The past forty years have seen Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) grow from a modest community-based operation created to preserve and celebrate Solomons’ history to a premier educational facility serving a regional and national audience. Since its founding in 1970, nearly two million visitors have passed through the doors; in the next ten years we anticipate one million more. We come to you with our case for supporting a capital campaign to help renovate and expand our Exhibition Building, thereby sustaining this extraordinary legacy.

The strength of Calvert Marine Museum’s case for support lies in you — our members, volunteers, and visitors — and the role this institution plays in your lives. We believe that you are invested in the museum’s success and will support our next stage of development. The Coming of Age Campaign goal is to raise at least $500,000 in private funds to leverage $1.5 million in public monies. It is a goal grounded in reality: we are not building in the hopes of attracting new audiences; we are responding to a clear and growing demand for what we offer.

The Project

The Board of Directors adopted a Master Plan in 2008 that calls for expansion and renovation of the facilities and an increase in the endowment. This initial $2 million project will redefine and expand space within the existing Exhibition Building to enable us to better serve our audiences through educational programs and exhibits.

Continued on page 3
The museum lost several supporters in July. Richard H. Fischer Jr., former member of the museum’s Board of Governors and civic leader in Solomons and the county, died after an extended illness. Margaret “Peggy” Saville, a retired teacher, served CMM as an active volunteer for many years, and also participated in service to county civic and charitable organizations. Horace C. Groom Jr., who lived with his family in the 1930s in the Cove Point Lighthouse where his father was the keeper, donated photos and provided significant information about the lighthouse.

The education department is saying good-bye to one of our seasoned part-time interpreters. Helen Mote has been with the department for four wonderful years. A master teacher from the Calvert County system, Helen became our primary distance learning interpreter, as well as participating in the CHESPAX program and doing all of the myriad other jobs that all of the interpreters do. She declared that with the advent of her first grandchild, it was time to “really retire.” We wish her all the best in the next chapter of her very eventful life. Lyn Striegel resigned from the museum Board of Governors, but no replacement has yet been named.

CMM is fortunate in having the services this fall and winter of Concetta Laskey, a Chesapeake Conservation Corps intern supported by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Concetta will work on organizing and documenting CHESTORY, a large archival collection of papers, photographs, audio and video tapes, and other materials created by the late Tom Wisner and donated to CMM.

Each year, the Calvert Marine Museum offers a thematically driven lecture series. PEM Talks are designed to provide a thoughtful discourse on Paleontology, the Environment, and Maritime History — thus PEM.

The 2011–2012 PEM Talks series offers sketches of the cultural landscape. Entitled Lost Landmarks, the “big idea” is to create a montage that, when seen as a whole, shows us life as it was experienced here before the age of modern transportation and technology. The talks will also reveal the “bones” of the past that lie hidden all around us. From one-room schools, to country stores, to farming, to the Chesapeake Beach Railroad and Amusement Park, the series will look at the things that mattered in people’s lives, and show us what remains to remind us of that past.

All talks are in the museum auditorium, Thursday evenings starting at 7:00, and are free. Check the museum’s web site for more information.

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Expanding the Learning Center

Our educational programs are the lifeblood of the museum and our fastest growing area, ensuring that the core work of research and collections continues to reach audiences of all ages in meaningful ways.

Fueled by its reputation for excellence and the overwhelming demand from our audience, the educational programs have experienced remarkable growth. Since 2006, the number of programs offered has increased over 30 percent and the number of people participating in those programs has more than doubled to almost 20,000. The new Learning Center will allow us to meet the ever-increasing need for onsite educational programming and outreach through distance learning. The ability to offer immersive environmental education, summer science centers, internships for students, and teacher professional development all become a reality with the addition of this new Learning Center.

To create the new space, the mezzanine level will be expanded to provide three modern classrooms, one of which will be equipped as the distance learning studio. There will also be work space for staff and volunteers, a restroom, and much-needed storage. Handicap access to the mezzanine level exhibit area will be located in a separate, more direct hallway that is easier for visitors to navigate.

Transforming the Auditorium into “The Gallery”

Situated off the lobby, the project will transform the existing auditorium into a dynamic program and event space that will accommodate current uses as well as provide much-needed flexibility. The new “Gallery” will continue to be used as a lecture hall and performance venue, but will also be a gathering place for large school groups, a community meeting space that can be subdivided for different size groups, a banquet hall for private events, or temporary exhibit space. The space is designed so that the walls can be retracted, opening onto the lobby, creating a free flow of movement for large events.

