In museum lingo an “affinity group” is a group that comes together around a common need, goal, or interest that relates to the mission of the museum. Here at the Calvert Marine Museum, we call them “clubs” — and they are a vital part of the on-going work that helps us fulfill our mission in the community. It is also one of the key benefits of membership. People join CMM for lots of different reasons — but for those folks who want to get more involved, participation in one of our amazing clubs is a great way to do it. You meet people who share your passion and enjoy learning and growing with others. It is a dynamic community of active learners. Some of our clubs have been around almost as long as the museum, others are brand new. All are an enthusiastic and vibrant part of the museum family. I invited the club presidents to tell me why they invest their time, and have incorporated their comments below.

Solomons Island Model Boat Club (SIMBC)

Solomons Island Model Boat Club (SIMBC) was started in 1979 by “Pepper” Langley. The purpose of the club is to build and sail radio-controlled model skipjack sailboats as a means of preserving the heritage of the oyster dredging skipjacks of the Chesapeake Bay. Today, the club has over forty active members who sail skipjacks in front of the Drum Point Lighthouse during the spring, summer, and fall months on the second and fourth Sundays. Winter months are spent meeting and helping new members build their skipjacks. The club offers plans, plywood, lead keels, and sails for sale to anyone who desires to build a model skipjack and they have sold many hundreds of plans and parts around the world. Next year the club will again host a National Vintage Model Yacht Group regatta on September 8 and 9, 2012. It will be a weekend of model sailboat sailing with skipjacks and schooners from around the country. More than just a club, SIMBC is like extended family. Commodore Alan Suydam said, “Nan and I moved back to Southern Maryland in 2004 due in great part to the club members we had met during model boat regattas we had attended around the East Coast and at the Calvert Marine Museum. The club members are a great bunch of people and we instantly felt at home when we arrived.”

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Following Your Passion: Affinity Groups at the Museum (Continued from page 1)

Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG)

Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG), got started in 1980. This group of boat enthusiasts works on Tuesdays and Saturdays building, restoring, sailing, and rowing traditional craft indigenous to the region, all under the direction of the museum’s boatwright, George Surgent. They maintain the museum’s fleet of small watercraft, offer boat building classes, and repair boats for others to help support the club. Club members also actively participate in summer camp programs, the Solomons Maritime Festival (May), Patuxent River Appreciation Days (October), and other museum events — I’m sure many of you have built a toy wooden boat in their tent. Bill Lake, president and longtime member of the club says: “Working with the PSCG allows me to get out of the house two days a week and to maintain proficiency with hand tools as well as stationary power tools. It also provides an opportunity to develop new skills relative to boat building and to interface with the other members of the guild. All of this while providing a meaningful service to the museum makes membership in the guild an important part of my life.”

Fossil Club

The Fossil Club was formed in 1981 as a way for fossil enthusiasts to get together for discussions, outings, or just to show off their latest finds. The club publishes a high quality quarterly newsletter, The Ecphora, and sponsors an annual lecture series. Mike Ellwood, president, wrote: “I find that the members of the CMM Fossil Club are involved due to their desire to learn more about the world-famous paleo environment that we live in, and working with the museum facilitates that process. The interface between the club members, the museum staff — especially curator Stephen Godfrey — and the outside speakers brought to the museum provides many learning experiences. Many fossil club members also find that volunteering at the museum provides them the opportunity to share some of this knowledge with the public and have found this to be very rewarding.”

Canoe and Kayak Club

Canoe and Kayak Club offers museum members an opportunity to explore the creeks, marshes, and rivers in Southern Maryland as part of an organized excursion guided by a trip leader. Typically the group gets together monthly for a two- to three-hour outing. The locations are selected on the basis of the beauty of the waters and the surrounding area, ease of parking and launching, presence of facilities, and the availability of a post trip site for lunch. To encourage novices to give it a try, members offer canoes and kayaks as “loaners” and will pair up with new members to show them the ropes. Ken Spring, president of the club put it this way: “The canoe/kayak club is like a combination health,
Following Your Passion: Affinity Groups at the Museum  (Continued from page 2)

travel, and social club. We are stimulated to go paddling even when we may not feel very energetic, knowing that the exercise will be enjoyable and the sights may be memorable. I, personally, often go because the trip is scheduled and I feel some obligation, otherwise I might postpone the paddle to a less busy day. Of course, once I am on the water, I enjoy the company of my fellow club members, the ever-changing scenery and the solitude. We all get a break from everyday life and greatly appreciate it.”

