Demolition is well underway, major component purchases are in progress, and concepts are transforming into text and graphics—we are ecstatic to have initiated this long overdue Estuarium renovation project! Our new aquarium exhibit is designed to reflect natural habitats surrounding Southern Maryland. It will mirror adaptive strategies life forms use to cope with harsh estuarine existence. It will echo current teachings of regional scholars and researchers—that humans are affecting change in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. And it will embody the museum’s mission by immersing guests in a “what lies beneath the waves” environment, stimulating the imagination and creating an engaged learning experience.

We will accomplish this by first delineating three unique bay habitats: deep, open waters; brackish shallows; and freshwaters of the coastal plains. In each habitat, visitors can explore the human connection by answering fundamental questions: How are human activities influencing these places? Who is responsible for preserving this national treasure? And, how can we all get involved in preserving our own Chesapeake Bay watershed community? Our exploration dives deeper, demonstrating how bay creatures are connected to their surroundings, and to each other. We hope that this journey can strengthen our visitors’ understanding of how natural processes shape the cultures and ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay. The underlying message is that all living things exist in one dynamic system—a system under pressure from the increasing number of humans living in the watershed.

We are doing a “front of house” renovation, meaning we will not be gutting the entire space, but instead working within the existing footprint. While this is a more affordable approach, it presents its own challenges and limitations. The exhibits team is re-imagining the space by literally raising the ceiling to give the visitor the feeling of being under the water. New color schemes will flow from the floor and up the walls to delineate the different habitats; lights will play on the floors and walls to simulate light playing on water, drawing the observer beneath the surface. Murals and three-dimensional artifacts will project into the space overhead.

Continued on page 2
River to Bay: Reflections and Connections (Continued from page 1)

showing that life above the waterline of the Chesapeake is intimately tied to that below. And there will be sounds – sounds of water lapping, gulls crying, ships’ horns, further enhancing the immersive experience.

The new exhibit will also introduce many interactive elements, inviting visitors not only to engage their senses, but to engage their minds. There will be several new touch screen computers where visitors can hear fish sounds, learn all about former Senator Bernie Fowler and his legendary wade-in, and apply what they’ve learned about animal adaptation. “Maker Spaces” throughout the gallery invite visitors to learn by doing, providing additional value to the museum as a field classroom for everyone – from teachers to parents to children.

Complementing the gallery’s new look will be a series of six new aquariums housing previously non-exhibited species such as chain dogfish (a small shark), octopus, smallmouth bass, crappie, painted turtle, tessellated darter, and many more. Thanks to a generous donation from Stan and Barbara Benning, we will be adding a large tank in the Eco-Invaders gallery to house the beautiful but highly invasive lionfish. Celebrating bay diversity can be integrated into every facet of the new exhibit, creating a desire to preserve our precious Chesapeake. Our guests will leave with a renewed sense of appreciation for this remarkable resource, and be spurred to take action through our new web-based program – Team Chesapeake.

Look for River to Bay: Reflections and Connections to open in the fall of 2014. Track our progress on Facebook and Twitter.

As reported in the fall edition of the BT, we have received a large grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services, Museums for America, supplemented by a second grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and a generous donation from Stan and Barbara Benning, to renovate our Estuarine Gallery – the last of our three permanent exhibits to be updated.

Views of demolition to prepare for upgrades in Estuarine Biology Gallery (CMM photos by Rob Hurry).

Future layout with:
- 13 aquariums (5 new)
- clearly defined (and expanded) zones/themes
- 6 new interactive stations
- all new graphic/text panels

Zone 1 Open Water
Zone 2 Coastal Shallows
Zone 3 Tidal Freshwater (New Theme)
Zone 4 Adaptations
Zone 5 Eco-Invaders/Invasive Species
Our dreams are coming true, the magic has started, and the renovations to the Calvert Marine Museum have begun. After years of planning by staff, volunteers, and the board, along with visitor input, a construction crew from Desbuild Incorporated is transforming the auditorium into a much needed multi-purpose space: The John and Marianne Harms Gallery. As the “owner representative,” I frequently don my hardhat to venture behind the temporary wall that screens visitors from the action to confer with Steve Gibbons, the construction supervisor. Since their October start, the crew has removed the sloped floor and seats and leveled the space. They are replacing the wall that was between the auditorium and the lobby with a new movable partition, and installing new studs and sheetrock. New wiring and outlets are sprouting everywhere. It is exciting to review the blueprints with the contractor and make sure everyone is on the same page as the drawings become reality. (When the concrete was being poured, I also made sure that staff and otters kept their initials and paw prints out of the wet concrete.)

