Campus improvements: native garden installed along waterfront, new look for Navy Point, new Welcome Center on Talbot Street

A special thanks to Museum volunteer Roger Galvin (pictured standing, right), who designed, and guided Museum staff in planting, a native harbor garden along the administration building’s waterfront. The garden was installed to hold back the high tide from the grass area. Surrounded by a decorative block wall and cap, the garden incorporates a drain from the Museum walkway to the harbor, with an internal check valve to prevent tidal flow. Plans to continue the garden along the parking lot of the Crab Claw to Burn Street are scheduled for June.

The Navy Point bulkhead is completed, with the decking under the lighthouse and the railway finger pier back in place. The grounds on Navy Point also have a new irrigation system, and sod. Plans to continue the harbor, with an internal check valve to prevent tidal flow. The grounds on Navy Point also have a new irrigation system and sod.

The new Welcome Center on Talbot Street opened in April. A concierge desk, local brochures, and a video featuring the events and programs at the Museum greet visitors, with Museum-related merchandise for sale.

CORRECTION: In the spring issue of The Chesapeake Log, the caption on page 18 should have read: CBMM Model Guild Director Bob Mason and Guild member Bill Price inspect the recently moved CNC milling machine.
The Beautiful Season is Finally with us, even though this winter seemed almost nonexistent. Campus is teeming with visitors, volunteers, interns, apprentices, vibrant festivals, special events; the exhibits are compelling and crisp—no wonder the town is packed! I am reminded of the opening of the new Tug exhibit in late April. Never have I been as proud of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum as when I stood with 250 fellow enthusiasts on that glorious evening on Navy Point. The entire community showed up—hard-working tug families, local watermen, town visitors, shop owners, politicians, board members, the press corps and most important, lots of interested members. I remember thinking, as I looked around at the large crowd, people show up for the good stuff, and there is a lot of good stuff happening at the Museum.

Next time you are on campus, look at the folks who are rebuilding the Rosie Parks and watch as shipwright apprentices master the craft of wooden boatbuilding. Sneak a peek at the young sailors learning to right a capsized boat in the Summer Sailing Program, and immerse yourself in our common heritage at the restored Mitchell House or in the new Gunning and Tug exhibits. The whole campus is alive with activity, and the activity doesn’t stop there. We’ve recently opened a new Welcome Center on Talbot Street to help visitors learn more about the Museum, St. Michaels, and the surrounding area.

Speaking of good stuff, I am also proud of the Museum’s Frederick Douglass Day and look forward to the 25th anniversary of the Antique and Classic Boat Festival, seeing Tall Ships line our docks, watching Independence Day fireworks explode over the lighthouse on Big Band Night, and celebrations of Chesapeake heritage at the Chesapeake Folk Festival and Watermen’s Appreciation Day. This year’s Charity Boat Auction has more boats available for sale than ever before, and I could hardly wait to continue to build on the positive momentum we’ve all helped to make possible.

This outpouring of support and generosity from you—donors, members, volunteers, governors, and staff—drives the Museum’s success. Membership dues and admissions receipts combined provide less than one-third of the revenue necessary to support the Museum’s operations. Especially in these times of scant government funding, only with your gifts can the Museum’s important mission be served in the fashion it deserves, to preserve the legacy and traditions of the Chesapeake region for current and future generations, children and adults alike.

As I write this, the Museum is just two weeks into its new fiscal year that promises to be even better than the last. Your participation and support last year gave us much to be proud of and put the wind at our backs heading into the new year—new exhibits, strong communications and increased visibility, successful diverse events and programs, renewed energy and activity in the boathouse, and the completion of the Museum’s biggest capital improvement project in years: a new bulkhead and upgraded landscaping on Navy Point. Membership is up, attendance is up, and particularly gratifying is the Museum’s Annual Fund having just set a new all-time record for the third year in a row. We comfortably passed our goal that was 10% higher than the year before, receiving many more gifts, from many more donors, than any time in the Museum’s 47-year history.

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Those of us who are privileged to spend a lot of time at the Museum feel a sense of optimism, energy, and pride in being a part of this extraordinary institution. We barely can wait to continue to build on the positive momentum we’ve all created together. With your unwavering support, we are committed to continuing to improve the Museum’s performance of its mission across the board. We have lots in store this summer and we hope you’ll visit often to enjoy what you’ve helped to make possible.

I look forward to seeing you at our Museum this summer. Thank you for your continued support.
Opening receptions for new Tug & Gunning exhibits draw large crowds

To unveil the new “Push and Pull: Life on Chesapeake Bay Tugboats” exhibit, the Museum invited donors, staff, and those featured in the exhibit to a Captain’s Reception on Friday, April 20. This new, contemporary exhibit showcases life on Chesapeake tugboats and remains open through 2014. The opening reception for “Gunning Among Friends: Chesapeake Waterfowl Hunting Clubs” welcomed Museum members and members of the East Coast Decoy Collectors to the Small Boat Shed on Friday, April 13. This exhibit examines hunting clubs by featuring historic photos, documents, decoys, and other gunning accoutrements.

