



The Chesapeake Dispatcher



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

Volume 29, Issue 2, Number 57

November 2010

Message From the President **Frankenstein's Monster Lives!**

By Kristen Scott

By Dana Watkinson



The Museum is very lucky that it has such loyal members and dedicated volunteers.

Without you, the Museum would not have been able to grow and thrive in our community. There are many ways that the Friends of the CBRM members contribute. Some of the great programs that we have been able to offer because of our generous membership and wonderful volunteers include:

- Children's Summer Fun Programs
- The Heritage Tour
- Bay Breeze Concerts
- Family Fun Days
- The Polar Express
- Holiday Open House

Other programs that we continue to support include the creation of the Loveless and Finlon Educational Center and the Opportunity Acquisitions fund.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming events!



Chuck MacDonald as Frankenstein's Monster.

Fall Family Fun Day was a success! For the third year the Railway Museum was taken over by Mad Scientists.

This year it was not just any mad scientist, but Dr. Frankenstein himself and his lab was in the passenger car *Dolores*. Additional fun could be found at the spooky gray castle moon bounce, and Mad Science of Southern MD did some exciting experiments. And the very brave, those whose courage never failed, had the chance to see Frankenstein's Monster, who was handing out candy! Four raffle prizes,

including two train sets, a train DVD set, and a Halloween quilt, were won by local people. Participants were busy all day with the craft tables, face painters, and snacks. Spring will bring another Family Fun Day with a Beach Theme, which is in the planning stages now. There is a very mysterious twist in the works. Look for more info in the new year!



A gargoyle perches menacingly.

Below far left: Nancy Young in charge of the alien ball toss.



Janet Bates as the witch and John Riedesel as Professor Doktor Erik von Schlagenhopper were a hit with the kids.

Message From the Curator

By Harriet Stout



The founders of the Museum thought that there was "something magic" about the idea of a museum in Chesapeake Beach, and the reality of the Museum as it developed and grew was even more magical. The Museum has, indeed, continued to be a special place throughout the years. We may not have conjurers to call up the supernatural, or wizards in weird dress to charm our visitors; but the work accomplished by museum members and friends is truly extra-ordinary if not supernatural. The result of the very real hard work over the years is a place that charms the visitor and casts the spell of history over all who step through our doors. We do not intend to lose the magic in the years to come.

What Volunteering Means To Me

By Hilary Dailey

I moved to Chesapeake Beach in 2005 because of the holiday light display. My husband and I were driving around the outer D.C. area in early December looking for houses for sale and saw the town name "Chesapeake Beach" on a map. We were hungry and thought we might find some good seafood in a town with a name like that, so we headed towards it. As we came up over the hill towards the bay, we were greeted by the adorable lighted toy train set up along Route 260. Both of us were instantly smitten by this small town and found a house within days.

One of the first pieces of mail we received after settling in was the annual Chesapeake Beach Town calendar. Having moved here without knowing anything about the town except the name, I was eager to peruse the pages. As I flipped to March, I saw that there was a going to be a volunteer workshop at some museum in town. Excitedly, I told my husband about it (since I had worked at museums in my previous life). I circled the event and showed up on the day. That day was my introduction to life in Chesapeake Beach, past and present.



Hilary Dailey, a dedicated volunteer helps at the craft table during the 2010 Spring Family Fun Day..

That first day at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum (CBRM), I was amazed to find out the history of this wonderful town. Holding a masters degree focused on tourism, I was thrilled to be living in a place that was specifically built for tourists! Volunteering here was going to be fun!

I worked with Harriet to get the Museum

involved in the local business group and designed flyers for upcoming programs. Soon, I found myself in the company of a faithful volunteer and President of the Friends at the time, Ms. Joanie Kilmon. Joanie and I hit it off and decided to work together on a Vintage Swimsuit Fashion Show Fundraiser for the Museum. Through this event, I met several other CBRM volunteers who I am now happy to call my good friends. I found that every volunteer I met along the way was kind, caring, and passionate about Chesapeake Beach and its history, and I was proud to be in their company.

