



# The Chesapeake Dispatcher



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

Volume 26, Issue 2, Number 51

November 2007



## Message From the President

By Janet Bates

To the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself, Janet Bates, as the new president of the Friends of the museum. It will not be an easy job following in the footsteps of our former president, Joan Kilmon. She did an outstanding job, in a difficult time, guiding us through the transitional process and introducing us to many new ideas.

I have been associated with the museum since before it even came into being. Bernie Loveless is the one who got me involved, and one of my first jobs was sorting many boxes from the East Washington Railway. It was a great experience and many fine artifacts were found. I was privileged to sit with Tom Wisner the first weekend the museum was open. It was a lovely day and we didn't have one visitor! Times have certainly changed since that sunny afternoon nearly thirty years ago.

There are a good number of items on our agenda for the coming year and with the help of our fine executive committee and board of directors, we hope to see some good things accomplished.

We are always looking for new members and volunteers- So "Welcome Aboard."

## Concerts Under The Stars

By Betty MacDonald



How fortunate we were to have the weather cooperate for all four of the Bay Breeze Summer concerts! And what an enjoyable series it was.

There were three "new-to-us" groups including two providing unique programs. The groups performed wonderfully to large audiences who requested return billings for next summer.

The concert series began with a very entertaining group called "Calico Jack". They performed in pirate costume providing a unique presentation of pirate and maritime folk music.

In July, we continued with an exceptional brass group known as "Tempered Brass". Made up of five musicians, a storyteller and our own John Riedesel as the Conductor, they performed a score written specifically for the evening. It took us on a delightful train ride across country with music and stories. All had a delightful trip.

When those "Dixie Ramblers" perform in August, we can count on all the loyal blue grass fans to turn out in large numbers. Their talent never disappoints us and this year was exceptional. Look

for their return next August.

Last, but by no means least, "The Cocuzzi Quartet" performed an outstanding program of early swing and jazz from the resort era. The audience loved them! We hope to have them back next September.

Our thanks to all who make these concerts possible, our appreciative audiences and especially to the Help Association, Inc. for their recent donation. See you next summer, same place, same time for a pleasant evening under the stars.



County Commissioner Barbara Stinnett with the Cocuzzi Quartet and Corrine E. Moore.

Upper left—  
John Riedesel  
as the Conductor.

Right—  
Members of  
Tempered  
Brass.



## Message From the Curator

By Harriet Stout

As a history museum we tell the story of the past, but we live and work in the very real world of the present. To continue the good works of the past we must also plan for the future. The inspiration that guided the hard work of the Museum's founders must never be forgotten as we move along through the 21<sup>st</sup> century with new plans and new ideas. In making a commitment to continue to tell the story of the Resort and the Railway, we honor that past and those who lived in the Beaches at an earlier time. We remain true to the magic of the place and the dreams of those who created this lovely museum.

## Our Big Tree Identified: A Carolina Poplar

By Harriet Stout

Our Big Tree behind the Museum has been identified by Larry Morse, a visiting botanist from Washington, D.C. Although it resembles a cottonwood, it has distinctive leaf tips and other differences. This tree is a Carolina poplar, scientific name *Populus x canadensis*. Dr. Morse took a small fallen branch away to make a positive identification at the National Arboretum, and returned to share information with the curator. He also checked with another botanist, Dr. John T. Kartesz, on its current classification and distribution.

According to Dr. Morse, Carolina poplars arose from horticultural hybridization between the European black poplar and our native cottonwood (also a poplar species). Most Carolina poplars do not produce seeds, but are propagated from cuttings (a kind of cloning). These fast-growing shade trees were once commonly used at railroad stations

around Maryland, but their roots damage sidewalks, roads, and sewer lines, so they are rarely planted for landscaping now. Very few Carolina poplars still survive in our region. The National Arboretum has at least one. It is possible that other living examples exist elsewhere in the state – might this be the poplar of Poplar Island?