Museum welcomes new staff & interns

Cheryl Miller, of Easton, MD has joined the Museum as the new administrative assistant, supporting the President and the Development Department. Originally from Providence, RI, Miller brings many years of experience as an office manager and executive assistant. The Museum also welcomes three new summer interns. Julia Flood is a history major from Johns Hopkins University and will be assisting the education department. A Maryland native, Flood grew up around St. Michaels. Brittni Landgraf studies anthropology and history at Washington College in Chestertown. Landgraf will serve as the Folk Festival intern, working to develop and coordinate the event throughout the summer while pursuing her interest in historic preservation. Elisabeth Meier is a history major at the University of Chicago and is joining the Museum as a curatorial intern. Meier has significant experience in maritime studies, having participated in the Williams College-Mystic Seaport and Sea Education Association semesters.

A Star Spangled Night on Navy Point, 1812-2012

Wilmington Trust lead sponsor for 15th Annual Boating Party

Wilmington Trust has been named the lead sponsor to the 15th Annual Boating Party Fundraising Gala, “A Star Spangled Night on Navy Point.” The signature, tented event will be held September 8 along the Museum’s waterfront campus. The Boating Party is the Museum’s annual fundraising event, with proceeds benefiting the children and adults served by the museum’s educational, exhibit, and boat restoration programs. Co-chaired this year by Cynthia and Doug Jurrius and Talli and Geoff Oxnam, the gala begins with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, followed by a full-course gourmet dinner catered by PeachBlossoms, live music, and dancing.

Wilmington Trust is a client-focused financial services firm providing a distinct mix of financial, wealth advisory, and asset management services. With roots dating back to the founding of Wilmington Trust Company by T. Coleman duPont in 1903, Wilmington Trust has been serving members of the duPont family and successful individuals, businesses, and families for generations. Tickets for the September 8 Boating Party are $175 per person or $1,750 for a table of 10, with benefactor and corporate sponsorships available. To receive an invitation or to reserve your table or tickets, contact Director of Development René Stevenson at 410-745-4950 or rstevenson@cbmm.org. More info about the event can also be found at cbmm.org/boatingparty.
On Saturday, May 5, the Museum held Frederick Douglass Day, in conjunction with the Frederick Douglass Honor Society. Attendees enjoyed live music, great food, activities for kids, boat rides for the family, fishing, and more. (top row, from left) Co-Chairs of Frederick Douglass Day Harriette Lowery and Karen Shook congratulate this year’s winner of the Frederick Douglass Essay contest, Easton Middle School eighth grader Cameron McCoy, pictured with family members. African-American Foodways Historian Michael Twitty gave cooking demonstrations at the Mitchell House. Young Frederick Douglass (Arnell Limberry) tries his hand at caulking, a job the real Frederick Douglass did in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. (bottom row, from left) Two young attendees had their picture taken in traditional 18th century garb and then pasted it into “The North Star,” the newspaper created by Frederick Douglass. Visitors took advantage of the beautiful weather on a scenic cruise aboard Mister Jim. The Union Baptist Mass Choir of Easton performed at the Tolchester Beach Bandstand. One of the many kids activities for the day included building a boat and sailing it around a pond.

Talbot County Arts Council awards grant to Museum

The Maritime Model Expo on Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20 featured demonstrations, live music, family activities, model skipjack sailing races, and a variety of food on campus. (from left) Various models were on display throughout the weekend. Attendees were invited to watch as models cruised around the miniature pond. Kids activities included making model sailboats and sailing them around the pond. There was plenty of wind on Sunday for the model skipjack sailing races.

The second annual Elf Classic Yacht Race was held on Saturday, May 19. Departing from the Eastport Yacht Club in Annapolis, the boats sailed across the Chesapeake Bay to the Museum. Bull, a classic sandbagger, once again took first prize. (top) The boats are seen on the Miles River, not far from the Museum. (bottom) Mister Jim takes passengers out for a cruise as the boats come in.

Museum receives accolades & awards

Maryland Life Magazine readers recently voted the Museum as the “Free State’s Finest” in four categories: “Finest Museum,” “Finest Family Fun,” “Finest Sunrise/Sunset,” and “Finest Historic Attraction.” Thank you to all who voted for us!
curator's corner

Barnacle-Encrusted Log Books
by Pete Lesher

When you see barnacles on books, you know there must be a story. Tugboat owner Dennis Berg used these daily diaries as log books aboard Blue Star, one of the two tugs he owned at the time. When interviewed for the new Tug exhibit, Berg recalled, “[The mate-in-training] had been steering most of the time. The captain was there, you know, looking after him, made sure he did right. Just as they went by that lighthouse, he decided—he went down below… and then all of a sudden,… it sank in just a few minutes… I think it was just that guy steering. I don’t know what he did wrong. But anyhow, all of a sudden the rudder went hard over and [the tug was] running light [without a barge in tow], so he turns so far, he keeled over and filled up with water through the engine room doors and sunk. They’re lucky nobody got hurt, I think it was just that guy fishing a few minutes before that. They all got off and were floating on the surface, which was clearly long enough for the books to accumulate some barnacles and other marine growth. After Blue Star was raised, Berg chose to purchase another tug, Mustang, rather than put the tug back into shape. Now Blue Star’s barnacle-encrusted log books—as well as the 1983 log opened to the day of her sudden sinking—are part of the museum’s new exhibit, Push and Pull: Life on Chesapeake Bay Tugboats, now showing in the Steamboat Building.

