Paul L. Berry, who served as editor of the Bugeye Times for 29 years, died on September 17 after a short illness. Paul was a remarkable man, a great friend, and a mentor. He was a man of conviction and principle who dedicated his retirement years to service in his community. Paul worked almost 27,000 volunteer hours at the museum over his 30 years with us. He served on the museum’s Board of Governors from 1984 to 1990 and as president of the board for four of those years. Over time, he became a member of the staff, the only volunteer to have his own office, email account, telephone, and designated parking spot. During this time he also began volunteering at the American Chestnut Land Trust, serving on their Board of Directors as treasurer for many years.

Paul served as the museum’s editor, proof reader, and grammar czar, ensuring everything that the museum published was grammatically correct. In addition to being the newsletter editor, Paul staffed the library and archives for the museum, appearing faithfully at his desk every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to catalog, respond to queries, and shelve new acquisitions. He could put his hands on any book, document, or newspaper clipping in a matter of minutes. Practically speaking, the library exists as a useful resource because of his dedication, knowledge, and attention to detail. In November 2007, the library was renamed in his honor, the Paul L. Berry Reference Library, in recognition of his 25 years of service.

Paul was eager to use this article as an opportunity to share some of the history of the Bugeye Times with you. He was far more interested in communicating that than anything personal about himself. But for me, the story of the Bugeye Times is inextricably linked to the man who produced it four times a year, without fail, for the last 29 years.

The Bugeye Times was started in 1976 by then director, Ralph Eshelman, with help from Clara Dixon. It was a modest four-page newsletter designed to inform the public about the progress of the fledgling museum. In 1984, Ralph asked Paul Berry to help out.

Continued on page 2
Tribute to Paul L. Berry (Continued from page 1)

Paul, who had retired from the Library of Congress after a 35-year career, took over the editorship. “With very little experience but with his usual arrogance he began to change the newsletter.” (I laughed out loud when he dictated that line.) The original idea was to have a serious lead article focusing on one of the three themes, followed by news about other activities in the museum. This basic structure continues to this day. Paul explained that Ralph had always wanted a scholarly journal in addition to the newsletter, but the Bugeye Times evolved to blend the museum’s serious work of research and discovery with news and photographs of activities and events.

Over the years, Paul oversaw changes in format, paper, and style. In time, he started to do more of the writing and solicited articles from the curators, striving for a balance that covered all three themes. It was his idea to include a centerpiece of photos, and to change the type of paper to a gloss finish. Eventually he was able to negotiate the addition of color printing at no additional charge. For years he worked happily with Heritage Printing in Leonardtown to do the layout and print job. When printing and mailing costs became prohibitive, he shepherded the newsletter into the digital age (albeit with some trepidation). He came to appreciate the greater freedom that a digital format afforded — the newsletter was no longer constrained to eight pages or a limited number of color photographs.

Paul never received much feedback for his efforts, and it frustrated him not knowing whether the Bugeye Times was of interest to people. Upon reflection, he mused that he never gave feedback to editors of publications he read either. And with the classic Berry sigh, he would go back to work.

We will join Paul’s family in a celebration of his life on Saturday, October 26, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the maritime gallery. It was his wish that memorial contributions in his name go to the Calvert Marine Museum, P.O. Box 97, Solomons MD 20688, and The American Chestnut Land Trust, P.O. Box 2363, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.
We had no way of knowing when we began that the excavation of a Miocene fossil whale skull would become an international story. In hindsight, we might have suspected as much. The fossil was found along the Potomac River, an association inextricably linked to Washington, D.C., and all the power it portends. The bones were eroding from the cliffs at Stratford Hall, the Lee family estate and birthplace of Robert E. Lee (January 19, 1807). And, of course, it was an excavation of the skull and partial skeleton of a large whale from the Miocene epoch. This combination tweaked the interest of the media who reported the story to the world.

Stratford Hall staff were keen to have us excavate this skull, and gave us both encouragement and carte blanche. John Nance (whose oversight and devotion to the project kept it moving forward) and I had three summer interns; Jess Howard (University of Maryland), Donald Morgan III (Towson University), and Mariah Rugel (St. Mary’s College of Maryland) to whom we had committed to involve in every aspect of the workings of our department. They had many opportunities, the whale being the most time-consuming, challenging, and rewarding.