A previous visitor in the forestry industry had identified the tree as an eastern aspen, but Dr. Morse says eastern aspens are two other species of poplar that also have leaves that shake in light winds, a noticeable characteristic of the otherwise different Carolina poplar.

Our grand Carolina poplar is the last survivor of the row of young poplars that were behind the station in the railroad's operating days. We of the Museum have always felt that our Big Tree was special, but now it should be added to

the list of very special trees in Calvert County and the State of Maryland. Corrine will still enjoy simply (and correctly) calling our poplar "The Big Tree." The curator would like to thank Dr. Morse for his kind help in identifying our Big Tree.



Picture circa 1950's showing the line of Carolina Poplar trees along the back of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Station.



## Tea by the Sea

By Joan Kilmon

On June 10, the Friends reinstated a long held tradition in Chesapeake Beach by hosting an elegant *Tea by the Sea*. The early hotels in Chesapeake Beach boasted graceful verandas facing the

bay. Surely, afternoon tea was enjoyed on those picturesque verandas! The same beautiful view is still available at the Rod "N" Reel Restaurant. For this special event,

sensational sweets and savories were prepared by Chef William Bednar. "In Black and White", set the tone for high tea with their classical style of music. The Chesapeake Beach Garden Club provided the perfect centerpieces/ conversation pieces. The highlight of the afternoon was the entertainment provided by the Abigail Francisco School of Classical Ballet. In keeping with the theme down by the sea, everyone was enchanted with the talented ballet dancers and their costumes representing underwater creatures

such as starfish, jellyfish, crabs and rock fish. Graceful swans, from *Swan Lake*, brought the program to a memorable close. As guests departed, many wanted to know if we would host a *Tea by the Sea* next year. The answer is yes! Your invitation will be in our next newsletter.



Upper left: Students from Abigail Francisco School of Ballet dance as crabs.

Above: Dancers portray fish and circling jellyfish.

### *The Chesapeake Dispatcher*

*The Semi-Annual Newsletter of the*

*Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum*

**Editor:** Kristen Scott

**Contributors:** Janet Bates, Larry Brown, Mary Ellen Curran, Hilary Dailey, Joan Kilmon, Corrine Moore, Betty MacDonald, Kristen Scott, Harriet Stout

**Printing:** Prince Frederick Graphics & Printing Center

**Mailing:** Janet Bates, Betty MacDonald, Chuck MacDonald, Nancy Young

Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum  
PO Box 1227 \* Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732  
410-257-3892  
[www.cbrrm.org](http://www.cbrrm.org)





## The Railroad Lantern: *Shining the Light on Volunteers*

By Hilary Dailey

Devoted Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum Volunteer, J. Evans Ireland, was born in the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. Of

course, it was hospital back then, but it makes for a good story! "Van" as he is known, is one of those museum volunteers who has been around these parts "forever," and his family has been around even longer. "My family's been in Southern Maryland since the 50's," he says with a glimmer in his eye. No, he's not talking about the 1950's folks, he means the 1650's!

"My earliest memories of Chesapeake Beach are Sunday school picnics at the [Amusement] Park," Van says. "I also learned to swim in the pool that was here. I'd have the lesson, then we'd eat lunch, and I'd get to go play in the park! The Fun House was my favorite."

Van came to be a Railway Museum volunteer by way of the local Historical Society. He was a member way back when, and also knew Harriet, our curator, from another local club. With a little



Above: Van Ireland, volunteer at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum.

Below Right: Van Ireland, "The Dead Engineer" happily scares children at the Fall Family Fun Day.

prodding from Harriet, Van soon became a friendly fixture at our beloved museum on some weekends, at special events, and whenever needed. "I'm an 'on-call' volunteer!" he says.

