In May 2013, the Calvert Marine Museum accepted ownership of the skipjack Dee of St. Mary’s from the Board of Directors of the Chesapeake Bay Field Lab (Bugeye Times Summer 2013, p. 7). This was a big step for the museum. As was frequently pointed out to us at the time, an old wooden boat is a big hole you pour money into. CMM board and staff members recognized the challenge, but forged ahead in the belief that this skipjack, one of the very few ever built on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, is an iconic part of local maritime history, and as such embodies our mission: “… the collection, preservation, research, and interpretation of the culture and natural history of Southern Maryland.”

In 1985, the Maryland General Assembly named the skipjack Maryland’s State Boat. In the ruling, it states that: “Nothing better represents the way of life of Maryland watermen than the historic Chesapeake Boat known as the Skipjack …” The heyday and decline of the Chesapeake skipjack parallels that of the Chesapeake Bay fisheries. Seeing sailing skipjacks working on the water was once a common site; today it is remarkable. Based on state licensing records, in 1957, more than 80 skipjacks plied the waters of Chesapeake Bay. By 1985, when the skipjack was

Continued on page 2
designated the State Boat, fewer than three dozen licensed and working skipjacks still sailed the bay. The Chesapeake Bay Skipjack Fleet has been recognized as a national treasure in danger of extinction. On June 6, 2002, the Fleet was named to the 2002 list of America’s Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Dee of St. Mary’s is part of that maritime history and comes with a great responsibility to honor and preserve the legacy of the working watermen. The museum is well situated to undertake the challenge. The Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG), the volunteer group that maintains our wooden boat collection under the guidance of boatwright George Surgent, immediately adopted the Dee. Guild member Ed Bahnuiik stepped up to serve as the first captain of record. Ed had the marine survey done as required for insurance purposes, and then set about correcting a number of identified deficiencies in preparation for the Coast Guard inspection. His assistance was invaluable in getting all of the required certificates, licenses, and documentation necessary to pass the USCG inspection. He also heads up the PSCG work crew. Every Tuesday and Saturday this group works on boat improvements and the results are impressive. Collectively they have accumulated 1,637 hours of volunteer labor, replacing the “head”, scraping and repainting the deck, making new mast hoops, replacing rigging, and dozens of other projects large and small to improve the boat’s appearance and handling. At the end of 2013, Ed stepped back to become a “back-up” captain, having accomplished his goal of ensuring a smooth transition for the skipjack. He is being honored as the first Captain of Record on a plaque that will be placed aboard the vessel. We now have five captains working with the Dee of St. Mary’s and have recently named Jim Black the new head captain.

Support for this venture has also extended to recruiting crew members. John Fulchiron, who worked with Jack Russell for years as the first mate, “conveyed with the vessel” bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge about the boat. He has worked closely with the captains to help train the crew. There are currently ten fully trained crew members and over 30 others who are in various stages of training.

Continued on next page
Preserving the Past While Charting the Future With the Dee of St. Mary’s
(Continued from page 2)

The museum’s primary purpose in accepting the skipjack is to use it for field-based environmental education programming. We are joining sister organizations like the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Living Classrooms Foundation, Sultana Projects, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in using historic vessels to get students out on the water to learn about the Chesapeake Bay through direct experience. Staff member Mindy Quinn, a former educator and mate with Living Classrooms Foundation, is the director of the CBFL programs and works closely with the Dee captains and crew to integrate the educational component into crew training. A number of education staff are fully trained crew members as well.

Programs aboard the Dee of St. Mary’s offer participants a chance to experience the Chesapeake Bay in a hands-on way that is not possible inside a classroom. Students work as a team to raise, lower, and furl the sails. Watching students work together to raise a 300 pound sail with simple kid power and seeing them marvel at how high they lifted it is a memorable experience.

During the sail, students are divided into smaller groups and move between various learning stations including navigation, running a dredge, or learning about oysters. Students are surprised to discover they can navigate their way on the water using a compass and a chart instead of relying on a smartphone GPS. Seeing the pride spread across these young faces when they haul in a dredge with oysters in it and then figure out what lives in an oyster reef from the clues in the dredge is rewarding. But most importantly, students experience a connection to the ecosystem of which they are an integral part. The goal of the CBFL programs is to use that connection to help kids care, and ultimately care for the environment by fostering a sense of stewardship.

