On June 23 the museum opens a new exhibit, “Thrills and Spills — The Golden Era of Powerboat Racing in Southern Maryland,” which will stay up through the end of 2014. When our visitors come to see the exhibit, they will only see the finished product; so what is the story behind this story?

The exhibit had its genesis over three years ago in a series of planning meetings among senior staff to discuss the future exhibit schedule. Already under way were changes and improvements to the long-term displays in the first floor Maritime Gallery. The last phase of this project will focus on updating the area which interprets the story of the post-World War II years. A major element of this story is the growth of recreational boating and fishing. It made sense to do a feature exhibit on the powerboat racing era that could ultimately support the updated permanent exhibit.

Exhibits start with research and the research begins by gathering together what is already in the archives and collection. In this case it was quickly apparent that we had little documentation on the Southern Maryland Boat Club part of the story. One of the first steps was to comb the local newspapers for any references to the races. We were fortunate that the news media gave good coverage to the sport, particularly in its heyday. In March 2010, staff started to interview former racers or their descendants while at the same time copying photographs, movie footage, and other memorabilia. Note was also made of trophies, jackets, and other objects for possible use in the exhibit. The accumulated documentation is perhaps the most important result of the project as it will become a permanent part of the museum’s archive. Much of this information was used in a new booklet, with the same title as the exhibit, which will be available through the Museum Store. The publication will go into the subject in more depth than is possible in an exhibit.

So for our members, here is a sneak preview of what you will learn about when you come to see “Thrills and Spills.” In Southern Maryland, the story really begins in 1937 when the newly formed Solomons Island Yacht Club held its first regatta, an annual event that continued until 1965, with the exception of the four war years. The regatta was an American Power Boat Association (APBA)-sanctioned event that attracted top inboard and outboard boats and drivers from across the east coast as they competed for points and trophies. The regatta became one of the biggest sporting and social events in Calvert County, attracting thousands of spectators over two action-packed days. The years following World War II were also the golden era of unsanctioned or “wildcat” racing in Southern Maryland, particularly in St. Mary’s County. These informal races, in
The Golden Era of Powerboat Racing in Southern Maryland (Continued from page 1)

turn, had their origins in the long tradition of workboat racing on Sunday afternoons, where naturally competitive watermen took on their neighbors in friendly rivalry. Early wildcat races usually had at least one class for workboats, although in later years purpose-built race boats were the norm. Wildcat racing appealed to the man of average means, where the commonly used stock boats and engines could also be used to take the family fishing on Saturday.

Nationwide, stock marathon races became very popular in the 1950s. In Southern Maryland the Patuxent River Marathon was started in 1950 by the Solomons Island Outboard Club, sponsored by the Solomons Island Yacht Club. The first marathon, a forty-mile test of endurance from Solomons to Benedict and back, featured fifty-three starters in six classes. The annual marathon lasted until 1957, although later under the auspices of the Calvert Volunteer Rescue Squad. The marathon was an APBA-sanctioned event and attracted drivers from outside the region. At the time, there were only a few local APBA members, including the museum’s long-time model-maker and carver, LeRoy “Pepper” Langley.

While the racing scene in Calvert County was dominated by APBA-sanctioned events, wildcat racing was gaining popularity in nearby St. Mary’s. In the early 1950s, powerboat races were also one of the main attractions at the annual St. Mary’s County Fishing Derbies. Races were held at a number of waterside businesses as a means of attracting customers. One of the first venues was the waterside bar on Whites Neck Creek operated by Walter R. Blair Sr., that later became Capt. Sam’s Crab House in 1957. However, it was Swann’s Pier at Piney Point that became the longest serving venue. The sport became more organized with the formation of the St. Mary’s County Boat Club in 1957. In 1959 the club’s name was changed to the St. Mary’s Boat Club, and the same year it brought the races to Charles County, at Benedict Pier. In 1960 the name was changed again, this time to the Southern Maryland Boat Club (SMBC) to reflect the expanding membership outside St. Mary’s County. The year 1960 also saw the club’s first endurance marathon — the last race of the season.