On December 31 at noon, the museum closed for at least two months to allow the heavy construction work to take place. The plans call for new tile floors in the Harms Gallery, continuing into the lobby and the Museum Store. In addition to new flooring, The Museum Store will have new counters and fixtures installed. The current front doors will be switched with the large window, creating a new entrance leading to a new admissions desk framed by acrylic walls that double as information screens listing activities and upcoming events. Behind the admissions area we are creating a small orientation theater.

We are incorporating new energy efficient lighting, insulation, and HVAC systems to make our operations as environmentally friendly and cost effective as possible. The new space will enable us to accommodate our growing educational programs, offer rental availability, and provide meeting space to the community.

So as we begin a new year, the Calvert Marine Museum at 44 years old, is truly “Coming of Age”.
TOM YOUNGER COMPLETES SKIPJACK MODEL FOR EXHIBIT

By Robert Hurry

For the past three years, the museum’s updated Maritime History Gallery displayed a cardboard placeholder instead of a real skipjack model. In early December, it was replaced with a newly completed and expertly crafted skipjack model built with meticulous care and consummate skill by volunteer Tom Younger.

Since its humble beginnings in a little building on Solomons Island, the museum has displayed a variety of top-quality boat models in its exhibits, including a number on loan from the Smithsonian Institution. When the National Museum of American History opened its “On the Water” permanent exhibit in 2009, its scale model of the skipjack Gertrude Wands was needed, so it was recalled from loan. Suddenly CMM found itself with no museum-quality model skipjack, just as the gallery was being updated.

Tom Younger, a longtime volunteer with the museum’s exhibits department, stepped forward to undertake the daunting task of expertly crafting a detailed scale model of a skipjack for the display. Coming from a long line of local watermen and having considerable experience building boat models, Younger was uniquely qualified for the project. He drew on his own knowledge of skipjacks and consulted photographs, boat plans, and other boat models to design and build everything to scale from scratch.

No detail escaped Tom’s attention. In addition to the boat itself, he handcrafted the bilge pumps, oyster dredges, dredge winders, water cask, and all of the equipment on the decks. Sandra Younger, Tom’s wife and another exhibits department volunteer, sewed the sails for the model. Tom completed the standing and running rigging, making sure everything was to the proper scale. Although no one can see it, he even carved the frames, knees, and deck beams inside the model.

Working on the model when he was not engaged in a myriad of other exhibit activities, it took Younger over three years to complete. But having the boat under construction in the museum’s model making shop was a bonus for visitors who could ask questions about skipjacks, watermen, model making, boat building, and oyster dredging.

When it came to naming the model, Younger decided to commemorate his great-uncle, Joseph Ellsworth Joy. A native of Olivet, Maryland, Joy was a storekeeper and state senator.

Tom and Sandra Younger generously donated the model to the museum’s permanent collection so that visitors may appreciate the detail of the J. E. Joy for many years to come. The model is installed in a custom-made vitrine in the seafood harvesting section of the Maritime History Gallery. It is a tribute both to the maritime heritage of the Chesapeake, and the time-honored tradition of model-making.
Charting a New Course for the Dee of St. Mary’s

By Mindy Quinn

In the summer BT issue, we introduced the skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s as the museum’s new “classroom” – a platform for field-based education. Since that time, a lot of progress has been made. Ed Bahniuk assumed the role of head captain and working with first mate John Fulchiron, they chose and trained three captains, introduced in this issue. Through the summer and fall, a strong core of volunteers and education staff participated in hands-on sail training to be certified as crew-ready. We offered several public sails on the Dee over the summer, as well as hosted several ecology focused public sails. Perhaps most exciting, we sailed her to Cambridge, Maryland, in September to participate in the Choptank Heritage Skipjack Races. She came in fourth, but managed to finish without mishap.