The students enjoyed the ride out on the bay best. They learned the different parts of the skipjack and had a fantastic time learning how to put down a sail. The students were excited to have such a hands-on educational experience.

Bridget DeVito, Middle School Teacher

Currently, education staff are developing several programs that will be conducted on the Dee including a study of plastics found in the local fish population, and a study on the success rate of the local oyster population measured by counting the oyster spat on the shells that have been planted locally. Greatly enhancing the museum’s ability to offer affordable sailing programs to Maryland students is the $50,000 in funding provided in fiscal year 2015 by the Maryland State Department of Education. These funds may be used to support any direct student or teacher experience. Because it is expensive to operate the skipjack, these funds will subsidize the cost to schools of our field-based programs, thus making them affordable and accessible to everyone. CBFL programs operate from late March through early November. We are also offering public sails on the Dee throughout the summer, and taking out private charters.

We are working hard to maintain the Dee of St. Mary’s connection to the citizens and young people of Southern Maryland, to continue growing its reputation as an exciting and unique way to experience our beautiful waterways. Many people are eager to share their memories of sailing aboard the Dee in the past. We are excited to have that tradition continue under the museum’s auspices as we focus on preserving the past while charting the future.

Music was provided by Bushmill Band. A small silent auction allowed guests to bid on an array of maritime items. A number of beautiful prints created from photographs were available. Hand carved wood items, either depicting the Dee or made from wood taken from the Dee added a level of interest. There was also a beautiful brass porthole, a brass bell from the Dee, and a naval commemorative flag from the 1912 centennial of the War of 1812, showing 15 stars. Sherrod Sturrock, Deputy Director took a few minutes to thank all those who have supported the Dee, including the Patuxent Small Craft Guild members who help maintain the boat. Mindy Quinn introduced all of the captains and Jim Black was introduced as the new head captain. Lastly, Sturrock and Curator for Maritime History Richard Dodds recognized Captain Ed Bahniuk for his significant contribution. As the first captain of record of the Dee, he was instrumental in getting all of the required documentation in place for a successful transition.

Thanks to our sponsors, those who purchased tickets, the generous donations from local businesses, and the proceeds from the silent auction, we raised $6,600 for a jib sail.

(Top) Some of the attendees of the Jib’s Up fundraiser enjoying the evening’s festivities (photo by Butch Garren).

(Bottom) A sampling of the food and beverages donated for the event by fifteen area businesses (photo by Butch Garren).

Charitable Gift Annuities

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

It is a very busy and exciting time around the museum. And through the commitment of our devoted supporters, we plan to continue growing and offering more to the community. Did you know that there is a way to support the museum through financial contributions that can benefit you more than just a charitable deduction on your income tax return? These mechanisms are referred to as “semi-philanthropic” because they provide a way to accomplish your personal financial goals while also supporting the museum.

One of the more popular mechanisms is called a charitable gift annuity. Essentially, the donor transfers cash or property (“gift”) to the museum in exchange for a fixed dollar payment during their lifetime (“annuity”). The payments can begin immediately or after a certain designated period, and can be paid over one lifetime of one donor or two. This scenario is usually the survivor of a husband and wife who wish to make a joint gift. The gift is split, in that a portion of the gift is immediately available for use by the charity, and the remainder is set aside to be invested to support the annuity. Several factors, including the age of donor, determine the annuity rate. The donor receives a charitable deduction for amount of the immediate gift, potentially a time period of tax-free annuity payments, and a guaranteed income stream for life.

The charitable gift annuity provides the maximum benefit when the donor transfers appreciated assets as the gift. For example, a donor may have appreciated stock in his portfolio that is not paying a dividend or that the donor now considers too risky. If sold, the donor would have to immediately pay the capital gains tax. If, however, the stock itself is donated and used to fund the charitable gift annuity, the capital gain is deferred over the payments until all of the appreciation is accounted for. In addition to the advantages listed in the above paragraph, the donor is able to dispose of an asset that no longer meets his needs while reducing and deferring capital gains.

This article is a very limited discussion on how supporting the museum can also financially benefit you. Please consult your tax advisor or legal professional to determine if a charitable gift annuity or any other charitable giving makes sense for you. Obviously, one time contributions in any amount are always welcome. We take seriously our commitment to be good stewards of those contributions and to maximize the return to the museum and the community.