SMBC continued to host mainly wildcat races until 1970 when the majority of its membership voted to hold only APBA-sanctioned races. This was prompted by the growth of the Outboard Pleasure Craft (later renamed Outboard Performance Craft) or OPC class, and the rapid spread of fiberglass boats. SMBC became a powerhouse in OPC racing in the mid-Atlantic region and members won a number of regional and national awards.

But the heady days couldn’t last. Boats and engines were becoming increasingly more sophisticated and expensive. APBA races also attracted top drivers from outside the region, competing for points. These included racers from the Washington, D.C.-based Speedmasters Racing Team, with its largely African-American membership. Other races were corporate sponsored, and local drivers found it increasingly difficult to compete with these well-financed teams. In 1979 SMBC held its last three races, all at Swann’s Pier, effectively bringing to an end the golden era of powerboat racing in Southern Maryland.

Apart from the documentation, exhibit, and publication goals that were
originally envisaged, we found through our interviews with former racers that a reunion was an idea often discussed but never realized. What an opportunity! We formed a reunion committee to plan the event composed of former SMBC members — Rayner Blair, Bill Edwards, Mary Fones, Dora Kirby, and Beale Tilton — together with museum staff. The reunion will be held in conjunction with the exhibit opening and will be a unique occasion for CMM. You can bet the stories will get taller as the night goes on.

The exhibit itself also marks a milestone, of sorts. It is the first time a fiberglass boat has appeared in the Maritime Gallery, in this case a 1972-built pickle-fork, tunnel hull race boat named Miss Horizontal Hold II. The boat was built by E & T Marine, a small company operating out of Town Creek, across the Patuxent River from Solomons, which completed a total of thirty-six race boats between 1966 and 1973.

To learn more about E & T and the golden era of powerboat racing, visit the exhibit and take home the book, Thrills and Spills — The Golden Era of Powerboat Racing in Southern Maryland, by Robert Hurry and Richard Dodds.
The education department has two new part-time interpreters. Kate Dunhart, a native of St. Mary’s County, brings a wealth of experience in informal education. She has a degree in biology, with a minor in ecology and environmental science, and has worked as a costumed interpreter at Historic St. Mary’s City and an exhibit guide at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. She has worked in coastal ecology on three coasts in Maine, Washington State, and Florida. Hanna Griscom is equally well qualified with a bachelor’s degree in wildlife biology and a masters in hydrology. Hanna is bilingual, and has taught English as a second language in Panama City and worked as a nature guide with Ecotours de Panama. She also worked for The Nature Conservancy in Colorado monitoring rivers and part-time at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory studying aquatic ecosystems. We are pleased to have Jen Emmart returning as our summer intern for the second year. Jen will be a junior at Salisbury University next year majoring in environmental science.

The paleontology department will mentor three interns this summer. Mariah Rugel is an anthropology student at St. Mary’s College of Maryland going into her senior year, with an interest in cultural anthropology. She will be working in the paleontology collections learning all aspects of collections management and curation. Donald Morgan III will be a senior at Towson University next fall. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree in biology, he would like to continue in the field of vertebrate paleontology. This summer, he will be immersed in dolphin anatomy and all the happenings in our department. Jess Howard is a biology major at the University of Maryland, with an interest in marine biology, and will be a senior this fall. This summer she is working on a juvenile baleen whale skull and will be involved in all of our departmental activities.

The museum’s business manager, Lea Ann Smiley, is also leaving on June 30. A staff member since 2008, Lea Ann is moving to a new position within the county government as the business manager for the Water and Sewer and Solid Waste Division. Lea Ann came to the museum from the county finance department, and as much as we hate to lose her financial acumen, “can-do” attitude, and problem-solving skills, we’re glad she is not going far. At the last Board of Governor’s meeting, Lea Ann was recognized by the board for “…a job well done, and for continuing to provide excellent contributions and support to the Calvert Marine Museum Society.” She has been a terrific member of the administration team for the past five years and we wish her every success in her new endeavor.
EDUCATION UPDATE

By Sherrod Sturrock

The education department is jumping as the end of school nears. During the months of March, April, and May we have held 127 programs ranging from pre-school drop-in sessions to Road Scholar programs for seniors, serving a total of 4,126 individuals. That does not include our special events like the Solomons Maritime Festival, Kite Day, Spring Break programs, Otter Day, or Home School Day that brought in another 2,306 guests. We are excited that our Outreach Programs are being so well received, thanks in part to a grant from PNC Bank that supported the development of programs for pre-school audiences, and another mini-grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area to purchase materials to get the program started.