Van volunteers as a Station Master, at outreach programs, and even devotes time to cleaning up around the place. "Harriet had an old anchor that needed washing, so, I washed it!" He also is the

much-loved (and much-feared) "dead engineer" every year at the museum's Fall Family Fun Day in October, spooking young and old alike as he "haunts" the Dolores. Children who have been to the event in previous years make sure to look for him as they enter the train car, ready to squeal in delight!

"The museum has changed a lot over the years," he says, "the thrust has moved more towards programming, which is great!" Lucky for us, the one thing that hasn't changed is the dedication and enthusiasm Van Ireland lends to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum as a volunteer. Thanks Van!



## Fishing Exhibit Catches Lots of Interest

By Harriet Stout

The special exhibit, *Celebrate Summer 2007 A Fish Story...The LAST 100 Years*, has run through the summer with great success. It has engaged the interest of our visitors, and many folks shared their own stories. The photos brought back their memories of fishing from Chesapeake Beach in earlier days.

Adults and children alike enjoyed using the Treasure Hunt activity sheet to find special things on exhibit. The take-home activities were also very popular. A wonderful coloring and activity book for children was created by Kristen Scott; adults frequently asked if they too could take a copy.

Also provided for take-home interest

were a reprint of a brochure of seafood recipes from a 1940's seafood packing house on Tiighman's Island and a newspaper article showing how to do four basic fisherman's knots.

A very special aspect of this exhibit has been the participation of friends of the Museum, who have loaned us many personal and family treasures. Fishing gear of all sorts (rods, reels, tackle, and tackle boxes, etc.) was brought in to be displayed in the special summer exhibit. Thanks to all of you who shared your family treasures.

These are the people who shared their family artifacts with us.

Robert Alley

Amy and William Bailey

Janet Bates

Linda Best

Frances S. Haker

J. Evans Ireland

Joan Kilmon and the Donovan Family

Captain Roy and Carolyn Leverone

Alice and James McConnell

Elizabeth Quigley

Kathy and Kristen Scott

James Tigner, Jr.

Woody Young

## Fall Family Fun Day is Fantastic

By Mary Ellen Curran

As usual, the Fall Family Fun Day on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> proved to be another successful event with visitors totaling over 300 in attendance. The event ran from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The entertainment began at 1 p.m. with a magic show that had children of all ages engaged and participating in a variety of magic acts. At 2 p.m., students from CAS Cheer and Dance wowed the audience with cheerleading stunts on the lawn. Some of them included towering pyramids reaching



Children line up to enter the haunted Dolores



A mother and daughter on Fall Family Fun Day visit the crafts table.

several feet into the sky. In addition, face painter and clown Ming Diaz returned for yet another command performance transforming faces and arms into works of art.

The event's *Haunted Railroad Car* was a huge hit this year with children from toddlers to teens getting into the spirit. Little ones ran in and out of the car several times in a row squealing with delight. "Dead cheerleaders" posed behind cobwebs and our own "dead engineer" (Van Ireland who was a smash hit as always) came to life chasing all who dared to enter. Even better than last year, visitors were haunted by the moans and shrieks of railway riders of the past. There was a ghost that flew back and forth, wiggling arms, lost heads and legs, a flaming cauldron, the Grim Reaper and a "Spirit Ball" with a talking ghoulish head warning anyone

who passed by. In addition, the fog kept rolling in making visitors pick their way amid the special effects.

Those interested in arts and crafts decorated pumpkin-shaped photo frames so their parents could insert pictures of their "little pumpkins." Materials to make a cup n' ball game were also available, as well as, Halloween tattoos and stamps. Jump ropes, nail puzzles, yo-yos, pick-up sticks and jacks were on hand for anyone who



CAS Cheer and Dance cheerleaders form a pyramid and did other stunts.

wanted to test his or her skills. In addition, Larry Brown set up his ever popular vintage model train display for the young and not-so-young at heart.

