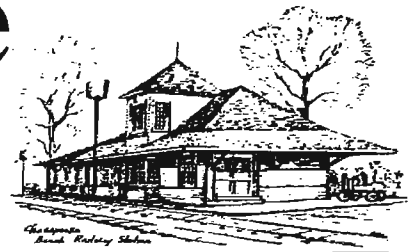


# The Chesapeake Dispatcher



Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.  
Museum Telephone (410) 257-3892

Vol. 22 Issue 1 Number 42

May 2003

## Sunday May 18, 2003 - 23rd Annual Antique Car Show



Thank goodness spring is here. As we lived through all the snowstorms of last winter we wondered if warm weather would ever come. Now it's here at last!

To help us celebrate the return of spring, we are holding our 23<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Car Show at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum on May 18, 2003. The owners of some 75 cars have shined up their special hobbies to show us how cars have looked in the past seventy years. Many of us remember the car that Granddaddy drove, maybe a Ford Model T or perhaps an elegant Buick sedan. We thank the car owners for all the special efforts they have put into their restored cars.

The schedule of events starts at 12:30 P.M. in front of the Rod 'N Reel Restaurant with the complete assembly of the Ford Model T automobile. The pile of parts will be assembled in about 15 to 20 minutes. Of course we have to put in water and gasoline to be sure it runs. The hard part is cranking a few times before it purrs to a start. As the Ford drives around we will give the mechanics a big hand to thank them for their efforts.

The show will be organized and run by our hard working volunteers, Kitch Eisenman and Jim Scheidel, as in the past years. Don't forget to thank them for putting the show together. A big **thank you** should also go to the Donovans for letting us have the 23<sup>rd</sup> Antique Car Show next door to the Rod 'N Reel Restaurant.

### Car Show Events

**8:00 - 12:00 AM - Antique Cars Arriving**  
**12:30 - Assembly of the Model T Ford**  
**1:00 - Model T Ford Started!**  
**2:00 and after - Cars Start to Leave**

### Bay Breeze Summer Concert Series

Our Concert Coordinator, Betty MacDonald, has arranged an entertaining and varied group of concerts for the 2003 Bay Breeze Summer Concerts. On Thursday, June 12th, the concerts kick off with a presentation of familiar tunes of dance and renowned jazz renditions by the ever popular Calvert Community Band. The group is under direction of Eric Pfeiffer.

New this year will be The Back Pages Band from Baltimore, providing classic pop and acoustic rock music from the golden ages of the rock and roll era. The group is directed by Henry Smith and will perform on Thursday, July 10th.

The popular bluegrass band, the Dixie Ramblers, will return again on Thursday, August 14th. This group, under direction of Mike Phipps, never fails to attract a large crowd of enthusiastic fans.

Also new this year is the Northern High School Patriots Ensemble, which will close out the concerts with lively music on Thursday, September 18th. This band is comprised of local musicians from Northern High School and is directed by Mike Broyles.

**June 12 - Calvert Community Band**  
**July 10 - The Back Pages Band**  
**August 14 - Dixie Ramblers**  
**September 18 - Northern High School Patriots Ensemble**

All concerts are held outdoors at 7:30 PM and are free to the public. Concerts are made possible by grants from The Arts Council of Calvert County and the Town of Chesapeake Beach. We are grateful to these sponsors for their support. Thanks also to the Rod 'n' Reel Restaurant for providing us with chairs and refreshments. Plan to join us for an enjoyable summer evening of music.

## Recent Acquisitions

Over the past few months a number of valuable and interesting items have been added to our collections. These have come to us through gifts from donors as well as purchases as opportunities have arisen. Many thanks to all the friends who have remembered us with their gifts. These items will provide interest and education in the years to come.

Robert Alley - Postcard: Black and White: "Sailboats, Chesapeake Beach, Md.", Postmarked July 15, 1907; National Geographic Collector's Edition, "Swimsuits: 100 Years of Pictures", April 2003.

Nancy and Peter Feuerle Railroad Lantern with Yellow Paint; Book The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Railways by Hamilton Ellis; two blue and white B & O demitasse cups with saucers.

Joseph Korczynski - Poster: Wilson Line of Maryland, Inc. "Fun Aboard the Beautiful S. S. Baybelle"; archival collection of newspaper articles.

Carol Ebright/SHA - Photocopies: Architectural drawings: Lyons Creek Trestle, 1929.