We began the excavation naively expecting to be finished in a few days. The back of the skull and lower jaws had just become exposed at the very base of the cliffs through natural erosion, and they didn't look that big. They gave no indication that much of the rest of the skeleton (vertebrae and ribs) was jumbled up around the skull still hidden within the cliff. After we wrapped a field jacket (a plaster cast) around the lower jaws and removed them from the site, with help from David Moyer and their summer interns in the CMM Estuarine Biology collecting boat, we realized that this project was going to be a bigger challenge than anticipated. The size of the jaws and the weight of that jacket were our first indication that the skull was going to be a brute. When it comes to finding the skeleton of an extinct animal, more is better. However, when the skeleton is that of a whale, we hope for separation between the bones so that they can be removed in small jackets. Otherwise, if all the bones are tight together, or jumbled one on top of another, that makes for a gigantic field jacket too heavy to move. A great deal of time and effort went into teasing our way through the jumble of vertebrae and ribs to jacket the skull; inevitably, some bones were broken. Ah, but the prize we had set our sights on was that skull.

On July 25, 2013, Rob Hedelt, columnist at The Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg, VA, was the first to report on our efforts to quarry the whale. The media floodgates really opened, though, when the Stratford Hall fossil whale story was picked up and reported on twice by The Washington Post; at length by Stefanie Dazio with photos by Nikki Kahn. From there, it was picked up by local media and outlets further afield including the Baltimore Sun, the Huffington Post, and the Las Vegas Guardian Express. Not confined to print media, John Nance was interviewed by Fox News,
myself by W Radio in Columbia (yes, the country; a bilingual interview), and both of us by Pamela D’Angelo on Virginia Public Radio. Paleontology summer intern Donald Morgan III and Dr. Daryl Domning (vertebrate paleontologist at Howard University) appeared on the Rock Newman Show from Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C. to talk about their involvement in the excavation. A YouTube video taken from a hexicopter — a small unmanned aerial vehicle piloted by Kyle Matthew and filmed by Paige Fischer — recording the removal of the whale skull from the beach added to the publicity excitement. Finally, I was contacted by Kate Rydell, a Producer at CBS Evening News. They were interested in our whale find and arrangements were made for their national correspondent, Chip Reid, to visit the museum and Stratford Hall where we continued to excavate vertebrae and ribs. When their piece aired on August 22, it was a satisfying conclusion to a very dramatic discovery. But much remains to be done.

Although we won’t know exactly what species of extinct whale this new find represents until the sediments have been removed from around the skull, we do know that it was a cetothere (which literally means “whale beast”). In its size and life-appearance it would have closely resembled the living pygmy right whale (*Caperea marginata*). Cleaning of the bones has already begun. As soon as the lower jaws arrived in our fossil preparation lab, paleo volunteer Christa Conant began the meticulous work to uncover them. She soon found fossil shark teeth and a shark vertebra in the sediments next to the jaws; even a shark coprolite (i.e., fossilized feces) was found. Shark teeth are commonly associated with fossil whale finds, some of which would have been shed by those sharks that were scavenging the carcass as modern sharks do today.

This excavation could not have happened without the help of so many individuals, from the administration at Stratford Hall, to CMM staff and volunteers, and interested people who just wanted to help; thank you all for moving the science of paleontology forward.

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On August 27, 2013, the Calvert County Board of Commissioners voted to award the contract for the renovation project at the Calvert Marine Museum to Desbuild, Inc. from Hyattsville, Maryland. Our project to renovate the lobby and auditorium will finally get underway.

This project has been a long time coming, dating back to the completion of our master plan in 2008. A year ago, we were forced to reject bids because they came in higher than available funds. We phased the project, putting the mezzanine expansion for additional education space into a second phase. What initially seemed like a serious set-back in our plans turned out to be a blessing in disguise: it gave us another year to collect on the pledges from our capital campaign and we will be able to coordinate a major upgrade of our Estuarium exhibit hall with the planned closure.

Starting October 1, the auditorium and part of the lobby will be closed to the public. The Museum Store will remain open through December. January 1, 2014, the museum will close and reopen by April 1. Stay tuned for more details as the schedule is refined.

