Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and cared for by the Calvert Marine Museum, the Cove Point Lighthouse Historic Site has been lovingly restored and repurposed so that it can now be enjoyed by all for years to come. The active lighthouse and the keepers’ home sit on a seven-acre point of land in one of the narrowest points of the Chesapeake Bay. It was established in 1828, making it the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in Maryland and the fifth oldest existing lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. Structures on the property include: the forty-foot-high brick light tower, dating to 1828; a keeper’s house, originally built in the same year, but enlarged in 1925 to make it a duplex for two keepers and their families; the 1901 fog bell building, now used as a mini-theatre for public orientations; a two-bedroom cottage built in 1950; and a brick building housing the Coast Guard’s radio transmitter and emergency diesel generator, also dating from 1950. The Coast Guard has a presence on the site in order to maintain and operate the light itself, which remains under their jurisdiction.

When the Coast Guard turned over the lighthouse in 2000, the museum’s first line of business was to decide what to do with the site. Many ideas had been discussed, but the one at the top of the list was to convert it to a Bed & Breakfast. Economics Research Associates (ERA), a marketing company, was hired to do a survey and feasibility study on the best use of the site and the results were surprising. Rather than supporting our plan for a B&B, the study showed that the best use for the site would be as a weekly vacation rental since there are so few available in Southern Maryland. It also proved to be the most cost-effective use and the least intrusive upon the private community of Cove Point. By having weekly visitors rather than nightly visitors the turnover is reduced, traffic through the community is controlled, and it is easier to manage. As a weekly rental it is also more likely to attract families and lighthouse enthusiasts who would appreciate the rare opportunity to stay in such a place. It was always a priority to develop a use compatible with the museum’s commitment to keep the site open to the public during the summer months. We believe this will both meet that goal and provide a very unique opportunity through the weekly rental.

But before any of these plans could go into effect, much work needed to be done. The seawall was reinforced immediately with funding from the state. A study showed that paint and shotcrete on the lighthouse tower was “suffocating” the bricks, causing them to deteriorate and it needed to be removed and the interior bricks repointed. The shingle roof on the keepers’ house needed to be replaced with a stable and more historically correct product, and of course the interior needed serious upgrading. So in 2002, the museum began a ten-year fundraising initiative that brought in nearly $750,000 through grants, public donations, special

Continued on page 2
A Unique Vacation Home Opens This Summer (Continued from page 1)

A project of this magnitude could not have been possible without the support of many in this community. Grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Preservation Maryland, Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, and France Merrick Foundation laid the foundation of funding. The Calvert County Government, local community, and supporters of the Calvert Marine Museum’s Annual Appeal and Bugeye Ball matched the grant funding. Tricon Construction, Thos. Somerville, Owens Corning, Ann Crain Art, Woodburn’s Custom Cabinets, HH Gregg, Jay Reid, USG, Tom Benson, 84 Lumber, MI Windows, and Patuxent Architects generously topped off the project by donating their time, skills, and products, to ensure this site is secured for another 200 years. But it was the dedication and oversight of every detail from beginning to end by our curator of maritime history, Richard Dodds, that made this dream a reality.

Rentals of the Keepers’ House will begin in September, and proceeds from this beautiful rental site will support the Calvert Marine Museum and a lighthouse endowment set up for its continued care. To be one of the first to stay in this remarkable site visit www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or call 410-326-2042 for more information.

Calvert Marine Museum
P.O. Box 97
Solomons, MD 20688-0097
410-326-2042
www.calvertmarinemuseum.com

Layout by Stuller Designs
Fans “Got Their Rock On” with Bret Michaels

Great weather and music greeted the fans that attended the May 27 concert with Bret Michaels, pop culture icon and lead singer of the band Poison. Michaels performed live at the museum’s PNC Waterside Pavilion to open the 2012 Waterside Music Series. Michaels played his own hits as well as many Poison favorites. Everyone was on their feet the entire concert and had “Nothin’ But a Good Time!” Special guests included local band One Louder, performing 80s rock covers, and regional favorite Driven Livid.