The Yard Arms

The Yard Arms is the most recent affiliate group started last year by garden enthusiast and CMM volunteer Peg Dann. Peg had taken on the challenge of designing and planting the beautiful rain garden at the Corbin Pavilion. After a visit to another museum where she had admired the beautiful grounds, she approached us about putting together a planting plan for CMM — with one caveat: “I can’t do this alone.” So we worked with Peg to start a new club. Members were invited to come to an organizational meeting and sign on to participate. They started designing specific areas on the museum grounds, researching plants (which Director Alves stipulated must be native to Southern Maryland), and planning the spring planting. Everyone who has visited the museum recently has remarked on the improvement: beautiful flowering pots greet visitors as they enter the front doors; the butterfly garden next to the otter habitat is flourishing; both the administration building and the development office have foundation plantings; and the south end of the administration building has a beautiful butterfly garden. Under the sign at the front, another garden grows. When I asked Peg to give me a comment for this article she said: “I'm pretty proud of what we've done. I look around and say, ‘Wow!’ The little things can really make a big difference.”

Got an interest that isn't represented here? Come talk to us about starting a new club. We'll help you find others who have an affinity for your area of interest and get it launched. There is already interest in a purple martin group that may get started this spring.

Coming of Age: The Campaign for the Calvert Marine Museum

An update by Director Doug Alves

In the previous issue of the Bugeye Times, we announced our Coming of Age campaign to raise $500,000 for the renovation of the exhibition building. All of you should have received a notice in the mail about the campaign, and if you are among those who responded, we thank you. I am pleased to announce that the campaign is moving along very well with over $400,000 in pledges so far. Not only do we have 100 percent participation from the museum Board of Governors and senior staff, but many of our staff, volunteers, and museum members have stepped up to show their support by donating generously.

In the fall of 2012, we plan to begin the renovation, which involves the museum lobby, the auditorium, the Museum Store, “Skates and Rays” exhibit, and expanding the mezzanine level to create new program space. The project will be completed by late spring 2013. The private donations we receive are critical in demonstrating the broad base of private support for the museum, which in turn helps leverage critical public funding.

If you have not already made a contribution, please take a minute to consider doing so — every gift is important in helping us reach our goal. We welcome both one-time donations and multiyear pledges. Please go to the museum's website, www.calvertmarinemuseum.com, to learn more.
The members on the museum’s Board of Governors for 2012 have been recommended to the Calvert County Commissioners. Two new members will be Eileen E. Bildman and R. Bruce Newell, replacing Robert S. Currie and Karen Everett who are leaving the board after serving for the past six years. Ms. Bildman is a resident of Hollywood, Maryland, and is a commercial and residential designer with memberships in various community organizations and a concern for Chesapeake waterways. Her expertise in design and fundraising will strengthen the board. Mr. Newell, also a resident of Hollywood, is Manager, Business Development with the Boeing Company, holds memberships on a number of community organizations and boards, and is a longtime museum volunteer. He brings to the museum board an expertise in strategic and financial planning. These new members joined present board members at the annual board dinner on December 7.

Board members continuing in 2012 are Anthony J. Benn, Pat G. Carpenter, Wanda W. DeBord, David E. Butler, David B. Campbell, Mark N. Fisher, Marianne Harms (second term), Donald P. McDougall (second term), Mark A. MacDougall, James R. Tate, Frank E. Taylor (second term), and Nancy Wieck. Ex officio members include County Commissioner Gerald “Jerry” Clark, CMM director C. Douglass Alves Jr., and Capt. Ted Mills, USN, commanding officer of NAS, Pax River, who replaces Capt. Stephen Schmeiser, retiring from the navy, and who served on the board for three years. The Board of Governors also serves as the Board of Directors of the Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc., responsible for fundraising.

Overnight Camp-Ins:
A New Museum Experience

The museum is now offering overnight camp-ins in the exhibition hall. This is a special treat for any group, but is ideal for families, church youth groups, scout groups, or that ultimate birthday party — our museum camp-ins are sure-fire winners.