UPDATE — In the last issue of the Bugeye Times, I wrote about a bill that passed the Maryland legislature raising 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. The bill is now law as Gov. Martin O’Malley signed the bill on May 15, 2014.
Paleocene Turtle Excavation
By John Nance, Assistant Paleontologist

In early May, the staff of the Paleontology Department was contacted regarding a very rare fossil found in Prince George's county. The property owner, Bernard Kuehn, was walking along a creek on his property after a particularly heavy rain storm when he spotted something interesting. He knew immediately that it was a fossil and that it was unlike anything he had seen in his 30 years of collecting there. He contacted Peter Kranz, Paleontologist with the Dinosaur Park in Laurel, MD, who in turn contacted CMM. John Nance and Victor Perez, Paleontology intern, investigated the fossil and determined it was a partial shell from a large soft-shell turtle (Family Trionychidae, see picture 1). The fossil is roughly 58 million years old from the Paleocene Epoch. Even more interesting is the fact that the modern soft-shell turtles are fresh water dwelling animals but this fossil was found in marine (salt water) sediments. Likely the animal died and was washed out to sea by river currents … the detective work continues.

John, Victor, and owner, Mr. Kuehn began to work in earnest to free the fossil from the surrounding sediments but the rock turned out to be harder than anything the CMM staff had ever encountered. It was obvious that putty knives, even hammers and chisels were not going to be very effective. Luckily the paleontology department has a group of diehard volunteers that love a challenge in the field. One of those volunteers, Phil Piccoli from the University of Maryland, came out to operate a rock saw for us as we attempted to quarry this fossil. He spent a whole day running the diamond rock saw to cut around the fossil, creating a pedestal supporting the remaining rock and fossil, which was about two feet in diameter. The next challenge was how to undercut and remove it to the museum to be prepared. Riding to the rescue with a diamond bladed chainsaw came Joe and Devin Fernandez from Diamond Core Drilling and Sawing Company (see picture 2). That was just what was needed to undercut the fossil. They spent two hours working their way around and under the fossil until it was free. John and Victor, along with summer interns Cecily Hein and Anna Darden hauled the 200 pound fossil one mile out of the woods to our waiting vehicle.

The turtle is on display in the Paleo Prep Lab (see picture 3) in the museum where it is being prepared to uncover the rest of the bone. Owner, Mr. Kuehn, generously donated the fossil to our permanent paleontology collection where it will be safely housed and available for research.

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Picture 1. Extant Soft-shelled Turtle *Apalone mutica* (http://ninnescahlife.wichita.edu/node/656)

Picture 2. Joe (left) and Devin Fernandez of Diamond Core Drilling and Sawing Company (www.diamondcore.com) were a life-saver in helping with the removal of the jacketed Paleocene turtle partial carapace! They spent two hours wielding a diamond-bladed chainsaw just to cut below the jacket that measured about two feet in diameter. It would have taken us days (photo by John Nance).

Picture 3. Cecily Hein, Paleo Summer Intern, uses an air scribe (think small jack hammer) to remove sediment from around the bones. It will be a long and arduous task (photo by John Nance).
On Sunday, June 8, former state senator Bernie Fowler held the 27th annual wade-in at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Initially started to bring attention to the declining quality of the Patuxent River, this annual tradition has become a way to inform and engage people all over the state in environmental activism.

Since the first event, Bernie has appeared for the wade-in dressed in blue overalls, a blue shirt, a white straw hat sporting a miniature American flag, and his famous white tennis shoes — which is where the term “sneaker index” came from. He and others who don’t mind a little river water hold hands and wade out until he can no longer see those white shoes. That depth marks the level of water clarity that is transferred to the “Sneaker Index”. Not a scientific method, but a great way to involve others in talking about water quality.

Senator Fowler speaks nostalgically of the time in his youth when the river was clear and he could wade up to his chest crabbing before his feet disappeared. This year, the depth measured 23”, a drop of 11” from the 2013 mark.

