





**QUARTERLY**  
Summer 2005

Volume 3 Number 2

**Editor**

Michael Valliant

**Graphic Design**

Rob Brownlee-Tomasso

**Contributors**

Ben Armiger, Bill Bennis,  
Kerry Wargo Clough,  
Cathy Connelly, Pete Leshner,  
Melissa McLoud, John Miller,  
Rachel Rébert, Lindsley Rice,  
Bob Savage, Leigh Ann Schaefer

**Photography**

Rob Brownlee-Tomasso

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum  
Navy Point, P.O. Box 636  
St. Michaels, MD 21663-0636  
410-745-2916 ♦ Fax 410-745-6088  
www.cbmm.org ♦ editor@cbmm.org

The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational institution. A copy of the current financial statement is available on request by writing the Vice President of Finance, P.O. Box 636, St. Michaels, MD 21663 or by calling 410-745-2916 ext. 238. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-974-5534.

**On the Cover**

A first look inside our new At Play on the Bay exhibit, which features five boats restored by CBMM's Boat Yard, a replica 1960s era tackle shop, classic yacht club, early twentieth-century campsite, and an observation deck with stunning views of St. Michaels Harbor. Don't miss the grand opening of this permanent exhibit on Saturday, June 4.

## President's Message

The June 4th opening of our new permanent exhibit, At Play on the Bay, is the culmination of years of research and development, design, and construction. The show is the largest and most ambitious exhibition in our 40-year history—and a cause for celebration!

With the exhibit completed, Navy Point will no longer be a major construction site. Landscaping, planting, and the installation of additional park benches throughout the campus will enhance our grounds and improve the experience of our visitors. We have also renovated our bathrooms and shower facilities to make them more attractive and completed renovations on our Boat Shop to expand its capacity. And we are closing in on final stages of renovations to our marine railway so we can haul vessels from our historic floating fleet.

We are improving the Museum experience in other ways too. In considering how best to serve our members and visitors, we reached out to other institutions to tap their experience and seek their counsel. We hosted a roundtable discussion about changing exhibits with our Board of Governors and David Levy, Executive Director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and Stuart Parnes, Executive Director of the Connecticut River Museum. This winter, several staff and board members took a benchmarking trip to New England to visit Mystic Seaport, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Peabody Essex Museum, and the Connecticut River Museum to learn about their exhibits programs.

Based on our conversations with other institutions and our own long-range plan, we intend to create a more dynamic exhibition schedule—with multiple exhibits of shorter duration rotating throughout the year, some from our own collection and some from other institutions. The Museum's new state-of-the-art collection storage facility contains a treasure trove of extraordinary artifacts, photographs, and fine arts. We are planning exhibits that highlight our definitive holdings of paintings and sketches of Louis Feuchter, shoreside seafood industries, and the marketing and selling of Chesapeake seafood. Our extensive photography collection contains themes which will also inform future exhibits, such as the current show of the photographs of Robert de Gast in our Bay History Building. An active changing exhibit schedule is in keeping with our educational mission to preserve, interpret, and study the maritime heritage of the Bay. It will also provide our members and visitors with more reasons to come see us, and with more reasons to come back.

This season is an exciting time at the Museum. Come visit, participate in our programs, see our new exhibit, and enjoy the renewed beauty of our Navy Point campus on the Miles River.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. We value your membership and your continued support. Thank you.

John R. Valliant  
*President*

[jvalliant@cbmm.org](mailto:jvalliant@cbmm.org)





# Contents

An interactive children's exhibit by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is one facet of Kidstown at CBMM's Crab Days.

## Features

## Departments

To the Point	8
Profile	11
Events Calendar	C 1-4
The Tale End	22

\* Events Calendar is a special pull-out section that can be found between pages 11 and 12.

### At Play on the Bay: Exhibit R&D 3

Much of the work for an exhibit is complete before drawings, design, or construction are even considered. Here is a taste of the research and oral histories conducted for At Play on the Bay. By Melissa McLoud.

