I have always believed that history is important — not because memorizing dates and names improve our quality of life, but because of the lessons history teaches us. People who know history will look at the revolutionary spirit abroad in the Middle East and hearken back to another era when revolution swept the world in 1848. Or they might recall the American Revolution, which in its turn helped spark the French Revolution. Learning about the history of America instills understanding of what it means to be an American. Knowing about the hardships that the early settlers endured to gain a foothold in the New World, and the impossible odds faced by the colonists rebelling against the overwhelming might of Britain, make us value the independence that they won, and we enjoy. The contentious decision in 1812 to again declare war on Britain, the greatest naval power in the world, emerging from the fray as the United States rather than a group of states united, teaches us that our idea of this country was forged through struggle, not parliamentary debate. The long, bloody Civil War waged to keep the country united and to abolish the dehumanizing institution of slavery annealed the nation. These trials by fire are our history and our legacy. Knowing our story arms us against anyone who would rob us of these hard-won civil rights and freedoms. And yet, in today's public school classrooms, precious little time is spent learning the critical lessons of history.

Why Teach History?
By Sherrod Sturrock, CMM Deputy Director

“We are raising a generation of children that can’t identify the symbols on the American flag.”
— Social Studies Coordinator

The Inaugural Conference on January 29 for the Roots of a Nation initiative, with seventy teachers in attendance. The conference was held at Historic London Town near Annapolis. Photo by Chris Cerino

Illustration by CMM’s Tim Scheirer of the Battle on St. Leonard Creek in 1814.
In case you didn’t know, CMM summer camps are open for business! And the registrations are already rolling in.

► For rising 1st and 2nd graders we have two exciting options: Music by the Bay taught by Jennifer Anderson is returning after a tremendously successful camp last summer. Children sing, play instruments, animate stories about animals, learn rhythms, and learn to dance like fiddler crabs. We are also bringing back the perennially popular Pirates and Scalawags. In this adventure-filled week, campers will become pirates, complete with pirate garb, eating pirate grub, and working the deck. For fun, they will hunt for hidden treasure, sing sea shanties, and sail the high seas on the “Jolly Roger” Tennison where an enemy attack is certain to take place.

► If your youngster is entering grades 2-3, we’ve got the Shine on Me Lighthouse Camp. Kids in this camp will discover what life was like for lighthouse keepers and their families through stories, role playing, and 19th century children's games. Fieldtrips include trips to the Piscataway Indian Cultural Center, Cove Point, and a trip on the Wm. B. Tennison Lighthouse, Rollin’ Down the River.

► Students entering grades 3 – 4, it’s Marsh Madness time. Campers become marsh detectives as they dissect owl pellets, examine footprints, and other clues in the marsh to discover the animals that live there. Campers will take a trip into the woods at a local nature center and learn to decipher the codes of different animals.

► Students entering grades 4 – 6 have two choices. Back by overwhelming demand is our infamous Shark Attack! camp. Students in this camp learn all about our ferocious friends — why they are so important to the ocean ecosystems, how they have evolved over time to be different from other fish, and why they are endangered. Campers will see living sharks at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Junior Girl Scout Badge Camp is a four-day badge camp where Girl Scouts will earn the Rocks Rock badge, along with four special badges from other councils: Lighthouse, Rollin’ Down the River, In the Mud, and the Native American Lore. Fieldtrips include trips to the Piscataway Indian Cultural Center, Cove Point, and a trip on the Wm. B. Tennison.

► Students entering grades 6 – 9 also have two exciting options. Our cardboard boat camp is morphing into the Build-a-Boat Regatta! Every camper will build their very own wooden boat that they can race — and then take home. Campers learn the essentials of boat construction and navigation, and then test it all out in a furious race with nine fellow boaters. They will also learn how to handle a motorboat, operate a remote controlled sailboat, tie knots, basic marine safety rules, navigation, and docking. The camp ends Saturday morning with the grand Boat Paddling Regatta on the banks of the Patuxent River. In our Junior Paleontologist camp participants are junior paleontologists. They hunt the best beaches for fossils. They work with our professional paleontologists to uncover the mysteries of these ancient animals and the environments in which they lived. They learn collecting techniques and how to properly preserve the specimens they find. A special fieldtrip to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History for a private behind-the-scenes tour of their amazing fossil collection promises to be a highlight of this camp.