Grant funding has fueled a number of successful programs during this school year. In addition to supporting outreach, PNC has also bolstered our efforts to expand early education programming. Washington Gas, another strong supporter of education, has seeded our Fossil Fuel Fund, which provides a subsidy for transportation — the single largest cost associated with bringing students to the museum. The Maryland Humanities Council has supported distance learning programs to schools across the state, bringing us into schools that are too far away for a traditional fieldtrip. And we are finishing up a program sponsored by Dominion that supported the development of locally based, cross curricular environmental lesson plans using the Tom Wisner archive as a resource. Without these business partners, we would not be able to reach as many students or do the high quality of programming the museum has become known for.

In May, we reopened our off-site facilities at the Cove Point Lighthouse and Lore Oyster House and both are offering something new. At Cove Point, we were able to renovate the cottage through a grant from the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust so that it can be used as a Visitor/Education Center. Eventually all of the informational panels will be redone and moved inside. This space will allow fossil field programs and our fossil camp an indoor space for part of the program. At the Lore Oyster House, the skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s has taken up residence. We are very excited about expanding our field-based environmental programming using this as the base for our field lab.

AN UPDATE ON CMM CLUBS

By Sherrod Sturrock

The Fossil Club awarded the first Sandy Roberts Scholarship to Alison Treglia, a senior at Great Mills High School who plans to major in Environmental Studies at the University of Delaware. The scholarship was described in the spring 2013 issue of the Bug eye Times (page 7).

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild has been busy as usual. The members completed six more picnic tables, bringing the total to twelve to replace the old ones. On May 25, they hosted four catboats in the basin here for the Catboat Association Race. They are in the process of building the second of two eighteen-foot plywood skiffs on contract for a man who plans to hold weddings on them in Leonardtown — so they are appropriately called the “love boats.” And club members are working hard to complete a 1950 Mustang speedboat affiliated with the new exhibit, Thrills and Spills: The Golden Era of Powerboat Racing in Southern Maryland, opening on the mezzanine June 23. They also awarded two scholarships this spring: one went to a middle school student to attend the boat camp, and the other to a family to build a rowboat.

The Yard Arms have received a Margaret Rosch Jones Grant from the Maryland Environmental Trust to construct floating gardens in the boat basin. They plan to establish small floating islands of wetlands inside the marshwalk to create a nutrient removal system that can help address the sheet flow entering Back Creek — a project that both beautifies and helps clean the water. As with the rain garden and compost bins, information regarding the project will be made available on the website.

The Purple Martin Club is excited to announce that there are six nesting purple martins in the purple martin apartment complex and one of the nests has five eggs! In about three weeks the museum’s first clutch of purple martins should hatch. They are great to watch, so as you’re heading out to the Drum Point Lighthouse, look up!

The Canoe and Kayak Club has a trip planned to Mallow’s Bay on June 22. If you’re interested in joining them for this or other trips, go to the website for details: http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/membership/membership-join-a-club.php
**DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP**

**The Band Perry “Wowed” Over 5,200 Fans**

Great weather and music greeted the fans that attended the May 17 concert with Country Super-Group, The Band Perry. The Band Perry performed live in front of a sold-out, standing-room-only crowd at the museum’s PNC Waterside Pavilion to open the 2013 Waterside Music Series. Everyone was on their feet the entire concert.

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

The Calvert Marine Museum was honored in the 3rd Annual Free State’s Finest readers’ poll. More than 3,200 readers 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 Wedding Venue, 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 in April at a reception held at Maryland Live! Casino and put on by Maryland Life magazine. Congratulations to ALL the winners across the Free State.

**Your Membership Has Just Increased in Value!**

On July 1, 2013, for the first time in nine years, admission to the Calvert Marine Museum will increase for the general public that are not members of the museum.