I now sit on the board of the Museum as the Vice-President and am pleased as punch to attend meetings and help out at Family Fun Days and behind-the-scenes. I look forward to seeing my fellow volunteers at our meetings and always know I will be greeted with a smile and have a good chuckle with someone somewhere in the course of the gathering. I moved to Chesapeake Beach because of a twinkling toy train, little did I know a train museum and its lovely group of volunteers would make it my home.

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

Editor: Kristen Scott
Copy Editor: Erin Thorp
Contributors: Janet Bates, Hilary Dailey,
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.cbrm.org

Lend A Helping Hand

REMINDER FOR
VOLUNTEER
WORKSHOP



Don't forget! Circle March 12 on your 2011 calendar for the next Volunteer Training Workshop. Program details are unavailable as of yet, but it will be an interesting day for all participants. We always need new volunteers, so bring a friend! Join in the fun activities open to all who are interested in sharing our community history with others.



The Railroad Lantern: Shining the Light on Volunteers

By Hilary Dailey

Maggie Yelding, originally from South Haven, Michigan, moved to Chesapeake Beach from Arlington, Virginia about four years ago because she and her husband wanted to live in a more rural area. Upon arriving in town, she says, "we instantly loved the looks of the bay because it reminded us of Lake Michigan back home."

With two young sons, Maggie was soon on the hunt for kids' activities around the area. They became fixtures at the Calvert Library, Twin Beaches Branch as well as the local community centers. There they made friends and heard about other local organizations, including the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. "I remember hearing about the Family



Maggie Yelding, the Museum's newest recruit, at the Fall Family Fun Day craft table.

Fun Days at the library," says Maggie, "and my friend, Hilary Dailey, told me about volunteer opportunities at the Museum." After attending a few Family Fun Days, she decided to join in the fun

permanently and became the Museum's newest volunteer. "I help out at the craft tables or wherever needed at the Family Fun Days in the spring and fall. It is a lot of fun and I get to meet a lot of great people!"

When asked what she likes best about the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Maggie says, "I enjoy learning a little history of the area and I like the programs that they put on for the community throughout the year."

Thank you, Maggie, for joining our Museum family. We appreciate your help and look forward to seeing your smiling face at our next Museum event!

Happenings: Pictures from 2010



Left: Dana Watkinson and Meg Janelle, the masterminds behind the Family Fun Days.

Above left: Volunteers Pat Tait, Bob Tait, Mike Sweeney, Kathleen Hogan and Volunteer Coordinator Bette Quigley man the station at the 2010 Spring Family Fun Day.

Above: Curator Harriet Stout and museum mascot, Birdie, at the Easter Parade.

Above Right: The Washington, DC Metropolitan Area Lego Train Club was a huge hit at the Spring Family Fun Day when they created a wonderland of trains and villages out of Legos. Check them out at <http://wamaltc.org>.



A Swinging Journey

By Betty MacDonald

On June 10th, the Bay Breeze Summer Concert Series commenced with Stardust Memories. Four lively ladies from Baltimore performed romantic melodies, upbeat tunes and patriotic songs in vintage 1940s dress.

Popular bluegrass band the Dixie Ramblers returned once again on July 8th. The group is under direction of Mike Phipps, who now tours the country with another group. We were so pleased that we could have the original group in their new July time slot.

Jimmy Payne performed on Thursday August 12th. His varied vocal repertoire with Big Band backing tracks took us

on a memorable swinging journey. It was one of those iffy stormy days, but the weather cleared and all who ventured out enjoyed the evening.

On Thursday, September 9th it was The Dixie Power Trio augmented with The New Line Brass. We were entertained with authentic New Orleans jazz and original compositions. They were outstanding and concluded their program and with "When the Saints Go Marching In." We look forward to their return next summer.

This series of concerts was made possible with the cooperation of the Calvert County Commissioners and

financial assistance from HELP Associates, Inc.; Town of Chesapeake Beach; Bates Foundation; Chesapeake Beach Garden Club; and our generous membership. The beautiful floral arrangements on the refreshment table were compliments of the Chesapeake Beach Garden Club. Refreshments at the intermission were provided in part by Roland's, Safeway Stores and Giant Food. We are grateful to all for their strong support.

A special thanks to the performers and our announcers, John Riedesel, Bruce Wahl, Joanie Kilmon and Corrine E. Moore.

