On Tuesday, April 29, we cut the ribbon on our renovation project after years of planning and fundraising, and months of construction. What an exciting journey this has been. We cannot wait for you to experience the new look of the Calvert Marine Museum.

The entrance appears unchanged, although the doors have migrated to the right, creating a dramatic display window for the Museum Store in their place. As you enter, you are greeted by the new admission/information desk. Riding above the desk like an undulating wave is a large curved “bulkhead” that draws you in. To the left of the desk hang large acrylic panels where images are projected of upcoming events, otters playing, children engaged in programs, the Dee of St. Mary’s sailing on the Patuxent River – communicating a vibrant place of discovery. Behind the panels, you can sit and watch the orientation film in a small 20-seat theatre before heading into the exhibits.

Perhaps you’d like to check out our expanded store. The Museum Store welcomes you with open glass walls, large windows, bright lighting, and beautiful new furnishings. Always a highlight of any visit, the store now has a generous, spacious feeling, a showcase for unique and enticing items designed

Continued on page 2
to tempt you into taking a bit of the experience home.

You hear an announcement that a program is starting in the Harms Gallery. As you enter what used to be our auditorium, you are greeted by a bright open room with a stage positioned at one end and seating arranged around it. At the far end of the room an accent wall covered with what appears to be frozen waves is framed by handsome dark wood. Wall sconces throw light into the beautiful wooden beams above. Floating “clouds” absorb sound to create an acoustically pleasing experience.

On another occasion, you might come to the museum for a special event to find the wall between the lobby and the Harms Gallery has disappeared, and the space opened up with cafe tables arranged around the dance floor and a band playing on the stage. Or perhaps you visit during the Solomons Maritime Festival and discover that the Harms Gallery has been transformed into a home crafts display and demonstration area.

This project is the first phase of a multi-phase renovation outlined in our 2008 master plan. G.W.W.O. Architects from Baltimore created the design and Desbuild, Inc. out of Hyattsville won the construction bid. The total project cost, including design, construction, and equipment, is $2,165,000. Of that amount, the county contributed $985,000, the state contributed $290,000 through a bond bill and a grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, and the museum provided $835,672.

The second phase of the project involves expanding the mezzanine level to create additional educational space designed to accommodate our highly successful and fast growing educational programming. The goal is to fund this project and construct it within the next five years. Cost is estimated at $750,000 in 2014 dollars.
while the museum has been closed. Personally, I’ve never been busier. Once it became clear that we would be able to include the store in the project, I got busy raising funds, designing a layout, selecting a vendor, and ordering new fixtures and furnishings. Then I started working on filling all those new shelves and display cases with the unusual and delightful items you have come to expect at the Museum Store. I promise you will not be disappointed.

Opening day is Saturday, May 3, which happens to be the Solomons Maritime Festival. We are especially excited to welcome all of our members, both new and old, to celebrate our reopening. Don’t forget your member’s 10% store discount, and 20% off on the 20th of every month. Consider this a special invitation to come share the excitement. We’ll be here ready to welcome you.

\[\text{Assistant Store Manager Kim Zabiegalski always greets customers with a warm smile (CMM photo by Rob Hurry).}\]

**Discover the Museum Store — You Have to See It For Yourself! (Continued from page 2)**

On February 20, the museum lost another founder: Alton Kersey. Alton met his wife, Joann Lore, at William and Mary College in the early 1950s. After graduation they returned to Solomons and Alton went to work for his father-in-law, Joseph Lore, at the J.C. Lore and Sons oyster house. In those early years he restored and maintained the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a bugeye that served as the buyboat for the oyster house. To quote his daughter, Melissa, the work gave Alton “a newfound respect for wooden boats and the maintenance it took to keep them afloat. It also gave his father-in-law a glimmer of hope that he really was the right guy for Joann.”