Schedule, fees, and registration information are available on the Calvert Marine Museum web site: www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/education/education-youth-summer-camps.php. Click on Summer Exploration Camps to learn about all the camp offerings in Southern Calvert through our collaboration with Anmarie Garden, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and Calvert County Natural Resources. There is something for every child in your family. 🛥️

WOODEN BOATBUILDING EXHIBIT ON MEZZANINE GALLERY

This spring, a new exhibit will be in place on the mezzanine gallery in the maritime history gallery, an exhibit developed largely from the information collected for the 2009 museum publication Boats for Work, Boats for Pleasure: the Last Era of Wooden Boatbuilding in Southern Maryland, written by curator Richard J. Dodds and registrar Robert J. Hurry. The exhibit will honor the tradition in all three Southern Maryland counties of building boats from wood, a tradition passed on from one generation to the next. It will highlight selected builders in these counties, with most of the photographs featuring those in St. Mary’s County. Boatbuilding was largely carried out in backyards and barns by carpenters, watermen, and farmers between other jobs, each boat being shaped by its intended function and the skill of the builder. The sight of boats under construction was as much a part of the landscape as tobacco hanging in barns and fishing nets drying in the sun. The exhibit will consist of photographs as well as items from the museum’s collections or on loan. 🛥️
GIT-R-DONE with Larry the Cable Guy on Saturday, May 28

Get ready to laugh out loud on Saturday, May 28, as comedian Larry the Cable Guy hits the CMM outdoor stage. Come when the gates open at 6:00 p.m. and listen to live music while enjoying dinner and drinks on our waterfront grounds. Tickets are $48 and $58 (additional fees apply) and go on sale to CMM members on Tuesday, April 5, at 10:00 a.m., and on April 12 at 10:00 a.m. to the public. To buy your tickets during the members’ pre-sale, please use the password: funny.

With his signature catchphrase, “Git-R-Done,” Larry the Cable Guy is selling out theaters and arenas across the United States. Larry was part of the highly successful Blue Collar Comedy Tour. The ensemble cast of comedians included Jeff Foxworthy and Bill Engvall. The tour’s success led to Blue Collar Comedy Tour, The Movie, which premiered on Comedy Central, and at the time was the highest rated movie in the channel’s history. The sequels, Blue Collar Comedy Tour Rides Again and Blue Collar Comedy Tour, One For The Road again received some of the channel’s highest ratings ever. Larry is wrapping up taping Tooth Fairy 2 in Orlando, and currently you can catch Larry in Only in America with Larry the Cable Guy every Tuesday night at 9 EDT on the History Channel. So what are you waiting for — hurry up and order those tickets, GIT-R-DONE!

This event would not be possible without the generous support of many local businesses. Waterside 2011 sponsors include Prince Frederick Ford/Dodge; Coors, Coors Light, Killians (Bozick Distributors); All American Harley-Davidson; Quality Built Homes; Isaac’s Restaurant; The McNelis Group; DirectMail.com; 98.3 Star FM; Southern Maryland Newspapers; Bay Weekly; Quick Connections; Comcast; United Rentals; Roy Rogers-Solomons; Papa John’s Pizza; Jay Worch Electric; United Rentals; and the Holiday Inn Select-Solonmons.
Bugeye Ball…

“Shaken not Stirred”

An Evening of Dining, Dancing, and Adventure!

On February 26 the Calvert Marine Museum was transformed into an exotic Monte Carlo Casino. Guests indulged in Mediterranean-inspired foods, danced to the blues, and tried their luck on the gaming tables. Thanks to our sponsors and over 360 guests we raised over $50,000 in support of the Cove Point Lighthouse.

Complimentary poker chips were provided to all, and special prizes went to a lucky few:

- Pair of Maerten's Fine Jewelry & Gifts Exclusive Private Label Watches – MaryAnne McKinney
- A Night to Remember Gourmet Dinner Party for Six by Caterer Ken Upton – Jenny Vodzak
- The Key to the Chesapeake Necklace by Maerten's Fine Jewelry & Gifts – Orna Tubridy
- Apple iPad – Dawn Wood
- Bose Quiet Comfort Headphones – Len Zuza
- Wines of the World Basket from Port of Call Liquors – Doug Ahearn

Arriving guests were treated to a vintage auto show — board member Marianne Harms poses with the Bentley. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Guests trying their luck at the roulette table. CMM photo by Bob Hall

Board chair Donald McDougall and his wife Jean. CMM photo by Bob Hall

The museum also raffled off an unforgettable trip for two to Monaco at the Bugeye Ball with the winner receiving roundtrip airfare and a seven night stay in a 5-Star Luxury Hotel. Our winner was … Nancy Wieck! Congratulations! CMM director Doug Alves and raffle winner Nancy Wieck. CMM photo by Tim Reese

