

## Coming of Age Capital Campaign: The Final Stretch

By Sherrod Sturrock, Deputy Director

In October, the CMMS Board of Directors launched the public phase of our *Coming of Age* capital campaign with a goal of raising \$500,000 for the renovation of the exhibits building. The response — starting with the board members and radiating out through staff, volunteers, members, friends, and the business community — has been impressive. To date we have achieved over \$650,000 in pledges and donations. In January, the board raised the goal to \$750,000, recognizing that more money would have to be raised to meet the projected construction budget. The campaign ends June 30 — **in just three short months** — and our ability to move forward with the project hinges on the success of our collective effort.

In February, G.W.W.O. Architects delivered the final construction documents and began the permit application process. Everyone who has seen the final design is energized by the creative solutions they have presented. Let me take you on an imaginary walk through the newly renovated exhibition building ...

*As you enter the realigned front doors, you experience a warm, bright and inviting space. You are greeted by the admissions clerk and volunteer at the new admission/information desk. Behind them is a rear projection screen showing the day's schedule, upcoming events, and images from the exhibits. As you show the clerk your membership card, you overhear the volunteer stationed at the information section direct a first-time visitor to the new twenty-seat orientation theatre on the other side of the screen. Turning away, you approach the expanded Museum Store, reaching out into the lobby and inviting you in to view the latest items. Everything is well lit, beautifully displayed in new casework, with plenty of room to maneuver and see all the unique merchandise. From the store, you wander into the Secrets of the Mermaid's Purse exhibit where a new, elliptical tank allows the graceful swimmers to move in large, lazy patterns. You notice how easily the small children can see over the redesigned sides, along with their grandfather who is in a wheelchair. You are pleased to see that the skate nursery is still part of the exhibit, showing the baby skates in their "purses."*

*Across the lobby where the auditorium has been transformed into Marianne and John Harms Hall a group of eighty school children from Northern Virginia are being given an orientation and split into groups before starting their fieldtrip. Scanning the calendar of events, you note that a lecture and dinner is scheduled for that evening featuring an eminent scholar from the Smithsonian, there is a members' book talk and luncheon scheduled on Saturday, a birthday overnight Saturday evening, and a musical performance the following week.*

*The children follow the museum educators out of Harms Hall, and separating into groups, they head out into the museum. You follow the two groups that go up the steps into the new Benning Learning Center. One group enters the science lab, set up with work stations around the walls, microscopes, deep sinks, and tanks housing all manner of sea life. Here they will conduct experiments on water quality using samples taken from Back Creek. The other group goes into the classroom where they will do a hands-on program identifying sharks teeth,*



### IN THIS ISSUE

Coming of Age Capital Campaign: The Final Stretch . . . . .	Page 1
Farewell Salute to Ken Kaumeyer . . . . .	Page 3
Spotlight on New Summer Camps for Middle Schoolers . . . . .	Page 4
Bugeye Ball ... The Bugeye Club ...	Page 5
Membership & Development . . . . .	Page 6
Refurbishing the Cliff Exhibit in the Paleo Hall . . . . .	Page 7
Cove Point Lighthouse Progress . . . . .	Page 8
Update on Education Programs . . . . .	Page 8
Al Lavish Honored for Years of Volunteer Service . . . . .	Page 8
Welcome Volunteer — the Museum's Newest Addition . . . . .	Page 9
Why Purple Martins? . . . . .	Page 9
Volunteer Spotlight . . . . .	Page 10
Thanks for the Donations to Help Support Our Troops . . . . .	Page 10

## Coming of Age Capital Campaign: The Final Stretch (Continued from page 1)



Tri-County Community Bank officials Diane Hicks and Don Parsons (at right) presented a check for the campaign to director Doug Alves Jr. and deputy director Sherrod Sturrock (at left).

CMM photo by Robert Hurry

graphing what they find, and suggesting what these findings mean. Across the hall in the Wieck Technology Lab, a distance learning program is in progress with a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class in Colorado, learning about Captain John Smith's exploration of the Chesapeake Bay in 1608.