Celebrate

By Harriet Stout

This past summer the Museum focused on music with the *Celebrate Summer 2010* exhibit, "Strike up the Band! A



History of Music at the Beach."

The exhibit emphasized the importance of music in the story of good times at the beach. Visitors enjoyed photographs, artifacts, and oral histories to the sound of music from the 1930s to the 1960s, including a recording from the carousel.

The Radio & Television Museum of Bowie, Maryland, loaned several vintage radios. Our own Janet Bates

Jazz Band miniature created by Janet Bates

created a wonderful miniature of a jazz band in a band shell for the exhibit.

The curator is beginning to work on the special summer exhibit for the summer of 2011. The theme of the exhibit will focus on Children at the Beach. If you have any photographs, stories, or artifacts including toys, clothing, or other items that would help the Museum tell the story, please contact the curator at 410-257-3892. Anything related to the topic that you could loan us will be greatly appreciated!

A Volunteer Through Time

By Janet Bates

Bernie Loveless (one of the original volunteers) approached me before the Museum was finished about becoming a volunteer and helper. It's been 30 years and I still love being a part of "Something Magic." My two ongoing jobs have been as Membership Chairman for many years and, on the first Sunday of every month (since the very first), as a stationmaster.

I've helped decorate the station every Christmas and each year the Annual Open House is lots of fun to put together. We've grown so much since the beginning, and there have been many programs that have come into

being. These are generally written up in our newsletters.

The volunteers are a fine group of people and I have made many lasting friends among them. I can't say enough about the enjoyment and benefits I've received from helping our Museum.

Butch, my late husband, was treasurer of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum (CBRM) for many years, and one of our daughters is on the Board of Directors. Our other daughter, from Massachusetts, and our grandson from Connecticut have also contributed to the Museum, making us a CBRM



Some of the early recruits at the Museum; (left to right) Tom Wisner, County Commissioner Bernie Fowler, Albert Grosvenor, Jim Buys, Bernie Loveless, Mildred Finlon, County Commissioner Pete Grover, and Senator Arris T. Allen.

family. It's been a great trip so far! Come join us.

Recent Acquisitions

During this year a number of items were added to the collection through donations and purchases. Thank you to all the friends who donated their treasures to the Museum; these things will help us continue to tell the story of the Beach and the Railway in the years to come. A number of collections materials were also purchased during the past year; many of these artifacts help us tell the special stories for our summer exhibits.

Donations include the following items:

- Banjo-Mandolin from the estate of Mildred Finlon



Banjo-Mandolin donated by Harold Finlon, Jr. and Allan Finlon from the estate of Mildred Finlon. The initials "MLSC" stand for Milton Life Saving Club, circa 1920s-1930s.

- Record Album from Joan Kilmon
- Camp Roosevelt activity patches from John E. Davies
- Engine Cab Hatch Cover from Bruce Feinberg
- 3 postcards from the District of Columbia Library

Items purchased include the following:

- 24 postcards
- 11 photographs
- Toy drum with transportation themed art work
- Toy drum with carousel art work
- 1 photo negative

Items purchased *continued*:

- 11 vintage children's valentines



Children's valentine with train engine. "Let me be YOUR ENGINEER. I'd like to travel Far and near with you, My valentine."

- Ayvad water wings, c. 1910-1920
- Child's romper suit, c. 1900
- Child's beach chair
- Match book cover for Stinnett's Restaurant
- Child's swim suit
- Child's beach/bath robe
- Matchbook cover for Wimpy's Bar and Grill in North Beach.

VISITOR STATISTICS

 It has been a busy year! At the end of October the Museum count of visitors and participants in our programs was just over 10,000. We had 46 special programs; nine of which were outreach programs given off-site. All together almost 5,000 people participated in our special programs.

Summer Fun

By Dana Watkinson



John Riedesel, better known as John the Conductor read *The Little Engine that Could* to an enthusiastic group.

The Children's Summer Programs received a lot of attention this year. We had an especially high volume of calls about our "Fishing Tournament."