Prior to the wade-in, Sherrod Sturrock and Richard Dodds from the museum accepted the shirt, overalls, hat, and sneakers that Bernie wore at every wade-in for the past 26 years. Sporting new but identical clothing, he presented the outfit to the museum for the collection. As part of the new estuarine biology exhibit, River to Bay: Reflections and Connections, there is a section focusing on local activism and highlighting Bernie’s work. Visitors will be able to come and see for themselves the famous white tennis shoes, see photographs of wade-ins through the years, and hear Senator Fowler talk about his work.

The new exhibit is scheduled to open PRAD weekend, October 11 – 12, 2014.

Remembering Elizabeth Corbin
September 11, 1914 – May 29, 2014

Mrs. Elizabeth Corbin, who donated funding in her husband’s memory for the Corbin Pavilion, died in May at age 100. Her husband, Samuel Corbin, was a career military officer and together they traveled extensively throughout Europe and the Far East. Mrs. Corbin raised three children and taught secondary education at base schools wherever her husband was assigned. Upon their return to the States, they settled in Camp Springs, Maryland. While in the D.C. area, Mrs. Corbin became associated with the National Gallery of Art as a docent, receiving several prestigious awards for her 5000 hours of service. After her husband died in 1995, Mrs. Corbin remained very active and independent. She enjoyed good health and drove to the base PX every week until she was 97. Her son, Sam Jr., says she never let him forget that he “took her car away!” Both the Corbins were involved in teaching and education all of their lives and while stationed at the Pax River Naval Air Station would frequently visit the museum. They became great believers in both the historical restoration work and the educational and hands-on programs they observed. It was from these early visits and impressions that Mrs. Corbin, in conjunction with her son, decided to do something to perpetuate the wonderful work of the museum.

(Left) Elizabeth Corbin, seated, surrounded by family and friends following the dedication of the Corbin Pavilion (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

(Below) The Corbin Pavilion was completed in 2009 (CMM photo by Bob Hall).
Volunteer Profile: Jim Ward, Our Web Master

By Sherrod Sturrock

In 1998, Google Inc. was launched as a search engine for web sites on the World Wide Web, and the new era of “dot coms” took off. In 1999, a new CMM member named Jim Ward offered to volunteer his services to set up a website for the museum. Until that point, the museum’s only presence on the internet had been an address and phone number appended to the Calvert Library site. Jim’s expertise was both timely and much appreciated. Since that first independent CMM web site he developed for the museum — for which he was awarded 1999 Volunteer of the Year — Jim has steered us through 15 years of website growth and change, helping the museum keep pace with the breakneck speed of technological advances.

Jim Ward grew up in Delaware. He remembers travelling I-95 south and passing the “Welcome to Maryland” billboard at the state line, picturing the Drum Point Lighthouse. He always wondered where that lighthouse was and made a mental note to find out and visit it. In 1996, Jim and his wife Linda were living in Pennsylvania where he worked as a civilian Navy employee. Visiting Southern Maryland on a house-hunting trip as part of NAVAIR’s consolidation at Pax River Naval Air Station, he was delighted to discover the home of “his” lighthouse. Shortly thereafter the Wards moved to St. Leonard and became members of the Calvert Marine Museum. Despite the demands of a full time job as a D.O.D. contractor, and a growing family that now includes three daughters ages 13, 11, and 7, he found time to develop websites for non-profits and small businesses through Poor Richard Web Press, and was always proud to say the museum was his first customer.

Founded in 1998, Poor Richard Web Press, LLC was awarded the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce 2004 “New Business of the Year.” A lifelong fan of Benjamin Franklin, Jim named his company for the man he considered the greatest Founding Father of the United States — the man who, he states, “had a vision of a greater America, signed all five documents that form the basis of the Republic, and never sought personal political power.” Jim uses Franklin’s thirteen virtues as the basis of his book entitled Wealth Virtues. The purpose of the book, he explained, is to pass on the wisdom of how to save and invest to achieve financial security — something he wants to pass on to children and to share with others.

In 2002–2003, Jim expanded the CMM website with a larger design and some local editing capabilities. He added the Calvert Marine Museum Society page to help promote concerts and other fundraising efforts. Over time, he assisted with the integration of Ticket Force software, allowing online ticket sales, created the online store and the ability to join or donate to the museum online.

The most recent iteration took place in 2010, resulting in our current website. The effort involved a complete overhaul of the website. The new website affords greater editing capability, enabling staff to keep the website updated, includes the integration of social media like Facebook and Twitter, and allows online booking of the Cove Point Keeper’s House. Jim worked closely with museum staff and our designer, Shelly Stuller, to develop the new website to our specifications.

