. The fossilized remains of *Squalodon* are rare along Calvert Cliffs and other sea bluffs along the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers, so any find is noteworthy.

Modern dolphins don’t have a sense of smell. Instead of finding prey by smelling (which would be impossible underwater), one of the ways they locate their prey is by using biosonar, or echolocation. However, archaic dolphins like *Squalodon* still had the ability to smell airborne odors, a trait they inherited from the most archaic whales and dolphins that evolved from land animals. What they were able to smell and why is still a mystery because *Squalodon* was also able to echolocate.

*Squalodon* became extinct about halfway through the time when the sediments that comprise Calvert Cliffs were being deposited. In spite of the fact that they were equivalent to the killer whales of their day, they still became extinct. This demonstrates that no matter how big and powerful you are, if you can’t adapt to a changing environment (that would include the evolution of new kinds of competitive dolphins), then you will become extinct.
Several Smith Island skiffs participated in the Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show as part of the festival.

Visitors to the boat basin enjoyed learning about Chesapeake Bay critters exhibited by Solomons Island Heritage Tours.

(Photos by Rob Hurry)

Bugeye Times

SUMMER 2021
Staff UPDATE

DEPARTURES:
We bid bon voyage to Relief Captain Kate Dumhart. Kate has returned to Chestertown to sail as chief mate aboard the educational schooner Sultana this season. Kate has worked in various capacities at the museum since 2013. In 2019, she served as chief mate for the Sultana Foundation and earned her captain’s license before returning to the museum as a relief captain. We wish her smooth sailing in the year ahead!

ARRIVALS:
Ayla Anderson has joined the Education Department as an exhibits interpreter. She is a Nevada native with a Bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Nevada, Reno. After graduating, she spent five years working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife tracking mountain lions and fixing backpack transmitters to raven fledglings. For a change of pace, she applied to the Peace Corps and found herself spending a year in Malawi as an Environment Security Educator. Her time there was cut short as all volunteers were pulled back to the U.S. due to COVID-19. Since then, she has been exploring the region’s museums through her podcast, Curator’s Choice.

Sabrina Tolbert joins the Education Department as a graduate from Frostburg State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife/Fisheries and Interpretive Biology. As an undergraduate she worked as an intern with Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center and the Patuxent Environmental Aquatic Research Lab (PEARL). Her focus has been to gather the skills and knowledge necessary to interact with and teach the public. A native of Calvert County, Sabrina hopes to share her love for the Chesapeake Bay and all of the creatures that call it home.

The Estuarine Biology Department welcomes our newest intern! Theresa Murphy is spending the summer learning about aquatic animal husbandry with our staff aquarists. Theresa is entering her senior year at St. Mary’s College of Maryland where she is pursuing a degree in biology. She is a Southern Maryland resident who proudly says that she basically “grew up at CMM,” having made many visits here throughout her childhood. She is familiar to our staff too. In 2018 while working as a technician at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science’s Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Theresa came here often while helping with a study involving our collection of terrapins.

In her spare time, Theresa enjoys hiking and working on crafts such as stained glass making, quilting, painting, and sculpting. She hopes to attend graduate school to study aquatic ecology after graduating from St. Mary’s College next spring.

Pedal boats and a rowing skiff allowed visitor an opportunity to get out on the water.

Toy boat building is a popular craft enjoyed by everyone.

Joe Ruff and friends provided entertainment at the Corbin Nature Pavilion.
Junior Docent Volunteer Training Program

This June, the CMM Education Department offered its tenth year of Junior Docent Volunteer Training for students entering eighth through tenth grades. After an application process which includes teacher recommendations, students are invited to attend a week-long training program.

Chesapeake Bay Field Lab Director Mindy Quinn guides Junior Docents through the week filled with planned activities, learning opportunities, and interpretative practice in the museum. You will find Junior Docents in the museum sharing information in the Secrets of the Mermaids Purse exhibit, Life in the Bay area, or the Discovery Room. They can also be found explaining the differences between our river otters and their West Coast cousins, the sea otters, talking about shark teeth, jellyfish, or teaching about trophic levels and adaptations.