The exhibit is open daily and is free for members or with paid Museum admission. For more information about the exhibit, visit cbmm.org.

Volunteer Profile: Lloyd Devigne
by Katie Willis

Several years ago as Lloyd Devigne was reading the local paper, he saw that the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum was looking for volunteers and jumped at the chance to become involved. Devigne and his wife Jo Ann moved to the Eastern Shore permanently in 2005. Previously, they split their time between the Jersey Shore and Sarasota, FL, where they both volunteered for the Mote Marine Laboratory, known for its shark research. The Devignes moved to the Eastern Shore to be closer to family. Their fondness for boats and the water made the Eastern Shore an added bonus.

After a day trip to the Museum and a French class with the Academy for Lifelong Learning, Devigne volunteered to lead adult tours, and became the Volunteer Association’s vice president from 2008-2010. In 2007, he began crewing the Museum’s buyboat, Mister Jim, and in 2009, Devigne completed the coursework, test, and sea-time to become a USCG certified captain. In 2011, he upgraded his license to the master level and is now one of seven captains taking passengers out on Mister Jim throughout the summer season. Although Devigne spends most of his time aboard Mister Jim, he still likes to lead tours whenever possible.

“I love interacting with Museum visitors. It’s a blend of my personal and professional life—talking and presenting to people,” he says. “I love telling the story of the Chesapeake to visitors, and presenting the challenges and the changes that its people and the culture have faced throughout history.”

A native of Glen Rock, NJ, Devigne attended Pennsylvania State University and New York University, earning his MBA in marketing and economics. Following his graduation, Devigne joined the Coast Guard Reserve and was stationed for six months on a tug near New York Harbor’s Governors Island during the Vietnam War.

In 1967 Devigne took a job with IBM, which he held for 25 years, as a sales and marketing executive. In 1991, the Devignes married in a ceremony held in Sarasota, FL, where they both volunteered for the Mote Marine Laboratory, known for its shark research. When Devigne isn’t at the Museum, he enjoys traveling and taking trips to Florida and France. Devigne’s grandparents were born in France and he and his wife hope one day to take a month-long visit and completely immerse themselves in French culture. Devigne enjoys fishing and boating and has a strong affinity for power boats.

Devigne says, “I’ve been around boats all my life. I tend to gravitate toward maritime things.”

The exhibit is open daily and is free for members or with paid Museum admission. For more information about the exhibit, visit cbmm.org.
What’s Fresh?
Seasonal Selections from Education
by Kate Livie

It’s the summer of renewal for the Museum—from the new bulkhead to the restored tug Delaware—there’s the piney smell of fresh lumber and wet paint, and in the education programs, the happy sound of excited kids enjoying brand new ways to learn about the Bay and its people.

Beginning in May, the education department welcomed 300 Talbot County 7th grade students to learn all about Rasic Park by swinging a caulk bag, counting fingernail-spied spats in our oyster nurseries, and hunkering into the coffin bunks aboard the E. C. Collier to get a taste of the life and work surrounding the iconic skipjack. Meanwhile, at the Hooper Strait Lighthouse, several new instructors familiarized themselves with a newly-reconstructed Lighthouse Overnight Adventures curriculum, which features new hands-on activities focusing on the legendary lady lighthousekeeper Fannie Salter. Participants try on work aprons with the initials “F.S.” and check the pockets for clues about Fannie’s life and work, as well as exploring a dirty bag containing a lump of coal, wire-rimmed spectacles, chalk, and other artifacts that connect to Salter’s experiences as the keeper at Turkey Point Lighthouse. Designed to align with the new Girl Scout “Journeys,” the Museum’s program uses fun games, costumes, and historic objects to explore the life of the first female lighthousekeeper.

The updated curriculum can be used toward badge goals for Brownie, Junior, and Cadette Girl Scouts, but the program is open to all youth groups and their chaperones. The Museum has teamed up with Sultana Projects to offer two programs this summer which will dovetail with Chesapeake Chamber Music’s upcoming Monty Alexander Jazz Festival. On Friday, June 29, ALL is sponsoring a field trip to the famous music venue, The Mainstay, in Rock Hall. Tom McHugh, founder of The Mainstay, will talk about the history of jazz in America and the founding of this popular gathering place of musicians and enthusiasts. Following dinner in town, the group will enjoy music by some of the best jazz musicians in the area. Outstanding trumpeter Byron Stripling, who has performed with the Woody Herman Orchestra, Lionel Hampton, and the Count Basie Orchestra, will be the featured performer. On Friday, August 31, the weekend of the jazz festival, ALL welcomes Bill Edgar, PhD, scholar, author and esteemed jazz pianist at the Academy Art Museum in Easton. Edgar, who will be introduced by jazz aficionado Al Sikes, will lead a discussion of the African roots of jazz, and its growth and metamorphosis in our country over the past century and a half.