In the late 1960s, Alton was part of an increasingly vocal group advocating to preserve the maritime heritage of Solomons. And he and Joann numbered among the founders who in 1970 opened the “Solomons Maritime Museum” in a temporary building on Solomons Island. Later, when the Lore Oyster House ceased operations in the late 1970s, Alton and Joann worked with then director Ralph Eschelman to make sure both the oyster house and then the *Wm. B. Tennison* became part of the museum’s holdings.

Alton took a proprietary attitude toward the museum, for obvious reasons. He was a tireless advocate, frequently calling with observations or suggestions or ideas on how to make the museum better. He never wavered from that original vision to preserve the maritime heritage of the area. He was very proud of the museum and what it had become. For several years, he and Joann volunteered for First Free Friday, teaching kids how to tie knots and lasso a piling. One night as he was leaving he asked a young boy what he thought of the place. The boy looked up at him and said: “This is the best place in the world!” Alton would repeat that story with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. And then add a suggestion that would make it just that little bit better.

Alton was a frequent visitor to the museum, and a fixture at any official event, always well turned out in a sports coat and tie. Dressing up, he said, was a sign of respect. We honor him as a museum founder, a lifetime member of the museum, a tireless advocate, an active and involved citizen of Solomons, and a true friend. He dedicated his life to making this community a better place to live, and we join with many others in celebrating his remarkable legacy.

**TRIBUTE TO ALTON KERSEY**

*The Founders Plaque at the museum’s front door reads:*

*In Recognition of the Founders of the Calvert Marine Museum who shared the vision, dedication, and commitment to mold their dream into a reality:*

Daniel Barrett Jr., William L. Dovel, Alton S. Kersey, Joseph C. Lore Jr. and James LeRoy “Pepper” Langley
Upcoming Events at CMM

GRAND REOPENING
Serves up Southern Maryland Traditions
at the 2014 Solomons Maritime Festival:
Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

There is no better way to celebrate the traditional heritage
of Southern Maryland than the Solomons Maritime Festival. This
year’s event coincides with the reopening of the museum, and
we expect record numbers. Highlights include the perennially
popular Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show now in its
15th year, master maritime carvers, Chesapeake Bay retriever
demonstrations, crafts and cooking demonstrations, traditional
music, and boat rides aboard the Wm. B. Tennison. New this
year will be wet plate photography demonstrations. It’s also a
perfect opportunity to see all the changes we made during the
renovation. The museum and all activities are FREE.

The Solomons Maritime Festival is sponsored by Calvert
County Board of Commissioners, Calvert County Watermen’s
Association, Chesapeake Energy Services, Harbor Island
Marina, Inc., Holiday Inn Solomons, McCready Boat Yard, Papa
John’s Pizza, Patuxent Small Craft Guild, Spring Cove Marina,
Washburn’s Boat Yard, and Zahniser’s Yachting Center. For more
information, please call Sherry Reid at 410-326-2042 x 19, or
visit the museum website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

Star Spangled Celebration: Tall Ship Invasion: June 21 – 22, Solomons

Tall Ships are coming to Solomons! The Calvert Marine Museum
has enlisted four tall ships to participate in the Star Spangled Celebration
of the War of 1812 Bicentennial. On June 17, The Kalmar Nyckel from
Wilmington, Delaware, will be the first to arrive, with its distinctive
bright blue hull and tall masts, and will dock at Waterman’s Wharf.
On June 18, The Pride of Baltimore II arrives, docking at the Solomons
Island Yacht Club. On June 19, the beautiful schooner Sultana from
Chestertown, Maryland, is scheduled to dock at Zahniser’s Yachting
Center, and the Dove from Historic St. Mary’s City will dock at the
museum on June 20th.

On Saturday, June 21, the museum is open free to the public and
all ships are offering free “Open Ship” tours from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Transportation between docking sites will be provided so that visitors
can park at the museum and move readily from ship to ship. On
Sunday, June 22, all ships will be sailing in convoy up the Patuxent
River and anchoring offshore at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
to participate in the re-enactment of the Battle of St. Leonard Creek.
For schedules, information on public sails, and details, check the

Don’t miss The 1812 Fair and Reenactment at Jefferson
Patterson Park and Museum that weekend. Visitors can enjoy 1812
reenactors encampments, skirmishes, and living history. Battle
demonstrations will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. On
Sunday the battle reenactment at 2 p.m. Details can be found at
http://www.jefpat.org/1812war.