Once Junior Docents complete their training, they are required to volunteer eight hours a month for the next two years. Some of the Junior Docents who have stayed involved in the museum now assist in CMM’s Paleontology Department and have earned Volunteer Council-sponsored scholarships for their college education. A recent visitor exclaimed, “The students explaining the exhibit are amazing! They are so articulate and knowledgeable.” We are very proud of our 2021 trainees and invite you to visit the museum to meet our Junior Docents!

In celebration of Juneteenth, Calvert Marine Museum opened “A Race to the Pearl: Black Voices from the Packinghouse” on June 19. CMM staff joined community members from across Southern Maryland for a preview of the exhibit during the NAACP’s Juneteenth Community Day at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Visit CMM in-person or virtually to explore our new exhibit curated by Educator Candi Claggett.

Packinghouses processed and moved oysters from bay to table and across the country. They were places with grime-stained concrete wall, slick wet floors, and the sting of tiny lacerations from razor-sharp oyster shell edges. Oysters were shucked, packed, and shipped in a wet, dark, and cold place, mainly by an African American workforce in Southern Maryland during the 20th century. Most workers started early in the morning and could toil up to 12 hours a day, six days a week. A packinghouse was also a place of community and opportunity where shuckers were paid based on their productivity.

Learn about the lives and experiences of these African American workers in packinghouses in Calvert and St. Mary’s counties. Click here to download a digital version of the exhibit.

By Rachelle Green, Deputy Director
Celebrating CMM Volunteers

In 2020, due to COVID-19, we were unable to have our annual volunteer recognition in March. It was canceled just days before the event. As COVID restrictions are eased and more of our volunteers, staff, and Board of Governors have been vaccinated, we are looking forward to having a volunteer recognition event this September to celebrate the accomplishments of our volunteers in 2019 and 2020 and to thank them for all their amazing contributions to the museum.

It is always a great time when we get our CMM family together, especially when we are focused on thanking our volunteers for their hard work and dedication. During this year’s National Volunteer Week, we hosted a grilled hot dog lunch for our volunteers and on a separate day we had an ice cream social. Of course, many COVID restrictions were still in place so we had to do bag lunches and individually wrapped ice cream in the Corbin Nature Pavilion — but we made it work! The staff created signs, decorated the pavilion, enjoyed lunch and ice cream with the volunteers, and expressed their immense gratitude for all they do for CMM every day. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful group of volunteers and we can never thank them enough!
**Membership**

By Lisa Howard, Membership & Fundraising Event Associate

**Are You Making the Most of Your Membership Benefits?**

As events and programs return to the museum, it’s a great time to revisit your membership benefits and make sure you’re taking full advantage of all the offerings. In addition to year-round admission, members can enjoy insider invitations to exhibit openings and events, early registration for special programs, and our Bugeye Times newsletter delivered straight to your inbox. And don’t forget about that 10% discount on purchases in the Museum Store, plus 20% off on the 20th of every month.

Have questions about your benefits or membership in general? Give me a call today at 410-326-2042 x 8063!

---

**Waterside Concerts to Return in 2022**

By Jeff Murray

We are saddened that COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the 2021 Waterside Music Series concerts. To give you some insight and perspective, it takes a small army of staff and volunteers approximately six months to plan and produce concerts of this magnitude. This fabulous series brings big-name national acts to the Calvert Marine Museum and everything from portable lights to port-a-johns to parking (and much, much more — you get the idea) must be orchestrated before audiences arrive on site. Since ours is a warm weather outdoor venue, by the time May 1 arrived with masking and social distancing requirements still in place, it became impossible to move forward with the planning process for this year — earlier in the pandemic we had determined that a socially-distanced concert with reduced capacity was not financially feasible for us. With things now returning to normal, CMM is making big plans for the return of the Waterside Music Series concerts in 2022. We are in discussions with talent agents and will be bringing back the popular musical venue that you’ve grown so accustomed to in previous years. With a bit of luck and a lot of planning, we hope to see big audiences back at the museum for outdoor concerts next year!

Elsewhere in Development, membership is seeing a significant number of renewals and our total number of members has held steady, especially at the upper levels of membership. In the hopes of continuing that trend, staff will set up a membership sales table at upcoming events.

The CMM Society also recently welcomed Claire Eder as the new Facilities and Events Coordinator. Claire relocated to the area from Virginia and comes with a significant amount of event planning experience, with a special emphasis on wedding planning and production. Claire takes over for Veronica Jordan, who left the Society in November. Welcome, Claire!