Purchase - Magazine: Golden West, November 1972; article "Otto Mears - From An Orphan to a Railroad Tycoon".

Laurence Hampton - Old Christmas Card: Silverton Railroad history.

Purchase - Photographs: Black and white: CBR engines #7, #9, #11, c. 1930's.

Purchase - Postcard: Black and white, "Pavilion, Pier and Crab House North Beach, Md.", postmarked August 1, 1952.

Laura Burroughs - Artifacts from Marlboro Station: large oil funnel, B & O RR Baggage Check, cigarette lighter with clock face, wedge, collection of spikes and bolts, and 4 glass bottles.

Ralph Bucca - Magazine: Rails to Trails Magazine: Spring 2003, Article: "A Tale of Two Capital Trails".



*National Geographic had a swim suit edition; so can we! Do you recognize either of these lovely young ladies?*

## Of Interest To Our Members

The museum was featured in a short article in the May 2003 issue of Trains Magazine. If you have the opportunity, check it out on page 76. The article includes a lovely photo of the museum.

## Volunteer Workshop

We had a very pleasant Volunteer Training Workshop on March 15. Several new volunteers joined the group this year. Our morning information session included a tour of the facilities here at the Museum. Many of the volunteers had never had a look behind the scenes. Lunch at the Rod 'N' Reel followed the business part of the workshop. Then we took an afternoon field trip to the Dr. Samuel Mudd House in Charles County. Our day was made especially enjoyable by having fine weather after a long cold winter.

If you did not make it to the workshop, but would still like to volunteer at the museum, please contact Harriet Stout at the Museum (410-257-3892), or Betty Quigley, our volunteer coordinator, at 301-855-2768.

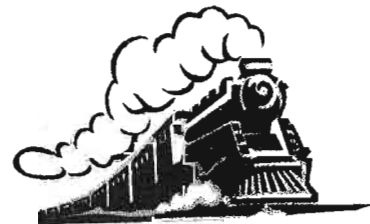
### The Chesapeake Dispatcher

The Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

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Looking for something fun and interesting to do?  
Be a Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum Stationmaster!  
For more information, please call  
Harriet at 410-257-3892 or Betty at 301-855-2768



## Snow Damage At The B & O Museum

By now I'm sure that all of you have heard about the terrible damage suffered by the B & O Museum as a result of the Presidents' Day Snowstorm. It is a great blow to the world of railroad history, and particularly now as the B & O was celebrating 175 Years of American Railroad History this year. Our sympathy and concerns go out to the staff and Friends of the Museum. As a small museum, there is little we can do to help in their clean-up and restoration work. But if you would like to find out how you might help as an individual, look up the museum on the internet. Their web site address is [www.borail.org](http://www.borail.org). Here you will find additional information and many photographs of the damage, with daily updates of the on-going efforts.

## The Museum Goes On-Line!

Our Museum has finally entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and taken a place in cyberspace. We have a Website! Just take a look at [www.cbrm.org](http://www.cbrm.org). You will find a variety of photos, historical information, and other activities. There's even a puzzle to work on. We do not plan to have a static site that never changes, but rather we hope to provide our web site visitors with a vital, changing medium for information and exploration.

The web site development was made possible through funding from the State of Maryland through the Museum Assistance Program, Heritage-Museum Mini Grants, for FY 2002. Margie Bliss has done the technical development and layout of the site. Her creativity has provided us with a site we can view with pride.



## Beautiful Spring Blossoms

After our dreadful winter, it is wonderful to welcome spring. And with spring come the lovely blossoms of the newly installed gardens around the Museum. The hard work of the Chesapeake Beach Garden Club, and specifically Charlotte Allison, is really paying off. Last fall she dug new flowerbeds and planted lots of bulbs and perennials in various spots and pots. Now we will be able to enjoy the flowering beds throughout the spring, summer, and fall. We can look forward to landscapes that are even more lovely, as Charlotte has recruited a few more Garden Club members to assist in her efforts in the future.

A **big thank you** to Charlotte for her hard work!

## Museum Featured In Chesapeake Beach 2003 Calendar

If you are a lucky resident of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, you will already have seen the photos in the 2003 Town Calendar. A beautiful photo of the museum, bedecked with Christmas decorations and a light blanket of snow, is the calendar photo for the month of December. A photo of our station mascots, Miss Mariah and Maybelle, dressed up for the Easter Parade is also found in the section of the calendar that shows the delights of living in "Our Town". The dogs continue to be great ambassadors for the Museum, and make friends for us everywhere they go.

