The museum will observe its thirty-fifth anniversary on October 18, 2005. During these years it has grown from a small building on Solomons Island to the multi-building complex serving the museum today. This achievement has only been possible with a great deal of effort and planning – planning that is continuing.

Thirty-five years ago the "Calvert Maritime Museum" opened in a building of less than a thousand square feet on Solomons Island just below the present-day J. C. Lore & Sons Oyster House. The single-room building was designed and constructed by local volunteers, but was considered from the outset to be just a temporary home for the museum. Concerned with preserving the artifacts and records of the history of the Solomons community, these local citizen/volunteers enlisted the support of the Calvert County Historical Society to provide the "organizational structure" – a maritime museum committee – to handle finances and to work on planning for the future. The efforts of volunteers produced the first museum building, financed from a variety of sources.

Planning proceeded within a few months of the October 1970 opening, as it became clear that there was a wealth of material to preserve and that the museum would attract many visitors. Although there was no location available on the island to provide for a suitable space for the larger museum envisioned by the early organizers, there was a nearby site that would be available within a short time. County officials had decided to close the Solomons School in Avondale and to move the students to a larger building in Appeal – now Lusby. This would leave vacant a suitable building and several acres of land, easily accessible by the main road and by water from Back Creek. Within a few months of the 1970 opening of the museum, the historical society committee requested that the county commissioners lease this property to them for an expanded museum, and by the spring of 1971 a favorable decision was reached. (The actual lease, however, was not signed until early in 1972, and was a joint lease to the historical society and the Department of Parks and Recreation.) Even before this decision was made, the then museum volunteer curator, William L. Dovel, developed a plan for an elaborate complex that he characterized as a "Little Mystic," comparing Solomons with Mystic, Connecticut. (Press coverage in this period also began using the name "Calvert Marine Museum.") The plan (shown here in both plan and perspective forms) was revealed to the public in the Calvert Independent on September 9, 1971. It shows a number of individual buildings radiating out from a central building surmounted by an observation tower, either the Drum Point Lighthouse or a replica, but with the removal of the school building. Exhibit buildings included Native Americans, shipbuilding, seafood, biology, and fossils, along with boat exhibits, a restaurant, workshops, and docking facilities.

Continued on page 6
BUILD A CANOE IN A WEEKEND

Grab a friend or two, and join in on the fun as you build your very own 16-foot canoe at the museum’s Patuxent Small Craft Center on Saturday, November 12, and Sunday, November 13. Continuing with its mission to preserve the traditional skill of wooden boatbuilding, the museum is offering another round of this exciting weekend-long boatbuilding course. With simple hand tools and guidance from expert instructors, participants will build their very own 16-foot canoe and paddle set which will be ready to take home and paint on Sunday afternoon. The canoe is suitable for two paddlers. The fee is $530 for CMM members and $580 for non-members and includes all materials necessary to complete one canoe and one set of paddles, except paint. No experience is necessary! Children 10 years of age and older are welcomed in the company of an adult.

Preregistration is required, and can be done by calling Melissa McCormick at 410-326-2042, ext. 41. For further questions about the boatbuilding class, please contact instructor George Surgent at 410-586-2700.

Library Acquisitions

There have been several small collections added to the museum library during the past few months, mostly of books of maritime interest. The largest of these is a collection donated by Mrs. Laura Hawley Jarvis and family in memory of Commander Thomas Charles Jarvis Jr., 1936-1996, a Naval Academy graduate. The Jarvises lived during their retirement on St. Jerome Creek in St. Mary’s County. Another small collection was of books collected by James Leroy “Pepper” Langley, donated by his son Jim Langley, and a third small collection of sailing books was donated by Mike and Jan Smolek - Mike being the director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum and Jan the librarian at the Harry Lundberg School at Piney Point. The most recent donation was a group of maritime and Maryland books from the library of L. Byrne Waterman, a Baltimorean with strong interests in the Chesapeake Bay and the Kendall Whaling Museum. These collections are being processed as time permits, but they are now available for library users.

Over the past few years efforts by the paleontology staff and volunteers have completed the cataloging of a several thousand paleontology reprints, journals, and books. These may be accessed on request to the curator of paleontology.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR LEAVES CMM

Leslie King, volunteer coordinator since February 1996, left CMM on September 21, with plans to continue her education. Her service was recognized at the Volunteer Council Annual Meeting on September 20. During Leslie’s tenure there was a significant increase in the number of museum volunteers and in volunteer involvements in many museum events, some of which Leslie helped organize. She also improved communications with the volunteers through her monthly newsletter, The Anchor.

