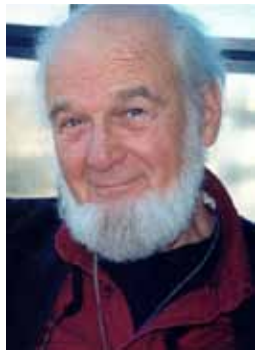


## USING THE CHESTORY ARCHIVE TO TEACH THE CHESAPEAKE

By Concetta Laskey

"If a student can learn to see the world as a scientist does, then why not as an artist does?" ~Tom Wisner

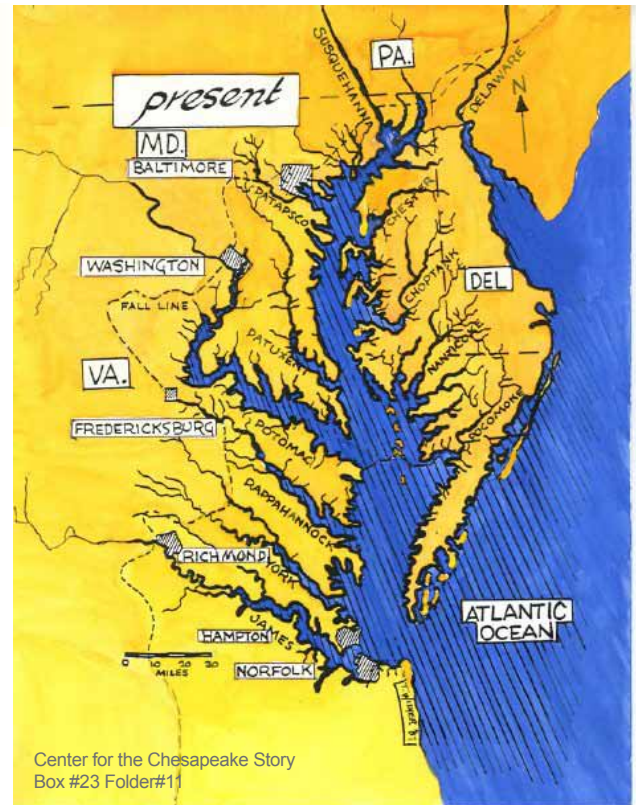
On a sunny Saturday morning in November, a group of teachers from St. Mary's County gathered in the classroom at the Calvert Marine Museum to discuss environmental literacy. After working all week with their students, these eight teachers had come together to dive into the museum's newest online learning tool: **The Center for the Chesapeake Story (Chestory) Virtual Archive**. They gathered to participate in "Crafting Local Curriculum: Interdisciplinary Chesapeake" (CLC), a new initiative undertaken by the Calvert Marine Museum in partnership with CHEARS, the Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL), through a \$10,000 grant from Dominion. The goal of the CLC is to develop environmental science lessons using the Chestory Virtual Archive as a resource for teaching and learning.



**Tom Wisner**  
Photo by David Weigel

**The Chestory Virtual Archive ([www.chesapeake-envlteracy.com/CVA](http://www.chesapeake-envlteracy.com/CVA)) is the first of its kind at Calvert Marine Museum.** This digital exhibit contains a lifetime of work by Tom Wisner — self-taught artist, recorded musician, and considered by many to be Maryland's first official environmental educator. Tom Wisner was a legend to some, teacher to others, and dedicated friend to many. The "Bard of the Bay" spent time around Maryland for much of his adult life and especially treasured his time in Southern Maryland. Many people remember him visiting their schools and performing concerts around the area. After Tom passed away in 2010, CMM was entrusted with preserving his life's work — an extensive collection of art, music, and educational materials that Tom compiled and developed to show people the beauty and importance of the Chesapeake watershed. Partnering with CHEARS in 2011 and 2012, the collection was cataloged and the virtual archive created by Concetta Laskey, with funding provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Chesapeake Conservation Corps program. This extensive collection is housed at CMM and is open

*Continued on page 2*



A hand-drawn map by Tom Wisner from the Chestory Archives.

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### MUSEUM FEES TO INCREASE

Effective July 1, 2013, the museum admission fees will increase: Adults, from \$7.00 to \$9.00; seniors and military, \$6.00 to \$7.00; children, from \$2.00 to \$4.00; and adult group rate from \$4.00 to \$6.00. Museum members, of course, will still be admitted free upon presentation of their membership card. The museum's admission fees were last increased in 2004.