With technology moving forward at warp speed, the museum is now planning another update that will make the website adaptable for mobile devices, add the ability to pay for programs online, and accommodate the needs of the new Estuarium exhibit. To achieve maximum flexibility and functionality, we will be working with CivicPlus. Jim will be helping with the transition, but then his work on the website will come to an end. The CMM staff salutes Jim Ward and the significant contribution he has made to the growth and evolution of the Calvert Marine Museum.

Summer on the Chesapeake is like no place else on earth. Whether you are boating, sitting on your porch enjoying the view, or gathered with friends for a crabfest, our lives are influenced by this great expanse of water.

Our newly expanded and renovated Museum Store captures the essence of the Chesapeake and brings it home to you. This summer we are bringing you more pillows and pottery, a better selection of quality toys, an improved $10 T-shirt and much more. We have restocked all the jewelry and housewares and books you swooped up in our opening weeks! We have also developed new items in conjunction with our vendors that feature river otters — just in time for OtterMania!

Come by to browse and shop our special selections. Be sure to introduce yourself to Marilyn Baler our new weekend sales associate. She will be happy to show you around and point out her favorite things!

All of our proceeds support the programs and projects of the museum, and as a thank you for your membership, we are happy to offer you a 10% discount every day and 20% off on the 20th of each month. Discover your Museum Store!
Events & Activities

♦ Rachel Dean of Solomons Island Heritage Tours and daughter Jamie holding a live eel at Solomons Maritime Festival (CMM Photo by Bob Hall).

♦ Two Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show exhibitors make adjustments to an old fashioned ice cream maker. (CMM photo by Rob Hurry).

♦ Melissa McCormick demonstrating the art of making authentic Solomons crab cakes to visitors at the Solomons Maritime Festival (CMM photo by Rob Hurry).

♦ Alby Lopez and the Banditos performed bluegrass favorites for the Maritime Festival audience (CMM photo by Bob Hall).

♦ The Sultana and Kalmar Nyckel during public sails offered at Solomons during the War of 1812 bicentennial event (CMM photo by Rob Hurry).

♦ The Pride of Baltimore II, Maryland Dove and Kalmar Nyckel during the battle reenactment off Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum as part of the War of 1812 bicentennial (Photo by Steve Flesner).
Shannon Brauner of Creative Dance led the Sea Squirts program in May (CMM photo by Rob Hurry).

Grandfather Bruce and grandson Van enjoy fishing as part of the Road Scholar Intergenerational Program (CMM photo by Diane Milgrim).

Boat Camp participants try out their canoes in the Patuxent River during the camp’s regatta (CMM photo by Kate Dumheart).

A hexacopter UAV was used to take this aerial view of crowds waiting to board the Maryland Dove at the museum’s waterfront (photo courtesy OffshorePix.com Digital Aerial Media).

Dignitaries participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Harms Gallery included, from left: Commissioner Evan Slaughenhoup Jr, Barbara and Stan Benning, Commissioner Susan Shaw, Senator Mike Miller, Delegate Roy Dyson, Board President Don McDougall (in back), Board Member Marianne Harms, Commissioner Pat Nutter, Commissioner Jerry Clark, and representing the architectural firm G.W.W.O. are Amanda Brown, Eric Feiss, Sharon Day, and Museum Director Doug Alves (CMM Photo by Bob Hall).

A dozen boats join in a Sunflower Raft Up during the Chesapeake Bay Nonsuch Association’s rendezvous at Solomons (photo by Maria C. Charest).
Museum Opens New Stage With a Bang!

By Vanessa Gill, Development Director

Over the winter season the museum’s PNC Waterside Pavilion underwent a major overhaul. Originally built in 1997 and designed for hosting local and regional performers, the stage had outgrown its original purpose and was not able to handle the large national acts we want to bring to Southern Maryland. So, we expanded the stage, raised the roof and replaced the wood support beams with steel in order to accommodate the immense light show the bigger acts travel with.

Donors from around the community stepped up to support the project including PNC Bank, Mastercraft Homes, R&R Fabrication, Patuxent Architects, Dunkirk Supply, American Eagle Electric, engineer Ed Reed, Southern Wood, and so many others. The generous business owners of Southern Maryland never cease to amaze us when it comes to doing something to improve this community. It was definitely a group effort in support of the museum and Southern Maryland that made the dream a reality.