BOSTON to Appear Live at CMM’s PNC Waterside Pavilion

Enjoy a night of live music at the Calvert Marine Museum, when American rock band BOSTON appears on the PNC Waterside Pavilion on Thursday, August 16. BOSTON achieved its most notable success during the 70s and 80s but continues to be a mainstay on classic rock playlists today. The band has sold over 31 million albums in the U.S., with hits like, “More Than a Feeling”, “Amanda”, “Rock and Roll Band,” and “Don’t Look Back”. This is sure to be a great concert; one you will not want to miss! Tickets are on sale now for $40 & $50, and can be purchased by calling 1-800-787-9454, or by visiting www.calvertmarinemuseum.com. Proceeds from this concert will support the preservation and education efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum.

CHEAP TRICK & BLONDIE CMM’s Third Summer Concert

Prince Frederick Ford/Dodge are proud to present CHEAP TRICK & BLONDIE on the PNC Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Ticket holders will enjoy over two hours of classic rock hits. The evening will start out with Cheap Trick singing hits like I Want You To Want Me, The Flame, and Dream Police. Then we’ll give you a minute to catch your breath before Blondie hits the stage singing songs you know all the words to, like Call Me, Heart of Glass, The Tide is High, and Dreaming. Mark your calendars, call your friends and watch the website. More information will be coming soon!

Calvert Marine Museum Wins Numerous Awards at the “Free State’s Finest Party”

The Calvert Marine Museum was honored in the 2nd Annual Free State’s Finest readers’ poll. More than 3,200 readers of Maryland Life magazine weighed in to name what is truly superlative across the state. For the Southern Maryland Region the Calvert Marine Museum was recognized as the Best Museum, the Best Museum Store, and the Best Concert Venue. We are humbled that so many people love our one-of-a-kind museum in Southern Maryland. The museum and other Southern Maryland award winners were celebrated March 29 at a reception held at the museum and put on by Maryland Life. Congratulations to ALL the winners across the Free State.

A Big THANK YOU to Our Waterside Sponsors

Calvert Marine Museum Society’s outdoor concerts raise much-needed funds for the museum. These fundraising events have been made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors: Prince Frederick Ford/Dodge, PNC Bank, Bozick Distributors, Inc., Papa John’s Pizza, The McNelis Group, LLC, Jay Worch Electric, Quality Built Homes, All American Harley-Davidson, Roy Rogers, Holiday Inn Solomons, COMCAST, MetroCast, Bay Weekly, Quick Connections, Somar Communications, DirectMail.com, Isaac’s Restaurant, United Rentals, and Southern Maryland Newspapers.
n October 2011, at the kick-off event for our Coming of Age capital campaign we announced the ambitious goal of raising $500,000 for an exciting renovation project. The intervening eight months have been a whirlwind of activity. As the campaign gained momentum, the museum’s board voted to increase our goal to $750,000. All of the board members, senior staff, and many CMM staffers, members, volunteers, and business partners stepped up to meet the challenge, making multi-year pledges to help us reach this goal. The official campaign ends June 30. As of this writing (June 13), we have raised over $670,000 in donations and pledges, with a number of requests pending. All other funding is in place and we are on our way!

From the beginning the project has exemplified thoughtful, inclusive planning to meet the goals laid out in the 2008 CMM master plan. The renovation of the exhibition building will maximize the use of our existing facility, triple educational programming space, and provide greater flexibility to respond to community needs for program, meeting, and event space. Not only will the renovations greatly enhance our ability to fulfill the museum’s educational mission, but they will also enhance our ability to raise critical operating funds to maintain the museum as a thriving and dynamic part of the community.

The community has been a huge part of the success of this campaign. Never has a county project attracted this level of private financial support, matching dollar for dollar the county budget allocation. It is particularly heartening to see how the volunteers have stepped up both as individuals, and collectively through donations from the clubs. The Volunteer Council, Patuxent Small Craft Guild, Fossil Club, and Canoe and Kayak Club have all supported the capital campaign — what a remarkable tribute. Our business partners have also made donations, joining local and state government, members and friends to show their commitment to this institution.