The program, entitled “Jazz and the African-American Experience,” will include various piano selections by Edgar. The third annual Monty Alexander Jazz Festival takes place in Easton on Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 2, 2012. The 2012 Jazz Festival, to be held at Easton’s historic Avalon Theatre, features legendary Grammy-nominated jazz pianist Monty Alexander, the Festival’s artistic director and namesake. For further information on the Monty Alexander Jazz Festival, visit ChesapeakeJazz.org. For information about ALL’s programs and to register, please call 410-745-2916 or download a catalog online at cbmm.org/all. You can also find ALL on Facebook.

One-on-One with Chesapeake People
by Robert Forloney

Not many people know how to make a dip net. You find even fewer who’ve worked in a seafood packing house or still carve decoys. Even so, understanding this traditional work is important to understanding the history of the Chesapeake Bay. The Center for Chesapeake Studies’ Chesapeake People program offers Museum visitors the chance to talk one-on-one with tradition-bearers as they demonstrate their skills, as well as tell their stories about making a living on the Bay. Through these enriching interactions, visitors get a glimpse of a culture very different than their own.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day on Saturdays from 11am-3pm, Museum visitors can meet local wooden boatbuilders, decoy carvers, and crab pickers, observing Chesapeake Bay maritime traditions firsthand. The program is made possible through a generous National Endowment for the Arts grant and provides funding for an artist residency, as well as for the restoration of the skipjack Rasic Parks. This summer’s artist-in-residence is Captain John Garlick, of Easton, MD. Captain Garlick is a recognized trailboard carver whose work graces the Pride of Baltimore II, the Lady Maryland, and the Mildred Bille, to name a few.

Trailboards—wooden carvings that “trail” along either side of a ship’s bow—are part of the figurehead sculptural tradition which flourished during the 18th and 19th centuries. During select days in June and July (see our calendar of events on page 21), Captain Garlick will be on-site offering daily carving demonstrations as well as teaching a series of classes. He will also be a presenter at the July 28 Chesapeake Folk Festival.

Stop by the Museum this summer and visit with our Chesapeake People demonstrators, and hear their stories and experiences about life on the Bay.
It is a crisp, overcast morning when Master Shipwright Marc Barto opens the door of the big, rugged pickup parked in front of the Boat Shop. Rosie, his yellow lab pup, bounds in and takes her rightful place in the middle of the front bench seat, her eyes wide with anticipation of the road trip about to begin. Shipwright apprentices India Gilham-Westerman and Ken Philips climb into the back seat as Barto fires up the throaty engine of the truck and we wind our way out of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, towing a tandem-axel flatbed trailer that has seen better days. We are heading to the Paul M. Jones Lumber Company, located about 80 miles southeast in Snow Hill, Maryland, to pick up the thick pine planks that will become the new bottom for the historic skipjack Rosie Parks that Barto and his crew are rebuilding.

“You got to see this place,” Barto says of the Jones complex. “It is bigger than the museum’s campus with wood stacked everywhere.” Barto has ordered the planks cut from Eastern Shore pine to make sure the restored Rosie Parks is as historically accurate as possible.

Almost six decades ago, famed Eastern Shore boatbuilder Bronza Parks went looking for wood for his bustling business in the Dorchester hamlet of Wingate, on the banks of the Honga River. He was building three skipjacks, including the Rosie. Wood was the fabric of his business and he knew it intimately. His daughter, Mary Parks Harding, said her father would walk through tall stands of local pine looking for the right trees to make better boats.

“He looked for local wood because the soil and dampness here, it was better quality wood. I used to go into the woods with my father when he would mark the trees he wanted,” she says. “He would look up a tree and see how far up the first branches started. Then he would pace off several steps and he would lie down. He had me hold up a six-foot ruler at his feet, he was six-feet tall you know, and he would sight up it and know exactly how high up it really was. I learned a lot about geometry from my father.”
Although he never went past the eighth grade, BRONZA PARKS WAS CONSTANTLY READING, studying books on boat design and ways to MAKE BOATS BETTER, FASTER, AND LIGHTER.

Parks’ boats also have a certain flair. Where other builders made their boats strictly functional, Parks added touches of style and grace. Rosie’s transom, as an example, has the hour-glass curves usually reserved for yachts of the day.

The sun cuts through thick, low clouds as we pull into the Jones lumber yard a few blocks north of the historic Snow Hill Courthouse. The colonial village, located at the head of the Pocomoke River, has no snow and there is nary a mound, let alone a hill. It was chartered in 1668 and settled by Londoners from the English capital’s Snow Hill section. Logging has always been one of its staples. Harding says she remembers her father talking frequently about getting lumber for his boats from the Pocomoke and Snow Hill area.

“He talked about that a lot,” she says. “But that was a long time ago, so I am not sure where he got the wood.” A Jones spokesman says they were in business back in 1953, but there’s no way to tell if they sold wood to Bronza Parks back then.