## Restoration & Conservation of the Dolores: Progress Report

Work has continued through the summer on the project of preserving and protecting the railcar Dolores. The problem of water collecting under the Dolores after heavy rains has been solved with the installation of a sump pump and a bore through to the town storm drain system. The Calvert County Building and Grounds Division offered us invaluable help, advice, and elbow grease in getting this accomplished. Many thanks to them for their hard work.

We are now progressing to the next stage of the project which involves get-



Dolores at Seat Pleasant before being divided. A large amount of work has already been done to the Dolores to bring her to her current state.

ting an expert in railcar restoration to review the needs of the Dolores. We will be receiving a written plan for the work that needs to be done to accomplish

this phase of the project. Zell Olson, the master carpenter from the B & O Museum, visited the Museum on October 22. His recommendations will allow us to begin the work of restoring and preserving the fabric of our old railcar.

The initial phases of the Dolores Preservation Project are being funded by a grant of \$31,500 from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and matching funds from the Board of Calvert County Commissioners. We very much appreciate the support of the MHAA and the BOCC.



## Recent Acquisitions

Once again our friends and supporters have contributed a number of wonderful artifacts and archives which expand our collections. These contributions help us tell the story of the Railway and Resort in new and interesting ways. We would like to thank all the donors of these items for their generosity.

Mary Tweedie	Photographs from the 1933 Hurricane in North Beach.
Linda Best	Bathing Suit collection: 5 swim suits from the 1970's-1980's; white cotton eyelet dress, c. 1940's; novelty Budweiser fishing pole with original packaging, c. 1970's/80's.
Pat Krebs	Bathing suit collection: 5 swim suits from the 1940's through the 1970's, 3 women's and 2 men's.
James Tigner, Jr.	Book: <u>Memories of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach</u> , by James Tigner, Jr.
Purchase	Black and white postcard: Freedley studio photograph of girl in early bathing dress, c. 1900-1910.
Purchase	Black and white postcard: Photograph of Dolores at Seat Pleasant in East Washington yard.
John O'Conner	Document: Receipt for sewing machine shipped on CBR, 1905.
K. Young	Beach shoes, brown cotton, c. 1900.
Purchase	Color tinted postcard: Two fishermen with very large fish, generic postcard with stamp "North Beach, Md." No postmark, c. 1910's-1920's.
Robert Alley	Children's Books: <u>Freight Trains</u> , by Donald Crews, 1978; and <u>This Train</u> , by Paul Collicutt, 1999.
Margaret H. Phipps and Grace Bowen	Car lap robe: Heavy brown wool, early 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
Vince Cipriani	Photographic slides: Harriet's presentation of Grandmother's Trunk program to local history class in Camp Springs, March 28, 2007.
Clara Mae Buckmaster	Photographs: aerial shots of Chesapeake Beach, one dating from the 1960's and one dating from the 1980's.
Joseph Dent	Artifacts and archives from the collection of the late Richard Dent: One commemorative spike CBR and Calvert County Historical Society, 1977; one small spike believed to be from the small railway on the long pier at CB; assorted papers from the East Washington and the CBR.
Alice McConnell	Admiralty style collapsible anchor, c. 1940's-50's (from the family fishing boat used at Chesa- peake Beach).

---

## Visitors to the Museum

Visitors to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum come from far and near. This year we stayed busy all season long. The Museum had 6140 visitors from January to September. The visitors came from 37 different states and 16 foreign countries.

### Remember To Renew Your Membership!

To continue to receive this newsletter and keep up with all the news, use the easy-to-use mail-in envelop enclosed with this newsletter.

---

## Journey into the Past—Part II

By Larry Brown



This month we continue my journey to the past at the 2006 LCCA Convention. The second day took my wife and myself into the mining territory of the Wild West just southwest of Denver.