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<td>CMMS Members</td>
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This price increase adds even more value to your membership. As a member you receive free admission year-round, a 10 percent discount on purchases in our Museum Store, insider invitations to exhibit openings and events, our quarterly newsletter full of news and interesting articles, and the opportunity to register for programs and purchase concert tickets before the general public.

**Bad Company to Appear Live at CMM’s PNC Waterside Pavilion — August 2**

Prince Frederick Ford/Jeep presents legendary rockers Bad Company on the Calvert Marine Museum’s PNC Waterside Pavilion. One of the most acclaimed bands of the classic rock era, England’s Bad Company has put its indelible stamp on rock ‘n’ roll with a straight-ahead, no-frills musical approach that has resulted in the creation of some of the most timeless rock anthems ever. Sing along with hits like Feel Like Makin Love, Rock and Roll Fantasy, Ready for Love and so many more on Friday, August 2. With all original members including lead singer and songwriter Paul Rodgers, arguably the finest singer in rock ‘n’ roll, ticket buyers will get their first chance to hear his amazing voice live in Solomons! Tickets are $47 and $57, and went on sale to members of the museum Tuesday, June 11, at 10:00 A.M., and on sale to the public Tuesday, June 18, at 10:00 A.M. Proceeds from this concert will support the preservation and education efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum.

**Daughtry & 3 Doors Down in July**

Daughtry & 3 Doors Down will fill the air with rock music when they perform live on Friday, July 5, with special guest Halestorm! This four-hour show will kick-off with an opening band, then Halestorm will take the stage. 3 Doors Down will rock the crowd with hits like “Kryptonite,” “When I’m Gone,” and “Here without You.” Daughtry will wrap up the evening with songs you know all the words to, like “September,” “Crawling Back to You,” and “It’s Not Over.” The show starts at 7:00 and gates will open early at 5:30! As of press time, tickets were almost SOLD OUT!
On June 4, the Calvert County Board of Commissioners officially accepted the skipjack *Dee of St. Mary's* on behalf of the Calvert Marine Museum. Skipjacks are celebrated as an official symbol of the State of Maryland. The *Dee* is one of only thirty-two skipjacks still in existence, and one of only six to hold U.S. Coast Guard certification to carry passengers. Accepting the *Dee* falls within the museum’s mission to preserve maritime culture of the Chesapeake, fulfills a goal of our new master plan, and will allow the museum to embark on a new level of programming focusing on ecology and maritime culture.

The *Dee of St. Mary's* was commissioned by Capt. Jack Russell and built by shipwright Francis Goddard in 1979 at Piney Point, Maryland, one of the few skipjacks ever built on the Western Shore. By the late 1980s with oyster harvests dwindling, Captain Russell transitioned from fishing to educating. From 1989 to 2010, the *Dee* operated under the auspices of the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab, Inc. (CBFL), carrying as many as 5,000 passengers a year, mostly 4th to 12th graders. In 2010, the board of the CBFL launched a fundraising campaign and spent two years restoring the boat, at a cost of over $150,000. Once completed, the all-volunteer board was eager to find an appropriate home where the goal of using the *Dee* to educate people about the Chesapeake Bay could continue. The Calvert Marine Museum was their first choice, and we are pleased that the Board of County Commissioners has been so supportive.

Once captain and crew are on deck, the *Dee of St. Mary’s* will be used as the centerpiece of the museum’s “Chesapeake Bay Field Lab Program” that will encompass all of our field-based environmental programming. The boat will also be scheduled for public sails and private charters. (Sherrod Sturrock)

Captain Russell and boat builder Francis Goddard pose on the *Dee* after the transfer ceremony. *CMM photo by Robert Hurry*

PEM TALKS FOR 2013-2014

The 2013-2014 PEM Talks will focus on the War of 1812 as part of the state’s bicentennial celebration. Entitled “War of 1812: A Legacy of Division” and funded by the Maryland Humanities Council, Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park, and the Calvert Marine Museum, this series offers a wide range of perspectives on this “forgotten conflict.” For details and a full schedule, visit the website: [http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/events/](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/events/)

- **September 15**
  Dean Krimmel — How the War of 1812 Marked Southern Maryland.