Choose from five camp-in themes including Pirates on the Patuxent, Fossil Hunters, Mermaids Have a Ball, Outrageous Otters, or Sailing on the High Seas. Each overnight includes an indoor overnight experience, a nocturnal tour of the museum, a special craft activity or game, a theme-appropriate movie, and a pizza party. For more exciting details about Overnight Camp-Ins, visit: www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/Education/Adults and Families.

DISCOVER THE MUSEUM STORE
Special Benefits to Members!

Members receive 20% OFF on the 20th of EVERY MONTH in the Museum Store

Museum members receive a 10 percent discount in the Museum Store every day and 20 percent off on the 20th of each month. Take advantage of these savings.
Bugeye Ball Coming in February

Experience the Bugeye Club at the Bugeye Ball 2012 on February 25, 2012. This is a must-attend evening of dining, dancing, gaming tables, raffles and adventure. The Bugeye Club will be a hopping joint on February 25, so consider yourself in-the-know and make your reservations early. More information will be available in January. Tickets for the Bugeye Ball are $175 per person. Attendance is limited. Sponsorship opportunities ranging from $500-$5,000 are available. Tax-deductible donations in any amount are also welcome.

Please contact Vanessa Gill at 410-326-2042 ext. 18 or gillvl@co.cal.md.us for more details about the event or to discuss sponsorship.

Members’ Yule Party 2011 – Holiday Magic for One and All

On Sunday, December 4, guests enjoyed festive music, face painting, local celebrity magician The Super Magic Man, holiday goodies, discounted shopping in the museum store and visits from the North Pole’s own Santa, as well as Squeak the river otter. Every year we look forward to the Yule Party because it allows museum staff to spend time with our members. Getting to know all of you is one of the true pleasures of the party each year.

This Year, Give the Gift of Membership!

Not just during the holidays, but at any time of the year a CMM membership is perfect gift idea for friends and family. Share the secret you already know — a museum membership offers opportunities for friends and loved ones to discover the remarkable world where fresh and saltwater meet to form the largest estuary in North America. Membership is a gift that will offer lasting memories and first-hand experiences all year long. So don’t fight those large shopping crowds, visit the website at https://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/secure/MembershipDonationForm.html or call one of Santa’s helpers at 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17, 18, or 46, to do your shopping today!

Exclusive MEMBERS-ONLY evening about everything SEA GLASS

Avoid the crowds and join us on Saturday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. for a members-only evening of sea glass sampling. Back by popular demand, Richard LaMotte, recognized sea glass expert and author of Pure Sea Glass, returns to the Sunday Conversations with Chesapeake Authors series on Sunday, January 15, at 2:00 p.m. Enjoy this amazing opportunity to spend an intimate evening with him! Jewelry artists will be on hand with their handcrafted sea glass creations and the museum store will be open with many new sea glass pieces available for purchase. See a sea glass collection that was used to create colorful driftwood framed art by Jay Norris of Owings, Maryland. Bring your favorite sea glass pieces for identification, learn everything you ever wanted to know about these treasures, and plan on doing some shopping!

Season’s Greetings from your Membership Coordinator!

Wow! It seems like just yesterday I was doing the winter article of the 2010 Bugeye Times, and here we are at it again bringing 2011 to a close. It has been a great year getting to know our members and I look forward to meeting many more of you in 2012. If you ever have any questions or concerns about your museum membership, or just want to introduce yourself or say hello, please call me at 410-326-2042 ext. 16 or email me at howardla@co.cal.md.us.

Here’s wishing all of our members and friends a happy and prosperous Holiday Season. Looking forward to seeing you at the museum in 2012!

Lisa Howard, Membership and Events Coordinator
Activities this past fall led off with the annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) events, then with museum programs for special groups, recognition of veterans at the “On Watch” statue, a kick-off for the Capital Campaign (page 3), and closing with the Solomons Christmas Walk (page 10) and the Members’ Yule Party (page 5). It was a typically busy period for the museum.

PRAD attracted nearly 10,000 visitors to the museum on October 8 and 9 for free admission, environmental displays, musical activities, arts and crafts booths, food vendors, and the Sunday parade from Solomons Pier to just beyond CMM.
One of the special program days presented by the education department featured students who are schooled at home. Interpreters presented material to different ages of these students. (Another program developed for visitors with special needs is presented in a separate article on page 8.)