For this program we set up a wading pool as our "Chesapeake Bay" and then fished for different kinds of "fish." The longest one caught was the striped

bass which measured up to four feet long. We used different colored magnets as bait and the purple bait seemed to be the most preferred by the fish. Every child was able to fish, identify his/her catch and find the length to which it could grow.

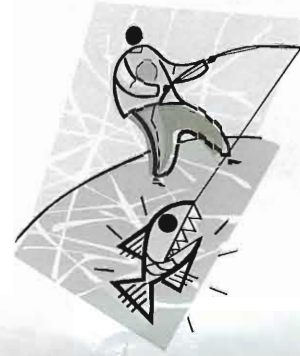
For the program "Working on the Railroad," children playacted as workers at the station. This helped the children understand how all the jobs relate to each other and kept the trains running smoothly. We also had a visiting conductor read *The Little Engine That Could*, which the children enjoyed immensely.

"Amusement Park" was a big hit with popcorn, root beer, games of skill and chance, and of course, prizes!

Each program included a story, snack, craft, and an activity that offered an in-depth look at a specific aspect of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

and/or Chesapeake Beach Resort in their heyday!

If there is something related to the railroad, Chesapeake Beach or the history of the surrounding area that you would like to share with us in a children's program, please contact Education Coordinator Dana Watkinson at the Museum, 410-257-3892. We are planning programs for the 2011 summer season now.



A Big Thank You

By Janet Bates

This year's Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, June 6th, and as the weather was so nice, it was held on the station porch. Normally the Annual Meeting is conducted on June 9th, Founder's Day, which celebrates Chesapeake Beach's grand opening in 1900. This year we wanted as many volunteers as possible to attend since we would be holding a special Volunteer Appreciation event after the meeting, so the date was moved to the weekend. The appreciation event was held to celebrate all the wonderful things that volunteers do for the Museum throughout the year.

During the general meeting, we elected officers for the 2010 - 2011 term.

President: Kristen Scott
Vice President: Hilary Dailey
Treasurer: Chuck MacDonald
Secretary: John Riedesel

Afterwards we enjoyed a buffet and were entertained by Hal Gearhart, his

wife Cheryl and other musicians. Hal played many years ago at Uncle Billie's bar in North Beach, using the stage name of Hal Holiday. While Hal reminisced, we learned many interesting items about the long defunct Uncle Billie's. He and his current group played some great music from the 50s and 60s.



Above : Hal Gearhart entertains with fellow musicians.

It was very enjoyable and we hope that they will return some other time. For the record our Chesapeake Beach station is 113 years old this year!



Goody bags were presented to all volunteers who worked hours during the 2009 year.



Right: Volunteers and guests enjoy the show.

FRIENDS OF THE Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



The Sweet Treat Express

Let's engineer some holiday fun by making a Rice Krispie train engine

Northeast Community Center
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave, Chesapeake Beach
Meeting Room 1
Saturday, November 20th
1 pm - 3 pm

Annual Holiday Open House

Your family is invited to join the festivities
at the Holiday Open House

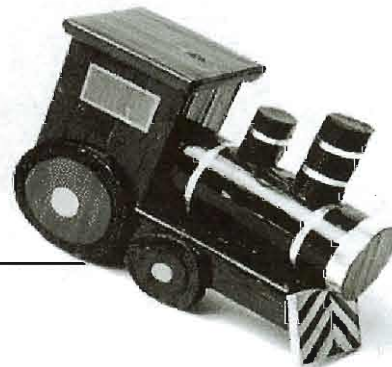
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
4155 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach
Sunday, December 5th
1 pm - 4 pm

*The Tree is Up
The Lights are Aglow
It's Time to Celebrate
With Folks We Know!*

The Polar Express

Capture the Magic!
Come share in the classic children's story
More details to come

Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
4155 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach
Tuesday, December 21st
6:00 pm



B&O Field Trip

Join us at the B&O Museum to see the Holiday Lights and ride the train

Contact Kristen at 443-486-8893 or krscott@aol.com for more details
Sunday, January 2nd

www.cbirm.org

5000 42284 0009



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



*Set your sights on Christmas lights
and eggnog 'round the tree.
We hope that you can join us
for our Holiday Festivities!*

Sunday, December 5th

1pm – 4pm

At the Museum