## Using the Chestory Archive to Teach the Chesapeake (Continued from page 1)

to the public to gain insight into years of first-hand experiences in the Chesapeake watershed. Although many of the media resources have yet to be cataloged, the available material provides cross-curricular educational lesson activities, complimentary teacher guides, and other downloadable materials free of charge for educators, students, and anyone looking to reconnect with their watershed home and develop a sense of environmental stewardship. With the wealth of materials available, the goal of the CLC project is to share this resource with educators, and to make it more usable and accessible for classroom teachers — what better way to do this than to engage the teachers themselves to develop the lesson plans.

**Tom's dream that his life's work could continue to be shared in our region and beyond is being realized through the CLC program.** Originally the intent of the CLC was to work with teachers from both Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, but certified and pre-service teachers from St. Mary's responded so quickly and with

such enthusiasm that they filled the first cohort. Since November, the group of eight elementary level teachers has met for three Saturday workshops with Concetta, Debbie Hoffbeck from CBL, and Sherrod Sturrock from the museum to develop hands-on lessons focused on interdisciplinary environmental education. Working together, they have completed over ten lesson plans that are being piloted in their classrooms this spring. The lessons are aligned with the state

of Maryland's educational standards and new institutional push for environmental literacy for all students. Maryland is the first state in the country to approve a graduation requirement in environmental literacy, and schools are currently engaged in developing a comprehensive environmental education curriculum interlaced with all the other content areas. "Environmental Education is becoming an important element in our science curriculum and these resources fit," says Michele Hiles, a teacher in the CLC working group from St. Mary's County.

One unique aspect of CLC is that teachers have access to this treasure trove of educational materials that are specific to the Chesapeake Bay region rather than being generic. Tom's methodology of teaching science in conjunction with music, movement, and art adds another component often missing from our test-

driven school culture. "I have brought music into to my classroom in response to ideas shared in our sessions," says Joanne Vaiden, third grade teacher at Ridge Elementary. "My students are loving the new experiences and seem to be picking up concepts more quickly."

During the three CLC Saturday workshops, the working group teachers spent hours diving into the Chestory Virtual Archive educational materials. During the sessions, teachers discussed the latest trends regarding Maryland's Environmental Literacy initiatives, talked with local experts in environmental literacy, and worked in teams to create lesson plans based on the Chestory Virtual Archive materials for a new generation of students. The lessons draw on students' creativity and insight, helping them to strengthen their connection to the Chesapeake and discover more about

*Continued on page 3*



**Concetta Lasky (center) with CLC working group at CMM.**  
Photo by Debbie Hoffbeck

### 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)

**C. Douglass Alves Jr., Director**  
**Sherrod Sturrock, Deputy Director**  
**Paul L. Berry, Editor**

*Other contributor to this issue:*  
Sherrod Sturrock, Lisa Howard,  
David Moyer, Maureen Baughman

The bugeye was the traditional sailing craft of the Bay, and was built in all its glory at Solomons, the "Bugeye 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  
FAX 410-326-6691 TDD 410-535-6355  
Museum Store: 410-326-2750

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

Layout by Stuller Designs



**Sherrod Sturrock (CMM) talks with the CLC group at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.**  
Photo by Debbie Hoffbeck

## Using the Chestory Archive to Teach the Chesapeake (Continued from page 2)



Dr. Walter Boynton (of CBL) talks with the group at CMM.  
Photo by Debbie Hoffbeck

it in ways that make learning fun. More than ten lessons have been posted online and, once field tested, these lesson plans will be available free for download on the Chesapeake Environmental Literacy's Discussion Zone, on the marine museum's library/archives site, and on Dominion's website. This model of making teacher-generated, student-tested lesson plans available to help advance environmental literacy for all Maryland students is one that CMM is committed to continuing. Lisa Thannhauser, a kindergarten teacher from Hollywood Elementary, is from out of state and was not familiar with Tom

Wisner or his work. She writes, "[Tom's] work and ideas would be so beneficial to other teachers, but they need to know about [it] first! I think the workshop should not only be continued, but should be changed to six sessions instead of three. I feel like we just got going, and then it was over!"

"I feel that I gained more ideas to use throughout and enhance my literature units [during the CLC sessions]," says Tammy Adams, a kindergarten teacher at Hollywood Elementary

who participated in the CLC program. "It also helped to bring out my creative side instead of just planning on using the same lessons again this year."



In addition to the three workshops, the teachers received a copy of *Singing the Chesapeake: Children's Songs* by Tom Wisner compiled by long-time friends and fellow musicians

Teresa Whitaker and son Mark Wisner. The twenty-five songs in the book are

accompanied by a CD that makes learning them much easier. They will also be bringing their classes to the Calvert Marine Museum this spring. More information on this and more can be found on the Chestory website ([www.chestory.org](http://www.chestory.org)) and the Finding Home Productions website (<http://www.findinghomeproductions.com>).