- **October 20**
  James L. Nelson — 1812: The Importance of the Naval War on the Great Lakes.

- **November 17**
  Mike Dixon — Newspapers, Mail & Communications during the War of 1812.

- **December 15**
  Donald Shomette, Gary Rue & Company — 1812: Tide of War: An original musical production.

- **January 19**
  Dr. Donald L. Fixico — Tecumseh and Conflicting Native Views on the War of 1812.

- **February 23**
  Dr. Sidney Hart — The War of 1812 through the Lens of Portraiture and Images.
The big event of the spring was the Maritime Festival and Antique Boat & Marine Engine Show, May 4 and 5. This event spread over the museum grounds and into the boat basin, with a variety of activities and lots to see. Here are a few activities.

- Gale Parks (on platform) demonstrating the skills of her Chesapeake Bay retriever in the boat basin. CMM photo by Bob Hall

- Melissa McCormick (standing left) demonstrated the techniques of crab picking to festival visitors. CMM photo by Bob Hall

- Allie Clark and her mom Barbara Clark building a toy boat. CMM photo by Bob Hall

- The Folk Salad Trio performing in the Corbin Pavilion, one of several musical groups who performed during the day. CMM photo by Bob Hall

- Marine engines and antique boats filled the parking area. CMM photo by Bob Hall
OTHER SPRING ACTIVITIES AT CMM

Young participants in the annual fossil egg hunt on March 30 waiting to have their fossil finds identified by members of the Fossil Club. CMM photo by Bob Hall

“The Restoring Oysters to the Chesapeake” was the topic of the April 18 PEM talk by Dr. Ken Paynter. “Smitty” (left) shucked fresh oysters, being enjoyed here by Len Zuza of the Southern Maryland Oyster Cultivation Society. Oysters were provided by local aquaculture entrepreneurs. CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock

Homeschool Day on April 24 — museum educator Tom Lewis shows a young guest how to use oyster tongs. CMM photo by Bob Hall

The weather on April 6 was perfect for the Solomons Island Kite Flying Day in the field across from the museum. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Youth Art Month in April included a display of art from St. Mary’s County Public Schools in the museum lobby. CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock

Youth Art Month in May displayed the tile work of Calvert County’s Mutual Elementary School, with an opening event in the museum lobby. CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock

Homeschool students learn about nautical symbols from CMM’s Lori Cole (upper right) on Homeschool Day. CMM photo by Bob Hall
Volunteers Honored for 2012
By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

On the evening of April 17, the museum was the scene of another “Golden Otter” awards event in which the museum staff honored the museum volunteers for their service during calendar year 2012. The event was complete with the red carpet welcome, the envelopes for the awards, our director, Doug Alves, as emcee in a tux accompanied by Kathleen Porecki in a beautiful full length gown, and the recognition of volunteer achievements, and, finally, the special awards for group achievements and the “Golden Otter” award to the volunteer of the year. It was a big event that culminated with a buffet dinner with all the trimmings.