You follow the newly constructed hallway, lined with student artworks inspired by their visit to the museum, and walk down to the permanent exhibit hall. Here a large, suspended scrim invites you to enter and explore the world of the Chesapeake through three different, but interconnected themes, graphically showing the story that the exhibits will tell as you move through the galleries. And now you move into the gallery space and delve into the ancient world of the Miocene.

It's a very tantalizing prospect and one that is long overdue. The exhibition building was completed in 1989, and other than normal maintenance and the installation and updating of exhibits, nothing has been done to the building in the intervening twenty-three years. Since we began keeping records in 1991, our annual visitation has grown over 91% to over 75,000 people in 2011. Educational programming has also expanded greatly since those early years, and last year we served over 22,000 people with a rich selection of educational programs for all ages. As we have said before, we are not "building so they will come" — they are here, and we need to respond.

A tough economic climate is always a challenging environment for launching a capital campaign for new construction. But because we are working within our existing footprint, and maximizing use of existing space to enhance and expand our ability to serve the public, we believe that this is a conservative and reasonable approach that will yield a high return on investment for Calvert County.

Please help push us over the finish line: talk us up to your friends and family; "like" us on Facebook and invite your friends to do the same; encourage others to support the effort; and make a donation to help us close the \$100,000 gap before June 30. Just visit our website, <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/donate/donation-capitol.php>. And most important of all, keep coming and sharing your time and your ideas; keep bringing your family and friends ... because that's what we're here for. **Thank you.** ▲

### BUGEYE TIMES

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Calvert Marine Museum  
(A Division of Calvert County Government)  
and the  
Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc.  
(ISSN 0887-651X)

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Vanessa Gill  
Sherry Reid  
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The bug-eye was the traditional sailing craft of the Bay, and was built in all its glory at Solomons, the "Bug-eye Capital of the World." Membership dues are used to fund special museum projects, programs, and printing of this newsletter. Address comments and membership applications to:

Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 97  
Solomons, MD 20688-0097  
410-320-2042  
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Museum Store: 410-326-2750

[www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com)

Layout by Stuller Designs



### Table of Gifts Achieved

**Goal:  
\$750,000**

Gifts Needed				Gifts Achieved			
Number of Gifts	Amount of Gift	Total	Cumulative Total	Number of Gifts	Amount of Gift	Total	Cumulative Total
2	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	2	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
2	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$300,000	2	\$50,000+	\$100,000	\$350,000
6	\$25,000	\$150,000	\$450,000	2	\$20,000+	\$46,569	\$396,569
11	\$10,000	\$110,000	\$560,000	13	\$10,000+	\$142,000	\$538,569
20	\$5,000	\$100,000	\$660,000	5	\$5,000+	\$26,678	\$565,247
40	\$1,000	\$40,000	\$700,000	27	\$1,000+	\$43,250	\$608,497
Many	<\$1,000	\$50,000	\$750,000	146	<\$1,000	\$16,750	\$625,247

## FAREWELL SALUTE TO KEN KAUMEYER

By Sherrod Sturrock

If you've spotted a skinny guy with a tattered baseball cap and a large grizzled mustache walking around the grounds, or cycling in Solomons, or heading out to the bay in a boat, you've seen Kenny Kaumeyer — our erstwhile curator for estuarine biology.

Ken is retiring after almost twenty-four years with the museum. Ken is the first and only curator in that area, having been hired when the exhibit was under construction. He was involved in every facet of the exhibit's development and knows every valve, tank, and pump intimately. As Ken putters off into the sunset, we pause to celebrate the contributions he has made to the Calvert Marine Museum during his long and storied career with us.

In 1979, Ken began his association with CMM by sending then-director Ralph Eshelman a letter outlining his ideas for the fledgling museum. It was an audacious thing to do, but Ralph always appreciated the bold move. He called Kenny and said, "I don't know who you are, but I'd like to meet you." (Actually he said it more colorfully than that, but this is a family newsletter.) They met, and talked, and some of Ken's ideas made their way into the early planning for the Estuarium. When Ralph asked what his interest was, he replied, "I'm trying to convince you to hire me." Audacious indeed, and prescient as well.

Ken spent the next eight years working for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources "pushing paper" as he put it, and commuting from his home on St. Leonard Creek to Annapolis. For a guy who thrives on action and challenges, it was miserable. So when Calvert County government opened up a couple of new job opportunities he applied for both of them. The first was a county environmental planner with the Department of Planning and Zoning. The second was curator for estuarine biology with the museum. He was offered both jobs, but having had his fill of desk work, enthusiastically accepted the curator position. Hired in 1988, he has never looked back.