Sherrod Sturrock, deputy director, expressed her enthusiasm this way: "This grant from Dominion has enabled us to bring classroom teachers together to create lesson plans built on the fantastic resources of the Chestory Archive. When the teachers first met with us, I told them, 'we've got a gold mine here, but we need skilled miners.' That's what they've done, pulled out the gold and made it accessible for everyone."

Julie Walters, a pre-service teacher at St. Mary's College, is excited to share her experience with the CLC program with her colleagues and future students. "The program was a rare opportunity for teachers to incorporate art and environmental education into the narrow window of state and county standards. The collaboration between the teachers was very helpful in giving me hope that I can still make my classroom exciting and interesting while still fitting within the standards that are necessary to meet." 🌊



One of the folios found in the Chestory Archives.

## SPRING IN THE STORE



Shake off the last chill of winter and join us in the Museum Store as we welcome spring! We are full of inspiring books, exquisite jewelry and accessories, tidbits and more for the home, and all sorts of wonderful things for children.

We enjoy bringing a piece of the Chesapeake Bay into your life with books like *Singing the Chesapeake: Children's Songs* by Tom Wisner. Tom used his songwriting and storytelling to teach and inspire awareness for the bay. This songbook is for children of all ages and includes an audio disk. (See illustration in the lead story on this page.)

Further your support of the museum by shopping in the Museum Store. Remember to take advantage of your 10 percent member discount and 20 percent off on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Discover YOUR Museum Store! 🌊

## MUSEUM BOARD IN 2013

Two members of the museum's Board of Governors have changed in 2013. The new members are **Barbara P. Gardner** and **Rosemary Keffler**, replacing **Anthony J. Benn** and **Bob Carpenter**. Mrs. Gardner is a resident of Lusby and is the vice-president, business operations, of the Aerospace Group, Wyle, located in St. Mary's County. Her duties include budget, contracts, and other financial matters that will be beneficial to the board. Mrs. Keffler resides in Huntingtown and is an attorney with Delaney & Keffler, LLC. She holds membership/offices in several professional and civic organizations in Maryland and Calvert County. Her special knowledge of estate planning will be useful to the board in pursuing planned giving and gifting programs.



Barbara P. Gardner



Rosemary Keffler

Board members continuing in 2013 are Eileen E. Bildman, David E. Butler, David B. Campbell, Wanda W. DeBord, Mark N. Fisher, Marianne Harms, Donald P. McDougall, Mark A. MacDougall, R. Bruce Newell, James R. Tate, Frank E. Taylor, and Nancy Wieck. Ex officio members of the board include County Commissioner Pat Nutter, CMM director C. Douglass Alves Jr., and Capt. Ted Mills, USN, commanding officer of the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River. Members of the Board of Governors also serve as the Board of Directors of the Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc., responsible for fundraising. ⚓

## UPDATE ON RENOVATION

We are getting closer to the renovation project every day. The architects are reworking the plans, cutting the project down to fit our funding. We are working closely with county staff to schedule the bidding, permitting, pre-bid site visit, and everything else that goes into a construction project. Museum folks are making plans to accommodate the loss of the auditorium and lobby space during construction. As it now stands, the construction bid should be awarded in late summer with a start date in September. The contractor will be onsite starting in October, and the lobby

and auditorium will be closed. We will maintain a passage from the museum to the store and bathrooms during this period of early construction. In January, the museum will close for four to six weeks.

Until the contract is awarded, none of this is final, but we feel confident that the project will move forward, presenting us with a long awaited new look come spring 2014. In the meantime, you can help by keeping up to date on your pledges, and we welcome additional donations for furnishings and fixtures. You can do that right from our website. ⚓

## BUGEYE BALL – A NIGHT IN THE PACIFIC RIM

On February 9, 2013, the museum was transformed to reflect the foods and beauty of the Pacific Rim for a night of adventure. It was an exotic evening of dining, dancing, and casino gaming. Ken's Creative Kitchen prepared a menu inspired by the cuisines of Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Seoul. Live music by the *Big Money Band* filled the air, and casino tables tested the luck of all of those who dared. The annual event raised over \$22,000 to support the museum in its day-to-day operations.