The auditorium floor will be leveled and the fixed seating removed. Moveable dividers will allow the space to be subdivided as needed. A catering kitchen will be installed at the end of the room to support events, along with storage space for chairs and tables. State-of-the-art projection equipment will be mounted in the ceiling.

Expanding the Museum Store

The Museum Store is an important extension of the museum. It provides visitors with additional resources related to our exhibits, is an outlet for museum publications, and an important revenue stream. Part of the renovation will expand the square footage allotted to the store and extend it more into the lobby. This will provide a more inviting space, more storage to support our on-line store, better lighting and display cases, and better service to our visitors. The front doors to the Exhibition Hall will be relocated to the left to allow the store to expand into the lobby area.

Redesigning the Lobby

As part of the renovation, our goal is to redefine the lobby space. When visitors enter the museum, it will be immediately apparent where they should go. The admissions desk and information desk will be combined into one function and placed near the entrance. The skates and rays exhibit will become part of the lobby experience that does not require admission. A small orientation theatre will be located behind the desk for approximately twenty people. An introductory exhibit will orient visitors to all that the museum has to offer before they enter the galleries.

Construction Schedule

The museum is working with the architectural firm of GWWO Inc. to complete the design and construction documents this year. If we are successful in securing public funding and raising the necessary private funds, the project will be bid in July 2012, and completed by the summer of 2013. It is a very ambitious schedule, but with your help, one that we are confident we can meet.
A Call to Action!

The Calvert Marine Museum’s programming, human resources, and community support have never been stronger. In order to meet the existing and growing demand from our audience, and fulfill our mission, the time has come to move to the next level.

The museum’s Board of Directors is heading up the capital campaign. They have been working diligently throughout the summer. Members are invited to November’s First Free Friday event to view the plans, which will be on display in the lobby.

Calvert Marine Museum stands poised on the threshold of its Coming of Age. With the strong support of Calvert County Government as the foundation, we are now ready to embrace the future. Together we can carry the promise of the past forty successful years to a new level of service for our audiences and community. With your help, the Calvert Marine Museum is Coming of Age! 🎉
Thousands turn out for Summer Concert Series!

The 2011 Waterside Summer Concerts heated up Solomons Island this summer, bringing thousands of fans to see country music superstar Martina McBride in July and Rock Legends ZZ Top along with a special appearance from Joan Jett and the Blackhearts in August.

Martina McBride fans were thrilled by a high-energy performance that included some of her biggest hits and an unexpected storm of flying confetti, which only added to the enthusiasm.

On August 21, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts took to the Calvert Marine Museum stage and rocked the crowd back in time with such hits as I Love Rock and Roll, Cherry Bomb, and Bad Reputation. The ‘80s rock revival continued when ZZ Top — the ultimate good ole boys from Texas — started reminiscing of days gone by. Chart toppers like Sharp Dressed Man, Cheap Sunglasses, and Legs whipped the crowd into a nostalgic frenzy. Thanks to all those who purchased tickets — the funds raised from the concerts support the on-going exhibits and programs of the museum.

Special Thanks to our 2011 Waterside Sponsors

Prince Frederick Ford-Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge; Bozick Distributors – Coors, Coors Light and Killian’s; Quality Built Homes; Holiday Inn Select-Solomons; Isaac’s Restaurant & Pub; The Show Place Arena; GTMR Inc.; All American Harley-Davidson; Roy Rogers; Papa John’s Pizza; Quick Connections; DirectMail.com; Bay Weekly; Southern Maryland Newspapers; Comcast; Somar Communications — 102.9 WKIK, 98.3 Star FM and 97.7 The Rocket; JWE, LLC; United Rentals; The McNelis Group; and World Gym.

Michelle Weisburgh Wins “Dream Seats Raffle”

Congratulations to Michelle Weisburgh of Chesapeake Beach for being the lucky winner of the “Dream Seats” raffle! Thanks to the generous support of Bozick Distributors and Coors Light, Michelle will be awarded four front row seats to each summer concert at Calvert Marine Museum in 2012! The raffle raised $5,000 for the museum.

Members’ Yule Party – December 4, 2011, 12 noon to 4:00 pm

Enjoy festive music, holiday goodies, shopping for the holidays in the museum store, and spending time with friends and family. Santa will take a break from his busy schedule and stop in to see the children.