Rosie has been sleeping with her head on Barto’s lap for much of the trip, but as we come to a stop behind the Jones office, she is in a hurry to get out of the truck. Barto no sooner opens his door and the yellow lab is out dashing like the big puppy she is—sniffing, scurrying, and running around. A Jones foreman tells Barto that the bottom planks for the Rosie Parks are cut and have been sitting in the yard for several weeks. He directs us through the yard to the staging area near the mill, where great stacks of cut lumber are in neat rows. Barto is pleased as he examines the neatly piled planks.

Rosie’s transom, as an example, has the hour-glass curves usually reserved for yachts of the day.

Harding recalls her father also regularly bought lumber from the Spicer Lumber Company in Golden Hill, 15 miles to the north of Wingate in Dorchester County. The Spicer family had been cutting and milling lumber in Dorchester County for several generations. The extended family traces its roots back to Jeremiah Spicer who was born on Taylors Island in 1760. At one point, a hundred years ago, his grandson, Lingan Travers "L.T." Spicer, owned 8,500 acres of forests, cattle and sheep farms as well as sailing ships and mills. L.T.’s grandson, Bill Spicer, 85, who still lives in Golden Hill, says his grandfather suffered heavy losses in the great hurricane of 1933 and died the following year of cancer. Bill Spicer says the family supplied lumber for boatbuilders up and down the Bay for the better part of a century.

"Boatbuilders would come to us, pick out old-growth trees and we would cut the wood," Spicer says. "We could cut logs up to 42 feet," Spicer says he first tried his hand at farming and left that occupation in 1954 after Hurricane Hazel pushed saltwater into the Dorchester County farms, damaging the soil. He says he had an opportunity to work at a Cambridge car dealer as a mechanic but decided to work for his Uncle Arthur Spicer in 1955.

"I could either go to Cambridge every day or walk across the street to Uncle Arthur’s mill," he says. "I didn’t know anything when I started and after 41 years wound up owning the place." Spicer says he remembers Bronza Parks working with his Uncle. "We furnished the lumber for all three of those skipjacks he built at that time," Spicer recalls. "Uncle Arthur had cut the lumber on the mill set up down in the woods. He had a planing mill but it wasn’t working at the time.

"One of the first things I did, we loaded those sides, those skipjack sides, and carried them into Cambridge to the manufacturing company that was right there were the shipyard is. Got ’em dressed and took ’em on down to Wingate," Spicer recalls.

Harding says her father’s wood supply was ever present and abundant. "He always had stacks of wood around the shop, inside and out," she recalls. He had the innate and uncanny ability to see a boat in three dimensions. For Bronza in 1955, boatbuilding was second nature. He could see the lines, proportion, and place to make sure the vessel was sound and swift. "He built these racks to store the wood and it was sort of crisscrossed. We used to play inside them. Dad used to pay some local boys to stack the wood. When one of them needed some extra money, he knocked a pile over and paid him to restack it."

For Barto, getting the lumber from Bronza Parks was not as important as getting it cut in ways similar to the wood Parks used to build the Rosie. The long side and bottom pine planks have a smooth, finished look and feel. The white oak ribs and internal supports, however, are cut by a rougher, circular saw that has left its teeth marks on the original wood.

To get those pieces cut, Barto turned to the Tuckahoe Sawmill in Ridgely, Maryland, 30 miles northeast of St. Michaels. There, sawyer Kurt Gant runs a vintage Frick sawmill similar to those used to cut logs. Gant’s saw is a great wheel of sharp teeth that slices through a log with more brute force than grace. It gives Barto the historic look he is seeking.

Back at the Museum in St. Michaels, bottom planks are stacked in rows next to the big white vinyl tent where Barto’s crew has just completed planking the sides of the Rosie Parks—giving the old skipjack a new, wrinkle-free skin. His dog, Rosie, chases shadows and sniffs her way around the Boatyard, gnawing at a favorite stick and then dashing off. Standing inside the bottomless trailer, Barto points to the white oak ribs that were cut at the Tuckahoe Mill and installed next to some of the original ribs that have been preserved. Side by side, they are indistinguishable. The original saw marks from the Spicer mill are still clearly visible on the exposed keel log that runs the length of the boat.

"This is one tree that was 56 feet long,” Barto says, rubbing his hand along the grain of the great squared off pine log. "If this log had been compromised, we wouldn’t have been able to do the project, but it is solid as a rock."

For Barto, the Rosie Parks project has become as much archeology as it is carpentry. Recreating the subtle detail that Bronza Parks put into his boats has been a challenge. "At first it scared the heck out of me," he confesses.

"I was afraid to take anything apart. But now I am not afraid anymore. It is all coming together."
Becky Under the Old Bay

by Kate Livie


CRABS ARE A SYMBOL OF THE BEST MARYLAND TRADITION that represents so much about what’s great and unique about life here: a slower pace, seasonally working the water, and a close connection between the brackish tide and the dinner table.

All these things are embodied in those gorgeously red and viciously callinectes working the water, and a close connection that represents so much about what’s great and Crabs are a symbol of pleasant living, sure, but they are also a modern-day survivor of much older Chesapeake traditions, history, and the Bay environment of the past.