The formal capital campaign has officially ended with great success, due in large part to the extraordinary efforts of our Board of Directors under the direction of Don McDougall, but there is a great deal more work to do. As staff gets down to the business of planning operations during a construction project, the board will continue to seek support to augment county funding for the furnishings and equipment needed to outfit our new environmental science lab and technology lab; state-of-the-art technology equipment for the renovated auditorium, our “Great Hall;” and fittings for the museum store. We’re on a roll, and we know we can count on you to be right there with us, every step of the way. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
Chesapeake Bay watermen are people who make their living harvesting the bay’s finfish, shellfish, eels, and crabs. Independent and self-employed, they own their boats and choose their catch. Most watermen these days are part-time, augmenting the unpredictable catch with day jobs. Traditionally, watermen have also been farmers, boat builders, and carpenters, whatever it took to make ends meet. It’s a tough, physically demanding way of life, and it’s been going on for hundreds of years. But today, it is a culture in crisis with very few people attempting to make a living from harvesting the once rich waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The long history of watermen in Maryland has significantly influenced our culture and our landscape. Imagine Maryland without steamed crabs and crab cakes, broiled rockfish, or oysters right from the river. What would make this region distinctive without working watermen docks bustling with energy? Without a packing house or a picking shed, or a shedding float? Without the work boats hauling up their crab pots or running trot lines? Watermen have helped define Maryland; they are part of who we are.

In his book Islands in a River (2009) Richard Dodds, curator of maritime history at CMM, documents the decline of the local watermen that serves as a microcosm for what happened all over the Chesapeake Bay. While the decline in fisheries had been in progress since the 1800s, during and after World War II change began to accelerate. Watermen were drafted, drawn into more lucrative war-time jobs, or restricted by the military from working the waters. Following the war, exploding development contributed to the degradation in water quality. Discharge from sewage treatment plants and sediment loading from development increased precipitously. This resulted in a dramatic decrease in submerged aquatic vegetation that adversely affected marine life. Natural disasters exacerbated this problem, dumping devastating amounts of sediment into the bay and rivers and smothering oyster beds, while disease decimated the oyster population. Compounding all of this was the increasingly sophisticated equipment used by the watermen to dredge ever smaller harvests from the depleted waters. Thus disease, overharvesting, and the deterioration in water quality have depleted all of the major commercial fisheries to the point that it is no longer possible to make a living as a waterman.

As watermen and seafood packing houses have gone out of business, museums frequently became the recipients of the gear, equipment, boats, or buildings that were no longer needed. Paula Johnson, former CMM curator for maritime history, talked about the loss of this traditional industry in her book Working the Water: “Because many people can no longer make a living as harvesters or processors of local oysters, crabs, clams, or fish, they are getting out of the business, retiring, or finding other work to do … The depth and breadth — the very existence — of our collection reflects this trend.” (Johnson, p. xvii) It is a weighty responsibility, to collect, preserve, and interpret these artifacts of history so that they capture this iconic part of our heritage. Which brings us, as institutions that preserve culture, to the question, do we have a larger responsibility to find avenues to help the watermen who are still active to stay on the water? Can museums help sustain culture as well as documenting it? Can we both celebrate and support the
CHESAPEAKE WATERMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT (Continued from page 5)

watermen? The April issue of Maryland Life magazine listed eleven at-risk sites worth saving, and in a departure from the norm, Maryland Watermen — a population rather than a site — were listed. In the article Michael Schultz of the Chesapeake Conservancy states: “Watermen’s stories working waterfronts, boats, and seasonal rhythms are a part of Maryland’s fabric. It’s hard to imagine a Chesapeake without watermen, but it could happen.” (Maryland Life, April 2012, p. 69)

Starting in September, the Calvert Marine Museum will focus on the watermen of the Chesapeake Bay in a unique partnership with the Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center (AMG). This fall both CMM and AMG are planning exhibits featuring Chesapeake Watermen. From this serendipitous coincidence grew the idea of a much broader focus on a culture in crisis — which the lifestyle and livelihood of the Chesapeake Waterman surely is.