Admission to the party is a contribution of your favorite holiday recipe prepared on a disposable dish — we will do the rest! The museum is only open to members during the festivities. Watch for more details in your mailbox and inbox! We look forward to seeing our members.

Save the Date – Bugeye Ball

Mark your calendars for the annual Bugeye Ball, February 25, 2012. The Bugeye Ball is sure to be an enjoyable evening of fine dining, dancing, and entertainment. The event benefits museum programs and exhibits. Hope to see you there!
The BIG event in July was our annual Sharkfest! Over two thousand visitors came to learn about sharks, and they enjoyed a variety of activities, as shown in these photos.

A large shark slide, partially donated by Fantasy World, was a HUGE attraction.

Fossil Club member Steve Grossman (right) explains CMM paleontology items to inquiring attendees.

Shark crafts were very popular with the crowd.

Volunteer Sherry Carter (right) explained the use of a cage designed for viewing and photographing sharks in the ocean. The cage was provided by famous underwater photographer Nick Caloyianis, who was on hand to talk about his thrilling experiences photographing sharks all over the world.

CMM curator of paleontology Dr. Stephen Godfrey dissected a shark.
CMM SUMMER CAMPS

The museum’s summer programming continues to grow each year and represents a significant educational outreach contribution to the community.

The Build a Boat Camp was held on July 11-16 with a change this year: the use of wood for the boats rather than cardboard used in earlier years. The camp was conducted by volunteer Ned Clarke with assistance from Lucy Tonacci. Under the guidance of CMM boatwright George Surgent (right), campers John McCleaf and Shane Dugan work on one of the boats.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

A race was the featured event at the conclusion of the camp.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

The Junior Girl Scout Camp was held in July, and included a cruise on the Wm. B. Tennison.

CMM photo

There were two intergenerational camps, both entitled Fossils, Fins, and Fun, as part of the Road Scholar program hosted by CMM. Here, participants searched for fossils at a local beach.

CMM photo

“Shine on Me!” was the name given the lighthouse camp held from June 27 until July 1. Campers visited the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum where they tried maneuvering a ship in the exhibit there.

CMM photo

The ever-popular “Pirates and Scallywags” camp was at the end of the season in late July. The “pirates,” along with guest Jackie Waymire (left center), posed for a photo aboard the Wm. B. Tennison beneath the Drum Point Lighthouse.

CMM photo

"shine on me!" was the name given the lighthouse camp held from June 27 until July 1. Campers visited the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum where they tried maneuvering a ship in the exhibit there.
In addition to the summer camps, Sharkfest!, and concerts, there were other activities.

The First FREE Friday in July included the 257th Army Band appearing on the pavilion.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

Doug Alves and Dennis Baker accepted the 2011 Governor's Service Award presented to the Calvert Marine Museum Volunteer Council at a ceremony on May 12, 2011, in Annapolis.

Courtesy photo

As part of the museum’s Teach American History teachers training program, participants were treated to a lesson on the War of 1812 Battle of North Point (Baltimore) by interpreter Ed Seufert at the present-day location of the original battle.

CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock
When visitors think about our Estuarium, they don’t often consider the “care and feeding” of all those animals on display. We aquarists serve as “sous chefs” every day, preparing a seafood smorgasbord to satisfy the wide range of dietary needs for everything from microscopic invertebrates to the ever popular river otters.

The simplest type of food is a single-celled alga, called *Tahitian isochrysis*, that we grow in glass carboys behind the scenes. In most of our exhibits, we try to avoid growing algae, but algae needed for food is carefully nurtured in sterile glassware. These algae are then fed to the next link in the food chain — our smallest zooplankton, rotifers, and brine shrimp, to make them a highly nutritional food source for larger animals like young fish, seahorses, and jellyfish.

Most of our fish, including the stingrays and skates, are fed a variety of different seafood, such as shrimp, squid, scallops, clams, and fish. These are purchased mainly from our local seafood market. This fare usually is frozen to eliminate any parasites and diseases, then thawed out and prepped. Prepping the seafood smorgasbord daily takes time. Food must be cut up into proper sizes for each different animal. Because they are living in a highly competitive environment, if the food is difficult to grab and swallow, the weak would starve. We can’t let that happen, so we take care to make the food bite-size and to see that every critter gets its fair share; in some cases we even target-feed using a feeding stick.

We also add vitamins to their diets to ensure that they are getting the proper nutrition, since in many cases they are not eating what they would be eating in the wild. Twice a week they are also fed a highly nutritional gel food nugget — kind of like a veggie brownie. Just like kids, this is usually not their favorite item, but they quickly adapt when they realize that it is all that they are getting for the day!