**Thank you to all who attended, especially the following sponsors:** John & Marianne Harms; Top Hat Party Rental; Steve & Eileen Bildman; Wyle, Booz Allen Hamilton Engineering Services, LLC.; Don & Jean McDougall; Heron Systems; Mike & Wanda DeBord; Kelly Generator; The Ruddy Duck; O'Brien Realty; SMECO; Comcast; DirectMail.com; PNC; Bruce Newell; Carol & Bob Lightstone; Unistar; Washington Gas; Tom Bird-Wells Fargo; and a special donation by Nancy Wieck to honor the hard work of our museum volunteers. ⚓



Photos by Tim Reese

## DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

### **The Band Perry Kicks-Off the Summer Music Series on May 17** Presented by Prince Frederick Ford/Jeep/Dodge



The Band Perry will take the stage on the Calvert Marine Museum's PNC Waterside Pavilion, Friday, May 17, and kick-off the 2013 Concert Series. Recognized most for their 2012 hit "If I Die Young" and their current #1 hit "Better Dig Two," The Band Perry's "modern throwback" style combines classic country with an eclectic infusion of rock and soul. Tickets are

\$45 and \$55 and go on sale to members on Tuesday, April 2, at 10:00 a.m., and to the public on Tuesday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m. They can be purchased by calling 1-800-787-9454, or by visiting [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com).

As songwriters and musicians, their sound is rounded-out by perfect three-part harmonies. Their self-titled album was certified Platinum and their next album is being released this month. The band received three nominations for the 2012 *American Music Awards* in the categories of "Artist of the Year," "Single of the Year," and "Music Video of the Year." In 2011 they were awarded the *ACM "New Artist of the Year," CMA's "New Artist of the Year,"* and "Single of the Year," and lead singer Kimberly Perry was honored with the *CMA "Song of the Year"* award. Proceeds from this concert will support the preservation and education efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum.  
**PASSWORD: TRIO**

### **Bad Company with Paul Rogers Live at CMM — August 2**

Prince Frederick Ford/Jeep presents legendary rockers **Bad Company** on the Calvert Marine Museum's PNC Waterside Pavilion.

One of the most acclaimed bands of the classic rock era, England's **Bad Company** has put its indelible stamp on rock 'n' roll with a straight-ahead, no-frills musical approach that has resulted in the creation of some of the most timeless rock anthems ever. Sing along with hits like "Feel Like Makin Love," "Rock and Roll Fantasy," "Ready for Love" and so many more on Friday, August 2.



With all original members, including lead singer and songwriter Paul Rodgers, arguably the finest singer in rock 'n' roll, ticket buyers will get their first chance to hear his amazing voice live in Solomons!

Tickets are \$47 and \$57, and will go on sale to members of the museum Tuesday, June 11, at 10:00 a.m., and on sale to the public Tuesday, June 18, at 10:00 a.m.

Proceeds from this concert will support the preservation and education efforts of the Calvert Marine Museum.

### **A Big THANK YOU to our Waterside Sponsors**

*Calvert Marine Museum Society's outdoor concerts raise much-needed funds for the museum. These fundraising events have been made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors: Prince Frederick Ford/Dodge, PNC Bank, Bozick Distributors, Inc., Papa John's Pizza, The McNelis Group, LLC, Jay Worch Electric, Quality Built Homes, All American Harley-Davidson, Roy Rogers, Holiday Inn Solomons, COMCAST, MetroCast, Bay Weekly, Quick Connections, Somar Communications, DirectMail.com, Isaac's Restaurant, United Rentals, and Southern Maryland Newspapers.*

### **Be the Ultimate Fan for The Band Perry or Bad Company**

Experience CMM's concerts as never before by placing your bid on the Ultimate Fan Package. This is a rare opportunity to get up close and personal to your favorite performers and includes:

**2 Front Row Seats**

**2 Meet and Greet passes**

Visit [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/ufe](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/ufe) to get more details and to bid on this VIP package. Proceeds from the auction support the education programs and activities at the Calvert Marine Museum.

### **2013 MEMBERS' TRIP ANNOUNCED — Calvert County Winery Tour & Picnic**

**Sunday, April 21**

Hop on the bus and join us for a day of wine tasting, great food, and merriment as we travel to three of Calvert County's most picturesque, award-winning wineries. We will end our perfect spring day with a lovely picnic provided by Canard's Catering, under the Calvert Marine Museum Corbin Pavilion. Our members' trips are always full of fun, laughter, and great fellowship. Hope you will join us!



<b>Departure</b>	<b>10:15 a.m. from the museum</b>
<b>First Stop</b>	<b>Friday's Creek Winery</b>
<b>Second Stop</b>	<b>Running Hare Vineyards</b>
<b>Third Stop</b>	<b>Perigeaux Winery &amp; Vineyards</b>
<b>Final Stop</b>	<b>Museum's Corbin Pavilion for a picnic reception catered by Canard's</b>
<b>Festivities End</b>	<b>Approximately 6:00 p.m.</b>

Ticket Price: \$50.00. Includes a tasting of approximately six wines at each breathtaking location; trip to Perigeaux will also include a tour of the vineyards. Canard's will provide a snack "survival" kit for our first-class luxury bus ride. Upon returning to the museum, Canard's catering will help us wrap up the day with a picnic that will "wow" you with creative food presentations, including: antipasto, duck BBQ, fresh tortellini, and many other delicious menu items!