When Ken initially saw his new domain, the walls were up with gaping holes where the tanks would go — that was about it. As he studied the plans, he quickly saw problems. Public Works was overseeing the construction and planned to install unsupported square polyethylene tanks to hold the hundreds of gallons of water for the fish tanks. Ken knew they would collapse under the pressure, but was unable to convince the then director of public works that this was the case, despite getting a second opinion from an outside engineer. Desperate to stop what he knew would result in disaster he took matters into his own hands,

applying a chainsaw to the tanks to make sure that they would not be installed. That ended that discussion and the correct tanks went in. It's a radical story, and it illustrates the lengths to which Ken would go to do the job the way he thinks it should be done.



Ken Kaumeyer enjoys a story from long-time aquarist Laura Magdeburger.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

The Estuarium opened in 1992 with only Ken and one aquarist on staff. As the Estuarium developed, Ken encountered many challenges — some coming from "up the road" as we euphemistically refer to Prince Frederick. As a county museum, our purchases go through the normal government purchase order process. Ken related that when he sent in a purchase order for 100 pair of No Nonsense nude panty hose, the call from Finance was predictable. These, he patiently explained, are used to contain carbon and filter water going through the hoses. He picked nude because he thought it would have less dye. The ladies in Finance got a big laugh out of that one. There was also a struggle spanning several years to get the county to purchase a boat that could be used to collect fish for the exhibit. The finance director at the time was heard to say, "We are not buying a pleasure boat so Kenny Kaumeyer can cruise around the bay on county time!" After patient and persistent reasoning that the Estuarium needed fish and collecting them was the most economical and sustainable

approach, we were finally allowed to purchase the boat. Ken has many more such stories and can entertain you for hours threading them together.

When asked what he liked best about this job, he answered immediately. "I love coming up with an idea, designing it, figuring out how to build it, and then making it work. I always found that enormously rewarding." Not surprisingly, it was the early years that brought that grin of satisfaction to his face — so many exciting challenges and thorny problems to engage his agile mind. Another high point was the construction of the otter exhibit, which opened in 1994. Ken served as the general contractor, overseeing the construction as well as the otter husbandry. By this time, Ken had three aquarists working with him. When the young otters arrived, they didn't know how to swim, having been raised in captivity without a mother to teach them. The aquarist in charge kept trying to coax them into the water, but with the opening date looming, immediate action was called for. The intrepid Ken took a broom and went into the enclosure with the otters and swept them into the water. He said "They were out of there like a shot, furious and charging me as I tried to back out of the exhibit using the broom to

Continued on page 4

## Farewell Salute to Ken Kaumeyer (Continued from page 3)

hold them at bay. I really thought they might take a chunk out of my ankle that day. But after that, they were swimming. It worked!" said with a wicked gleam in his eye. As an aside, he was named county employee of the year in 1994 for his extraordinary efforts on this project.

Other milestone projects in the Estuarium include the "Atlantic Sturgeon" temporary exhibit, which opened in 1999, and the "Secrets of the Mermaid's Purse" skates and rays exhibit in 2004. More recently, he and the aquarists successfully got jellyfish to breed in captivity so that we can keep them year 'round (*Bugeye Times*, Fall 2009). Another long-term project that Ken has taken particular pride in was the restoration of the salt marsh. It took him seven years to get rid of the phragmites and bring back the natural diversity. We will need to deputize a new phragmites agent to make sure they don't sneak back!

And he does buildings, too. When it became obvious that the aquarists needed office space and more work area, he helped design the floor plan for an addition to the Exhibition Building that was completed in 2000. And just last year Ken proposed a solution to the Sisyphean problem of unloading hundreds of pounds of salt used to create the proper salinity levels in the tanks and lugging them back to the Estuarium for storage. He proposed adding a small shed onto the building, worked with Jim Langley to design it, kept after the project until it was completed. We now have a new salt shed, a road leading to it, and a back hoe for unloading — no more pulled muscles and strained backs!