Annmarie Garden’s show — The Art of the Watermen — will open August 17 and run through February 2013. It features twenty-three paintings by Marc Castelli, on loan from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael’s, Maryland. Castelli paints in watercolor on paper, working from photographs that he takes himself. The Calvert Marine Museum’s show comes from The Mariners’ Museum in Newport News. Entitled Endangered Species: Watermen of the Chesapeake, the exhibit celebrates the culture of the watermen while lamenting their seeming demise. The exhibit features the black-and-white photography of Norfolk’s Glen McClure. The photographs are integrated with text describing the history of the fishers, crabbers, and oystermen, and those who pack and export seafood. The exhibit will open September 14 and remain on display through December 2012.

You are invited to come and see these exhibits and participate in one of the many activities planning at both sites during this period. In addition to those noted here, the museum is featuring watermen during our “Waterman for a Day” programs at the Lore Oyster House (see calendar for details). The Calvert County Watermen will collectively serve as the parade marshal during the Patuxent River Appreciation Days parade on Sunday, October 7. We look forward to seeing you this fall.

A FOCUS ON CHESAPEAKE WATERMEN

August 2012 – February 2013
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
Calvert Marine Museum

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 17 Annmarie After Hours
Opening of Marc Castelli: The Art of the Waterman
Gallery Talk with Mr. Castelli, cash bar
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, September 14, CMM Exhibit Gallery
Opening Reception for Endangered Species: Chesapeake Watermen
Photographs by Glen McClure with gallery talk by Glen McClure
Calvert Marine Museum, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

October – November
AMG Artist in Residence — Public art program
Artist will explore issues associated with oyster harvesting/preservation
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center

Friday, October 5, State of the River Summit
Maryland Watermen: A Culture in Crisis
With Mike Vlahovich of the Cultural Heritage Trust;
Tom Horton, author; Paula Johnson, curator at the Smithsonian Museum of American History
Calvert Marine Museum, auditorium, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 17
Comparative Gallery Talks (at both CMM and AMG)
Pete Lesher, Curator of Exhibits, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, will discuss the Endangered Species: Chesapeake Watermen photography exhibit at CMM from 1:30 – 2:30, followed by coffee and chocolate. The group will reconvene at Annmarie Garden for a talk on Marc Castelli: The Art of the Waterman from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., followed by wine and cheese. Space is limited, call for reservations: 410-326-2042, ext. 41. Fee is $10 per person.

Saturday, February 9, 2013
Foodways — Talk and demonstration
Michael Twitty, well known food historian, presents
Chesapeake Bay Foodways from an African American Perspective.
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
2012 Maritime Performance Series Returns to CMM

For the third consecutive summer the museum is hosting the Maritime Performance Series with support from the Solomons Holiday Inn. Each year CMM joins other maritime museums around the bay to bring outstanding traditional musicians to the region. Jane Meneely, an accomplished musician in her own right, organizes bookings that guarantee multiple performances at a competitive rate, making the journey from the west coast, the Great Lakes, or other regions mutually beneficial to both the musicians and the performance venues. For lovers of acoustic traditional music, this series is a balm for the soul.

Performances take place in the exhibition building auditorium starting at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $5 and sold only at the door, cash or check, the goal being simply to keep the music coming. Starting at 6:00 p.m. wine, beer, and “lite bites” prepared by Lotus Kitchen will be available for sale. It’s a perfect outing for a summer evening.

This summer the series features three concerts showcasing accomplished musicians performing in a variety of traditional styles. In June, Yankee Frolics kicked off the series with Songs and Tunes from the War of 1812 Era featuring Judy Cook, Peter Brice, and Lisa Null. On Friday, July 20, Pint & Dale will take the stage. William Pint and Felicia Dale hale from Seattle and have boundless enthusiasm for creating music and sharing it with their audience. With guitar, hurdy-gurdy, mandolin, violin, whistles, harmony, joy and pure energy Pint and Dale bring listeners an insight into another age, offering humor and drama in equal share. They have produced ten recordings together, as well as recording with other artists. Drawing on several cultures, Pint and Dale perform traditional and modern music and songs reflecting the immense vitality of those who live and work on the sea.