If you would like to purchase a ticket for this event, or for more information, please call Lisa Howard in the Membership Office at 410-326-2042, extension 16, or email Lisa at [howardla@co.cal.md.us](mailto:howardla@co.cal.md.us)

## Report on CMM Clubs

By Sherrod Sturrock

**T**he museum has a number of clubs open to members. We thought it would be fun to give an update on their current activities. If any of these clubs sound interesting to you, there is information on our website under membership. It's a fun way to meet new friends and get more involved in the museum.

**Patuxent Small Craft Guild** is a group of boat enthusiasts that works on Tuesday and Saturday mornings building, restoring, sailing, and rowing traditional craft indigenous to the region, all under the direction of the museum's boatwright, George Surgent. Club members also actively participate in a variety of museum educational activities throughout the year. The club is currently building a "love boat" — a seventeen-foot skiff that the owner plans to use for marriages. They are also working on a speedboat as part of the new exhibit on racing, as well as restoring two canoes.



CMM photo by Robert Hurry

**Solomons Island Model Boat Club** operates a fleet of forty-eight-inch, radio-controlled skipjacks, built by club members, which race on summer weekends at the museum waterfront. They also hold regattas, inviting enthusiasts from up and down



CMM photo by Butch Garren

the east coast to demonstrate their skill. During the winter months, club members work on building models. Classes are held the second and fourth Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to noon. No experience required — we'll teach you everything you need to know.

**The Canoe/Kayak Club** offers museum members an opportunity to explore the creeks, marshes, and rivers in southern Maryland as part of an organized excursion guided by a trip leader. Guests are welcome as well as paddlers wishing to learn about the club by joining a trip. Trips are scheduled approximately twice a month from April to November and most trips end at lunch time, often in a location with a place to eat. Evening trips are scheduled during the hottest months, usually after a shared dinner. Upcoming trips include Mallow's Bay, the graveyard of sunken ships on the Potomac River near Nanjemoy, MD; Tuckahoe State Park on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake in Maryland; and Ingelside Winery on the Rappahanock River in Virginia (winetasting, followed by paddling).



Photo by Ken Spring

**The Purple Martin Club** has put up purple martin houses at the museum and at Cove Point Lighthouse in the hopes of attracting purple martin colonies by using decoys and playing recordings of purple martin chatter. The club plans to have everything ready for when the birds return at the end of March and beginning of April. Members are needed to monitor the houses and do nest checks to monitor the young birds' progress. There will be an informational/training secession on April 3 at 2:00 in the auditorium. If you are interested in joining the club or just want to learn more about purple martins please try to attend.

**The Yard Arms Club** is dedicated to beautifying the museum landscape. The Yard Arms are responsible for the beautiful rain garden at the Corbin Pavilion, and all of the lovely flower beds seen around the campus. This past winter, they completed construction of three compost bins located on the street side of the exhibition building. Funded by a grant from the Chaney

Continued on page 7

## Report on CMM Clubs (continued from page 6)

Foundation, the bins are available for visitors and school groups to deposit leftover non-meat items from lunches, and garden waste from the museum grounds. Instructions for how to build them are on the museum website, along with information about composting and rain gardens. Upcoming projects include installing two rain barrels near the compost bins and preparing the beds for spring planting. Club members meet Tuesday mornings to work on the museum grounds, March through October.



Photo by Sherrod Sturrock



Photo by Sherrod Sturrock

**The Fossil Club** sponsors field trips to fossil collecting sites, regular meetings, public lectures by fossil experts, and fossil fairs. *The Ecphora*, is the official newsletter/journal of the Calvert Marine Museum Fossil Club, and is published quarterly. Back issues are available on the museum website. The club



Photo by Sherrod Sturrock

has recently launched a scholarship for graduating high school seniors interested in pursuing a degree in paleontology, geology, or other earth science fields. The club works with the curator for paleontology, Dr. Stephen Godfrey. ▲▲

## Scholarships Available through CMM Clubs

**T**he Fossil Club at is pleased to announce the **Betty (Sandy) Roberts Scholarship for Natural Sciences** to provide financial support to Southern Maryland graduating students in pursuit of a post-secondary education focused on the natural sciences. The Fossil Club will award one scholarship of \$500 annually to a student pursuing education in any of the natural sciences, with preference given to applicants pursuing post-secondary education in the fields of paleontology or geology. Any graduating senior from a public, private, or religious high school, as well as home schooled students in Southern Maryland is eligible. Students currently attending college are also eligible. For more information and scholarship application form, go to the following website: <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/exhibits/paleontology-fossil-club.php>