---

**CMM Society Welcomes Claire Eder**

Facilities and Events Coordinator Claire Eder joined the museum in late June. Originally from the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Claire recently moved to Maryland with her husband and two fur babies. She joins us with a background in planning and coordinating weddings, banquets, trade shows, and large-scale sporting events. In her most recent position at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, Claire planned over 100 successful events. Her experience is enhanced by a Bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies from Longwood University. In her spare time, you can find Claire on a boat or at the beach on a hot day. She looks forward to being part of the museum team and planning exciting events!

---

**Museum Store UPDATE**

**Interim Director of Retail Operations Appointed**

As a search continues to select and hire a replacement for Maureen Baughman, longtime Assistant Store Manager Kim Zabiegalski has graciously agreed to take on additional duties and responsibilities in the operation and management of the Museum Store on an interim basis. Kim is an ideal candidate for the transition, as she has worked at the store under Maureen for 17 years. She has big shoes to fill, but Kim, an aficionado of stylish footwear, is up to the task. Interim Director of Retail Operations Kim Zabiegalski is looking forward to the opportunity to continue offering quality merchandise to support the programs and projects of the Calvert Marine Museum. She and her team will be pleased to welcome you to the Museum Store and will make sure you enjoy excellent customer service during your retail experience!
In this year of change, transition, and adaptation, the CMM family bids a fond farewell to Maureen Baughman, who recently retired after running the museum’s retail operations for 27 years. Maureen’s commitment to growing and improving the Museum Store, with all profits supporting the museum’s programs and projects, demonstrates the highest level of professionalism.

When Maureen took the helm of our Museum Store in May 1994, she was only the second paid professional to hold that position. Replacing retiring Store Manager Delia Danzig, Maureen’s background in retail sales enabled her to hit the ground running. She inherited a team of very talented volunteers and attracted new talent to aid in the marketing of the Museum Store. Always maintaining high standards, Maureen researched and selected quality merchandise to complement the museum’s mission. She also insisted on the highest standards of customer service among her volunteers and staff, always leading by example.

Throughout her tenure, Maureen maintained a professional membership in the Museum Store Association and is a past president of its Mid-Atlantic Chapter. In that role, she worked to bring additional resources and learning opportunities to the smaller museums in the five-state region. She embraced, practiced, and taught the association’s standards of ethical and mission-driven retail marketing.

Over the decades, the Museum Store faced many challenges including major local and world events that affected sales trends and changed the way customers shop. Maureen viewed challenges as opportunities and always sought to increase store sales to provide additional financial support to the museum. To accomplish this, she maintained standards of quality and value, while broadening the scope of the merchandise to provide customers a wide range of price points to fit different budgets. She seized opportunities to introduce shoppers to new and creative products that support the museum’s mission. She constantly sourced new items to keep the store’s inventory fresh and interesting and introduced and promoted museum membership through discount incentives.

The latest and greatest challenge faced by Maureen and store personnel was the COVID-19 pandemic that closed the Museum Store for months. During this time, she advocated for professional development opportunities to hone the skills of her team. Maureen and her staff also found creative and innovative ways, like sidewalk sales and curbside delivery, to continue serving the public and bolster the revenue stream. When the museum reopened to the public in July 2020, new standards of social distancing, capacity restrictions, masking, and sanitation protocols posed their own challenges. But even under the most trying of circumstances, the store staff rose to the occasion and their retail sales consistently exceeded revenue projections.

In addition to being the researcher and buyer of merchandise and supervisor of her assistant store managers, store clerks, and volunteers, Maureen always sought to upgrade and improve the store’s infrastructure. In 2011, she implemented a new computerized point-of-sale system to modernize the Museum Store’s checkout, bookkeeping, and inventory processes and to provide instant access to information and statistics on what visitors buy and when. Two years later, she oversaw a long-overdue complete renovation and expansion of the Museum Store that gave it a clean modern look. She also expanded online offerings to reach a wider audience and utilized social media to promote the Museum Store’s unique custom-designed merchandise.

In 2019, Maureen’s job title was changed to better reflect the scope of her duties and responsibilities. Director of Retail Operations Maureen Baughman retired on May 21, 2021.

Maureen and her husband Greg, longtime lovers of hiking and outdoor activities, have retired to Idaho to pursue their dreams. We wish them well as they embark on their new adventure!