What's next for our intrepid traveler? "Home projects" he says. All the things he hasn't had time to do over the past twenty-



Ken Kaumeyer with gift half-model carved by Skip Edwards.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

four years — like build a garage to house his impressive collection of old engines, repaint the house, build a retaining wall to stop the erosion caused by sea level rise — the list is an impressive one. "And," he muses, "I might even have time to read again. I used to really enjoy reading."

We know that whatever you do, you will be busy and productive and looking for that next big challenge. We wish you well and hope you will always consider this your museum home. ⚓

## Spotlight on New Summer Camps for Middle Schoolers

CMM Education staff is very excited about these two new summer camp experiences for middle school students. Both camps give kids an opportunity to work in the field working with professionals. For fees and registration details, please visit our website <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/education/education-youth-summer-camps.php>.

### **Environmental Institute**

**July 30 – August 3, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

*Calvert Marine Museum/ Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.*

The Environmental Institute is designed for young people who have a strong curiosity about the natural environment and want to learn more through hands-on experience. The Calvert Marine Museum, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL), and Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust are teaming up to offer this exceptional opportunity. Participants will talk with CBL scientists who have collected base data on the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay for decades. They will review the trends, and then do water sampling and analysis to see how their results match up. Using the recent tropical storm Lee as a case study, they will work in teams to do research and fieldwork to learn about the causes and consequences of the dramatic change that affected in the Chesapeake Bay. They will map the shoreline from aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison* and visit a shoreline restoration

project and a living shoreline. The institute will conclude with team presentations for friends, parents, and colleagues about their findings. The tuition for this exceptional experience is subsidized by a grant from the Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust. The Environmental Institute is based on a competitive application process limited to twelve (12) participants.

### **Jr. Docent Boot Camp**

**August 6 – August 10, by invitation only.**

The Jr. Docent Boot Camp was initiated last summer, and the first cohort is now in their second year of training. This program requires a two-year commitment from middle school students to learn how to become museum docents. The program kicks off with a weeklong "boot camp" where new recruits are initiated into the behind-the-scenes workings of a museum. Throughout the following year, they volunteer to support special events and public programs at the museum, and are given new training opportunities. Boot Camp veterans also assist in the boot camp training for the new cohort. It's a great way to earn community service hours, learn about career opportunities, and get involved with lots of fun activities. Information and forms are on the web site. If you want to discuss this opportunity, call Mindy Quinn at 410-326-2042 ext. 45. ⚓

# Bugeye Ball ...

## “The Bugeye Club”

During the Roaring Twenties, underground night clubs were found in the most unlikely places. Patrons whispered passwords to gain entry. Music, dining and dancing were found behind closed doors. There was an air of excitement and mystery — and this year, attendees of the Bugeye Ball experienced the transformation back in time first hand.



## AND THE WINNER IS ... Carly Rutherford!

The museum raffled off an unforgettable trip for two for a private villa in Tuscany. The winner received airfare for two and one week in a private villa. *Congratulations Carly!*



## Congratulations to our raffle winners!



Classic Liquor Collection  
from Port of Call Liquors,  
Solomons, MD  
**Mark MacDougall**



The Solomons Scene Necklace  
exclusive  
design created by  
Heather Maertens  
**Gary Goodwin**



Kate Spade Pastiche Purse  
**Dana Small**



Matching Ladies and  
Gentleman's Watches from  
Maertens' Exclusive Private  
Label  
**Bob and Pam Jubic**



A Gourmet Dinner at Home  
for 10 from Ken's Creative  
Kitchen  
**Greg Baughman**

iPad2  
**Melissa Zaverl**

## MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

### Host Your Next Event at the Calvert Marine Museum ...

Business meetings, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, showers, parties, award ceremonies, etc. may be celebrated at this waterfront location or aboard the historic *Wm. B. Tennison*! Reasonable rates, several location options, inside and out, are sure to make your event the best ever. Visit the website to view the brochure at <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/visiting/facilities.php> and call the Facility Rental Coordinator at 410-474-5370 to reserve your date today!



with some of the brightest minds in business on Donald Trump's NBC hit, "Celebrity Apprentice" where he was the last one standing.