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild is offering a **Conant Fund scholarship** to a middle school student for the boatbuilding camp this summer. To qualify for this scholarship, the applicant must be a middle school student in good standing, have a written teacher recommendation, and an interest in learning the skills offered in the camp. No prior experience is needed. Preference is given to students who have a financial need. Letters of interest and teacher recommendation letters should be emailed to Sherrod Sturrock by April 15, 2013, [sturrosa@co.cal.md.us](mailto:sturrosa@co.cal.md.us) ▲▲

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The education department is humming along at full throttle, to borrow a metaphor from the maritime contingent. In addition to our usual school field trips we have launched a number of new initiatives. Our outreach programs have proven to be very popular, and we will do thirty-six this year — not bad for the first year's effort. Part of that is due to funding from PNC for preschool outreach. PNC Grow Up Great initiative is also bringing in guests for our Sea Squirts and Little Minnows programs, and we are getting lots of new memberships as a result.

Thanks to a Washington Gas initiative, we have successfully launched a "Fossil Fuel Fund" that helps schools cover the cost of transportation. And the Maryland Humanities Council is funding distance learning programs in Maryland. This year we have also done programs in Louisiana, Minnesota, Alaska, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Ohio. We were delighted to learn how well informed Alaskan students are about the "lower 48."

On April 24 we will host a Home School Day that focuses on "Working on the Water." The Patuxent Small Craft Guild and Solomons Island Model Boat Club, along with many other volunteers, will be on hand to help out that day.

### Upcoming Events

On Saturday, April 20, PNC is supporting a new event called **Bring Your Parents to the Museum Day**. PNC's Mobile LearningAdventure will be onsite with lots of hands-on activities for the preschool set. At 11:00 a.m. there will be a concert in the auditorium by Milkshake Duo — a band that creates great rock music for kids. Throughout the galleries interpreters will model how to use the museum as a teaching tool. And of course, the CMM "Otter" will make an appearance.

May 4 brings the **Solomons Maritime Festival**, which includes the ever popular **Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show**. As always, this perennial favorite celebrates Southern Maryland traditional foods, maritime crafts, home crafts, and music, along with the beautifully restored antique boats and engines. We're featuring all things home grown, with a special emphasis on herbs — medicinal, decorative, culinary, and more.

The **Maritime Performance Series** kicks off June 28 with a performance by Grey Larsen and Cindy Kallet. Cindy is a superb singer, guitarist, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Grey is one of America's finest players of the Irish flute and tin whistle, as well as an accomplished singer and concertina, fiddle, piano, and harmonium player. As composers, each has contributed to the unique tapestry of contemporary folk and world music as it exists and flourishes in America today. Together, they weave songs and tunes of vibrant color and rich texture. In July, Pirates Royale, who have been "creating music and mayhem since 1986" will board the stage with their rollicking, bawdy tunes. Stay tuned for details. (Sherrod Sturrock) 🚢

## UPDATE ON MUSEUM EXHIBITS

If you have visited the museum lately, you will have noticed the absence of the large octagonal case in the maritime gallery. It was removed so that some of the artifacts can be used in the new exhibit on boat racing, and in anticipation of the eventual addition of classrooms on the second floor, which will require a column to be placed in that area. In the fall, there are plans to complete the updating of the maritime gallery, and that space will feature new exhibits about charter boats and local captains.

**Thrills and Spills: The Golden Era of Powerboat Racing in Southern Maryland**, an exciting new exhibit planned for the Mezzanine Gallery, is scheduled to open June 22 with a reunion of race boat drivers. From the late 1950s to the late 1970s, the Southern Maryland Boat Club (SMBC) managed power boat races all over the Southern Maryland region. During its heyday, the club boasted dozens of local outboard power boat drivers. After joining the American Power Boat Association (APBA) in 1970, the club became a powerhouse in outboard performance craft racing. The SMBC produced a number of national champion drivers who traveled the APBA circuit, competing in races as far away as Florida, New York, and Arizona. **Thrills and Spills** interprets this golden era of local powerboat racing through photographs, film footage, memorabilia, artifacts, and recollections of race boat drivers. The name of the exhibit is also the title of a forthcoming illustrated book by CMM staffers Robert Hurry and Richard Dodds that will explore in more detail the brief but fascinating history of powerboat racing, from the annual regattas sponsored by the Solomons Island Yacht Club, starting in the late 1930s, to the Outboard Performance Craft era in the 1970s.