As director of the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab, I have been developing programs that use the Dee of St. Mary’s to get students out on the water and into the ecology of the bay. The first official school education trips are not scheduled until May of 2014, but we are collaborating with Calvert and St. Mary’s schools to design a curriculum based program that could reach many of their 9th grade science students. There is an increased focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) as well as Maryland’s requirements for environmental literacy. The skipjack provides the perfect platform to create exceptional learning opportunities for students.

The Education Department has been thrilled with the opportunities that this vessel brings with it. There are many options for program focus from oysters to climate change to ecology of the bay. Almost everyone on the staff has memories of participating in a field trip aboard the Dee, whether as a child or adult, and we are looking forward to passing that experience on to a new generation of Chesapeake Bay stewards.

Meet the Captains

Ed Bahniuk spent his formative years on the banks of Lake Erie where he launched his first boat at the age of 15. After University, he entered a military career that provided many opportunities and boating experience. Ed and his wife Mary currently own two wooden boats, a trawler that has taken them along the entire East Coast from Panama City to Ottawa and a deadrise to enjoy the local waters. Sixty-three years after the first skiff, and with many other boats under his belt, Captain Ed updated his USCG license to take the helm of the Dee and says that none of them equal the thrill and exhilaration that comes from sailing the Dee of St. Mary’s.

Lisa Batchelor Frailey was dunked into the Chesapeake Bay as a baby in a crab net, and was marinated for life. Her Naval career as a navigator, meteorologist and oceanographer allowed her to cruise and race on many exotic seas. Lisa is a USCG licensed captain, ocean passage-maker, marine consultant, charter broker, and a 3-time recipient of ASA’s “Outstanding Instructor” award. As a captain of Dee of St Mary’s, Lisa is able to share her love of the Chesapeake and its rich maritime tradition.

Andy Batchelor was born in Weymouth, England, within hailing distance of Britain’s Olympic sailing center, and was destined to become a sailor. Retiring in 2002 as a Royal Air Force Wing Commander, Andy decided to live his dream and embark on a new career in sailing. Andy is a USCG licensed captain and instructor trainer/evaluator with significant cruising and ocean passage-making experience. He is pleased to see the Dee become a focal point of the local heritage and is excited to be a part of such an enthusiastic team at the Museum. All the stars aligned when Andy met his future wife Lisa Frailey at a regatta in the Bay of Napoli in Italy. In 2006, they launched Sail Solomons School and Charters.

Barry Winkelman, who goes by “Captain Wink”, was brought up in Pelham, New York, near Long Island Sound, where he had a 14’ Thompson runabout and also sailed on a friend’s 17’ daysailer. Moving to La Plata in 1979, Captain Wink continued his love affair with the water, owning a couple of bowriders, a Seafarer 26 sloop, a C&C 38, and currently a Catalina 27. He’s been an active crew member aboard the 19th century 177’ barkentine Gazela. An ASA-certified sailing instructor, Captain Wink received a 100-ton USCG license in 2001. During the season, he runs tour boats in Washington, DC. He is honored to be one of Dee’s captains.

John Fulchiron, a New Jersey native, found his way to Southern Maryland via the Navy, and later a job at Pax River as an engineer. He saw his first skipjack when working off of Cedar Point Lighthouse, and was smitten. His first trip on the Dee was accompanying his son on a 7th grade field trip out of Sotterley. John has been an active sailor for many years and currently races on the St. Mary’s River on 22’ Ensigns (foredeck). John has been a volunteer with the Maryland Dove for over 20 years as a rigger and crew, and worked alongside Captain Jackie Russell on the Dee as first mate. We like to say that John conveyed with the vessel, but joking aside, it was his commitment to helping the museum get the program up and running that swayed the decision to accept the boat. He is an invaluable asset to the program.
- Wm. B. Tennison departs lighthouse during PRAD (CMM photo by Bob Hall).
- Members of Boumi Temple participate in PRAD parade (CMM photo by Bob Hall).
- First Prize float in the PRAD parade entered by Girl Scout Troops 4499 and 2245 from Port Republic. (CMM photo by Bob Hall).
- Makayla Kuperman building a toy boat at PRAD (CMM photo by Bob Hall).
- The Museum Otter poses with a Boy Scout troop at the end of the parade route (CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock).
- Country Memories performing at PRAD (CMM photo by Bob Hall).
- Children’s author Jennifer Keats Curtis reading from her book Saving Squeak at CMM (Photo by Darwin Weigel).
Winter break included a focus on the War of 1812, led by volunteer Christa Conant in period dress (CMM photo by Kate Dumhart).