We have a few extra copies of the calendar at the Museum. So if you didn't get one earlier, just ask next time you come by. If you hurry, you may get one of the lovely copies.



*Used with courtesy of the Town of Chesapeake Beach. Photo by Bruce Wahl.*

## Opportunity Acquisition Fund

Over the past several years the Museum has been able to purchase a number of items, mostly postcards and other photographic images, over the Ebay auctions. Our volunteer, Vince Cipriani, has helped to facilitate these purchases. Our county budget allows for some opportunity acquisitions and the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum have also committed funds to the purchase of new collections materials. We are now inviting you to take part in directly contributing to the growth of our collections. If you would like to donate to our Opportunity Acquisition Fund, please send a designated contribution to the museum. Mark the donation **Opportunity Acquisition Fund**.



## Spring Family Fun Day

As this edition of the newsletter went to press, museum staff and volunteers were enjoying the success of the second Family Fun Day on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Taking center stage during the 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday event was internationally renowned Folk Singer/Songwriter Andrew Roblin. He entertained the crowd with popular music of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and railroad songs. Famous for engaging audiences in his performances, Roblin had children and adults singing and clapping to tunes of the early years of the Chesapeake Beach resort.

Before and after Roblin's stellar performance, children participated in some turn-of-the-century games. Crafts were available for those who wanted to make magnets that looked like carousel animals or railroad crossing signals. The traditional cup and ball game was also up for the making.

Curator Harriet Stout dressed up in her early 1900's outfit and pulled clothes out of Grandmother's Trunk to show what people wore to Chesapeake Beach 100 years ago. Topping off the afternoon was an opportunity to pose for a photo with a life-size painting of an early 1900's family just arrived at the resort.

The Rod 'N' Reel provided and set up all the tables and chairs needed for the event.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Museum's **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Family Fun Day** planned for **Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

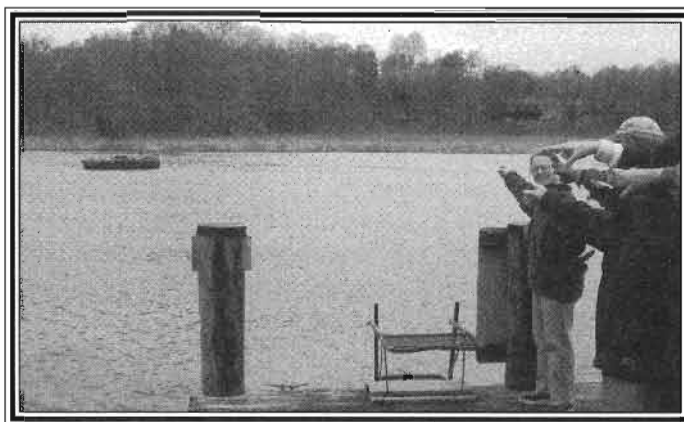
## Dog On It – Our Canine Mascots Go Professional

Our two canine mascots had a busy winter assisting our Curator with her off-season duties. In February the Curator and Mary Ellen Curran attended the Small Museum Association Conference in Ocean City. Miss Mariah and Maybelle were allowed to join them and other museum professionals, and the girls wore their museum uniforms (CBR engineers' caps and bandannas) to several receptions. Of course, they were on their best behavior, and Miss Mariah even put on the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum sign that she sometimes wears for special occasions. Another conference attendee saw the dogs as she stepped off the elevator and proclaimed loudly to her museum friends, "Oh, look, what a marvelous marketing tool!" Does our canine crew have yet another career ahead of them?



## New Neighbors: The Rod 'N' Reel Hotel Goes Up

If you haven't been by the museum yet this spring, you may be in for a big surprise. Next to the museum, where once was a parking lot, is a busy construction site. The New Rod 'N' Reel Hotel is going up there. The construction period will probably last a year, but we will have a handsome new hotel as a neighbor when the work is done. We will probably also get lots of new visitors when the hotel business goes full swing. Please be patient with the construction period, and be assured that all our special events will go on as planned.