Continued on next page
Upcoming Events at CMM

OtterMania! Saturday, July 12, 10 am – 5 pm

With the Estuarium out of commission and the aquarists up to their gills in finishing the new exhibit, Sharkiest was not an option this year. This gives us a perfect opportunity to celebrate everyone’s favorite otters. During OtterMania you can discover fascinating facts about otters from around the world and then play the Otter Jeopardy Game for special prizes. In the Harms Gallery see a show of our otters’ best artwork – all available for sale. You’ll have a chance to add your own artistic renderings of the otters or help paint the otter mural. Squeak, our otter mascot, will be on hand to tell some otter stories and lead everyone in a dance competition doing, what else! The Swim! And don’t miss the Silent Auction opportunity to win an Otter Lovers Art package. Our Volunteer Council will be on hand selling otter-themed snacks and fabulous face painting will be available for a $5 charge. Free with museum admission unless otherwise noted. As always, members get in free.
Visitors to the Drum Point Lighthouse learn that the cottage style structure was supported by screwpiles—now they can see one for themselves. One-hundred and thirty years after it was installed as a support piling for the Drum Point Lighthouse, one of the original screwpiles has been conserved and is on display beneath the lighthouse.

The seven pilings that supported the lighthouse were screwed into the shoal off Drum Point during a three-day period beginning July 19, 1883. When the lighthouse was moved to the museum grounds in 1975, the solid, wrought iron pilings were cut off just above the high tide mark and the lower sections with their cast iron helical screw augers were left in place. In January 2001, the museum learned that a marine construction crew had excavated four of the foundation pilings from the original lighthouse site and deposited them on a nearby beach.

Dislodged from their marine home where they had happily resided since 1883, the iron pilings began to deteriorate as soon as they were exposed to air. The museum took on the responsibility of retrieving and preserving them. Using a hired crane truck, the pilings were taken to the museum grounds where they were kept wet to slow down the rate of deterioration while we consulted several conservators who specialize in marine archaeological artifacts.

After some deliberation, we decided to cut a section of one piling with its screw still attached and to embark on a multiyear regime to conserve it and another detached screw auger. The other sections were then submerged in the museum’s boat basin to preserve them. Marine sediments were mechanically removed from the iron surfaces to begin the preservation process. The next, and most lengthy, step was to place the artifacts in an electrolytic solution to leach out chlorides that threatened to deteriorate the iron. Curator Richard Dodds enlisted the talents of long-time volunteer Paul Adams to work out the logistics of the electrolysis process. After consulting with Howard Wellman, chief conservator for the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab), Adams developed a plan of action. He custom fashioned steel mesh to act as anodes, wired the necessary electrical components, and identified the chemicals needed to conduct electrolysis. A fiberglass tank was retrofitted by Adams to hold the artifacts and the electrolytic solution and a recirculating pump was installed. Thus began a multiyear process of treatment. After several years, the solution’s readings reached chloride levels that were comparable to tap water.

In late 2011, the MAC Lab was contracted to complete the treatment of the two screwpiles and prepare one for exhibit at the museum. Chief Conservator Nichole Doub directed the work and Conservator Caitlin Shaffer and intern Adrienne Sweatman conducted the hands-on cleaning, preparation, treatment, and coating of the artifacts over an eight-month period. The final phase of treatment was the application of a sealant of carnuba wax that can be reapplied, as needed.