During Winter break the museum featured daily activities. Here Diane Milgrim is doing a program about the Patuxent Indians (CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock).

Captain Benjamin A. Shevchuck, commander of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, addresses audience at the On Watch Veterans Day Memorial Service (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

U.S. Navy Color Guard honoring veterans at the On Watch Memorial (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

Southern Maryland Sound singing holiday favorites at Solomons Christmas Walk (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

Winter break included a focus on the War of 1812, led by volunteer Christa Conant in period dress (CMM photo by Kate Dumhart).

Kaylee Yates gives the otter a high five during the Solomons Christmas Walk (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

Jacqueline Quan shares her wish list with Santa during Solomons Christmas Walk (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

During Winter break the museum featured daily activities. Here Diane Milgrim is doing a program about the Patuxent Indians (CMM photo by Sherrod Sturrock).
With restricted space and the January closing of the museum, the CMM education department had to find new accommodations for the CHESPAX programs. CHESPAX is the name of Calvert County Public Schools’ environmental education program. A national model, CHESPAX partners with local cultural institutions to provide hands-on environmental education experiences to every child in Calvert County Public Schools in the first through seventh grades. CMM offers a fossil program to every fourth grade class over the winter – a contract that requires three months to fulfill.

We turned to our neighbor, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science at the Chesapeake Biology Laboratory here in Solomons – otherwise known as CBL – and they graciously agreed to host the program in their visitor center and classroom space. Education Outreach Coordinator Debbie Hoffbeck worked closely with museum educators to ensure the program’s success in this new setting. Although students miss seeing Bubbles and Squeak, their level of concentration is improved by fewer distractions.

In the CHESPAX program, students discover what the present teaches us about the past, and how the past can inform the present. Working in teams, they become paleontologists finding and recording fossils from the Miocene in their field notebooks. They look at modern animals and discuss habitat and adaptation, and how climate change might impact animals that are slow to adapt – such as the Megalodon Shark. It is an inquiry, problem-solving approach that draws students into their own learning.

We learned of a wonderful and generous gift from a very dear friend of the Museum Store, Zelma Margeles. Zelma volunteered in the store and for the museum for over 25 years. After her death this past year, we discovered that Zelma had included a bequest to the museum in her will, and the dream brightened into reality – a design with color and textures and shape. Here, let me show you …

Step into the museum lobby and glance left to see a glass wall and a wide entry beckoning you into the new Museum Store. Meander around the display tables considering one enticing possibility after another. Two elegant glass jewelry cases showcase our unusual necklaces, pins, and bracelets. In the dedicated children’s section, handsome wooden wall cabinets brim with books, toys, educational kits, and games adjacent to a tiered display unit with a menagerie of plush animals. Spying a comfy reading chair, you move to the adult book section located in a quiet corner and scan our extensive collection of Chesapeake themed books. You take note of the T-shirt display offering custom designed T-shirts, clearly marked by size and color. And at the checkout, notice the new counter with a beautiful, blue countertop matching the color theme in the lobby and auditorium.