We will post regular updates on our website so you can follow the progress of the renovation. And we can still use your help. We are raising funds for equipment and furnishings, so come to the Volunteer Council Yard Sale on October 5 where you can buy a treasure AND support our renovation project. As always, thank you for your continued support through your membership.
CMM Receives Prestigious IMLS Grant to Renovate Estuarium

The Calvert Marine Museum has been selected to receive a FY2013 Museums for America award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a Federal granting agency. This grant of $142,500 will support our Estuarium renovations project River to Bay: Reflections and Connections. The grant is being matched with a $25,000 grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Program, $25,000 in private contributions, and over $250,000 in labor.

Opened in 1992, the Estuarium is outdated: the content needs to be modernized to reflect current trends and new scientific information; the exhibit elements revitalized to include participatory and interactive components; and the story broadened and made more relevant to a new generation of guests. It is the last of the three permanent exhibit areas to be renovated — an effort that has been on-going over the past five years. Creating an exhibit that embodies our educational goal to facilitate stewardship of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay is critical to the museum’s future as a center for lifelong learning and relevant engagement.

Our plan is to keep the Estuarium open through December and begin demolition when the museum closes in January 2014 for our renovation project. The Estuarium renovation will be completed in the fall of 2014. The project will include five new aquarium tanks, with new inserts to enhance the bay and oyster tanks, six interactive stations, including touch screens, sounds and tactile models. New graphic and text panels throughout the exhibit and new species/diversity will be exhibited. This opportunity to enhance how we engage our audience is a culmination of years of planning and months of hard work by our staff and regional partners. Look for River to Bay: Reflections and Connections to open in the fall of 2014 and track our progress on Facebook and Twitter.

By Sherrod Sturrock

The Education Department is looking forward to the renovation as a time to stop, take stock, and strategically think about where we want to go from here. Our programs and level of participation have grown dramatically over the last five years. In fiscal year 2008, we served 13,770 people through educational activities, programs, and events. During the last fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2013, we served 24,153, a 75% increase over five years, while our staffing and space have remained unchanged. Thoughtful strategy is definitely called for.

Education staff is working hard to incorporate the Dee of St. Mary’s into our programming under the capable leadership of Mindy Quinn. We have adopted the “Chesapeake Bay Field Lab” as the umbrella moniker for all of the museum’s field-based educational programming, using the Lore Oyster House as the base of operations. We are working with Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties to ensure that our programs align with their environmental literacy efforts and Common Core requirements. Our goal is to build dynamic, immersion opportunities to get young people out on the water. We believe that the higher the level of experience students have, the more they will care, and the greater their investment will be in preserving our environment.

This August we completed the three-year Teach American History program, spear-headed by Sultana Projects. Our part in this multi-party partnership was to provide teacher training on the War of 1812 for elementary through high school teachers from seven Eastern and Western shore Maryland counties. It was an exciting program that was both rewarding and instructive. Ultimately, all of the work done over the last three years — including teacher lesson plans — will be available on an interactive website.

Speaking of 1812, CMM has taken the lead on a number of initiatives to help celebrate the bicentennial of that war. We were the lead agency on the “War of 1812 Map and Guide.” Out of that project came an invitation from the Star Spangled 200 group to create a traveling exhibit that focuses on the War of 1812 in Southern Maryland. The exhibit is now complete and available for tour. We also launched our War of 1812 speaker’s series entitled “A Legacy of Division” in September. This multifaceted look at a misunderstood war will be presented monthly at the College of Southern Maryland, Prince Frederick campus. This upcoming year offers many opportunities to learn about the War of 1812 and how it shaped not only the United States, but also Southern Maryland.

New exhibit The Enemy at Our Door: The War of 1812 in Southern Maryland opened at the College of Southern Maryland, Prince Frederick campus, on September 15. (CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock)
An Intern’s Experience

This summer the museum had seven interns working in three different departments. We asked them to share their thoughts about the experience. Below are excerpts from their comments.

Donald Morgan III, Paleontology Intern

This summer, I finally started living the dream I have had since I was a small child — to work in Paleontology. Over the course of this internship, I have learned an exceptional amount and done everything from jacketing bones to sorting shark teeth. Some of the most memorable experiences include my research project on a kentriodontid skull, piecing together a Squalodon skull, visiting the Smithsonian and working with their archival material, and working in the field. The extraction of the whale skull from Stratford Hall was an amazing experience, and is one which I will never forget.