Interpreter Lori Cole (kneeling) used the watermen’s exhibit as a place to describe to one home schooled group the variety of activities in the maritime trades and the history of seafood processing in the area.

A group of younger students visited the marsh walk and listened as Kevin Allor described the various features of the marsh.

An annual wreath-laying ceremony honoring veterans and servicemen who were trained in Solomons was held at the “On Watch” statue at the end of Dowell peninsula on November 6. Veteran and former state senator Bernard Fowler (left) and Capt. Stephen A. Schmeiser, USN, provided the honoring salutes.

Visitors looking at the crafts and in line at the food stalls.

Girl Scout Troop 4545 marching in the Sunday afternoon parade.
The Calvert Marine Museum partnered with Calvert County Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Services to host its first ever Special Needs Night on Friday, November 18. From 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. our doors were open for our special needs population to explore and enjoy all of the magic and wonder the museum has to offer in a supportive and welcoming environment. Our event drew 120 people from Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties who shared an evening with their loved ones without the worry of drawing uncomfortable stares and unwanted attention, or disrupting others, as is a concern for many families with special needs children or adults. Our guests represented members of our community with Autism, Down syndrome, ADD/ADHD, visual and hearing impairments, Pervasive Developmental Delay, physical limitations, and other diagnoses. Some of these medical conditions include sensitivity to loud noises, bright lights, and smells. Others are characterized by impaired communication and social skills or varying developmental delays.

For some, family outings are a rarity because the thought of it is too daunting for parents or caregivers. They may not have the assistance they need, especially if they have other children to look after, or they have special equipment to navigate. Meltdowns occur when sensory overload is brought on by too much activity, loud noises, overwhelming smells, or bright lights. To others, this looks like the child is misbehaving, when in reality they are in extreme discomfort. Some children, specifically with Autism and Asperger’s, have such a limited area of interest that families don’t get to stay anywhere long enough to warrant the effort of visiting somewhere new. Many children with Autism have a propensity to run away, so parents must vigilantly watch their every move. Individuals with Tourette Syndrome make noises and sometimes have physical tics that draw attention. Children with ADHD can be hyperactive and difficult to keep focused, often prompting parents to give chase to bring them back to the group. These are just a few of the challenges parents face whenever they leave the comfort of their home.

The Calvert Marine Museum is a perfect place to capture everyone’s attention and offers an opportunity to interact with all of your senses, while moving through the exhibits at your own pace. With so many fascinating creatures to watch, fossils to touch, interesting facts to read, and sounds to hear, like the Megalodon or the information buttons located in many exhibits, there is something to inspire the imagination and promote learning in everyone. Our goal was to provide this experience to families who don’t always feel welcome or comfortable out in public, and to introduce them to the museum as a wonderful place, close by, to visit whenever they would like.

Doug Alves, the museum’s director, gave highly sought after behind-the-scenes tours to meet the otters, Bubbles and Squeak. This was the evening’s highlight for many of our visitors. A special calming room was made available in case anyone needed to decompress or became overwhelmed, though it didn’t see much use. Our guests were busy looking at fish, jellyfish, terrapins, skates and rays, fossils, playing with the interactive computer screens, marveling over the amphibian naval memorabilia, and learning about maritime history.

While people with Autism can be socially awkward, they often have knowledge in areas of their particular interests that go far beyond their years. One six-year-old boy with Autism asked of an Evinrude marine engine on display, “Is that one military issue?” I could only answer with admiration, “Why, yes it is!” The museum is the perfect place to focus on an area of interest that may not be covered in a classroom setting. The exhibits are there to increase knowledge and fuel the desire to learn, which in turn instills a deep sense of achievement and pride. Museums all over the country are realizing that in some ways they are one of the best places of learning for people with special needs. Without traveling too far, you can experience another culture, learn about space travel, art, or in our case, paleontology, marine biology, and maritime history. Museums offer a unique, hands-on educational experience. The looks of curiosity, fascination, and joy on everyone’s faces were all the proof we needed to know this event was a success and well worth repeating in the future.
In the fall of 2010, thirty-five teachers from Kent, Queen Anne’s, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Calvert, and St. Mary’s counties set out on a three-year journey to improve their teaching skills through the Roots of a Nation Teaching American History initiative. With one year of the program now complete, the entire group came together at the Calvert Marine Museum November 5 and 6 for the second annual conference to learn more about CMM’s focus, the War of 1812, and to review the first year’s progress.