Michaels' philanthropy is also a very important facet to his career. A lifelong diabetic he serves as a spokesperson for the American Diabetes Association. But, his charitable outreach extends far beyond diabetes; he supports a diverse array of charities and causes.

Bret Michaels may have been in the spotlight for decades, but he is certainly showing no signs of slowing down! We hope you will join us May 27 to roll (and rock!) out our 2012 Waterside Summer Concert Series.

Tickets for Bret Michael's will go on sale to members Tuesday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m. and on April 10 at 10:00 a.m. to the public. To buy your tickets during the members' pre-sale, please use the password: **rose**.



### Bret Michaels to Perform at the Calvert Marine Museum Sunday, May 27

*It will be "Nothin' But a Good Time!"*

MAY  
**27**  
2012

Depending on the hour of the day Bret Michaels is a cultural icon, a rock god, an entrepreneur, a TV star, a father, Poison frontman and a generous donor to many charitable causes. But one thing is for certain, on Sunday, May 27 when he performs at the Calvert Marine Museum he will be the rock star that so many of us have grown up loving.

Michaels got his start on the 1980's hair band scene as the lead singer of Poison. Since Poison's beginning, they have achieved massive success releasing eight studio albums, four live albums and selling over 30 million records worldwide and 16.5 million in the U.S. alone. The band charted 10 singles in the Top 40 on Billboard's Hot 100 including the number-one single "Every Rose Has It's Thorn." Bret's solo career has been equally successful; his most recent solo album "Custom Built" topped the charts, reaching #1 on Billboard's Hard Rock list.

Michaels' has also achieved success in the realm of reality TV as well. His "Rock of Love" series is one of the most successful in VH1's history. He also went head-to-head

### DISCOVER THE MUSEUM STORE Special Benefits to Members!

Members receive  
**20% OFF**  
on the 20th  
of **EVERY MONTH**  
in the Museum Store

Museum members receive a **10 percent discount in the Museum Store every day** and **20 percent off on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.** Take advantage of these savings.

# Refurbishing the Cliff Exhibit in the Paleo Hall

By Sherrod Sturrock

If you have visited the museum recently, you will have enjoyed the renovated entry hall to the paleontology exhibit, *Clues from the Cliffs*. That was just the first phase of an ongoing project to update the entire gallery. The most recent improvement is the dramatic refurbishing of the cliff face at the end of the entry gallery. The original intent of this exhibit was simply to show how paleontologists remove fossils from the cliff using a plaster field jacket. As we planned the upgrade, all agreed that the cliff could itself be part of the educational experience, and should tie directly to the new graphic animations showing how the shell layers are laid down over time.

As we began to plan the project, it quickly became obvious that it would be more than a quick cleaning and repainting job. So we decided to make the project an exhibit about how we work on exhibits, allowing visitors to see the artists at work day in and day out. Scaffolding was erected and, except for the period when spray painting was in progress, visitors could watch the entire process.

In preparation for the task, exhibits staff members Tim Scheirer and Michael Godfrey went out into the field with Stephen Godfrey, our paleontologist, to really LOOK at the cliffs. They took photographs, made drawings, and discussed how the cliffs should be treated to maximize the educational opportunities. After careful study, they chose four basic colors to use in recreating the textures on the cliff face: a base sand color, mauve, steel blue, and rust. When you visit the exhibit, look for these different layers and see how skillfully they have been used to create realistic depth and texture. They also decided to work with the original cliff form and not change that as the structural integrity was largely sound. They used painting techniques to create shadows, depth, and highlights — all without changing the original form.

They also wanted to add organic components to the cliff to make it more realistic. Tim and Stephen made a quick trip to Michaels Arts & Crafts to search for appropriate artificial greenery to work with, and Michael tramped around local ponds to gather dead grasses. These were then combined, painted, cut, and reshaped to resemble appropriate native plants. Mosses



CMM photo by Rachel Reese

were clued into crevices. To create the look of water percolating down the cliff face, an acrylic gloss varnish and another material called “water effects” were applied. And where water runs, iron deposits result,

and you can see that on the cliff face as well. They also had to create an additional shell layer. Since they could not embed the shells as was done originally, they had to form and paint them on. See if you can tell which layers are real shells and which are facsimiles.