On Friday, August 24, we are delighted to welcome John Cronin and Mac Walter back to the museum. Back by popular demand, this will be their third performance on the CMM stage where they never fail to delight their audience. First cousins who started playing together as teenagers, John Cronin and Mac Walter bring a combined acoustic fingerstyle virtuosity that is amazing to see. Both are talented in their own right but when they play together, the synergy and rich harmonies they project always leave an audience on their feet and wanting more. John's boisterous folksy enthusiasm is infectious and a perfect foil for Mac’s golden tones. This is one you won’t want to miss.

(John Cronin and Mac Walter) 

GRANTS

Recent grants will help support CMM programs, as well as museum club activities that benefit CMM.

The Maryland Humanities Council awarded $2,500 for the education department’s distance learning programs. Distance learning offers teachers anywhere in the country the opportunity to bring museum programming into their classrooms. Using point-to-point video conferencing technology via the internet, it is the next best thing to actually visiting the museum!

H&R Block sponsored a program for non-profits during tax season with the hope of bringing in new clients and to help organizations raise money. We participated with the intent to raise money to benefit our “Support the Troops” program.

Generously, H&R Block recently sent a check for $1,000. The Yard Arms Club received $1,000 from The Chaney Beautification Fund, a Field of Interest Fund with the Community Foundation of Charles County to build compost bins on the museum grounds. These bins will demonstrate and provide environmental educational programming about the “Art of Composting.”

The new Purple Martin Club, established in early spring, was awarded $500 from the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc., and $1,000 from PRAD, Inc. This money assisted with the purchase of purple martin houses and establishment of a colony at the museum. The club will help educate visitors about these remarkable birds and what they bring to the environment.

Lastly, the Walmart Foundation takes pride in supporting the local community. Their recent support of $500 will assist with adding educational programming to our website.

Nan Suydam and Judy Okay, Yard Arms Club representatives, are pictured at the left with other recipients of The Chaney Beautification Fund grant, a component fund of the Community Foundation of Charles County.
NEW CURATOR OF ESTUARINE BIOLOGY
By Paul L. Berry

CMM has a new curator of estuarine biology, responsible for that department of the museum. David E. Moyer reported on May 7 to take over the position that was vacated by Ken Kaumeyer, whose retirement was reported in the spring issue. Although not sporting the distinctive mustache of his predecessor, Dave does have a beard and a big smile.

Dave, with Tasha — his bride of two months — and two dogs, drove east in a rental truck from his former position with the Oregon Zoo in Portland where he was responsible for the life support and water quality programs. Coming to Solomons was actually a return to the mid-Atlantic region where he grew up and went to school. As he put it “I had been looking for an opportunity to return east.” A native of Virginia, his undergraduate education was completed in 1996 at the Old Dominion University in Norfolk, followed by various training programs in the organization and management of aquatic systems and facilities. Dave’s work experience has prepared him for the present position, involving laboratories and aquariums in Virginia, South Carolina, and Mississippi before moving to the Oregon Zoo. For fourteen years he has worked in institutions accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and as a member of that organization he has served on its Animal Welfare Committee and has participated in three accreditations/reaccreditations.

After only a few weeks at CMM, Dave is eager to build on what has been done here over the past years by a dedicated staff. He has already developed a rapport with the two otters, who responded when he beckoned to them at the front of the otter exhibit. Beyond that, Dave did express a feeling that some of the exhibits could use a bit of brightening to make them more interesting to visitors. Cooperation with other departments of CMM is high on his agenda. I asked him about the ongoing efforts at conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, and he expressed the thought that our approach to visitors — especially in the invasive species exhibit — already helps in bringing bay issues to the attention of the public. Dave seems well aware that his department can have a role in this area, and he looks forward to cooperating with other organizations similarly involved.