Museum staff transported the conserved artifacts back to Solomons in September 2012 and placed one in storage. Exhibit Technician Tim Scheirer researched the best method to display the other screwpile. Taking into account the weight of the shaft and screw at 1,342 pounds, he designed and fabricated a custom cradle and railing system to support and protect the artifact. In late 2013, the screwpile was installed next to the center piling below the Drum Point Lighthouse with temporary signage. It will serve as a valuable interpretive tool in telling the story of the lighthouse.
A Lifetime of Public Service – Inventoring the Archive of Senator Bernie Fowler

By Richard Dodds, Curator of Maritime History

Senator C. Bernard (Bernie) Fowler is probably one of Calvert County’s most well-known and respected politicians. Fowler’s career of public service started in 1963 with his election to the Calvert County Board of Education. This was followed by twelve years as Calvert County Commissioner from 1970 to 1982. In 1983 he was elected to the Maryland Senate, a position he held until retiring in 1994. Along the way, Sen. Fowler served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Patuxent River Commission, and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. He also played a key role in developing the first comprehensive plan for the county, and was a founder of the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse.

Today, Sen. Fowler is perhaps best known for his long-standing and passionate commitment to cleaning up the Patuxent River. Growing up on the shores of this beautiful waterway, he remembers the days when hard working families made a living harvesting the abundant fish, shellfish, and crabs in its clear waters. Much of his political career has been spent in trying to reverse the tide of neglect. The Annual Patuxent River Wade-In on the second Sunday in June has focused attention on the river and features Sen. Fowler’s “Sneaker Index,” an informal but effective measure of water clarity.

In late 2012, Sen. Fowler approached the museum about the future of his extensive archive, built up over a lifetime of public service. The collection includes awards and other memorabilia, documents, news clippings, and audiovisual materials. Due to the size and diverse subject matter of the archive, it was agreed that a detailed inventory of the collection should be a necessary first step. A budget was prepared and funds sought to hire an archival assistant to work under the direction of the maritime history department. The museum was fortunate to obtain a grant from the Keith Campbell Foundation, and a donation from Bernie Fowler Jr. to help pay the cost. Financial support also came from a benefit concert featuring Mac Walter and John Cronin, and from a mini-grant from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.

With funding in place, the museum hired Paul Doherty of Chesapeake Beach to conduct the inventory. Paul set to work at the Fowler residence in the fall of 2013, systematically going through the archive and creating an index with a brief description of each item or group of items according to subject areas. Selected items were also photographed. Fortunately, most of the archive was well organized and in good condition. This inventory is now complete, with 1,254 items included. In the next few months, the museum will partner with organizations and individuals to seek ways of preserving this important record of Calvert County history during a period of rapid change, both on land and in the water.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer & Events Coordinator

With the closure of the museum for renovations, many of the volunteers that we were used to seeing each day in the museum have been temporarily off duty. The staff has been getting to those “back burner” projects and the volunteers have been great about coming in and helping wherever they are needed. One of the more interesting of these special assignments has been matching oyster shells for aquarist Laura Magdeburger to use in the new oyster reef exhibit. Some of the volunteers have been able to continue their behind-the-scenes work through the renovation period in areas such as the library, development office, paleo prep lab, estuarine biology, and the Patuxent Small Craft Guild. Several volunteers have also been pitching in to assist exhibits staff with construction of the new estuarine biology exhibit. So, despite being closed, CMM continues to be a beehive of activity.

Some days it is challenging to get around the museum with everything that’s going on. The end is in sight – and it’s very exciting to see all the changes taking shape. We look forward to having all of our volunteers back in place to greet the visitors when the museum reopens in May. Thanks for your patience and your help with the special projects. Spring will come and life at CMM will get back to normal soon.
Every day there is some new development in the estuarine gallery as we continue to work on renovating that space. One morning a tractor trailer pulled up with all of the new fiberglass tanks and the entire CMM staff turned out to help unload them and move the tanks into the museum. It was quite a feat hoisting the heavy tanks into the custom built frames, but thanks to creative teamwork, they slid in like they were made for each other. Nothing got broken and everything fit; a good day. Now it is a matter of assembling the major pieces and putting together what is sure to be an awesome exhibit.