*Hikers point out the location of the swing bridge that carried the CBR across the Patuxent River.*



## Right Of Way Hike – Spring 2003

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum Hike Along the Right-of-Way took place on April 19, 2003. After two rain-outs, the partly cloudy weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 15 people (and 4 dogs) who gathered at the museum for the annual event. The group included several first-timers. Each year we seek to walk a portion of the original 28-mile CBRY right-of-way. This year's trip involved short sections on either side of the Patuxent River and a portion near Upper Marlboro just east of U.S. 301.

After welcoming remarks from Bernie Loveless and a group photo, hikers traveled in several cars to the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary on the Anne Arundel side of the Patuxent. Last year's hike had terminated here at the water's edge. This year the goal was to walk out along the causeway, which extends several hundred feet toward the middle of the river, to view the remains of the swing bridge that once crossed the river.

When the CBRY was built in 1898/99, there was a steamboat landing at Bristol, a few miles upstream from the proposed rail crossing. It was used regularly by vessels of the Weems Line. The railroad's charter required a crossing which would not obstruct river navigation. A 183-foot-long manually operated plate girder swing span was constructed in mid-channel. The Patuxent is quite wide at the crossing point, so on the east side a long causeway was built. On the west, or Prince George's side, there was a wooden trestle, 600 feet in length, with pilings driven into the river bottom. Trestle and bridge are long gone, but the causeway and the concrete base at the center of the span, which contained the rotating mechanism, still exist. (See photo, bottom of page 4.)

After walking out along the eastern side of the river, the participants traveled by car to the Marlboro vicinity and down

*Hikers gather for a group photo (also see photo above) before taking off on our spring hike.*

Croom Station and Mount Calvert roads to the western end of the Patuxent crossing, near historic Mount Calvert mansion. The group was able to explore to the water's edge, thanks to the generosity of a local property owner, Mr. Brown. They also walked inland a short distance to the beginning of a two-mile-long straightaway which traverses an area no longer accessible to the public. We learned from Mr. Brown that, during the railroad's operation, the swing bridge was normally left in the closed position so the four or more trains per day could cross the river unimpeded (albeit very slowly!). When a river craft approached, it was his grandfather's job to walk to the center of the span and turn the crank to open the bridge, permitting passage of the vessel.

The third part of the excursion involved driving back to Route 301 and locating the spot where the CBRY crossed over the Pope's Creek Branch of the then-Pennsylvania Railroad (now CSX) on a high bridge. The crossing is located a short distance east of 301 off Maude Savoy Brown Road, about a quarter-mile south of Route 4. The CBRY builders had in mind a wooden trestle, but the PRR insisted on sturdier construction—a 58-foot steel center girder supported by steel pillars resting on stone and concrete, with 31 feet of clearance above the rails. The bridge was removed in 1935, and the surrounding area has been altered a good bit since then; but it is still possible to locate the spot where the structure was built, and imagine it in the mind's eye.

This year's hike was enjoyable for many reasons: improving weather, a friendly crowd, and a good history lesson! Next year, first Saturday in April, we'll walk a little bit farther west, in the Marlboro area, gradually working our way east to west along the 28 miles of the old CBRY. (Technical details in this article are taken from Ames Williams' book, The Chesapeake Beach Railway.)

## Riding The Rails In New Zealand

Your curator is now a fully qualified Rail Nut, having just gone to the furthest corner of the globe to ride the rails! A trip to New Zealand in early April afforded the opportunity for Harriet Stout to take two of the most scenic train trips in the world. Both trips were on the South Island, so she will have to make a return trip sometime to see what the North Island has to offer. New Zealand runs its trains on track laid to 3 foot 6 inch Cape Gauge to allow for the many twists and turns of the rugged terrain, so one is offered an exciting ride.



*Your curator, Harriet Stout, takes advantage of a stop at Arthur's Pass in the Southern Alps.*