Once the cliff started taking shape, the top seemed unfinished. After some discussion, Jim Langley, curator for exhibits, decided to really bite the bullet and just keep going by adding a sky — complete with birds! That meant installing drywall and additional lighting and, of course, creating a sky where none had existed before that looked real. If you look carefully, you will see a house perilously close to the cliff edge



CMM photo by Rachel Reese

and a very disturbed homeowner in the window peering down. There is an osprey with a fish in its talons that is cleverly hiding a sprinkler head, and high above a bald eagle that is doing double duty eyeing the osprey's catch

and hiding a dent in the ceiling! The entire ceiling uses the age-old technique of Trompe l'oeil, French for “deceive the eye.” Like the great painters of the Renaissance, Tim and Michael had to create a sky that looked realistic from below. For the discerning viewer, there are also tiger beetles happily ensconced up toward the top of the cliff, their favored habitat, and even a few surprises that emerged during the process.

Throughout his career, Tim has had the opportunity to paint many ceilings, but this was Michael's first experience. When asked about the experience, Tim answered, “It's as valuable as going to college because you're learning on the job from an expert. That's the artistic tradition handed down through the generations. There are things you just can't learn in books.” Michael agreed, saying, “It was great working with Tim and having the opportunity to use new techniques. It's my preferred way of learning.” But Tim quickly amended “the academic part is important too — you need both.” Michael just grinned: “I feel like I'm part of a long-standing artistic tradition.” ▲



CMM photo by Rachel Reese

## Cove Point Lighthouse Progress

After years of planning, fundraising, preservation, and renovation, the finishing touches are being put on the Cove Point Lighthouse site. The home has a new roof, the original eyebrow windows were replaced, and the old drywall was removed so that new wiring, plumbing, a sprinkler system, and Wi-Fi could be installed.

We are excited to say that the walls are being painted, the floors sanded and stained, and the kitchen cabinets installed. The fully furnished site is scheduled to open this summer and will be available to rent as a three, four, or seven day vacation rental. The keepers' home is a duplex and has a total of six bedrooms, four full baths, two half baths, two kitchens, a shared front porch, washers and dryers, and over four acres of fenced privacy. This active lighthouse site enjoys sprawling beaches and vast views of the Chesapeake Bay. Renters can choose to stay in just one side and rent three bedrooms of the duplex, or rent the entire six-bedroom site and open the dividing doors between the two sides to enjoy the whole building. The grounds will also get a facelift so they can be used as a special event site for weddings, reunions, and family gatherings.

Many individuals and businesses in the community have made this preservation effort possible, and we look forward to unveiling the finished site to them and to you this summer. Please check our website for the latest updates and information, or call Vanessa Gill at 410-326-2042, ext. 18. 🚢



## UPDATE ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The education department is planning for a very different kind of year in 2013 as we contemplate the impact of closing the museum for two months for renovations. We are developing an exciting new outreach program that will take our programs out into the schools. This is something we have discussed for years, but other priorities have taken precedence. Now, it is **the** priority. These programs will also be available to pre-schools, scout groups, senior centers, summer camps, and libraries — in short, anyone who is interested, so stay tuned.

Our summer camps are off to a great start. As part of our emphasis on membership, we offered the first members-only camp — our most popular, “Build Your Own Canoe.” This year we are partnering with the “Spirit of America” program offered by the Sailing Center Chesapeake to offer a two-week camp. During the first week the kids will build a wooden canoe at CMM, and the second week they will learn boating safety at the Sailing Center in St. Mary’s County. We also offered museum members the opportunity to sign up ahead of the general public, and you obviously appreciated the opportunity. Our camps are filling very quickly, and we gained several new members in the process.

Another new initiative with ties to membership is the CMM “Camp-in Overnight” programs, that are also offered for a birthday party. In order to book an overnight, you must be a member, although you can invite anyone you like along for the fun. Check out our website to see the different themes and for all the details, <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/education/education-family-overnights.php>.