Couples dancing to live music among the exhibits. CMM photo by Tim Reese

Enjoying the fine dining. CMM photo by Tim Reese
Winter 2011 — An Events Sampler

The First FREE Fridays continue to attract visitors to see the museum and enjoy the entertainment. Friday, January 7, included a special event — a “Chesapeake Bound” concert by Teresa Whitaker, Frank Schwartz, and Mac Walter (not shown below) honoring the late “Bard of the Chesapeake,” Tom Wisner. During the month there was an exhibit in the museum lobby of “The Art of Healing the Chesapeake — A Tribute to Tom Wisner,” featuring portraits by Tom Wisner and the students whose work he inspired.

On Friday, February 4, the Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition returned for its third annual appearance in the museum auditorium.

In celebration of Youth Art Month artwork by students in grades K – 12 from Calvert County schools was on display in the lobby during March.
Why Teach History? (Continued from page 1)

to make this mark has direct implications on funding, staffing, and ultimately job security. As a result, there is less emphasis placed on teaching non-tested subjects like history, the arts, and literature. Even the national voluntary standards do not include history. In 2009, on the most recent national history test, only 47 percent of the students tested reached the “basic” level (The Economist, February 19, 2011, p.36). In Governor O'Malley’s proposed 2012 budget, the requirement for high school seniors to pass an American government test in order to graduate has been eliminated to save money — because it is not federally mandated. Teachers receive little professional development in history. In a 2010 survey taken by Sultana Projects of sixty-eight teachers (representing forty-seven individual schools in seven Eastern and Western Shore counties), an overwhelming majority, 91 percent, believe there is a need for U.S. history professional development in their district, and a similar percentage indicated that they would participate in these enrichment programs if they were offered the opportunity.

Part of the mission of the Calvert Marine Museum is the collection, preservation, research, and interpretation of the cultural history of Southern Maryland. In our maritime hall we explore the events that have transpired along the shores of the Patuxent River from the time of the Native Americans to today. Instilling a respect for our history is ingrained in our work. So, when we were given the opportunity to take an active part in improving teachers’ access to professional development in history, we jumped at the chance. The Calvert Marine Museum joined with Sultana Projects, the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, and the Center for the Environment & Society — both at Washington College — in a federally funded Teaching American History initiative entitled The Roots of a Nation — A Chesapeake Journey. This ambitious three-year program involves a consortium of seven Maryland school districts, including those in Calvert, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, and Talbot counties, working together to increase teacher content knowledge, improve pedagogical practices, and measurably improve student achievement in American history. Roots of a Nation will provide thirty-five master teachers with a three-year professional development program that emphasizes the use of primary documents, connects teachers to local resources, and examines innovative methods for delivering history content in the classroom. They, in turn, will share their knowledge with others in their school systems.

Using the Chesapeake Bay as a unifying theme, Roots of a Nation will explore four key periods in American history: (1) Native American history and European Settlement; (2) the Revolutionary War Period; (3) the War of 1812; and (4) Slavery and the Civil War. At the conclusion of the three-year period, each of the thirty-five teachers will have a far greater working knowledge of these periods in our history, will have visited local museums, battlefields, monuments, and historic sites related to them, and will have had the opportunity to learn from professional historians of the periods they study. Products from this effort will include lesson plans developed by the teachers that will be disseminated throughout Maryland via a website, and printed Teacher Resource Workbooks on each historic period available to every school district in Maryland.

The Calvert Marine Museum is focusing on the War of 1812. We are inviting teachers to learn about the role of privateers in a course entitled “Pirates or Patriots.” The War of 1812 was the last conflict where privateers were legally employed as a sanctioned tactic in a war. Facing Britain’s naval might without a standing navy, President Madison “deputized” a number of private owners to harass British ships and take prizes. Our own local hero, Joshua Barney of the Chesapeake Flotilla, numbered among these adventurous patriots.

Partnering with Sotterley Plantation, teachers will explore the impact the war had on slavery. Sotterley’s owners lost many slaves during the summer of 1814 as they slipped away to join the British and thereby gain their freedom. Ongoing research has uncovered remarkable stories of these individuals — their names, backgrounds, and what happened to them after the war. Teachers will see where these individuals lived, what their lives were like, and use primary documents to research their fate. They will learn how to take those primary documents, and access to local treasures like Sotterley Plantation, into their classrooms so that their students can have a similar experience in discovery. History is much more than reading a chapter and passing a test; history is
holding real people's lives in your hands and acknowledging the connections that we share.