Jess Howard, Paleontology Intern

Over the course of the summer, I visited a number of other institutions. I also attended a symposium on whales where Dr. Stephen Godfrey was a guest speaker. I took a trip to the Kitty Litter Mine, where we helped Jason and Aaron look for teeth for Shark Finder (link to website: http://sharkfinder.org/index.html). The major project of the summer was quarrying the baleen whale at Stratford Hall. We started this in June and are still removing bones from the cliffs. We have just begun to prepare the skull, which might be the largest one removed from the cliffs. Other projects included quarrying and preparing dolphin skulls, sorting and counting sharks teeth, attempting to put a very broken Squalodon skull back together, trying to identify a juvenile whale skull, and making archival jackets.

Sarah Carter, Estuarium Intern

After three months of working in the Estuarium Biology department at the museum, I have decided that my true passions are in animal husbandry. I have been taught everything from information on water quality to providing medicine to the animals. I’ve been able to go out on the boat and experience how the department does the collection for the exhibits. I’ve cleaned tanks, decorated exhibits, and cultured food.

One of my favorite experiences this summer has been working with the seahorses. When I arrived, there were brand new seahorse fry in one of the tanks in the back. I was instantly fascinated by seahorses and watched them grow every day. Numerous times over the last three months, I’ve spotted different events occurring in the seahorse exhibit tank. I was the first to spot a sick seahorse, and have spotted pregnant seahorses more than once. The seahorses never stop breeding, and at least four seahorses had babies over the course of the summer. It’s been a joy to see the babies grow and develop their variations in color. The initial litter of babies is now two to three inches in size and has been placed on exhibit for the museum guests to see.

Emily Waldron, Estuarium Intern

Spending this past summer as an intern at the Calvert Marine Museum has been one of the best decisions that I have ever made. This internship has given me the opportunity to utilize my marine science knowledge gained in the last three years of college. During my time at the museum, I learned more about the behind-the-scenes work that occurs at aquariums and other museums, which has led me to be more interested in a career as an aquarist. Duties that I was able to experience include water changes, food prep, and water quality testing. This internship has also reinforced my love for marine mammals. Although I enjoyed working with all the animals, getting the chance to work with the river otters was an amazing experience. I looked forward to my time working with the otters, even if it was just setting up their treats at the end of the day. Besides working in the museum, I also enjoyed collecting in the field and searching for animals to bring back to put on exhibit.

Lindsay DiNatale, Estuarium Intern

Working as an aquarist intern in the Estuarium Biology Department, I enjoyed assisting with field collections. Our team would go out into the field and use a seining net to catch bony and cartilaginous fishes, a range of invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians to put on display for the public. It amazed me that every species that is displayed within the museum can be found within the habitats that surround the area. Over the summer, one of the smooth dogfish sharks died and the curator, Dave Moyer, decided to do a necropsy and allowed the interns to observe the process. He took samples from the shark’s major organs, such as eyes, skin, liver, and stomach, and placed each sample onto a new slide and labeled it. After the dissection was complete, we analyzed the samples through a microscope in order to see if there was any sort of bacteria growing. It was determined that the death was caused by a bacterial infection of the skin. This knowledge allowed the department to treat those species that were thought to be infected, as well as take precautionary measures so that this infection would not spread to the rest of the species within Estuarium Biology.
**SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT CMM**

↑ Echo Uzzo from Echoes of Nature shows a rabbit to children during a Little Minnows program. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)

→ Jillian Smith, left, and Suzanne Fox conducting water sampling aboard the Dee of St. Mary’s during the Summer Environmental Institute. (CMM photo by Mindy Quinn)

↓ A few of the participants in the Pirate Camp pose with their pirate flags. From left are Sean Mahoney, Sammy Sommers, and Makenzie O’Connor. (CMM photo by Kevin Allor)

↑ Former Southern Maryland powerboat race drivers attended a reunion and preview of “Thrills and Spills” exhibit in June. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)

↑ Skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s departing J. C. Lore & Sons Oyster House for a July sail. (Photo by Kate Dumhart)