The conference kicked off with an Overview of the War of 1812 presented by Dr. Ralph Eshelman. Bill Pencek, director of the Star Spangled Banner Commission gave an update on all of the events planned as part of the War of 1812 bicentennial. Small group sessions included a presentation on the Archaeology of 1812: Scorpion by head naval archaeologist George Schwartz and a session by 1812 re-enactor Ed Seufert and members of Ship’s Company. Naomi Coquillon, museum educator from the Smithsonian Museum of American History, gave a talk on the Star-Spangled Banner exhibit. The night ended with a performance by David and Ginger Hildebrand and a pub sing led by Myron Peterson and Ship’s Company. The second day was dedicated to process. During that session the program director, Chris Cerino, Sultana Projects vice president, announced that the teachers had shown a 30 percent rise in test scores over the first year of the program.

The Roots of a Nation program includes four partners, the Calvert Marine Museum, Sultana Projects, C. V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience (Washington College), and Center for the Environment and Society (Washington College). Using the Chesapeake Bay as a unifying theme, Roots of a Nation explores four key periods in American History: (1) Native American history and European Settlement, (2) the Revolutionary War Period, (3) the War of 1812, and (4) Slavery and the Civil War.

The War of 1812 Map & Guide available for the next three years the nation will be recognizing the bicentennial of the War of 1812, the armed conflict between the United States and Great Britain that began on June 18, 1812, and ended on February 16, 1815, with the American ratification of the Treaty of Ghent. Although much of the action took place on the Canadian-American border, the British carried out attacks in the Chesapeake Bay region, hoping to draw American forces from the Canadian border and also to bring the war to the nation’s capital. This intent inevitably involved Southern Maryland — no other region of Maryland suffered more raids and skirmishes.

CMM has joined with Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Sotterley Plantation, and the tourism directors of the three Southern Maryland counties to produce a “Travel Map and Guide” to locate these actions in Southern Maryland and to describe their accessibility to visitors. Funding came from the partners and grants from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Heritage Area Authority. Dr. Ralph Eshelman provided the text for the guide and Design Mason Graphics designed the 18-by 23-inch, two-sided map and guide. Copies may be obtained without charge at any of the participating sites or tourist information centers in Southern Maryland. At CMM they can be found in the 1812 exhibit.
Another year has shown the value of volunteers to CMM: they have collectively logged 23,292 volunteer hours for fiscal year 2011, which is equivalent to $519,877 of in-kind service, an impressive figure in a period of tight budgets. Our volunteers help staff respond to the needs of our visitors. Working hand-in-hand with staff, the volunteers keep a tight focus on the mission and goals of the museum, always working to make the experience richer. Thanks to the CMM volunteer family, fiscal year 2011 was another successful year on the books, and the work has continued up to the present. We couldn’t do it without you!

Typical events during which staff and volunteers participated were the Waterside Concert Series, the Solomons Maritime Festival in May, Sharkfest! in July, PRAD in October, and this month the twenty-seventh annual Solomons Christmas Walk on December 2 and 3 (December 2 was also First FREE Friday). Our visitors were entertained with live musical performances by the Cosmic Flute Choir, Patuxent Voices, Stephen Godfrey and Robert Pfeiffer, The Good Stuff, Southern Maryland Sound, and the Patuxent Pearls. Visitors were also treated to lots of homemade cookies, punch, coffee, and hot chocolate. Of course, the celebration would not have been complete without crafts for the kids and appearances from the “Otter” and Santa! If you are not a volunteer now, come join the fun. Call 410-324-2042, extension 19, to sign up or for more information.

At the Solomons Christmas Walk on December 4, volunteer (and incoming board member) Bruce Newell entertained young visitors.

At PRAD in October, volunteers Margaret Moore, Sherma Munger, and Donna Miller served at the Volunteer Bake Sale table.

Several staff changes have not been reported previously — new interpreters are William Loveless and Christine Schmidt. Aletta Brown replaces Joan Nolan as a museum custodian. Aquarist Laura Magdeburger participated in two marathons this year: the Boston Marathon in April, where she set a personal record, and the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington on October 30. For her participation in the latter, Laura appreciated the financial support from museum staff and volunteers for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.