Two new staff members not previously mentioned are aquarist Kate Perry, replacing Carin Stringer, and Michael Wolle, mate on the Wm. B. Tennison.
ENJOY A NIGHT OF ELEGANCE AT THE BUGEYE BALL

On Saturday, October 15, the Calvert Marine Museum hosts its annual Bugeye Ball. Enjoy an evening of fine food, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and dancing within the exhibit halls of the museum. Tickets are $125 per person. Auction items include a selection of jewelry from G&H Jewelers, overnight stays at local hotels and inns, lighthouse cruise tickets, autographed sports memorabilia, framed artwork, carvings, and a private catered dinner in the Drum Point Lighthouse.

This year's Ball proceeds help support the expansion and renovation of the CMM Discovery Room, a favorite among the museum's youngest visitors. A portion of all ticket revenue will be donated to the Hurricane Katrina relief fund. Tickets can be purchased by calling 410-326-2042 ext. 16, 17, or 18. A complete listing of the evening's program can be found at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

PREPARE TO PLAY AT THE CMMS BASKET BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA

Over $10,000 worth in Longaberger prizes will be up for grabs at the CMMS annual Holiday Basket Bingo Extravaganza on Sunday, November 13, at the Calvert County Fairgrounds. Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; early birds begin at 12:30 p.m.; regular games begin at 1:00 p.m. Products featured include Longaberger's new Fall/Winter Wish List and the 2005 Holiday Campaign. King Tut for baskets will also be played! Special basket drawings will be held for CMMS members and all pre-paid ticket holders. Basket prizes will be filled.

Tickets are $20 each and include a regular book of 20 games. Special books of five games are $5 each. Early bird books of four games are $2 each. To pre-order tickets, please contact Melissa Carnes at 410-326-2042, ext. 17. Ticket sales are non-refundable.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE MUSEUM STORE

When you start your holiday shopping in the weeks ahead, remember the wonderful gifts to be found in the museum store. Museum members receive a 10 percent discount at all times, but this is increased to 20 percent during the Solomons Christmas Walk, December 9 and 10, and also during the Members' Yule Party on December 11. The store will provide free gift-wrapping from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on December 10.

Thank You . . .

Waterside 2005 Sponsors

The following sponsors have generously supported our concert series. Their kindness has assisted the museum in raising much needed funding for the upcoming year. Please support these local businesses.

Ralph's Dodge-Jeep & Cumberland & Erly, LLC; Bozick Distributors - Coors, Coors Light, & Killian's; G&H Jewelers; RadioShack - Prince Frederick/Dunkirk/Charlotte Hall; Solomons Landing; DM Group; 98 Star FM; Mom's in the Kitchen Catering; Southern Maryland Newspapers; Bay Weekly; Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative; Quick Connections; Comcast; All American Harley Davidson; Roy Rogers and Holiday Inn Select Solomons. For more information, call 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17 or 18 or visit www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.
A Busy Summer

Sharkfest

A long line of attendees awaiting admission at the very popular Sharkfest on July 9, 2005.
CMM photo by Paul Berry

Fossil Club member Sandy Roberts (center) helps answer questions from visitors at Sharkfest on July 9, 2005.
CMM photo by Paul Berry

Paige Taura Epler, a presenter at Sharkfest assisted paleontologist Bill Counterman (left) and curator of paleontology Stephen Godfrey (right) during the dissection of the head of a mako shark.
CMM photo by Paul Berry

CMM parking lot was visited by a rally of the National Capital Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America in late August.
CMM photo by Stephen Godfrey

Young "pirates" aboard the Wm. B. Tennison during a summer camp session at CMM, with volunteer Veronica Cocores at extreme left and CMM staffer Lori Cole at right rear.
CMM photo by Leslie King

The Drum Point Lighthouse and the Wm. B. Tennison provided the setting for a live telecast for NBC's "Today Show" on August 19 at which the dress for the bridesmaid was featured. The show is sponsoring the September wedding of Sarah Raley of Valley Lee (a participant in COFI fashion shows in past years) and Mark Dale of Lusby.
CMM photo by Paul Berry

"On Watch"

World War II Memorial, "On Watch," created by Maryland artist and sculptor Antonio Tobias, has been commissioned as a tribute to the thousands of men and women who served their country in World War II. Surrounding the statue will be Veteran's Plaza, incorporating 1,000 commemorative bricks—engraved with the name, branch, and years of military service—purchased in honor of men and women who served their country in the military during World War II. The current owners of the training base site have agreed to grant a permanent easement for the memorial overlooking the harbor. County Commissioner Linda Kelley has taken the lead on raising the remaining funds needed to make this dream a reality. The total cost of this project is $135,000, of which $40,000 must still be raised. If you would like to support the project, you may do so by purchasing a commemorative brick in honor of someone who served in the military in WWII for placement on the Veteran's Plaza. Family members may be placed together by request. The cost of each memorial brick is $100.00. Information and applications are available on our web site, www.calvertmarinermuseum.com.