First, take a closer look at a live blue crab if you want to observe an animal whose form directly reflects the Chesapeake’s environment. Sure, the red cooked carapace is pretty (and rings a Pavlovian hunger pang in most of us), but that rich, vibrant blue of the claws, the Bay-toned camouflage of the top shell, and the glistening white of the underbelly are like a tidewater firework. Color-coded to be invisible from the top, and pearly white where they touch the Chesapeake’s sandy bottom, the blue-green kaleidoscope of their tinted shell perfectly lends to the crab’s Bay habitat.

The construction of the blue crab form is another example of its beautifully-evolved functionality. Powerful front claws defend, menace, and form a sort of directional tiller, while strong backfins propel the crabs tirelessly from the mouth of the Chesapeake, where they start their lives as zoolankton, to the shallow grassy river bottoms that serve as their sparkling spots and marriage beds.

‘Beautifully evolved’ also describes the centuries-old relationship watermen have developed working with crabs, observing their life cycles, eating and mating habits, watching them scoot off in the water when they see a shadow, or how they’re drawn in by the smell of a mature male or female of their ilk. Watermen have refined their technique by noting even the smallest physical changes that indicate a window for maximum profit.

Looking for ‘the sign’ is a classic technique, wherein a waterman looks for an impossibly thin red line on a crab’s backfin that shows up when a crab is about to near the end of its molting cycle. This sign also indicates that hard crab, worth maybe $1 to $2 retail, is about to transform into a soft crab, doubling its value to $3 to $5. It’s a bright red little hairline of pure profit to a waterman who knows where to look, and it reflects generations of working summer after summer surrounded by growing bushels of grabbing, waving, scrabbling crabs.

The techniques surrounding the crab harvest can be things of beauty, but so are some of the traditions developed around how we enjoy eating them. In particular, adding flavoring to a pot of crabs while steaming is a long-standing custom, older even than the widespread trend of crabs as the go-to Maryland seafood, which started in the early 20th century as the oyster market declined.

Beer and cider, for example, are frequent additions to the water for steaming— a foodways holdover from the 18th and 19th centuries. No batch of Chesapeake blue crabs is complete without the classic Old Bay spice mix generously frosted over the whole lot while in the pot, so that it comes off the red shell in thick sheets as the biggest crabs are unearthed from the table’s mound.

Named after the “Old Bay” steamboat line, Old Bay was trademarked in the 1940’s by Gustave Brunn, a German immigrant from Baltimore. At the time, crabs were so plentiful and ubiquitous that bars frequently offered them to patrons for free, and salty, spicy seasonings like Old Bay were served on crabs to encourage customers to buy more beer.

The tradition of using spices to add ‘heat’ to your crabs goes back before the 1940’s. One particular flavoring, fish peppers, can be traced to a specific Bay location and culture.
Fish peppers bear a striped fruit that packs quite a wallop of heat. Developed by 19th-century Chesapeake African Americans in the Washington DC area, fish peppers were used primarily as a spice for seafood, and when crabs went into the cookpot in homes along the Potomac during the 1800s, a fistful of these vengeful little peppers got tossed in as well. Over time, this piquant and delicious custom transcended cultural lines and was adopted throughout the Chesapeake.

Old Bay and other fiery crab seasonings reflect the blistering influence of the fish pepper, and today give reason to why we prefer our crabs not just to be served hot, but to taste hot, as well. Crabs are not just a food in the Chesapeake Bay, but the conveyance of a venerable series of traditions that underscore the fundamental place seafood and the Bay itself have in our identity, our culture, and our stomachs.

So, the next time you turn over your basket of piping hot crabs on a picnic table, dislodge the biggest and fattest, and aim that claw meat dusted with Old Bay towards your eager mouth, think for a moment about the icon that is the Chesapeake Blue crab.

Perfectly constructed to swim from the ocean to a river near you, plucked from its eelgrass habitat by a waterman who knows just how it’s done, cooked up in a brine that our colonial predecessors might have enjoyed, and sprinkled with an intense peppery seasoning influenced by the foodways of slaves, the ‘beautiful swimmer’ truly reflects the legacy of the Chesapeake and its people.

Want more? Come to the Museum and see the history of crabbing unfold among many of our exhibits. Better yet, come to Watermen’s Appreciation day on Sunday, August 12 for a crabfeast!
calendar

Free Daily Events
Memorial Day through Labor Day
(with paid admission, free for members)
PUBLIC TOURS
Fridays & Saturdays, 11am & 2pm
45-minute highlights tour.
WATERFALL’S WHARF
Everyday, 11am-3pm
Docent interpretation.
CHESAPEAKE PEOPLE
Saturdays, 11am-3pm
Visit with authentic Chesapeake People who share their stories.
FAMILY DROP-INS
Thursdays & Fridays, 2-4pm
Kid themed, hands-on activities
(craps or tours).
BOATYARD SKILLS DEMONSTRATIONS
Mondays - Fridays, 1:30pm
Learn a traditional boatyard skill from a trained shipwright.
COMMUNITY WORK DAYS:
SKIPJACK RESTORATION
Saturdays, 10am-3pm
Work under the guidance of a master shipwright to help rebuild the skipjack Rose Parks.
SAILING SATURDAYS
June 9, July 14, August 11, Sept. 15
with two daily sailing sessions from 10am-12noon, and 1-4pm
$10 per session
Try your hand at sailing our Apprentice For a Day boats. The boats are perfect for one or two people, with instructions provided for beginners. Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended. Call the Welcome Center at 410-745-4965 to reserve, otherwise, it’s first-come, first-served.
MISTER JIM CRUISES
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays
12noon, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm
$10 per person
Climb aboard the buyboat Mister Jim for a scenic cruise on the Miles River.