In the summer of 1859, following the great gold rush into the west, brothers George and David Griffith from Kentucky traveled from Central City up the south fork of Clear Creek toward the gold discoveries at present Idaho Springs. Within two days George hits pay dirt. The news travels quickly and a small and growing settlement begins, known as "George's Town." After the collapse of the gold-mining era, silver is discovered in the area and Georgetown booms again, bringing experienced min-

ers from California who formed the Argentine Mining District. By the end of 1866, Georgetown is growing faster than any other Colorado community. Small hotels are opening up for tourists but the town still lacks a railroad.

By December 1872, the Colorado Central Railroad builds the first railroad up Clear Creek Canyon to Black Hawk. In 1877 the railroad reaches Idaho Springs and later the route to Georgetown was completed. The railroad opens access for freight, ore, consumers and passengers to Georgetown. In 1879 a larger silver strike is made in Leadville. The Colorado Central wanted to be the first railroad to reach Leadville but faced a major obstacle due to narrowing of the valley west of the city. The area had an average grade over 6 percent (too steep for trains of that era). A system devised of curves and bridges reduced the average grade to 3 percent. The plan included three hair-pin turns, four bridges and a 30-degree horseshoe curve called the Georgetown Loop.

The 1959 centennial celebration of the discovery of gold near Georgetown led

to the formation of the Colorado Historical Society. Almost 100 acres of mining claims and mills are donated, including the Lebanon-Everett mines. The Society begins a program of land acquisition and lease with plans to reconstruct the entire length of the Georgetown Loop. In 1969 the Lebanon Silver mine tunnel is cleared its full length and wired for lighting. Excavation outside uncovers the sites of four mine buildings only seen in historic photographs, which are reconstructed. August 1, 1984, the entire reconstruction of the Georgetown

Loop is complete and open for visitors along the entire route.



Upper Left: Reconstructed engine on one of the bridges.

Above: A lovely silver miner I found coming out of the Lebanon mine after a 12-hour shift

## Coming Next Summer: "Transportation"

The plans for the special *Celebrate Summer 2008* Exhibit are developing. The theme of the exhibit is going to be Transportation in the Beaches. We have told the story of the railroad and steamships in our day-to-day exhibits throughout the years, but there are many other stories to tell. The artifacts and pictures that we have to share give us the opportunity to explore another

facet of life in the Beaches with a special summer exhibit. The museum has in its collection photos of the ox-carts, buses, trolleys, small boats, bicycles, the occasional airplane, and other modes of transportation that were a part of life in early Chesapeake Beach. Artifacts will also add to this exhibit. In addition we also have railroad and steamboat pictures and artifacts that

are not normally on display that will add to this exhibit.

We again invite friends and members to share from your personal collections. If you have photos, artifacts, or any other memorabilia that might be related to this special topic, please contact the curator at 410-257-3892 and let her know what you have to share.

## Farewell to Mary Ellen Curran

We will be saying goodbye to Mary Ellen Curran this winter, as she moves on to new endeavors. She has been a great Director of Education and her hard work has contributed to the expansion of our educational programs. The Fam-

ily Fun Days have been her special activities and she has put many hours into the success of each one. She also made our adult lecture series, the Bay-side Chats, a great success. She enhanced the Summer Children's pro-

gram series with fun craft activities as well. We will miss Mary Ellen's cheerful and dedicated contribution to all our education programs, and we wish her well in her future endeavors. Best of luck, Mary Ellen!



## Holiday Celebrations

With the holidays fast approaching, the Museum would like to celebrate with you. The annual Holiday Open House will be on December 2nd from 1pm to 4pm. Come and join us at the Museum to share in the holiday spirit and bring a special goodie for all to enjoy.

Remember to take a peek at the Gift Shop for some great gift-giving ideas. We have several new books that have been published in the past year that would make wonderful gifts! *Memories of Chesapeake Beach & North Beach* by James Tigner, Jr. is a wonderful book featuring vintage postcards. Also available is *Images of America Maryland's Amusement Parks* by Jason Rhodes. For the young and young at heart on your list don't forget to check out *A Life on the Rails* by Michael Chamberlain and *Thomas & Friends Little Engines Can Do Big Things*.