CMM's Cove Point Lighthouse was the scene of an interesting ceremony on Friday, September 2—the delivery of the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia to the United States. Representatives of Royal Dutch Shell, British Gas, Dominion Resources, and the Russian company Gazprom met on the Cove Point grounds in view of Dominon's offloading terminal (in background at left) as the LNG tanker Castillo de Velalba delivered this gas. Gazprom controls 25 percent of the world's natural gas.
CMM photo by Bob Hall

State Senator Roy Dyson speaking at the August 6 opening ceremony for the Cradle of Invasion weekend at CMM, August 5 to 7, 2005. Also speaking were County Commissioner Linda Kelley and former State Senator Bernie Fowler.

All praised the efforts of members of the armed forces during World War II.
CMM photo by Paul Berry

The World War II-era theme of the Cradle of Invasion weekend included entertainment on August 6 at a swing concert by the VIP Chamber Singers and the New Hots Jazz Orchestra, held on the Washington Gas Pavilion at CMM.
CMM photo by Paul Berry

A bonus event during the Cradle of Invasion weekend was a visit by several Chesapeake Bay buyboats on their way to a second buyboat rendezvous at Urbanna, Virginia. Shown here in CMM's boat basin are (left to right) the P.E. Pruitt, Bessie L., and Nettie Crockett. Out of the picture is the Muriel Eileen, with the banner of CMM's Wm. B. Tennison visible in the background. The Tennison attended the first rendezvous at Rock Hall, Maryland, last year.
CMM photo by Paul Berry
Mr. Dovel left Solomons late in 1971, but others in the historical society continued working over the next few years toward the use of the Solomons School property and its development along the lines of the Dovel plan, but modified to retain the school building. This plan proceeded to the point of bid documents for the additional buildings, but this was never funded. Plans did proceed, however, for enhancing the waterfront area through an application to the Army Corps of Engineers for a bulkhead and six twenty-five-foot finger piers – eventually approved, but only the bulkhead was constructed when the Drum Point Lighthouse was moved to the property in March 1975. When a new director, Dr. Ralph E. Eshelman, was appointed in May 1974, he concentrated his efforts on renovating the school building to provide a facility for exhibits, storage of collections, and exhibit fabrication. The first museum on the island was closed and the renovated school building opened to the public on June 29, 1975, serving the museum’s needs for the next decade and a half.

By late 1975 an exhibit designer was hired, and he and the director began planning for a small maritime village to consist of historic buildings moved from elsewhere in the county. This plan (shown here in plan and perspective forms) gained some support from the historical society’s museum committee, but there was no approval for funding by either the historical society or the county. A less elaborate plan did result in the building of the small craft shed near the lighthouse. Additional parcels adjacent to the school property were also acquired by the county during this period, doubling the museum’s lands; and the J. C. Lore & Sons Oyster House on the island was added as a museum building in 1979.

Since all parties agreed that the museum should move ahead and expand, the county approved funds for a master plan study by an architectural firm. After negotiations, the firm of Cambridge Seven Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was hired to develop such a plan, working from 1979 until 1982 to create a master plan that was adopted and followed for the next two decades. During this period, the management responsibility for the museum passed from the historical society to the county through a resolution by the county commissioners adopted in September 1979.

The master plan of 1979/1982 was divided into three phases: (1) a boat basin to expand the museum’s waterfront – completed in 1984; (2) the construction of a new exhibition building – opened in January 1989; and (3) the renovation of the original schoolhouse
building—completed in 1993. These structures, however, did not end this process, since within the exhibition building the installation of exhibits remained to be completed. The maritime hall opened in November 1989; the Estuarium opened in June 1992; and the paleontology exhibit opened in March 1997. An otter tank in the master plan required considerable redesign before it could be opened in 1994, and a new concert venue brought the construction of the Washington Gas Pavilion in 1998. Additional land was added in 1988 with the purchase of the adjacent property on Lore Street; the Cove Point Lighthouse became part of the museum complex in 2001.