The stage was unveiled on May 29th with country superstars Rascal Flatts performing live. The massive light, video, and fireworks show really showed off what the stage can now do, and over 6,500 fans danced, sang, and celebrated with us. The stage will welcome its next country performers, Thompson Square, on July 18th. A four-hour rock festival will feature the bands Sugar Ray, Uncle Kracker, Smash Mouth, and the Gin Blossoms on July 27th. Tickets for both shows are on sale now and can be purchased at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bugeye Ball – The Bugeye Club Rolls Again

On May 10th, 2014, CMM held its inaugural event in the newly renovated museum and unveiled the new Harms Gallery. This year’s Bugeye Ball was an evening of fun and entertainment that showcased fine dining, classy music, fantastic prizes and casino-style riverboat gambling. Ken’s Creative Kitchen prepared a menu inspired by the rich, southern feel of New Orleans. Live music by the Big Money Band filled the air, and casino tables tested the luck of all of those that desired a chance to win big. The annual event raised over $60,000 to support the new exhibit River to Bay: Reflections and Connections.

Thank you to Bugeye Ball chairperson Eileen Bildman and all of the sponsors and attendees for making this exciting evening a huge success.

Journey – Live at the PNC Waterside Pavilion!

Don’t Stop Believin’, because it’s true, Journey will perform live at the Calvert Marine Museum on Sunday, August 24th. Journey is one of the most popular American rock bands of all time, creating some of the best-known songs in modern music — Only the Young, Wheel In the Sky, Faithfully, Any Way You Want It and of course, Separate Ways. Spread the word and watch the museum’s website for additional details about the show as they become available!
New Education Staff

Travis Askins is working as a high school intern this summer. He is in the Great Mills High School STEM Academy, which requires students to complete 100 hours in an internship. We are very happy that Travis has chosen CMM for his internship. In addition to learning about our exhibits, he is assisting with our Road Scholar Intergenerational Program and the pre-school programs.

Maryann Granata (right) joins the education staff as a part-time interpreter. Hailing from California, Maryland, Maryann has a background in biology and has worked as a science teacher teaching biology and science in both public and private schools. We are delighted to have her on the staff.

Cecily Hein (left) is our summer education intern (we stole her from paleontology). In addition to her strong background in geology, Cecily has been part of CMM from an early age. She was an avid participant in Young Salts and later became a volunteer. She is a trained docent in the Skates and Rays exhibit and volunteers at concerts by helping to set up chairs and selling water at the concession. We are very pleased that she will be working with us this summer. When she’s not at the lighthouse or touchtank, you’ll probably find her digging something in paleo.

Exhibits Intern

Angela Cirillo is working with Tim Scheirer in the exhibits department. Angela is a senior at St. Mary’s College where she is majoring in math and art with a minor in education. She is excited about this opportunity to gain experience in a working museum exhibits department.

Estuarine Biology Interns

The Estuarine Biology crew is pleased to have hired Keri Lauermann as our summer intern. Keri is a student at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington and comes to us with previous experience working at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. We are also joined by Ben Anderson, a STEM Academy Senior from Great Mills High School. Ben is completing his 100 hour internship requirement through collaborative agreement between CMM and GMHS.

Paleontology Interns

Anna Darden (left) was a senior at Severn School who spent 2 weeks with us in May for her capstone project. She learned all about the collection, preparation, and management of fossils at CMM. Her first day at the museum was spent in the field along the Patuxent River where she assisted in quarrying a large baleen whale lower jaw. The rest of the week was spent preparing that fossil. The second week consisted of learning all about collections management. She helped finish organizing the invertebrate collection and helped catalog many specimens. She has since graduated and will be attending Ohio State in the fall.

Cecily Hein (right) when not in education, works in the Paleontology department. A native to St. Mary’s County, she is a rising junior at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. Cecily is majoring in Geology with a minor in Environmental Sustainability and is also earning a certificate in Geographic Information Systems.

Matt Murphy is a rising senior at Salisbury University studying biology. He is working on a research project with Stephen Godfrey studying horseshoe crab “horns”. Also, he has been involved in numerous excavations with Paleo Staff so far this summer and will participate in many more.