25th Antique & Classic Boat Festival (ACBF)
Father’s Day Weekend
Friday, June 15 through Sunday, June 17
Fri, 11am-5pm; Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun., 10am-2pm. Free for members or with Museum admission
A collection of antique Silver Arrow Chris-Craft boats headlines the 25th anniversary celebration of the Antique & Classic Boat Festival at the Museum, to be held over Father’s Day Weekend. Made in limited production in the late ’50s, the 19’ Silver Arrow runabout is considered a collectible treasure today. Powered by a big V-8 Detroit engine, its unique design combines a wood hull with a sleek and sophisticated fiberglass exterior, distinguishable by the Silver Arrow’s ‘50s-style tall fins. The festival also includes more than 100 antique and classic boats, as well as building demonstrations, maritime artists and craftsmen, craft vendors, and a nautical flea market featuring classic old boats, motors, and more. A selection of regional and grilled foods, beer and music will be provided throughout the festival.
As an ACBS-judged boat show, the festival brings visitors the opportunity to enjoy some of the finest antique and classic boats from across the country, displayed in the water and on land. Wood and early fiberglass classics are highlighted—from runabouts to yachts, including race boats, work boats, launches, hydroplanes, and utilities. Several boat models depicting unique, Chesapeake waterfront will also be on display, including Sea Skiffs, Owens cabin cruisers, and Whirlwind sport boats. The competition culminates in a Father’s Day award ceremony, where boat owners will be recognized for their commitment to antique and classic boat preservation and restoration. New this year is a performance from 2-3:30pm by the 229th Maryland Army National Guard Jazz Band (pictured above). A festival spotlight includes “The Arts at Navy Point,” where national artists and craftsmen offer maritime themed items for boat and home. Children’s activities include boatbuilding craft projects, and a youth judging event that educates young girls and boys about the award-winning qualities of preserved and restored classic boats. Along the Fogg’s Landing side of CBMM’s campus, the festival’s “Field of Dreams” offers an array of restorable classic boats and motors, along with other items for sale in a nautical flea market.

june/july/august
Summer Sailing Program
June – August
Explore the Miles River and learn maritime skills in our Summer Sailing Program, where new sailors and old salts gain the confidence to sail a small boat in a fun, safe, and encouraging environment. Pre-registration required, contact Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941.
Junior Sailing, ages 8-16
Mon.–Fri., 8:30am-12noon or 1-4:30pm
$200 members, $225 non-members
Visit the “Learn” section of cbmm.org for a list of dates.
Adult & Teen Basic Sailing Weekend
Sat. & Sun., July 14-15 and August 4-5, 1:4:30pm
$200 members, $225 non-members
Boater Safety Courses
June 12 & 13, July 17 & 18, August 14 & 15
6-10pm, $25 per two evening session
Museum members enjoy refreshments served at a Viking ship and the type of people who sailed them.

Pride of Baltimore II Visit
Thursday, June 21 & Friday, June 22
Tours available to Museum visitors
An 1812-era topsail schooner privateer reproduction, Pride of Baltimore II is Maryand’s working symbol of the great natural resources and spectacular beauty of the Chesapeake Bay region.
Vikings on the Chesapeake
Friday, June 22–Sunday, June 24
Free for members or with paid admission
The Leif Ericson Viking Ship Newport, a half-scale replica of the famous Gustav, ship, offers Museum visitors a real-life look at a Viking ship and the type of people who sailed them.
Log Canoe Cruise
Saturday, June 23
1pm, $20 members; $25 non-members. RSVP to Helen Van Fleet at 410-745-4941.
Join Assistant Curator for Watercraft Richard Scofield for an afternoon watching the log canoe races on the Miles River from the Museum’s replica buyboat, Mister Jim. Scofield will share his own experience racing, building, and growing up with log canoes.

Big Band Night/Fireworks
Saturday, June 30 (raindate: July 7)
Fireworks raindate: July 7
7-10pm, Tolchester Beach Bandstand
$5 members, $10 non-members
Enjoy jazzy big band sounds at this special Independence Day celebration. Stay into the evening and watch the St. Michaels fireworks over the Miles River.
G enerously sponsored by The Talbot Bank, Wye Financial & Trust, and Avon Dixon Insurance Agency.

June
229th Maryland Army National Guard Band
Tuesday, June 12
7pm, Free, bring chairs & blankets
The acclaimed 229th Maryland Army National Guard Band performs patriotic music selections spanning a number of eras and genres. Museum members enjoy refreshments served at a special VIP hospitality area during the concert.