We are renovating the invasive species area last and using it as a storage and staging area for the project as the rest of the museum prepares to reopen May 3. The exhibit entrance and transition from the paleontology gallery has become the primary work zone for the exhibits team as they install the wall treatment throughout the main exhibit area. Evidence of their work is seen in the smoke, flying dust, and the smell of drying paint and the sounds of the nail guns and skill saws reverberate in everyone’s ears. Jim Langley and Skip Edwards, working with our skilled volunteers Tom Younger and Jim Wilson, are transforming the gutted hall into an entirely new environment.

A new aquarium insert is being designed and fabricated offsite for the Beneath Our Bridges tank. The chain dogfish (our sole shark species) are resting patiently in their holding tank awaiting installation of their new tank so they can take up residence. The coastal shallows and freshwater habitat areas have had a significant overhaul. We have lowered each aquarium for easier viewing by our younger guests and eliminated the step which often proved a tripping hazard. Each tank has received a filtration rebuild, and inspection and repair to the décor. The Reef Refuge oyster exhibit has a brand new reef that was painstakingly put together literally one oyster at a time by aquarist Laura Magdeburger. The Freshwater Angler exhibit just got stocked with replica pondweed shipped from the UK. The new Minnows exhibit is in place and will be the focus of significant plumbing over the next several weeks, as will the new circular adaptations tanks. All of the aquarists have been assigned new tanks to manage, new species to take care of, and the learning curve and excitement level are both high.

In the meantime, Tim Scheirer of exhibits has been painstakingly illustrating the continuous waterline mural while Rachel Reese works with the new back-lit graphics panels that will hold the text panels. The new fish sounds interactive – “What do the fish say?” developed by Michael Godfrey is sure to be a hit, if the reaction from our evaluation focus groups is any indication. The computer station games are under development and will invite guests to play with what they learn and experience in the habitat zones. Tom Lewis,
**UPDATE – River to Bay: Reflections and Connections** (Continued from page 8)

on loan from the education department, has been hand cutting and individually crafting a school of sheet metal Rockfish chasing Menhaden (both predators and prey) for what is sure to be an eye-catching frenzy of mobile action.

Meanwhile the education staff is working on developing ‘maker spaces’ that invite guests to make or do something in the exhibit. There will be three of these activity areas spread through the gallery that are designed to illustrate some concept introduced by the exhibit text.

Volunteers and staff alike have all chipped in to ensure the success of this endeavor. We are lucky to have such an array of individual talents within our workforce. And we know you are going to love the results!

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 proceeds of the May Bugeye Ball will also go to support this project.

**EDUCATION UPDATE**

The education department has not been idle during the closure; we have been reworking our core programs, aligning school programs with the new standards, reaching out to new partners, and designing new programs. When we reopen in May, expect wonderful things.

We’ve been working hard on our summer sails and cruises. Virtually every Saturday from June through August you can venture out on the water to experience one of our cruises or sails. The Dee of St. Mary’s public sails focus on our beautiful Chesapeake Bay; Lighthouse Adventure Cruises allow you to experience Chesapeake Bay lighthouses from the water; 1812 Sunset Supper Cruises aboard the Tennison are a fun way to learn about the War of 1812 from a local expert; and, as always, we’ve got special Wm. B. Tennison cruises throughout the summer – so many ways to enjoy the Chesapeake Bay.

We are also thrilled to announce the museum’s inclusion as a State Aided Institution in the 2015 state budget, which will provide funding to support our educational programming. We greatly appreciate Governor O’Malley’s support, and that of Senator Mike Miller, in making this funding possible. This will also enable us to subsidize getting students out on the Dee of St. Mary’s, ensuring that we are able to support that exciting program.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE EXPANDS TO SECOND WEEK**

CMM is teaming up with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies Chesapeake Biological Lab (CBL) with support from the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust to once again offer middle school students a unique in-depth summer experience. You can find details, fees, and registration information on our website: [LINK]

**Environmental Institute I** will run from July 28 through August 1, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. This intensive program is designed for young people who have a strong curiosity about the natural environment. Participants will talk with CBL scientists who have collected base data on the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay for over 30 years. They will map the shoreline from aboard the skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s and visit a shoreline restoration project at Cove Point and a living shoreline. The institute will conclude with team presentations for friends, parents, and colleagues about their findings.