Under the direction of the new curator of estuarine biology, Dave Moyer, there have been lots of changes in the **Estuarium**. Look for new species of animals including lookdowns and black sea bass in the Chesapeake Bay tank; gizzard shad in the Fisherman's Island tank; chain dogfish in the Discovery Room touch tank; new red and blue LED lighting for the moon jellies; and a huge snakehead now lives in the Invasive Species gallery. Preparations are under way that will open up our Skates and Rays exhibit to touching of these amazing animals — please ask a staff member for assistance. And as always, there are lots of behind-the-scenes projects going on to improve life support systems for the animals. Planning is under way for a complete renovation of the Estuarium, and if grant funding comes through, the work will coincide with the museum renovation project.




When you walk outside, you will notice our newly replaced **Marshwalk**. With help from the county, we have rebuilt the marshwalk. It is beautiful — and a lot sturdier. As you walk around, look for the spring water snakes, marsh birds, and fiddler crabs sunning themselves. And be sure to continue all the way around to the Corbin Pavilion; the rain garden is at its most beautiful in the spring. (Sherrod Sturrock) 🚢





## YOU "OTTER" BEEN THERE: THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY PARTY FOR THE MUSEUM'S OTTERS

Staff and visitors celebrated on January 21 our ten years with the two otters "Bubbles" and "Squeak." It hardly seems possible that these popular performers have been here for that period of time, but it is true. Participants went behind the scenes to see the feeding of the otters and to talk with their keeper, and then enjoyed a continental breakfast in the museum lobby. Other activities went on during the day, including many appearances by the otter impersonators, junior docents Peyton Haifley and Lauren Sardo. One activity was the otters' favorite dance, The Swim. Special events included a raffle of otter art, and a special auction of an Otter Lover's Package that featured a special behind-the-scenes tour, watching the otters practicing their art skills, and a take-home original otter artwork.

Because of the popularity of the otters the museum is now offering an **Otter Lover's Package**. This is an exclusive opportunity for up to six guests to take a one-hour, behind-the-scenes tour with one of our estuarine biology staff, scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time and date. During the tour the guests will watch the otters feast on their breakfast while practicing their art skills, and guests will leave with an authentic otter artwork in colors chosen by the guests. This package is offered on a first-come, first-served basis at a cost of \$250 (\$125 of which is tax deductible). Call David Moyer, curator of estuarine biology, for more details: 410-326-3240, extension 33, or e-mail at [moyerde@co.cal.md.us](mailto:moyerde@co.cal.md.us). 



The decorated cake (ice layers) for the otters. CMM photo by Bob Hall



An example of otter art.



Birthday visitors enjoyed their own refreshments and activities in the lobby. CMM photo by Bob Hall



Visitors watched the otters enjoying their birthday cake. CMM photo by Bob Hall

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

### Nominees for the 2012 Volunteer of the Year and Group Achievement Awards

Congratulations to those nominated by staff for the 2012 Volunteer of the Year Award. **Len Addiss** has been a volunteer since 1995 and has been an active member of SIMBC, currently serving as commodore. He conducts Drum Point Lighthouse tours each week and is a regular volunteer at First Free Friday, the Maritime Performance Series, and assists with many education events. **Debbie Carlson** volunteers each week in the administrative office with Gale Parks and does a great job. She also assists the other office staff anytime she is needed. Debbie has not only been assisting Gale for the past eight years but also helps with the Waterside Concert Series. **Paige Fischer** is a Paleo Prep Lab intern. She has proven herself to be an expert in

fossil preparation. Paige is a rare combination of patience, savior-faire, and a keen interest in paleontology, which has allowed her to rise to the challenge of preparing some of the most difficult or delicate fossils. **Linda McCullagh** is in the Discovery Room every Saturday morning. She is great at engaging the children and adults alike with the animals in the touch tank and then encourages them to explore our new reptile and amphibian habitats. Linda even helps our visitors sail a boat or find a fossil. She also helps train new volunteers in the Discovery Room and helps with making items for some of the summer camps. **Ilse Metz** has been working "behind the scenes" three days a week in

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT (continued from Page 9)

the library since 2008. Her work is extremely detailed and repetitive, but Ilse stays with it for hours, working rapidly and accurately. Her work has resulted in lists and indexes that are important for the staff and library users in conducting research. She is a pleasure to work with and demonstrates qualities that the museum seeks in its corps of volunteers. **Rose Nelson** is a very dedicated volunteer who spends two full days a week splitting her time between the Skates and Rays and the Discovery Room. She is extremely knowledgeable and does a great job passing that knowledge on to our visitors. Rose is always kind, patient, and thorough when engaging our visitors. She is a delight to work with. **Courtney Sanders** brings life and energy to the estuarine biology department. She is positive and upbeat, accepts changing responsibilities with grace, and always asks for more. Courtney is completely trusted with the animals as she is extremely responsible and a quick learner. She is a valuable addition to our team, coming in twice a week to support our efforts and advance our programs.