↑ Participants in the Teach American History program preparing to raise the garrison American flag over at Fort McHenry. (CMM photo by Diane Milgrim)
Former Southern Maryland powerboat race drivers attended a reunion and preview of “Thrills and Spills” exhibit in June. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)

Visitors enjoying exhibit tanks in the Corbin Pavilion during Sharkfest. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)

Boat Camp participants racing their crafts at the beginning of the first heat in the Patuxent River. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)

Curator Stephen Godfrey and intern Mariah Rugel explaining fossils to Intergenerational Road Scholar group in Fossil Prep Lab. (CMM photo by Lori Cole)

Katrina Godfrey painting Mason Marsey’s face at Sharkfest in July. (CMM photo by Bob Hall)

Two of the Dee captains, Ed Bahniuk and Lisa Batchelor Frailey, on a training sail. (Photo by Andy Frailey)

Charlie Carlson and Bradley Warren, participants in the Pirate Camp, learn shipboard skills from Abigail Adams aboard the Maryland Dove at Historic St. Mary’s City. (CMM photo by Kevin Allor)

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DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

WATERSIDE CONCERTS INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Thanks in part to The Band Perry, Daughtry, and 3 Doors Down, the Calvert Marine Museum has welcomed over 600 new members since April. Museum members can order concert tickets a week prior to the general public and many music fans joined CMM to avail themselves of this perk. This proved to be a great member benefit because both shows sold out of premium seats before public sales even started. So thank you again for your continued support — the concerts are the museum’s largest fundraiser. Be sure to renew your membership to get great seats at next year’s concerts.

Waterside 2013 Breaks Records

Our first show of the year, The Band Perry, broke all records for ticket sales in our nearly 30 year concert history. The band members enjoyed the unique venue and were delighted that it was a sold out show.

In July, CMM hosted Daughtry and 3 Doors Down with special guests, Grammy-award winning Halestorm, and Bad Seed Rising. This concert broke The Band Perry’s record for ticket sales! The band arrived a day early and explored Solomons Island and the surrounding area. This was our first foray into current rock performers and we could not be happier about the results.

The last show of the season was the classic rock band Bad Company. This near sell-out had the whole Island rocking! We were proud to be included on the list of a few select venues at which Bad Company performed this past summer. A great time was had by all!

A Big THANK YOU to our 2013 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., Roy Rogers, Quality Built Homes, All American Harley-Davidson, Leitch Heating and A/C, Kelly Generator, Papa John’s Pizza, The McNelis Group, LLC, Jay Worch Electric, Holiday Inn Select-Solomons, COMCAST, MetroCast, Bay Weekly, Quick Connections, 102.9 WKIK, 98.3 Star FM and 97.7 the Rocket, DirectMail.com, Isaac’s Restaurant, United Rentals, Patuxent Architects, Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, and Southern Maryland Newspapers.

Christmas Is Coming — Let us help you get ready!

Looking for that perfect gift this holiday season that will keep on giving the whole year long? Consider giving a gift of membership. Call Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042 x16, for more information on this great gift-giving idea.

YOU Can Make a Difference!

As 2013 starts to come to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Calvert Marine Museum. Your charitable donation this holiday season will not only help the museum secure success in 2014 and beyond, but it will also allow you to claim a generous tax deduction for 2013. Through your support, the Calvert Marine Museum is able to continue to deliver the kind of excellence in our many exhibits and educational programs that you have come to expect. If you are interested in giving, please contact the Development Office at 410-326-2042 ext. 16, 17, or 18.

Dream Seats Winner Announced

Bozick Distributors Donates 4 Front Row Seats for All 2014 Concerts!

Ever wonder what it feels like to sit front row, center stage, at some of the biggest concerts in Maryland? Rick Elliott, of Lusby, will find out for himself at the Calvert Marine Museum next summer! Rick was the lucky winner of four front row seats to all three Waterside concerts taking place in 2014. These amazing Dream Seats were donated by long-time Calvert Marine Museum supporter, Bozick Distributors.
On Tuesday, September 3, the Volunteer Council held its annual meeting in the Corbin Pavilion. The election of officers was the first order of business. Janet Addiss, nominating committee chairperson, read the slate of officers nominated for 2013-2014, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the volunteers in attendance. The officers that will represent the Volunteer Council are Judy Larsen, President; Joan Hatfield, Vice President; Denita Sanders, Treasurer; Teddie Watts, Secretary; and Anne Harrison, Corresponding Secretary.