The first of the two trips was the TranzAlpine, from Christchurch on the Pacific Ocean to Greymouth in the west on the Tasman Sea, across the Southern Alps. These mountains are the backbone of the South Island of New Zealand. The journey leaves Christchurch and rolls over the level Canterbury Plains for a bit more than an hour. The train then reaches the spectacular gorge of the Waimakariri River with 16 tunnels and 4 viaducts to carry the train through the rugged country. Then the train enters Arthur's Pass National Park and comes to Arthur's Pass Station, the highest station in New Zealand at 2,418 feet. The train enters the Otira Tunnel (just under 4 miles long) as it leaves Arthur's Pass. When it emerges at the end of the tunnel the vegetation covering the landscape is the lush growth of a subtropical rain forest. The train reaches Greymouth approximately four and a half hours after leaving Christchurch and travelling 143 miles. With only about an hour in Greymouth, Harriet soon had to reboard the train for the return trip. What certifies her as a genuine Rail Nut is that she was out on the open viewing platform (It had a roof but was open on the sides.) for the entire way back except for the Otira Tunnel. It was rainy and cold west of the Pass, but sunny and pleasant on the eastern side. In the morning she had been outside most of the way through the Wiamakariri Gorge. Harriet got off the train covered in diesel soot, but with a happy (and maybe somewhat silly) smile on her face.



*Along the edge of land and sea on the Pacific Coastal Express*

The second of the two New Zealand train trips that Harriet took was along the Pacific (eastern) coast on the Pacific Coastal. This trip affords a ride through beautiful farm land, vineyards, hill country, and along 60 miles of the Pacific Coast as it takes one from Christchurch to Picton. From there Harriet crossed the Cook Strait on a little 12 seater airplane for Wellington, the capitol city. While in Wellington, she visited the national museum, Te Papa. (In the next Newsletter I will tell you about the lovely little cable car that I rode while visiting Wellington.) The return trip started with a ferry crossing to Picton on a beautiful sunny day, and took a total of about nine and a half hours to get back to Christchurch (216 miles, 50 miles sea crossing). The best part of the trip is the section along the ocean; in places the tracks are built out over the edge of sea and the breakers nearly touch the cars. Your curator again took advantage of the fresh air, and enjoyed the outdoor car for taking in the scenery and photographs.



*In the Southern Alps: One of the spectacular vistas seen from the train.*

I can only recommend that if you ever get an opportunity to go to New Zealand, that you take one or more of these trips. You won't be sorry you did, and you will have seen a lot of the country and had one of The Great Train Trips of the World! All Aboard for Down Under!

## In Memory Of Jim Lacombe

The museum was saddened by the loss of another of our very faithful volunteers on February 28 with the death of James Lacombe. Jim was a quiet worker who helped behind the scenes with many maintenance and handyman jobs. He helped rake leaves and fixed things; two years ago he worked hard to repair the wooden platforms of the baggage carts. Jim also often helped Bernie Loveless with the car show and the annual right of way hike.

Bernie first met Jim when Jay Loveless, Bernie's son, was building his house in 1989. Jim stopped by and offered to work for a few days to repay Jay for his contribution of coaching Jim's son's soccer team. Another volunteer contribution that Jim made was helping to rope off the parking spaces for the Annual Antique Car Show around the Rod 'N' Reel Restaurant. For the last seven years he would be here at 2:30 a.m. to help Bernie with the set up. We thank Jim and his family for this contribution; we will certainly miss his help in the future.

Jim was a special friend of the museum and a personal friend to those of us who spend a lot of time working here. We will all miss his helping hands and friendship.



Jim with his dog Tinkerbelle. Photo courtesy of the Lacombe family.



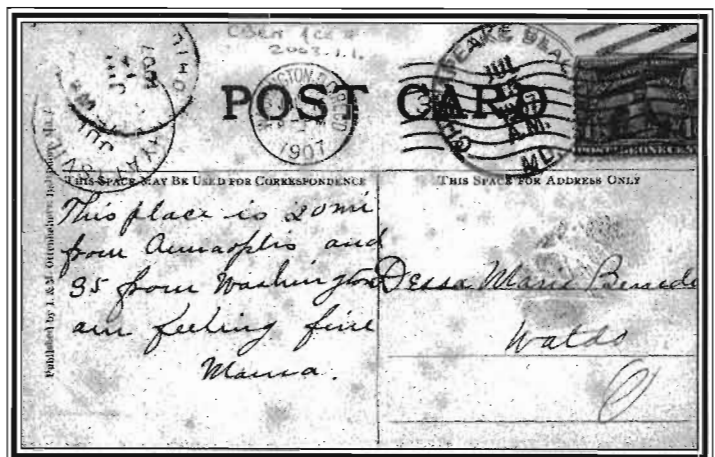
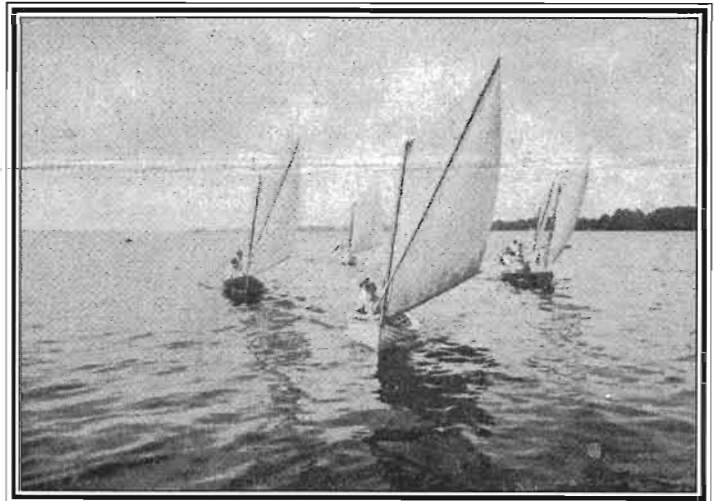
Sailing at Chesapeake Beach, c. 1907 Reproduction of postcard donated by Robert Alley