Congratulations also go out to the nominees for the 2012 Group Achievement Award. Staff nominated the **Estuarine Biology Intern Core** — Bill Lake, Courtney Sanders, Jonathan Bland, Julia Walker, and Dylan Kletter. They were instrumental in the transition in management and management styles. They promoted excellence in animal care, provided wonderful support services to the aquarists and aquariums, and helped maintain the daily course when changes were happening throughout the department. **First Free Friday Volunteers** core group is about fifteen strong and show up on the first Friday of every month. They greet guests, count guests, survey guests, promote membership, staff the Skates and Rays, Discovery Room, Drum Point Lighthouse, and paleo prep lab areas. They set up tables of fossils for guests to examine and help interpret the various galleries. They do whatever is asked cheerfully and professionally. The **Junior Docents**: after attending a week-long boot camp and working very hard to learn the ropes, these young people have grown into docents who present programs in all of the galleries of the museum. They bring great enthusiasm and enhance the visitors' experience at the museum. They are always helpful with special events, doing whatever is needed of them to make the event a success. **Lighthouse Volunteers**: we have four volunteers who come in each week to give tours to our visitors of the Drum Point Lighthouse as well as many other volunteers that give tours on occasions and during special events. There is another group of volunteers who take care of the Cove Point Lighthouse, greeting visitors as they arrive and sharing their knowledge of the CPLH. Both groups do an outstanding job of making the lighthouse come to life for our visitors. **Museum Store Ladies** are true winners as they have done a masterful job of learning to use the new computerized cash register. Although some of them were quite nervous in the beginning (as many had never used a computer) they were impressive with their resolve and can-do attitude. They have a great deal of responsibility ensuring that customers' purchases are properly run up, that the correct payment is made, and that the customer leaves the museum happy. Retail is not for the faint of heart, but these ladies volunteer for the job! **Paleontology Collection Volunteers** — Jackie Vos, Karen Wilson, and Bob Platt. Some of the related activities they are involved with include conducting an exhaustive inventory of the collection, its curation and reorganization, and continued cataloging of artifacts. They all have great attention to detail, and when confronted with problems they seek out answers or devise workarounds so as not to frustrate their progress. **Patuxent Small Craft Guild (PSCG)** members work two days a week. Some of their accomplishments this past year

include: completion of the popular bugeye landscape and children's activity *Volunteer*, which they also funded; built nineteen other boats during the summer camp, canoe classes, etc.; carried out repairs on the *Wm. B. Tennison*; built new picnic tables and built benches for the Road Scholar charter boat; and headed up other activities like the intergenerational camp and toy boatbuilding. All of this in addition to maintenance and repair of our small craft collection, which would not be possible without the support of the PSCG volunteers. **Tennison Special Cruises** — Bob & Pam Platt, Lori Cole, Cindy MacArthur, Teddie Watts, Peggy Hovermale, Eric & Kim Zabiegalski, Mindy & Maggie Quinn. These folks come on board and act as ambassadors for the museum and help people have a memorable experience. They cruise on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Fourth of July, and Saturdays. Without these folks these cruises wouldn't happen. Not only are the cruises providing some extra income for the maintenance of the *Tennison*, they give many people a chance to enjoy their special occasions with friends and family. **Touch Tank Volunteers** assist in one of the most active areas of the museum, the Discovery Room, and without our touch tank volunteers, it is sometimes hard to manage the room. Many of them come in on a regular basis and are quick to engage our visitors with the live animals. Some of them get involved in other activities in the room such as helping children find and identify fossils and even show them how to raise the sails. **Waterside Concert Committee Volunteers** — Herb Moore, Wayne Winker, Gale Parks, Cindy Smith, Shirley Mihursky, and Bob Pfeiffer. These volunteers are essential leaders and hard workers that all come together to ensure that the concerts go off without a hitch. They work tirelessly, not only the day of the concert, but in the months and weeks leading up to the event. They assist in the day-of details as well as publicity and community outreach by spreading the word. They take on their roles with pride and selfless diligence. The **Yard Arms** gardening committee was formed in February of 2011; they have worked hard to make the museum grounds beautiful as well as educational. They make all of us wish for spring to see the magic of their work.

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



**Volunteer of the Year 2011, Sylvia Dry, at the 2012 recognition reception presented with the "Golden Otter" award from the "otter" and director Doug Alves.**

*CMM photo by Bob Hall*