Sherma Munger was thanked for her service as president and presented with a gift from the board by Peggy Hovermale. Peggy will step down as the past president to the board and Sherma will take over that office.

After a few brief comments by the clubs, curators, Doug, and Sherrod, it was time to close the meeting and enjoy some food and fellowship.

Each month packages are sent from CMM to soldiers in Afghanistan. Currently we have five soldiers receiving a package every month. So far in 2013, we have sent 42 packages and we are on track to send another 20 by the end of the year. The postage rate per package is currently $14.85 and it costs between $30 and $50 per box to fill depending on the items in each box. We have been fortunate to have so many volunteers, staff, and members of our Board of Governors donate items for the boxes and money to help cover the cost of items purchased as well as the postage. We were also lucky enough to have received money from H&R Block to help this program grow.

At this point the funds are getting very low and, as with everything else, the cost keeps going up. If you would like to support our troops through this program, please make donations out to CMMS, put “Support Our Troops” in the memo line. Mail to Sherry Reid, C/O CMM, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, MD 20688. Thank you to all that have supported and continue to support this program, together we can make a difference.

Tribute to Don Miller

In August of 2013, we received the sad news of the passing of Don Miller. Don was a past President of the Volunteer Council and a wonderful volunteer at the Calvert Marine Museum. He became a volunteer at the museum in 1992 and continued until December of 2001, logging in 1689 hours during that time. When Don became the President of the Volunteer Council in 1997, he was already the Vice Commodore of the Solomons Island Model Boat Club, the Vice President of the Volunteer Council, and volunteered to staff the woodcarving and model boat shop one day each weekend during the summer months. Don said, “Volunteering at the museum fulfills my love of people, boats, history, and continuing education.”

Good-bye Don, you will be missed.

HELP CMM SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

By Sherry Reid

Dear Calvert Marine Museum Staff:

We were married at the Calvert Marine Museum on August 17, 2007, before your facility did weddings. It was a last-minute event, as my then fiancé was being sent to Iraq. We found out that we had 8 days to plan our wedding. Your museum director, Douglass Alves, was so generous and allowed us to choose the perfect spot for our wedding and truly accommodated all of our needs. The wedding was beautiful!

Every year for an anniversary present my husband has something made with the Drum Point Lighthouse being the focal point. This year we decided to start giving the money to your facility, as a way to honor our commitment to each other. We hope to be able to make this an annual tradition and increase the donation over time. Please use this donation for whatever needs it most.

Thank you for being such an important component to our wedding.

Sincerely,
Jessica Lively

Director Douglass Alves has decided to use this initial gift to assist the military program that supports our troops in Afghanistan.
Calvert Marine Museum Clubs offer members a great opportunity to get involved doing something you care about with new friends who share your interests. Below is a current list of the groups that meet at the museum. For more information about our clubs go to our website: click here.

- Canoe/Kayak Club: Ken Spring at 410-326-6669
- Fossil Club: John Nance, nancejr@co.cal.md.us
  Check out the club’s newsletter, The Ecphora click here
- Patuxent Small Craft Guild: George Surgent at 410 586-2700
- The Solomons Island Model Boat Club: Commodore Len Addiss at 410-326-4105
- Yard Arms: Kathy Ellwood at 443-975-7734
- Purple Martin Club: Ken Ritter at 301-481-8536

Building Mast Hoops for the Skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s
By Alan Suydam

When the museum acquired the Dee of St. Mary’s, members of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild volunteered to help in the minor maintenance of the boat. One of our more interesting challenges was replacing the worn out mast hoops which hold the main sail to the mast.

The Dee has 16 hoops holding the sail to the mast, and at a retail cost of $130 each, the cost would be prohibitive to our limited budget — so we decided to build our own. Building a new set of mast hoops is the easy part; the real challenge is getting a set of new hoops onto the mast without taking the mast out of the boat. The solution to the puzzle was found in an article about a similar problem with a skipjack on the Eastern Shore. If you unbolt the hoop fasteners, open up the hoop and wind it around the mast like a key ring, then refasten the hoop in place, the problem is solved.