We are very excited to be working with PNC Bank’s “Grow Up Great” program. This national effort provides funding for programming aimed at pre-school-age children. We will be

enhancing our Sea Squirts and Little Minnows programs with PNC help, as well as developing new initiatives for this age group. We also received a grant from Washington Gas to support our Fossil Fuel Fund initiative — a program to underwrite the cost of busses for school fieldtrips. Many thanks to the members of the business community for their vital continued support. 🚢

### AL LAVISH HONORED FOR YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild honored Al Lavish for his thirty-one years of service as secretary/treasurer of the guild at their annual meeting on 4 February 2012. Al was one of the founders of the guild when it began on 19 January 1981 and has been responsible for many of its accomplishments. CMM’s very popular toy boatbuilding program has been his specialty for years, and he has helped thousands of young people construct these toy boats. He has made many other contributions to the guild and to CMM, including co-authoring with boatwright George Surgent a pamphlet on *Early Chesapeake Single-Log Canoes* in 1983. Al was CMM’s 2010 Volunteer of the Year and was one of Calvert County’s Beautiful People that same year.



Al Lavish’s service as a volunteer at CMM has extended beyond the thirty-one years with the guild, going back into the late 1970s, making him the longest-serving active volunteer at CMM. His recognition is well deserved. 🚢



## Welcome Volunteer — *the Museum's Newest Addition*

Many of you will remember the Marie Theresa, the old boat that sat between the Administration Building and the Exhibition Building for years. When it became dilapidated to the point of being unsafe, it was given a proper old boat burial and the Patuxent Small Craft Guild undertook the job of building a replacement. Dozens of volunteers, under the direction of CMM boatwright George Surgent, spent hundreds of hours building a "land boat" that can serve many uses.

### Mast Raising, by Butch Garren

Guild members raised the masts for the Calvert Marine Museum's newly built bugeye sailboat in late February, approximately one year after starting the project. Masts were stepped with the help of a Grade-All from the county's highway maintenance department. The vessel, permanently mounted on the front lawn of the museum, is a scaled-down version of a classic Chesapeake Bay bugeye. The bugeye is a two-masted sailing craft that was originally developed in the nineteenth century for oyster dredging. The bugeye is the museum's icon, and this boat will do double duty — being both ornamental and useful for education programs and events. The boat has a length on deck (LOD) of thirty-one feet, while the overall length (OAL) is forty-three feet. The beam (width) is nine feet. The taller mast is thirty-two feet high.



CMM photo by Rob Hurry

*Volunteer*, the newly selected name for the craft, was built and funded by the volunteers of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG) under the direction of CMM's boatwright George Surgent and PSCG president Bill Lake. The cost so far is about \$4,000 dollars. Yet to come are sails, access steps, and other enhancements that will be enjoyed by museum visitors. The guild earns money by raffling off the canoes that members build and by running the activity of building toy boats at major museum events. ▲

We are delighted to announce the formation of a new club at CMM: *The Purple Martin Club* headed up by enthusiast Ken Ritter.

## Why Purple Martins?

By Ken Ritter

I am enthusiastic about starting a Purple Martin Club for people who enjoy these sociable birds or want to learn more about them. Purple martins are the largest member of the swallow family in North America. They spend the non-breeding season in South America then migrate back to North America to nest. Unlike most wild birds, they are totally dependent on human-supplied housing. If you have seen fancy bird houses or gourds hanging in someone's yard, that is a purple martin colony. There is evidence that even Native Americans encouraged these colonies.



As a club, our first order of business is to put up housing to attract a colony to the museum marsh. Once established, we can use the colony to educate visitors about the benefits of these birds and their inherent entertainment value in the hope others will want to start their own colony. Maintaining a healthy purple martin colony requires "tender love and care" to ensure they have a successful nesting season, giving club members plenty of work to do.

Around the middle of April the purple martins normally arrive in Maryland from their long migration to Brazil to build their nests and raise their young. During this process humans take an active role by keeping house sparrows and starlings away from nesting in the houses or destroying martin nests and by making sure predators, such as snakes, raccoons, hawks, and crows, do not disturb the nesting process. Once the eggs hatch, nests need to be checked weekly to monitor the young birds' progress.

Clearly we will need lots of members to do all the work. Training will be provided to all who are interested. Once the colony is established, everyone at the museum will want to visit with the purple martins because they are a very social bird with a beautiful song, and they love human interaction.