New Grounds Maintenance Staff

Jacob Carroll joins the staff as seasonal grounds maintenance staff. Joe is most appreciative of the help.
Volunteer Spotlight  By Sherry Reid, Volunteer & Events Coordinator

The 2013 Volunteer of the Year and Group Achievement Awards

Our red carpet treatment was rolled out for the annual Volunteer Recognition Awards dinner held on Wednesday, June 25. Approximately 100 volunteers, 28 staff, and four board members attended the event. Director Alves served as Master of Ceremonies, resplendent in his tux, assisted by Jeannine Harris in the Vanna White role. Alves announced that in 2013, volunteers had contributed a total of 29,691 hours to the museum, valued at $755,042. Department heads spoke briefly to recognize and thank those volunteers in their department. Then those volunteers who had worked 100 hours and up were called forward, followed by a roll call of those volunteers who have worked from 1,000 hours to 15,000 hours.

Congratulations to those nominated by staff for the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award. Ed Bahniuk has given constant support, leadership, and encouragement to the challenges of assuming responsibility for the Dee of St. Mary’s. It was his willingness to take a leadership role that ensured the successful transfer of this iconic Chesapeake workboat to CMM. Ned & Margaret Clarke are involved in lots of areas of the museum. Ned oversees the boat camp every summer and makes a fine pirate in the ship to shore battles during pirate camp and cruises. Margaret sews to help with the camps and with the concerts. No task is too big or small for her. They also help to feed all the staff and volunteers during the big events like the Solomons Maritime Festival, Sharkfest, and PRAD. Anne Harrison is the corresponding secretary for the Volunteer Council and is able to lift a person’s spirits with her thoughtful handwritten notes. She volunteers in the Museum Store each week and also helps with events like the Solomons Maritime Festival. Walt Johns has been chauffeuring our paleontologists Stephen Godfrey and John Nance down rivers and up tributaries in his zodiac-like pontoon boat for years at his own expense. Without Walt many of these fossil collecting sites would be completely inaccessible. Ever eager to help forward the science of paleontology, Walt and his boat are always available at a moment’s notice. Ilse Metz works behind the scenes in the library/archives and comes in faithfully three mornings a week. She has done so for a number of years. Since the passing of Paul Berry, Ilse has taken on some additional duties to help keep the library functioning and has become one of the library stalwarts. Jim Wilson has been a huge part of the work that is going on with the renovations in the estuarium. His help and expertise have been outstanding. There is no task too big or too small, he faces them all head on. Not only was he able to coordinate a donation from the PSCG to the store but he jumped right into the tractor trailer when the furniture for the store came in to help coordinate the unloading. The next day he did the same work helping to unload the new fish tanks.

Congratulations also go out to the nominees for the 2013 Group Achievement Award. Staff nominated the Concert Volunteers who make the concerts seem effortless. They work long hours to make everything come together so our customers enjoy the show! The Dee Maintenance Crew under the leadership of Ed Bahniuk and George Surgent have accomplished remarkable improvements in the structural integrity, rigging, and handling of this boat. They are a critical component of this boat’s success at CMM. Jackie Vos and Karen Wilson spent the last 18 months working in the paleo collections to reorganize the shell collection and clean up the database. They took nearly 23,000 fossil specimens and identified the cabinet and drawer in which each is kept. That information was entered into the paleo database so that anyone who wants to see or study a specific fossil can quickly and easily find it amongst thousands of others. The Yard Arms work very hard each week to make the campus of CMM beautiful for the visitors, staff, and volunteers. Everyone enjoys the beautiful landscaping and flowers that comes from their dedication and hard work.

And the Winners Are...

The Dee Maintenance Crew was presented with the Group Achievement Award – and they were awarded a wine and cheese sail on the Dee! Since acquiring the Dee of St. Mary’s in May of 2013, this group has worked a total of 1,637 hours to improve the boat.

Jim Wilson was the winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award. He was presented with the Golden Otter by our own otter mascot, Dee. He was presented with the Group Achievement Award – and they were awarded a wine and cheese sail on the Dee! Since acquiring the Dee of St. Mary’s in May of 2013, this group has worked a total of 1,637 hours to improve the boat.

Congratulations, and thank you to all of the volunteers — you are all winners in my book!