An examination of our broken hoops showed that each hoop was made of four layers of ¼ inch thick oak, bolted together with four fasteners. The total length of a piece of wood that would have to be steamed and bent would require a single length of almost 24 feet. That would mean a very long steam box. Further examination revealed that the previous maker of our hoops had cut two strips of wood 11 feet long, then riveted them together and then steamed them as a pair. Now we only had to wind the pair twice around the fixture to get four layers.

We set up a 12 foot PVC pipe as our steam box, used a pressure cooker as our steam source, and built a slatted drum on which to roll the wood strips into a round ring. We steamed our strip pairs 20 minutes, then wound them on the drum, and bolted the ring together. Removing a completed hoop to a cooling area, we drilled and attached all the remaining fasteners. Then we took the hoop apart and soaked the spiral ring in linseed oil as a preservative. After a drying period, we wound the completed and preserved hoop onto the mast and refastened the hoop together. Tying the hoop to the sail with tarred marlin twine completed the installation. The Dee now has a completely new set of mast hoops installed without removing the mast and she will be ready to sail for another 30 years. Click here to view a Youtube video.

The Yard Arms

The Yard Arms, the gardening volunteers for the Calvert Marine Museum, are establishing small floating islands of wetland plants in the marsh to help absorb the excess nitrogen that results from stormwater runoff. The small floating islands of wetlands have been visited by ducks, insects and even small shrimp are utilizing the shade of the plant roots. The funds for installing the floating wetlands came from a Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant.

Members of the Canoe and Kayak Club offering canoe rides during Sharkfest. (CMM photo by Rachel Reese)

Members of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild who helped build the Mercury-Mustang, recently purchased by Roger J. Starsonneck of Linthicum, Maryland. (CMM photo by Rob Hurry)
FROM THE MUSEUM STORE...

By Maureen Baughman

The expected is just the beginning. It's the unexpected that will surprise and delight you! The Museum Store is a treasure house of the unexpected, and even the usual museum store items are given a new twist. We have a number of signature items—hats, shirts and mugs—that have been made specifically for us and feature our otters, Megalodon shark, and the Drum Point Lighthouse.

We carry one of the area’s largest selections of regionally significant books and a terrific selection of children’s books, many by local authors. Be sure to check us out at PRAD, where we will have local authors signing their books in front of the museum.

Many of our unique items are made in America, including unusual pottery for your home, nautical-themed lamps, kitchen towels and napkins, and decorative items. There is always something to delight and surprise you, like the dinosaur and otter PJs for kids and the “I’m Crabby” version for adults. Our jewelry is unlike anything you’ll find in any other store, and we’re a great source for cards, ornaments, and gifts.

As museum members, we offer you a daily discount of 10% as well as 20% off on the 20th of each month. During the Solomons Christmas Walk, December 6 & 7, 2013, we will extend that 20% discount to our members for the entire event! Discover YOUR Museum Store and expect the unexpected!

CMM STAFF UPDATE

Roxie Welch Joins CMM Staff as the Business Manager

Roxie comes to the museum from the Calvert County Office of Finance and Budget, where she was an Accountant III. Her previous experience includes budgeting, internal auditing, work with non-profits, tax preparation, and bookkeeping. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, a Certified Public Accountant, a mother of four and a proud grandmother. “I am so excited to be here at the museum and am amazed at ALL the things that go on around here. Trying to keep up with everything will be a challenge. Everyone here has been very friendly and welcoming!”

Valerie Giroux Joins CMM Development Office

Valerie Giroux joined the Development Office staff, July 5. Valerie moved here from Southern California last November when her husband accepted a transfer from China Lake to PAX River. She has a BA in English and a MA in Management and has worked in many fields from customer service to air travel, insurance, and accounting. Her diverse work background has given her strong skills in writing, editing, management, social media, and organization. If you have not met Valerie, please feel free to stop by the Development Office on your next trip to the museum and say “Hi.”

Jerwayne Brooks and Dave Griner Join Maintenance Staff

Jerwayne Brooks joined the museum family in August as a full-time custodian. Jerwayne is excited to be at the museum, saying: “This is a great atmosphere, nice people, a good place to work.” He’s hoping to be able to use his welding skills while with us. Dave Griner came on as the seasonal grounds maintenance worker to fill a vacant position. It’s great to have a full contingent on our maintenance staff to keep up with the workload.