At the museum we will offer a two-day course led by published historian Donald Shomette designed to help teachers understand the contextual framework of the war, the many pressures that brought this country into a conflict that they were ill prepared to fight, and the roles played by regional factions as well as the Native Americans, French, British, and Canadians. The vote to go to war in 1812 was the closest in our history, so hotly contested was it among the members of Congress. Although most Americans today know very little about the War of 1812, it was the war that forged the national consciousness, finally uniting the collection of independent states into one unified country against a common enemy. The fault line of slavery would erup some four decades later.

Over the summer, teachers will have an opportunity to participate in a five-day intensive seminar where, working with Dr. Ralph Eshelman, they will retrace the path the invaders took through Southern Maryland. They will see where the largest naval engagement that ever took place in Maryland was fought on St. Leonard Creek. They will walk the battlefield at Bladensburg, and then journey on to Baltimore where the British attacked Fort McHenry and the term “star spangled banner” was born. They will work with historians on original documents, hear a first-hand account from a re-enactor, visit historic sites on both land and water, and generally immerse themselves in the history of how this war affected Maryland.

And that brings us back to the subject of students ignorant about their history. We, along with our partners and the participating teachers and school systems, are taking a stand against historical illiteracy. This project will help to make a difference, not only for these teachers, but for any teacher in Maryland, and by extension their history-deprived students.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

Nominees for the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations are in order for the four volunteers nominated this year by staff for the Volunteer of the Year. Christa Conant works tirelessly in education, paleontology, and with the Patuxent Small Craft Guild — you never know where you’ll find her. Not only does she volunteer her time, but she is always ready with new ideas and suggestions for how to improve programs. Sylvia Dry is said to be MARVelous! She volunteers her time in the development office and is a crucial part of their team. She is organized, dependable, and efficient, and does everything from filing, sorting, planning, selling concert tickets, and so much more. Althea Green is very dedicated and strives to learn everything she can about the Discovery Room and the skates and rays. She spends all day every Friday volunteering in both areas. Ilse Metz can be found in the museum library three mornings each week working on the computer. She has worked on many special projects, such as list of slides, census lists, brief indexes for several newspapers, and is now searching computer databases for newspaper articles appropriate for the museum to collect. Ilse also works behind the scenes in the paleontology department cataloging the collections at “lightning speed.”

Nominated this year for the Group Achievement Award are volunteers from the Fossil Prep Lab — Darlene Brindley, Christa Conant, Mark Edmondson, Bregan Heffentrager, Dick Hu, Kyle Jenks, Pam Platt, and Sandy Roberts. The award is for their collective skills and patience in faithfully preparing the fossils that are collected along Calvert Cliffs.

The winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award will be announced at the volunteer recognition reception event on April 14. Congratulations, and thank you to all of the nominees — you are all winners in my book! 🏆

PEM TALK SERIES

The 2010-2011 PEM Talk Series – The Calvert Cliffs Conundrum concluded in March with Dr. Doug Samson’s thorough and fascinating presentation on the Cove Point marsh. This has been a very exciting and rewarding series, bringing together concerned residents who are interested in holding open dialogue on this perplexing and complex topic. The series, sponsored by Bob and Betty Currie, ran from September through March, with each month offering a talk on a different perspective of the Calvert Cliffs. Dr. Susan Kidwell opened the series with a talk about the geology of the cliffs. Dr. Stephen Godfrey, the museum’s talented paleontologist, followed with a talk on the paleontology of the cliffs, followed by Dr. Jeff Halka’s presentation on the current rates of erosion. Having firmly established the “ground rules,” so to speak, Dr. Ralph Eshelman spoke about the human perspective, followed by Drs. Michael Fenster and Barry Knisley sharing their extensive knowledge of the infamous Puritan tiger beetle. The series concluded with Dr. Doug Samson’s case study of the Cove Point marsh.

One of the interesting offshoots of this series was the museum’s participation in the Facing Fences exhibit at St. Mary’s College Boyden Gallery. Using as a catalyst the traveling Smithsonian exhibit called Between Fences, which explores the ways fences unite and divide people, the Boyden Gallery invited local community organizations to consider the role of metaphorical fences in people’s lives. The resulting community contributions to the exhibit expanded the meaning of the word “fences” to include racial, sexual, generational barriers, physical boundaries, and historical relationships. Michael Godfrey created the museum’s contribution, shown here, which is a graphic representation of the Calvert Cliffs Conundrum series. (A larger version can be seen on the museum’s website.) 🏆