**Environmental Institute II**, limited to students who have completed Environmental Institute I, takes place the following week, August 4 through 8. Students in this more advanced program will explore a key indicator of Chesapeake Bay health: the oyster. The Dee of St. Mary’s serves as a floating classroom and will sail to an oyster hatchery at Morgan State University’s Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory. Participants will interview local watermen about harvesting oysters, and visit the Lore Oyster House to learn about the oyster’s journey from the oyster bed, to the processing plant, to the table. The highlight of the week will be an extended sail aboard the Dee of St. Mary’s to Point Lookout State Park for an overnight camping trip.

**Special Opportunity for Grandparents and Grandkids age 8 – 12: Fossils, Fish and Fun!**

The week of June 23 through 27, the museum is hosting a Road Scholar Intergenerational Program that features the best the museum has to offer. Special rates are available for commuters. For a full description of the program and details, go to http://www.roadscholar.org and search Calvert Marine Museum.
DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

Announcing the PNC Waterside Concert Series

Rascal Flatts – Thursday, May 29th

The internationally known, award-winning country group Rascal Flatts will perform live Thursday, May 29 on the Calvert Marine Museum’s PNC Waterside Pavilion. Rascal Flatts debuted in 2000 and has since sold over 22.5 million albums with 14 number one singles. Opening for Rascal Flatts is up and coming country singer Brandy Clark. Brandy has been singing and playing guitar since she was nine years old and recently celebrated her first number one song as a writer with “Better Dig Two” recorded by The Band Perry.

Thompson Square – Friday, July 18

Two-time reigning country music duo Thompson Square will perform live on our newly renovated PNC Waterside Pavilion. Their latest single Everthing I Shouldn’t Be Thinking About is rising in the top 10 and is the follow-up to their #1 smash hit If I Didn’t Have You. Their break-through #1 hit Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not is another great song they’ll play for you live at the museum. Tickets for the show are $38 and $48.

Under the Sun Tour: Sugar Ray, Uncle Kracker, Smashmouth and the Gin Blossoms – Sunday, July 27

Mark your calendar to hear Sugar Ray, Smashmouth, Uncle Kracker, and the Gin Blossoms perform four hours of live music on the Waterside stage. Gates will open early and hit after hit will fill the night. The kids will recognize Smash Mouth hits from the Shrek movies like All Star, I’m a Believer and Walkin on the Sun. Enjoy great hits like Smile and Follow Me from Uncle Kracker and the Gin Blossoms’ Hey Jealousy, Follow You Down, and Found Out About You. Of course you can’t forget about Sugar Ray’s Fly, Someday, When It’s Over, and Every Morning. There is something to fit every musical taste.

Tickets for the last concert are priced at $39 & $48. A member’s Eblast will be sent with the passwords and details about on-sale dates for both shows. Tickets will be available online at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com, at 1-800-787-9454, or in person at Prince Frederick Dodge/JEEP.

Proceeds from the Waterside Concert Series support the exhibits and exciting programs offered at the Calvert Marine Museum. This event would not be possible without the generous support of many local businesses. Waterside 2014 sponsors include: Prince Frederick Ford/JEEP/Dodge, PNC Bank, Bozick Distributors, Inc., Directmail.com, Holiday Inn Solomons, All American Harley-Davidson, Quality Built Homes, Roy Rogers, Tidewater Dental, 98.3 Star FM, Bay Weekly, Comcast Cable Communications, Metrocast, Quick Connections, Southern Maryland Newspapers, Asbury Solomons Island, Isaac’s Restaurant, Jay Worch Electric, LLC, Papa John’s Pizza, The McNelis Group, LLC, United Rentals and World Gym.