As with any vital organization, the planning does not stop. Discussions within the museum during 2004 and 2005 have looked at how to update our existing permanent exhibit galleries. A current effort is under way for a complete renovation of the Discovery Room based on what has been learned over the years—what works and what doesn’t—and highlighting the museum’s three themes. The first phase of Discovery Room renovation will be to install a new “touch tank” that will be larger than the tank previously in the estuarine biology exhibit, and one that will include fresh- and salt-water species. Filtration systems and plumbing will be exposed so visitors may see the “magic” that is usually behind the scenes. Completion is planned for next spring.

But there is even more future planning. A committee composed of staff, board members, volunteers, and community leaders is being put together to select a facilitator to work with the museum community to revise the master strategic plan to look at the museum’s overall mission, its educational and exhibit programs, and its space needs to guide future planning. Meetings, forums, and focus groups will gather input from constituents and users. Since it is anticipated that some type of new building may be needed to be built, a preparatory exploration was undertaken to identify a suitable site on the museum grounds. Soil tests were conducted at several spots on the property in the early spring, and visitors may have noticed drilling equipment as they toured the grounds. Museum members will be kept apprised of these developments in the months to come.

The past thirty-five years have proved the wisdom and viability of the original vision of preserving the local heritage of Solomons and the lower Patuxent River. The Calvert Marine Museum now serves not only the local community, but also Calvert County and the entire Southern Maryland region. A larger vision is developing and will be incorporated in planning for the future.

(Photos and plans from CMM Archives)

THE DISCOVERY ROOM will be closed for renovation in January and February 2006. We are very excited about our plans for the new Discovery Room, and know that you will be too. Check out the next edition of Bugeye Times for a sneak preview.
Hey, New Member . . . Spend a Little Time with Us

So, you've become a member of the Calvert Marine Museum. Great! You can come whenever you like, get the inside scoop on what's happening, have first crack at concert tickets, and take advantage of all the special programs available to members. But being a member of the museum also opens the door to another very special opportunity — volunteering. And if you want to volunteer, consider education.

There is change in the wind in the CMM Education Department. We are developing new programs and revamping old ones, helping to design new exhibits, and planning to incorporate more hands-on activities throughout the museum. This creates a demand for new volunteers of all ages. So, how can you volunteer? Let me count the ways . . .

» We are developing a Volunteer Docent Program to help visitors gain a deeper appreciation for the exhibits here at the museum. Training will take place over the winter and the program will kick off in the early spring.

» We are incorporating the Cove Point Lighthouse into our Overnight Program and need adventurous volunteers to spend the night in the keeper’s cottage.

» When the Cove Point Lighthouse reopens for visitors next spring, we will have Volunteer Keepers stationed there during the week to greet visitors and tell them about this historic light. This is a new program and we are seeking people who live in the area and have a particular affinity for lighthouses!

» We are expanding our school programs and are looking for volunteers to assist interpreters during the week.

» We are expanding our successful Young Salts program by adding the Young Buccaneers for 7-9 year olds. This program will take place one Saturday morning a month starting in January. Looking for volunteers to assist in both.

» Our newly renovated Discovery Room will feature a Discovery Lab upstairs with hands-on environmental activities that will be run on a scheduled basis by volunteers.

» We are developing an Internship Program for both high school and college age students to assist in our summer camps starting next summer.

» Once the Discovery Room Renovation is complete, it will reopen with a greatly enlarged Touch Tank. Volunteers are needed to help our young visitors gain an up-close appreciation for the critters on display. These volunteers will also be cross-trained to work with the Skates and Rays Exhibit.

» We are planning exciting Special Events throughout the year — like Sharkfest, Cradle of Invasion, and a new Solomons Maritime Folklife Festival in the spring, and every one of them requires volunteers to help make it happen.

So, in short, there is a place for everyone who loves the museum and wants to help, for a few hours here and there, or on a regularly scheduled basis.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Education Department, please contact Sherrod Sturrock, Deputy Director for Education & Special Programs, at 410-326-2042, ext. 32. 📞

The Education Department is looking for a 20-by-20-foot tent, open sided or with screened sides, to use as a field station for our middle school environmental camp next summer. If you have one you are willing to donate or loan, please contact Mindy Quinn at 410-326-2042, ext. 27.