Front cover of James Tigner, Jr.'s book of vintage postcards.

## Annual Volunteer Training Workshop

Please put March 8th on your calendar now for the Annual Volunteer Training Workshop. Once again we will gather our experienced volunteers along with new recruits to share our love for the history of Chesapeake Beach. With the gathering of volunteers on this day we hope to inspire each other for a new year of service, and to build the esprit de corps necessary for another successful year at the Railway Museum.

See you all on March 8th at 9:30 at the Museum.

## Strategic Planning Grant

The Museum will be working on a long range/strategic plan with museum consultant, Dean Krimmel of Creative Museum Services over the next few months. Mr. Krimmel made his first visit to the Museum to begin the project on October 11. This project is funded by a \$5,000 grant from Maryland Historical Trust Museum Advancement (Museum Education and Planning) Grant program. Staff members, Friends, and volunteers are invited to contribute input to this project. We hope to have a written document at the end of the planning process that will guide us through the years to come while honoring the work and contributions of the Museum's founders.

## Let's Fully Welcome Correine

The Museum now has two full-time employees. Correine E. Moore became a full time administrative assistant when the new county fiscal year began on July 1. She is doing a great job managing many of the administrative tasks that seem to have multiplied over the past few years. Her hard work, good humor, and old-fashioned common sense is especially appreciated by the curator and other staff and Friends. She is also a delight to our visitors. We would like to thank Board of Commissioners of Calvert County for making this full-time position possible.

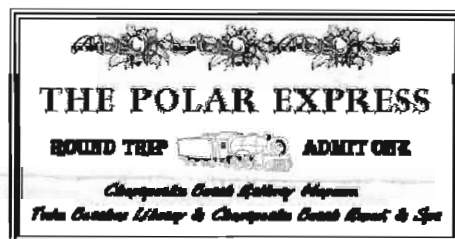
## New Board



On June 9th, 2007 the Board of Directors was voted in and took office with some new faces. From the left: Larry Brown, Kristen Scott (Vice-President), Betty MacDonald, Charles MacDonald (Treasurer), Hilary Dailey. Not pictured: Janet Bates (President), John Riedesel (Secretary) and Abigail Francisco.

## Polar Express

What can be more natural than trains at Christmas? In partnership with the Twin Beaches Library and the Chesapeake Beach Resort & Spa, the Museum will be hosting a holiday party on December 21st. We invite you to celebrate the holidays at a cozy gathering featuring a reading of the classic Christmas story *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. *The Polar Express* is an inspiring story of belief and the joy of Christmas. What better place to experience this heartwarming tale than in an actual train station! So join us on Friday, December 21st, at 6:30pm for an unforgettable ride on *The Polar Express*. Hot chocolate and other goodies will be served in the Chesapeake Beach Resort & Spa lobby afterwards.



## Heritage Tour Grant

We are pleased to announce we have received a matching grant of \$1000.00 from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium (SMAHC) to create a new Heritage Tour.

In past years, the Museum has sponsored hikes of different sections of the right-of-way. However, as sections of the right-of-way disappear due to development this is becoming harder to do. This grant will help to develop a bus tour to take in the entire route from Chesapeake Beach to Seat Pleasant in one day on April 5th, 2008. Also a brochure will be developed so Museum visitors can explore the route in the comfort of their own cars.

Many thanks to Delegate Sue Kullen, Commissioner Barbara Stinnett and Tourism Specialist Erica Stone for their support in this endeavor.

www.cbwm.org



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



# *Holiday Open House*

*Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum*

*Sunday, December 2, 2007*

*1:00 to 4:00 pm*

*Please join us for holiday goodies and fun*

*The Chesapeake Hotel & Spa also hosts an open house December 2, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm*