Zelma’s thoughtful gift allows us to put the Museum Store expansion back into the construction project, but it won’t provide sufficient funds to cover new furnishings and fixtures. We have launched an ambitious drive to raise $30,000 to complete the store renovation in time for the reopening. So far, a majority of the store staff and volunteers have stepped up and pledged a donation. Can you help make our dreams come true? Would you consider ‘sponsoring’ a bookcase or display table? This is a gift that helps sustain the museum because our store profits help ensure that the Calvert Marine Museum fulfills its mission for many years to come.
The years fly by but one thing remains constant at CMM: an incredible volunteer family. In fiscal 2013, our volunteers logged 28,744 hours, which equates to $654,501 of in-kind service. Stop and think about that for a minute and imagine if you can what CMM would be like without all those skilled and willing hands. You literally cannot go anywhere on the museum campus without seeing volunteers at work - focused, engaged, and making a difference. They take on a remarkable array of tasks: filing and answering phones in the administrative building, serving as docents in special exhibit areas, assisting with special events and concerts, doing carpentry and electrical work, preparing fossils in the fossil prep lab, assisting in the library, restoring wooden boats, planting and maintaining the grounds.

We are very fortunate to have a family of over 276 active volunteers with a multitude of skills, talents, knowledge, and experience. Each volunteer brings his or her own special talents to the museum and all are eager to share their gifts with the museum and its visitors. The term “family” is more than hyperbole – volunteers find a home here; a place where they are valued and they can meet others who share their passions and interests. This remarkable concentration of energy results in a palpable synergy often remarked upon by our guests. Thank you to all of our volunteers. You make us what we are.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Sherry Reid

If you read the Bugeye Times, you have seen Bob Hall’s work, but probably not his picture. As the museum’s official photographer, he’s typically the guy behind the camera. When the museum’s renovated Administration Building opened in April 1993, it included a darkroom. Bob, a relatively new volunteer and avid photographer, immediately took up residence. Since then he has recorded events large and small in the life of CMM, creating a pictorial record of people, exhibits, and events over the years.

A Mainer by birth (clearly evident in his distinctive accent and understated sense of humor), Bob served four years in the Strategic Air Command and then worked for the telephone company for 29 years before retiring. He and his wife Jennette moved to Calvert County in 1976. He still owns property in Maine and returns there for a couple of months every year, taking photographs along the way. He has, by his own reckoning, thousands of photographs. His passion is photographing wildlife and he has traveled to national parks across the U.S. and Canada to take pictures.

When he first started volunteering, Bob developed all of the photographs he took in the darkroom – all black and white at that time. In 2003, he purchased a digital camera and started doing color photography. He is quick to point out that he still spends time in the darkroom making archival prints of historic photographs in the collection. Bob has made such an important contribution to CMM through his work, most deserving of a moment in the spotlight.

These photographs demonstrate Bob’s skill and eye.
SAVE THE DATE – Bugeye Ball
Set for May 10, 2014

Be one of the first museum friends to experience the newly completed renovations by attending the Bugeye Ball Saturday, May 10, 2014. This is a must-attend evening of dining, dancing, gaming tables, raffles and adventure. Mark your calendars and make your reservations early. This year’s ball will raise money to support the renovation of our Estuarine Gallery. More information will be available in February. Tickets to the Bugeye Ball are $150 per person. Attendance is limited. Sponsorship opportunities ranging from $500 and above are available. Tax-deductible donations in any amount are also welcome. Please contact Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042 x16 or howardla@co.cal.md.us for more details about the event or to discuss sponsorship.

Membership Trip Planned for Tanger Outlets at National Harbor

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 16, 2014 for a fun-filled day of shopping at the area’s newest outlet stores located at National Harbor. The bus trip will leave from the Calvert Marine Museum with a pick up stop in Dunkirk and then on to National Harbor. We can enjoy lunch as a group and then – we will shop until we drop! Watch your inbox for an E-blast providing more details. Call Lisa Howard at 410-326-2042 x16 for more information.

Happy New Year from your Membership and Development Coordinator!

As 2013 comes to a close, I reflect back and my, what an exciting year it has been at the Museum! It has been a great year getting to know our members and I look forward to meeting many more of you during 2014. Keep your eye on our website (www.calvertmarinemuseum.com) and your email for more information on our Spring Members’ Party. It will be the first chance you will have to see the completed renovations of our lobby and auditorium areas. It is sure to be an exciting event that you will not want to miss.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your museum membership, or just want to introduce yourself and say hello, please call me at 410-326-2042 x16, email me at howardla@co.cal.md.us or just drop by – my door is always open. Here is wishing all of our members and friends a happy and prosperous Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing you at the museum in 2014!