The evening began with the review of the impressive statistics for 2012: 276 volunteers gave 28,814 hours, with a value of $656,095. There were expressions of appreciation from County Commissioner president Pat Nutter, County Commissioner Susan Shaw, and Board of Governors chair Don McDougall. This was followed by departmental reviews and presentations. Finally, the recognition of individual accomplishments. The following volunteers put in over one hundred hours during the year: Janet Addiss, Len Addiss, Ed Bahniuk, Paul Berry, Debbie Carlson, Sherry Carter, Harry Childers, Margaret Clarke, Ned Clarke, Christa Conant, Tiffany Dalrymple, Linda Densmore, Sylvia Dry, Giovanna Ferrazano, Robert Fleming, Butch Garren, Karen Garren, Rita Gerred, Ed Gies, Althea Green, Bob Hall, Anne Harrison, Joan Hatfield, Dan Hefflebower, Mary Hefflebower, Joseph Jarvis, Walt Johns, Ed Kobrinski, Chuck Kohls, Mary Krauss, Brandon Kurley, Bill Lake, Judy Larsen, Al Lavish, Bernice Lawson, Kay McClellan, Linda McCullagh, Ilse Metz, Shirley Mihursky, Margaret Moore, Sherma Munger, Rose Nelson, Barry Norbeck, Joseph O’Brien, Tony Pettit, Bob Pfeiffer, Bob Platt, Pam Platt, Carole Purcell, Ed Richard, Al Rondina, Ellis “Ski” Seidenstricker, Rosemary Staley, Margaret Stamper, Al Suydam, Nan Suydam, Jackie Vos, Julia Walker, Teddie Watts, Elnora Wease, Jim Wilson, Karen Wilson, Bill Wright, Sandy Younger, Tom Younger, Kim Zabiegalski, Katie Zwick. Reaching the thousand-hour (total hours) milestone during 2012 were: 1,000 hour milestone; Ed Bahniuk, Karl Garland, Tony Pettit, 2,000 hour milestone; Sylvia Dry, Peggy Hovemrale, 2,500 hour milestone; Anne Harrison, 3,000 hour milestone; Rose Nelson, 4,000 hour milestone; Bob Platt, 6,000 hour milestone; Jim Wilson, 8,000 hour milestone; Sandy Younger, 9,000 hour milestone; Tom Younger, 10,000 hour milestone; Al Lavish, and the 26,000 hour milestone was reached by Paul Berry.

The Group Achievement Award for 2012 was a tie between the Museum Store Ladies and the Patuxent Small Craft Guild. The Volunteer of the Year 2012 and the recipient of the “Golden Otter” was Rose Nelson. Congratulations to all our award winning volunteers, you make CMM the best it can be.
VOLUNTEER FIELD TRIP TO FORT MCHENRY

Some twenty-six CMM volunteers enjoyed a field trip on April 25 to Fort McHenry and Fells Point in Baltimore. The fort played an important role during the siege of Baltimore in September 1814, and this was described to the group as they toured the area. Lunch was the important event in Fells Point, with a stop at Kooper’s Tavern, followed by free time to explore this historic area.

The group of volunteers poses at Fort McHenry.
CMM photo by Bob Hall

CMM volunteers join with other visitors in the unfurling of the replica of the flag that flew over the fort in 1814.
CMM photo by Bob Hall

MUSEUM LOSES LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER

CMM volunteer Zelma Margelos died in early May, after serving over twenty-five years and logging over 7,500 hours of volunteer work in the Museum Store and the library and archives. Zelma began serving in 1985 in the store in the “school house” building, moving on to the new store in the exhibition building after it was opened in 1989, assisted by her husband Pete during much of that period. (Pete died in 1995.) She and Pete were recognized in a “Volunteer Spotlight” feature in the Bugeye Times in the issue for winter 1989/1990, and Zelma was the recipient of the Volunteer Achievement Award for 1991. By 2005 she wanted to try other museum service, so she moved to the library and archives where her organizational skills were applied to newspaper clippings, newsletters, and a large file of correspondence and documents relating to the history of the area. In most of her years at the museum Zelma was recognized for several hundred hours of service. Both Zelma and Pete were avid travelers.

In addition to volunteer service, Zelma was a significant supporter of CMM with annual and other gifts. A redbud tree was donated and planted on the east side of the museum property in memory of her husband, and is now marked with an appropriate plaque. It is a visual memento of the dedication of both Margeloses. Zelma asked that any memorial remembrances be donated to CMM.

2013 YARD SALE FOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Volunteer Council is holding a yard sale on Saturday, October 5, 2013, to raise funds for the museum’s capital campaign. If you have usable, working items in good condition that you would be willing to donate, we need them! Specifically we are looking for household items, sporting goods, working electronics, small kitchen appliances, linens, jewelry, luggage, outdoor items, tools, marine and boat gear, books, records or recordings, or leather goods. No clothing will be accepted and nothing weighing over 40 pounds, please. Donations can be brought to the museum starting June 30. If you have questions, contact Janet Addiss at janetaddiss@gmail.com. This is a great way to contribute to the capital campaign and to support the museum. (Janet Addiss and Margaret Clarke)