If you are interested in learning more, look for the training announcement or contact Ken Ritter at 301-481-8536. ▲

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

### Nominees for the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award

Congratulations to those nominated by staff for this year's Volunteer of the Year Award. **Ned Clarke** has led an amazing boat camp for the past few years. He does a wonderful job with the campers and teaches them all about building boats. He also helps with many other events such as the Solomons Maritime Festival, Sharkfest, PRAD, military month activities, and the Members' Yule Party. **Sylvia Dry** volunteers her time in the development office and is a crucial part of their team. She is organized, dependable, and efficient. She does everything from filing, sorting, planning, selling concert tickets, and so much more. She is a wonderful ambassador for the museum. **Walt Johns** is a saving grace for the paleontology department. He manages to boat the paleo people to those hard-to-reach locations for fossil collecting throughout southern Maryland and Virginia. **Sherma Munger** is the current president of the Volunteer Council. She also volunteers with the education department to staff the Skates and Rays exhibit. She has been a very helpful partner in the capital campaign, meeting with volunteers to solicit their support. She is thoughtful, balanced, and a pleasure to work with. **Al and Nan Suydam** are a husband and wife volunteer team. Al's involvement with the PSCG and as Commodore of SIMBC, as well as Nan's involvement with the Volunteer Council and with the Yard Arms has greatly enhanced and expanded the opportunities and experiences available to the museum visitors, members, and our fellow volunteers. Their expertise, reliability, and cooperative spirit have extended the abilities of staff to achieve goals that would otherwise go undone — from flowers to boats, they have been hands-on volunteers.

Congratulations also go out to the nominees for the 2011 Group Achievement Award. Staff nominated the **Museum Store Ladies** for their willingness and ability to learn a new computerized point-of-sale system. The ladies jumped right in and embraced the system, learned how to use it proficiently, and haven't looked back. **The Overnight Gang** is comprised of the volunteers who give up some of their Saturday nights to spend the night at the museum

on an air mattress. They make sure everything goes great for the groups of children and their parents during overnight programs. They get up early in the morning to make sure everyone gets a good breakfast and gets them on their way before the museum opens for the day. **Paleo Volunteers** (Dezzie Thompson, Jackie Vos, Karen Wilson, Mike Brown, Karl Garland, Bob Platt) have been working with John Nance variously organizing our fossil and modern collections. **Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG)** has too many activities and accomplishments to name them all. One activity that I would like to highlight is their involvement in the Build-a-Plywood Boat summer camp for which they manufactured all of the parts and provided tools and individual instructions for ten children to build ten canoes. They also treated the campers to an outing on the Draketail to learn a little bit about work boats and crabbing. Radio-control sailing was also provided by PSCG members who are also members of SIMBC. An accomplishment that I would like to highlight is the thirty-one-foot bugeye on the museum's front lawn that Doug Alves described as the "icon boat of the museum viewed by tens of thousands of people." The guild not only supplied the labor but was also responsible for covering the entire cost of materials. **Yard**

**Arms** is the gardening committee that was formed in February 2011 and they hit the ground running! They not only designed flower beds, they built them, planted them, and kept them beautiful all spring and summer. The grounds have never looked better, and the visitors are treated to the view of plants that are native to our area — another great learning experience for them. Coming in every week to maintain the beauty we all enjoyed even when the thermometer was reaching unbearable numbers.

The winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award and the Group Achievement Award will be announced at the volunteer recognition reception event on April 18. Congratulations, and thank you to all of the nominees — you are all winners in my book! 🚣



CMM membership and events coordinator Lisa Howard and the CMM "otter" hold the Golden Otter award that will be given at the Volunteer Award ceremony on April 18.

## THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS TO HELP SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Since December 2009, the museum has been sending care packages to some of our soldiers in Afghanistan. As of February 2012, we had sent 81 packages to date. As the program has grown and more donations have come in from outside sources to combine with the generous donations from the museum staff, volunteers, and Board of Governors, in March we were able to send 15 packages to the troops. We have received donations from the children and teachers at the Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown, the Employee Recognition Committee, the county's transportation department, and Second Looks Books.

Thanks to everyone who has donated for this very worthwhile cause. Together we can make great things happen and every little bit makes a difference in the lives of others. These are two sentiments to live by. 🚣



Sandy Younger and Melissa McCormick prepare packages for mailing. CMM photo by Sherry Reid