Outside of work, Dave plans an active life in Southern Maryland, enjoying the advantages of Solomons with its access to recreational areas for sports and water-related activities of canoeing and fishing. He will also find pleasure in introducing his mid- and far-west wife to the Mid-Atlantic area.

OTHER STAFF NEWS

Exhibits graphics technician Rachel Reese was honored by the County Commissioners with an award as the Calvert County Employee of the Month for April 2012.

Other new staff members this spring and summer include Jennifer Emmart, an education intern; Page Fischer, fossil preparation intern; Garret Jones, interpreter (education department); Dylan Kletter, estuarine biology intern; and Justin Rodgers, grounds maintenance worker. Michael Godfrey, who works in the exhibits department, was married in early June.
OTHER ACTIVITIES
SPRING 2012

Spring 2012 was busy with educational and other public events, several of which are described in separate items in this issue — the Solomons Maritime Festival, a concert, and the volunteer recognition event. During the first week in April — spring break for the schools — there was an activity each day. There was also a Home School Day, a Special Needs Night, and the First FREE Fridays in May and June. Several of these events are shown in the following photos.

CMM hosted a visit of the tall ship Kalmar Nyckel on June 22 to 24. Berthed at the Waterman’s Wharf on Solomons Island, visitors were offered several sailing events as well as free tours. The Nyckel is a re-creation of a 17th century Dutch-built merchant ship that brought Swedish, Finnish, Danish, and Dutch colonists to Delaware where the ship has its permanent homeport in Wilmington.

Visitors lined up to make fishing poles during a spring break event on April 4.

The June 1 First FREE Friday visitors enjoyed the music of Eric Skow (left) and Bob Pfeiffer.

The new museum barge display, named Volunteer, was dedicated formally on May 4, prior to the Solomons Maritime Festival weekend. The barge was designed and built by the members of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild.
On Saturday, May 5, the Calvert Marine Museum was alive with appropriately traditional sounds during the annual Solomons Maritime Festival. The distinctive putt-putt-putt of old marine engines punctuated the rhythms of country music, the tap-tap-tap of children hammering their toy boats together, and the mournful horn of the historic tugboat moored in the boat basin. It is an event for the senses: sights, textures, smells, and sounds that recall a simpler time.

Over 1,500 people came to enjoy a picture-perfect day at the museum. Highlights included the food tent where crab picking, ham stuffing, and oyster shucking were demonstrated, along with lessons in how to cook and eat soft crabs and crab cakes. In the boat basin visitors rowed, sailed radio-controlled model boats, or jumped aboard the Wm. B. Tennison for a free boat ride, sponsored by the Calvert County Board of Commissioners. Captain Rachel Dean and her merry crew showed fascinated visitors the fishing equipment aboard their commercial work boat, Roughwater, and showed fascinated visitors a peeler crab in the process of shedding its shell, eels and crabs caught in traps, and the deft knotting required to knit fishing nets.

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild and Solomons Island Model Boat Club members were on hand to help out with the festivities. The guild members ran the ever popular toy boatbuilding activity and a successful marine flea market while the model boat club invited visitors to try their hand at the radio-controlled sailboats. Carving demonstrations and home crafts were also going on throughout the day.

A core event of this festival is the Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show, which attracts owners from across the country with their lovingly restored antique boats and engines. This year thirty-nine participants staked out the front lawn and parking lot with their vintage motor boats, racing boats, and restored Evinrude engines.

The Solomons Maritime Festival epitomizes what the Calvert Marine Museum is all about — celebrating our maritime heritage. The event would not be possible without the help of dozens of our dedicated volunteers and the generous support of the local businesses and organizations, including: The Calvert Watermen’s Association, Chesapeake Energy Services, DirectMail.com, Four Winds Café, Harbor Island Marina, Inc., Holiday Inn Solomons, McCready Boatyard, Papa John’s, Patuxent Small Craft Guild, Spring Cove marina, Washburn’s Boat Yard, and Zahniser’s Yachting Center. Thank you!
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

Another Glamorous Event to Honor Volunteers

On April 18, the staff of the museum honored the CMM volunteers at the annual “Golden Otter” awards ceremony. While the weather was a bit “iffy” nixing the literal red carpet for our starring cast of volunteers, they were still given the celebrity treatment they so richly deserve. Director Doug Alves hosted the show with the help of his assistant Cindy Smith, both were dressed to the nines. There was one scary moment when “the Otter”, played by Lori Cole, almost fainted when the number of volunteer hours logged in 2011 was revealed to the audience. Luckily, “the Otter” was able to make a full recovery in time to hand out the “Golden Otter” award to the Volunteer of the Year for 2011.