Our most popular residents, the otters Bubbles and Squeak, get a wide variety of delicacies. Three times a day they are fed approximately three-quarters of a pound each, consisting of two different types of fish, capelin and smelt. Capelin is a very oily fish to help the otters get the building nutrients they need to maintain a healthy fur coat. Along with their fish they get a daily vitamin regimen, designed by their veterinary doctor. For both reward and nutritional value, they also receive a host of different treats. Some of their treats, including shrimp and hard boiled eggs, are designed to provide additional protein to help with growth and to build strength. Some treats are for nutrition and entertainment, like carrots, grapes, peanuts, banana chips, dried cranberries, and of course dog biscuits — since “otter” biscuits aren’t common!

As you can imagine, the “food prep kitchen” here at the museum is usually a pretty busy place, and while most people who pass through wrinkle their noses at the smell, to us it is just the healthy smell of the seafood smorgasbord we serve up daily!

(Note Linda is one of three aquarists who take care of the animals in the Estuarium under the direction of curator Ken Kaumeyer.)
The museum was only minimally affected by Hurricane Irene that hit Southern Maryland and Calvert County on August 27 and 28, 2011. Although the museum closed for four days (August 26 through 29), its property, boats, and buildings were generally spared, even the Cove Point Lighthouse and the J. C. Lore Oyster House — scenes of significant flooding in earlier hurricanes. The closing on Friday, August 26, allowed staff to practice their hurricane preparedness skills as they split into teams to prepare for the coming storm. The staff spent most of the day in covering windows with plywood in the exhibition building, the woodshop, and the administration building; exhibits, collections, and equipment were covered with plastic in the event of roof leakage; and boats were secured. Happily the extensive preparations were largely precautionary. Solomons was less impacted by the storm than other areas of Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties, where there were widespread power outages, significant loss of trees, and damage to cars and buildings. 

(CMM photos by Robert Hurry)
The Volunteer Council held its annual meeting in the CMM auditorium on Wednesday, September 7, with the main order of business being the election of officers for 2011-2012. The council was fortunate enough to have all of the 2010-2011 officers agree to serve another term if elected. When the slate of officers was presented to the membership, they were voted into office by acclimation. These officers are: Sherma Munger, president; Dennis Baker, vice president; Denita Sanders, treasurer; Teddie Watts, recording secretary; and Anne Harrison, corresponding secretary. Peggy Hovermale will continue to serve on the board as the past president. Sherma Munger thanked the board members for their service during the past year and for agreeing to serve for another term. She commented that the past year was great, and she was looking forward to another great year as the president of the council.

The official meeting was followed by a light buffet dinner in the lobby of the museum, highlighted by the delicious ham that was prepared by our own Janet Addiss. Both the staff and volunteers treasure an opportunity like this to mix and mingle.

Congratulations and best wishes to the 2011-2012 Volunteer Council board.

Fall is all about change — cooler temperatures, winding down, and preparing for winter — and the Museum Store reflects those changes. With a strong focus on Made in America, we are striving to bring you what you need this season and beyond to the holidays. Unique and special gifts from small companies and craftspeople all over America reflect our connection to the Chesapeake Bay. With prices from less than $10 to over $200 there is sure to be something special for everyone’s taste and budget. We hope that you can stop in for a visit and discover the perfect gift for everyone on your list; and don’t forget to treat yourself to something special!

CMM members enjoy a 10 percent discount at all times (bring your membership card). As our holiday gift to you, enjoy a special 20 percent discount during the Solomons Christmas Walk, December 2 and 3, and the Members’ Yule Party on December 4. Every month is 20 percent off on the 20th, too.

The store is hosting Sunday Conversations with Chesapeake Authors, a free series offering a wide range of presentations by local Chesapeake authors. These will be held in the museum’s Exhibition Building and begin at 2 p.m. All of the featured books will be available in the Museum Store and make wonderful holiday purchases that can be signed and personalized by the author on the spot! The series is sponsored by The Patuxent Partnership with additional support from the Holiday Inn Solomons.

Sunday, October 23 — A Travel Guide to the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake, written by Dr. Ralph Eshelman.
Sunday, November 20 — Chesapeake Bay Stories, by Raymond McAlwee.
Sunday, January 15 — Pure Sea Glass, written by Richard LaMotte.
Sunday, February 19 — Oscar and Olive Osprey, written by Janie Suss.