### Luring Fish, Reeling in Fishermen 5

What (or who) are fishing tackle manufacturers really trying to catch with their bright colors and eye-catching shapes and textures? The fish are not the only ones getting hooked. By Pete Leshner and Lindsley Rice.

### Their Place, By the Bay 12

Bellevue, Maryland, is no longer the community of agriculture and commerce it once was. But the presence and spirit of the African Americans who worked there is still evident. By Harold Anderson.

### Angling—Then & Now 17

Recreational fishing on the Bay begins and ends with the striped bass, or rockfish. A *Field & Stream* editor surveys the historical, and personal, landscape of angling for stripers. By George Reiger.

# AT PLAY ON THE BAY:

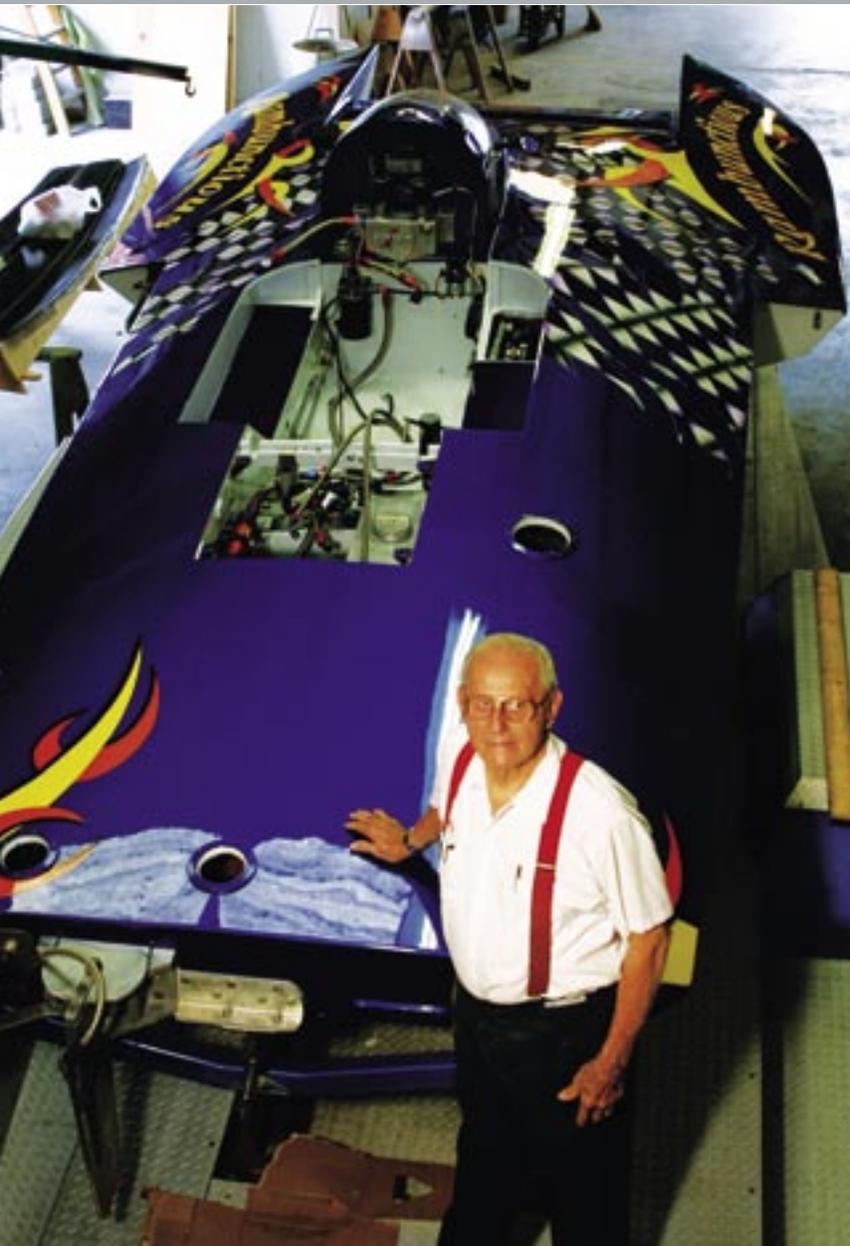
*By Melissa McLoud*

Our newest exhibit, *At Play on the Bay* (opening June 4), provides a perfect example of the benefits accruing to scholar and layman alike from the work of the Breene M. Kerr Center for Chesapeake Studies. Founded in 1996 by the Museum's forward-looking board of directors, the Center was organized as a think tank for study of the history of the Bay. Our popular *Oystering on the Chesapeake* was the first exhibit to be put together based entirely on research done by the Center's staff and scholars. Now *At Play on the Bay* joins the

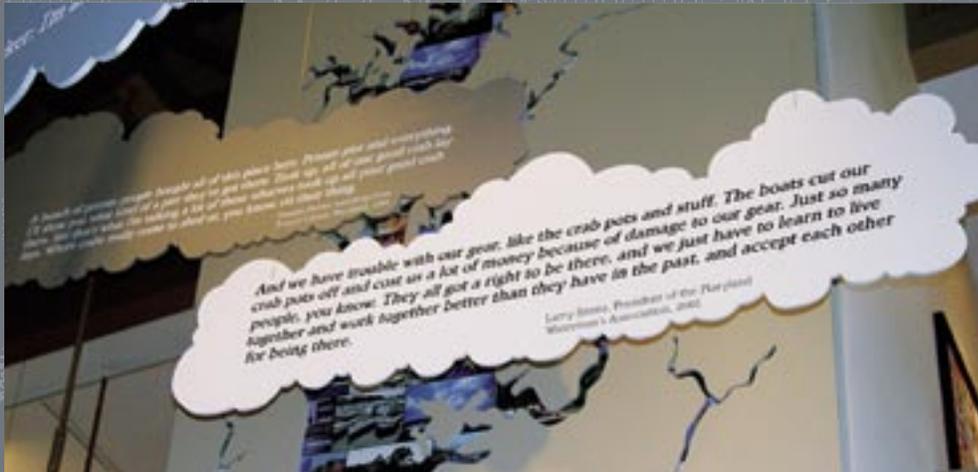