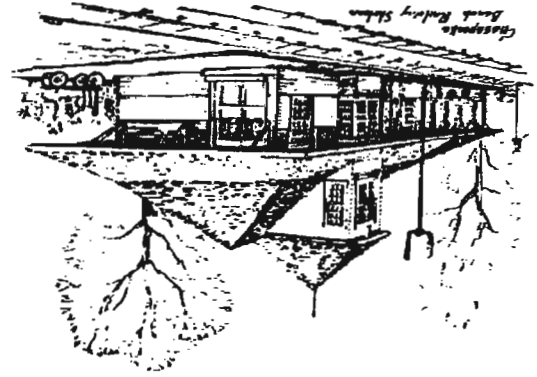
## Archivist Visits In January

Our archivist, Phyllis Campbell, was with us for a much shorter time this year than in winters past. She was only able to work briefly with some of our collections material when she was in Maryland in January and early February. Ms. Campbell cataloged a group of photographic images of items sold over eBay during the last few years. Although these were items that other people successfully purchased, we are able to reference the photographic images through this file. Many thanks to Phyllis for her work; we only wish she could have been with us longer!

## Summer Children's Programs

Another series of fun children's programs is on schedule for this summer. The popular programs The Good Old Days Today, Grandmother's Trunk, and What is a Museum? will be presented on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:15. The programs start in mid June and run through the second week of August. Call the Museum for more details, or pick up the schedule of programs at the Museum or your local library. Plan to come with your favorite young person.





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Friends of the  
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1227  
Chesapeake Beach, Maryland 20732

## Don't Miss These Coming Events

**April 27** - Spring Family Fun Day - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

**May 18** - Antique Car Show from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Mid-June thru Mid-August** - Childrens' Programs  
Thursday mornings - 10:00-11:15 AM

**June 12** - Bay Breeze Summer Concert - A Military  
Group plays patriotic tunes - 7:30 PM

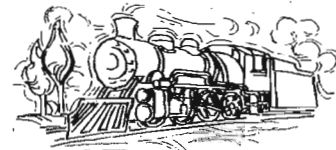
**July 10** - Bay Breeze Summer Concert - Calvert Com-  
munity Band - 7:30 PM

**August 14** - Bay Breeze Summer Concert - Dixie  
Ramblers Bluegrass Band - 7:30 PM

**September 18** - Bay Breeze Summer Concert - The  
Annapolis Chorale - 7:30 PM

**September 28** - Fall Family Fun Day - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

*For more information please call the  
Museum at 410-257-3892*



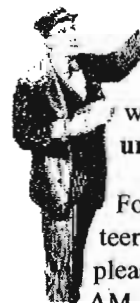
## ALL ABOARD FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY MUSEUM

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum is seeking volun-  
teers to help with the on-going activities of the Museum.

Volunteers have the opportunity to make new friends

and to meet people from all over the world,  
share their community history with others,

and help with the important and interesting  
work of the Museum in many ways. **New vol-  
unteers are always welcome!**



For more information about becoming a volun-  
teer at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum,  
please call 410-257-3892 weekdays between 9:00  
AM. and 4:30 PM. Join us now!!! We need you!!!