Doug Alves was eager to report that a record breaking 27,348 hours were logged in 2011, which equates to $610,407 of in-kind service — WOW! The president of the CMM Board of Governors, Don McDougall, took time to thank the volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication to the museum. The vice president of the Board of County Commissioners, Pat Nutter, was also on hand to thank the volunteers on behalf of the entire board and let them know how much he enjoys visiting the museum. Each department described the importance of the volunteers to their particular area and many special acknowledgments and awards were given to some of their volunteers. The following were recognized for service exceeding one hundred hours in 2011: Janet Addiss, Len Addiss, Ed Bahniuk, Barbara Barrett, Paul Berry, Debbie Carlson, Sherry Carter, Harry Childers, Ned Clarke, Margaret Clarke, Christa Conant, Jon Dann, Peg Dann, Linda Densmore, Sylvia Dry, Karl Garland, Butch Garren, Karen Garren, Rita Gerred, Ed Gies, Althea Green, Bob Hall, Anne Harrison, Joan Hatfield, Dan Hellebower, Mary Hellebower, Walt Johns, Ed Kobrinski, Chuck Kohls, Mary Krauss, Bill Lake, Judy Larsen, Al Lavish, Linda McCullagh, Ilse Metz, Shirley Mihursky, Herb Moore, Margaret Moore, Sherna Munger, Rose Nelson, Joseph O’Brien, Tony Pettit, Robert Pfeiffer, Bob Platt, Pam Platt, Ed Richard, Al Rondina, Mary Schafer, Ellis “Ski” Seidenstricker, Rosemary Staley, Margaret Stamper, Al Suydam, Nan Suydam, Teddie Watts, Elnora Wease, Jim Wilson, Bill Wright, Sandy Younger, Tom Younger, and Kim Zabiegalski. Volunteers reaching new thousand-hour (total hours) milestones were: 1,000 hours — Karen Garren, Ed Gies, Chuck Kohls, and Elnora Wease; 2,000 hours — Len Addiss, Harry Childers, and Darryl Hansen; 2,500 hours — Janet Addiss, Jon Dann, Linda Densmore, and Butch Garren; 3,000 hours — Christa Conant and Ilse Metz; 4,000 hours — Margaret Stamper; 5,000 hours — Jim Wilson; 6,000 hours — Bob Hall; 7,000 hours — Sandy Younger; 8,000 hours — Tom Younger; 14,000 hours — Bill Lake; and 25,000 hours — Paul Berry.

The Group Achievement Award for 2011 was given to CMM’s gardening committee, the “Yard Arms”: Peg Dann, Jon Dann, Kathy Ellwood, Dave Gellerson, Peggy Gellerson, Nettie Harold, Norma Imerhein, Jane Kostenko, Judy Larsen, Bernice Lawson, Eileen LeForge, May Jo Ludvigson, Eileen McVey, Jim McVey, Judy Okay, Carole Purcell, Mary Ellen Steveling, Al Suydam, Nan Suydam, and Avis Vesely.

The final award of the evening, the “Golden Otter,” was given out for the Volunteer of the Year 2011 — the envelope please — and the winner was Sylvia Dry for her outstanding volunteer work throughout the year. Sylvia received the “Golden Otter” statue, a plaque, and a beautiful necklace donated by Maertens Fine Jewelry and Gifts. This concluded the formal ceremony, and with many thanks the volunteers were asked to retire to the lobby where they were treated to a buffet dinner.