S UMMER 2012 THE CHESAPEAKE LOG 21 22 SUMMER 2012 THE CHESAPEAKE LOG
**WATERMAN’S APPRECIATION DAY & CRAB FEAST**

**Sunday, August 12**
10am-5pm. General admission $25 for adults, $16 for children ages 6-17. Museum members are $15 for adults, $6 for children ages 6-17. $15 for licensed Watermen. Admission includes crab feast, hot dogs, hamburgers, soda/water. Kids under six free.

Meet Chesapeake watermen as they celebrate their heritage at the 3rd Annual Watermen’s Appreciation Day & Crab Feast. Enjoy hot crabs, cold beer, a boat docking contest, and live music by Bird Dog and the Road Kings.

Coming back to this year’s event is reality TV star Edgar Hansen, from the Discovery Channel’s “Deadliest Catch.” Hansen, of the fishing vessel Northwestern—will be available for autographs and plans to be a passenger aboard one of the boats in the docking contest. The event is hosted by the Talbot County Watermen’s Association in cooperation with the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. Beginning at 11am, you can watch professionals in a spirited “Watermen’s Rodeo” boat docking contest along Fogg’s Cove. Following the boat docking contest, around 3:30pm, festival attendees can participate in a jigger throwing contest and earn bragging rights for the farthest toss. At noon, the day’s catch of crabs will be steamed and served in a traditional Maryland crab feast, with a live concert featuring the Eastern Shore’s favorite band, Bird Dog and the Road Kings. Hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, cake, and snow cones will also be available.

Kids and families will enjoy games and activities throughout the day, including model boat building and more. Free boat rides on the Museum’s replica buyboat, Mistor Jim, will be available every half hour from 10:30 to 4:30pm. You can also bid on a number of items in the Watermen’s Association’s silent auction alongside the Museum’s Small Boat Shed, which includes artwork by Marc Castelli. Bids will be taken until 4:30pm, with proceeds supporting oyster restoration projects on the Bay.

**Women’s Woodworking**

July 10, 12, 17, & 19, 6-8pm
Cost for all four sessions: $60 members, $75 non-members. Must be 18 or older unless accompanied by an adult. RSVP to Helen Van Fleet, 410-745-4941

Join CBMM’s women shipwrights for a ladies only class in the basics of woodworking. No prior experience is necessary. Learn the foundational skills, tools, and techniques of carpentry.

**John Mock Concert**

Wednesday, August 8
7pm, $5 members, $10 non-members
Join musician and photographer John Mock as he performs an evening of original compositions on the guitar, concertina, and tin whistle, all accompanied by a photographic slide show documenting the maritime vistas that inspire his music.

**Learn About AFAD**

Thursday, August 23
5pm, free, CBMM Boatshop
Join shipwright apprentice Jenn Kuhn for an informal review of the Apprentice For A Day boatbuilding program and find out what’s new and what to expect when you sign up.

**SOMBAKRIN’**

Saturday, September 8 • 5:30-11pm
St. Michaels Concours d’Elegance

St. Michaels, MD 21663

The Festival includes a variety of maritime music and activities, including live bluegrass music, Tugboat races, and a maritime art juried show. Come enjoy the day and learn more about the Chesapeake Bay's history and culture.

**Boating Party Gala Fundraiser**

Saturday, September 1 • Labor Day Weekend
Gates open at 8pm, auction begins at 1pm

Boating Party Gala Fundraiser is a fun-filled evening including drinks, live music, and a variety of delicious food. Proceeds from this event will support the Museum's educational and outreach programs, as well as its mission to preserve and promote the rich maritime heritage of the Chesapeake Bay.
gifts were received between February 14 and May 4, 2012 are listed below.

Lucy Alexander
Linda & ray Albert
Sally & Chip Akridge
Stephanie & David Adey
Legacy of Support for the Museum's Important Mission by Contacting René Stevenson at 410-745-4950.

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is recognized as a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to the Museum are tax deductible and appreciated by the Bay. You are our hero!

Kathy & Nathan Brown
June & William Brown
Audrey Brown
MaryAnn & Bill Stockman

We are extremely grateful to you, our donors, for your gifts to the Museum. Your support makes a huge impact in the lives of children and adults who visit the Museum and experience the Chesapeake first hand through engaging educational programs, interactive exhibits, assisting our master shipwrights restore historic wooden boats or taking an ecotour experience on our replica buyboat. Donors whose gifts were received between February 14 and May 4, 2012 are listed below. Thank you for helping us impact more lives with the best education and appreciation for the Bay. You are our hero!

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Kathy & David Bodey
Anne & Nathan Arnold
Ann & Charlie Bolen
Ann & Tim Akridge

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BUY A BOAT
and help support the
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum’s
BOAT DONATION PROGRAM

Visit cbmm.org for a complete list of boats for sale.

Contact Boat Donations Program Manager
Lad Mills at 410-745-4942 or lmills@cbmm.org

Inventory subject to change
St. Michaels, Maryland • 410-745-2916

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

15th Annual Charity Boat Auction
LABOR DAY WEEKEND • September, 1, 2012
Gates open at 8am; auction begins at 1pm

Boating experts and novices alike have the same opportunity to bid on the boat of their dreams, from wooden rowing skiffs to classic sailboats, modern power cruisers, and more.