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

By Vanessa Gill, Development Director

Capital Campaign
Sledgehammer Social

In celebration of the start of the museum’s renovation, senior staff and major donors to the Capital Campaign joined together on October 25th for the Sledgehammer Social. Guests enjoyed a behind-the-scenes hard hat tour of the former auditorium and kitchen areas which are being gutted to build the new Harms Gallery. This new flexible space can be used for lectures, educational programs, and changing exhibits, as well as performances and large private and public events.

Guests also got a preview of the renovation of the Estuarium Gallery. Thanks to the in-house talent of our staff, the Estuarium is undergoing a major renovation that includes new tanks, new species of marine life, upgrades to many of the existing tanks, and a complete renovation to the look of the hall. During the event, Curator Dave Moyer described the plans for the renovation, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2014.

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Welcome…

Jaclyn Mantell was hired in September 2013 as the aquarist intern in the Estuarine Biology department. She came to us with over eight years of experience in analytical sciences such as wet chemistry, metals analyses, and cataloging and preserving algae samples. She interned as an aquarist for the National Aquarium in Baltimore in 2004. Her favorite courses while attending Millersville University while working toward her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, were Ichthyology and Marine Invertebrates. While Jaclyn’s position is temporary, she has made an indelible impression on our department.

Victor Perez visited the Calvert Marine Museum in 1998, and found his first fossilized sharks’ tooth in the Discovery Room. From that point on he became adamant about pursuing a career in paleontology. He received an honors Bachelors of Science degree in geology with mathematics minor from Ohio State University and is now planning to study vertebrate paleontology in graduate school. This ambition has brought him full circle back to the Calvert Marine Museum as a vertebrate paleontology intern. His primary research interest revolves around the evolution of Megalodon and the morphological variations associated with their teeth.

Jeannine Harris has joined our staff as the new part-time Account Technician, replacing Gale Parks who retired in June. She works Tuesday through Friday, 9am – 3pm. She has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Indiana University of Pennsylvania which will help her with her duties at the museum. She is married with three children and lives in Calvert County. Jeannine is very involved in the community with Boy Scouts, church and soccer. We are delighted to have her and believe she will be a great addition to the museum family.

And Farewell…

Hannah Griscom joined the CMM education department in April as a part-time interpreter. She brought a strong background in wildlife biology and watershed conservation to the job. While at CMM, Hannah became a valuable asset, especially in our pre-school program. Her husband has accepted a position at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona and the family is relocating. We wish Hannah well, knowing that wherever she goes, she will make a contribution.

Calvert County Commissioners Susan Shaw and Patrick Nutter attend the “Sledgehammer Social” for capital campaign donors (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

Outgoing CMM Board member Mark MacDougall being recognized for his service to the museum by Vanessa Gill and Doug Alves. Other outgoing board members are Wanda DeBord, Dave Butler, and Mark Fisher (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

Development Update Continued from Page 10

Board Dinner

Board member Nancy Wieck and Linny Norment hosted the museum’s annual Board Dinner on Wednesday, December 11. Senior staff and current, past, and new board members spent time getting to know each other.

Leaving the Board of Governors after two three-year terms were Mark MacDougall and Wanda DeBord. Del. Mark Fisher also departed the board after one three-year term. The museum is very grateful for the time, dedication, and support we received from these members and the positive progress they have assisted with during their tenure.

The museum welcomed to the board several new members, including: Jack Fringer, a former World Bank employee and current commercial waterman; Joanne Yakaitis, a Senior Program Manager with Booz Allen Hamilton; and Karen O’Brien, a Leasing Associate with Curtis Investment Group. Returning to the board is A.J. Benn, a retired Navy pilot and contractor for Booz Allen Hamilton. Also joining the board is Tom Daugherty, a retired lawyer and banker. We look forward to combining the skills of the new members with those of our existing board to create a strong and effective museum leadership.

CMM STAFF UPDATE

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Board member Nancy Wieck and Linny Norment (CMM photo by Bob Hall).