Bugeye Ball to be held
Saturday, May 10

On Saturday, May 10th, the Calvert Marine Museum’s Bugeye Ball welcomes you to the elegant era of the Riverboat. The Ball Committee is designing a night to remember – a way to thank our friends and celebrate the opening of the new Harms Gallery, the Museum Store, and other renovations that have taken place over the winter. Expect fabulous food, swinging entertainment, gaming tables, elegant décor, beautiful people and … the unexpected.

Don't miss this chance to kick off the museum’s reopening in fine style. Proceeds from the Bugeye Ball will go to support our new estuarine biology exhibit, River to Bay: Reflections and Connections. Ball attendees will get a sneak preview of the exciting developments in this gallery, scheduled to open in October 2014.

Tickets for the event and sponsorship opportunities are available by calling Lisa Howard in the Development Office at 410-326-2042 x16.

Win a Trip to Tuscany

Spend seven days in a private villa and receive $2,500 toward your airfare. Stay in La Terazza, a three bedroom villa located in the medieval town of Cetona, Italy. Chances are $75 each or 2 for $100, and only 500 chances will be sold. Raffle ticket proceeds will benefit the renovation of our new estuarine biology exhibit. Fill out the online entry form and you will receive a receipt for your purchase in the mail. The drawing is to be held at the Bugeye Ball on Saturday, May 10. You need not be present to win. * The winner is responsible for making travel arrangements. CMMS will contribute $2,500 toward airfare. For additional details and photos of the villa visit La Terazza.

Renew Your Membership!

Museum members receive many benefits, including the opportunity to order concert tickets a week prior to the general public – the best way to ensure yourselves a ticket. Thank you for your continued support of the museum and its work. We look forward to seeing you in our new space, at one of our many events, or at one of the unforgettable Waterside concerts. It’s all about you!

Member’s Reception – Sunday, May 18 – Save the Date!

We want to be sure our members have the opportunity to come and see all the changes we’ve made over the winter. On Sunday, May 18 from 12 noon – 3 pm you are invited to a members’ only reception in the Harms Gallery (formerly the auditorium). Watch for your E-vite, coming soon.
CMM SOCIETY GOING IN NEW DIRECTIONS

By Vanessa Gill, Development Director

Under the guidance of the Board of Directors, the Calvert Marine Museum Society is in the process of refocusing our purpose and reshaping our staffing to reflect these changes. The museum has reached a point in its development when reliance on government and one major source of fundraising is no longer sufficient. We must establish the long-term financial stability of the museum using a sustainable model. This means increasing our efforts in the area of estate planning and corporate and foundation support. The addition of trust and estate lawyer Rosemary Keffler to our Board of Directors reflects this goal.

With the opening of Cove Point Lighthouse in 2012 as a weekly vacation rental, and the addition of the new Harms Gallery, it is important to maximize the income potential of these investments to realize the financial benefits for the long-term support of the museum. To address these needs, we are working with the board to define two new society positions that would handle these two critical functions.

The final change relates to public relations department. In an effort to streamline our outreach, the Society has realigned the public relations responsibilities under the supervision of the museum’s Deputy Director. This is now a part-time position that will handle promotion and marketing for museum events.

Annual Report

The 2013 year brought many notable changes for the museum. We broke ground on a major renovation project, added an iconic skipjack to our collection, saw record numbers of tickets purchased for our fundraising concerts, and discovered a new whale skeleton.

All of these memorable moments, as well as a summary of the year’s activities are detailed in our 2013 Annual Report and can be found on our website. Please take a moment to reflect on our successes and help us celebrate the next stage in the life of CMM.

How to Minimize the Impacts of Maryland Inheritance Tax by Supporting the Museum

By Rosemary Keffler, Esq, Member of the Board of Directors

Maryland remains one of only a handful of states that still imposes an estate tax separate from the federal estate tax. While the federal estate tax currently allows for an exemption of $5.3 million, the Maryland exemption amount is only $1 million. This means that you, or more accurately your heirs, may end up paying a significant amount of tax simply because you were a resident of the state of Maryland when you died.

The initial reaction of many people is that they are not “millionaires” and thus will not be impacted by this tax. However, the gross estate subject to taxation is calculated based upon all of your assets, including real estate, bank accounts, investments, vehicles, retirement funds, business interests, annuities, and death benefits from life insurance policies. It does not matter whether these assets pass to your heirs through probate, or joint ownership or beneficiary designation. If you have an ownership interest in an asset when you die, the value of that ownership interest is includable in your taxable estate. For life insurance policies, if you own the policy when you die, the policy proceeds are includable in your taxable estate. With a tax rate of 16%, the impact of this tax can be significant.

Many planning techniques are available to minimize or avoid estate tax. Planning can be difficult because there are positives and negatives to each technique, and you must determine what is appropriate for you and your family based upon your particular facts and circumstances. One area of consideration that often is a “win-win” involves charitable giving. Charitable giving allows you to maximize the inheritance to your family, and recognize your philanthropic goals.

Charitable giving can be utilized effectively in many ways. You can make a direct lifetime gift, thereby reducing the value of your taxable estate while also potentially qualifying as a deduction on your income tax return. You can also recognize a charity to inherit at your death, and the amount of the bequest to a charity is subtracted from the value of your taxable estate. More sophisticated techniques such as charitable gift annuities can benefit a charity and reduce your taxable estate, while also providing an income stream to you during your lifetime. In short, there are a myriad of options available that can benefit both your heirs and your favorite charities.

UPDATE – On Thursday, March 20, 2014, the Maryland Senate approved a bill to raise the Maryland estate tax exemption amount to $1.5 million next year and to $2 million in 2016. The exemption would then rise to $3 million in 2017 and to $4 million in 2018, with the Maryland estate tax to be tied to the federal exemption in 2019. Gov. Martin O’Malley must sign the bill to make it law. Stay tuned to future issues of the Bugeye Times for updates.
This winter has been a very different one for the staff at CMM. Not only are we missing our part time staffers and volunteers, but we’ve had several people out on long term leave. Happily, everyone will be ‘coming home’ in May. A grand reunion as well as a reopening!

Jim Langley, Curator for Exhibits and son of founder “Pepper” Langley, received his 30-year recognition from the Calvert County Board of Commissioners on February 4. Way to hang in there Jim!

Victor Perez, the intern who has been working in paleontology, has been accepted at the University of Florida in Gainesville in the vertebrate paleontology doctoral program. Not only is he jumping over the masters and going straight to the doctorate, he got a full ride. Congratulations Victor!

Traci Cimini has rejoined the CMM family to do part-time public relations work. We are thrilled to have her positive energy and boundless enthusiasm back working for the museum.

Jaclyn Mantell, the intern in Estuarine Biology, was part of a St. Mary’s College Relay for Life team that participated in the twelve hour walkathon on March 1. Fulfilling a promise she made to staff if they contributed over $200, (she raised over $500), Jaclyn appeared in the otter costume. Following is a quote from the article she wrote for the Anchor, our Volunteer newsletter:

“As soon as I walked into the gym dressed as a giant otter, the whole environment changed. Strangers wanted to take pictures with me, friends wanted high fives, and I wanted more ice packs because the costume is HOT. I’ll admit, I felt like the coolest person there. No one could see who I was inside so I just let loose and got goofy. I danced around and pointed my four-fingered paw at random folks; our team got noticed and we started selling more raffle tickets. I even won the costume contest, all thanks to the Calvert Marine Museum!”

Marilyn Baler is joining the Museum Store staff as a part-time weekend sales associate. Hailing from Massachusetts, Marilyn and her husband moved to Solomons six years ago to be closer to some of her “perfect” grandchildren. She loves to collect sea glass and is involved in many activities from yoga and landscaping to mahjongg and crocheting.

Joe Bernard, our preternaturally cheerful lead grounds maintenance worker, has been out recovering from a serious operation. We are all looking forward to having his smiling face back among us, not to mention his help.