fold, and early indications are it should be equally popular with the public. Among other experiences, visitors to the exhibit will have the opportunity to stroll through replicas of an early twentieth century campsite, a classic yacht club, and a 1960s era tackle shop—all the result of Center scholarship (collecting both artifacts and the oral histories that bring those artifacts to life). The overall theme of the exhibit—the Bay's transition from a place of work to a place of play—is based on the Center's extensive research into the effect the Chesapeake's changing economy has had on the lives of the people who live and work here. The only remaining question is, what great exhibit will the Breene M. Kerr Center for Chesapeake Studies produce next?

When the Center's Ceres Bainbridge realized that she had never been in a hydroplane, she asked champion racer Wheeler Baker for a ride. Wheeler introduced Ceres to one of the Bay's hydroplane legends: Larry Lauterbach (below). Getting to know Larry and his father Henry (left), she and Kerr Center scholar/folklorist Kelly Feltault documented through video and several oral histories the little-known history of hydroplane racing on the Bay. They also collected a hydroplane, racing clothing, and safety gear. After building his first race boat in 1947, Henry Lauterbach became known as one of hydroplane racing's preeminent builders and drivers, eventually being inducted into the sport's Honor Squadron and Hall of Champions. In 1963 Larry Lauterbach joined his dad as a builder and racer of hydroplanes. Over time he won more than 350 races in a career spanning four decades.

Having officially retired from hydroplane racing at the top of his game in 2001, Larry Lauterbach continues to restore, repair, and build hydroplanes. He recently had the pleasure of putting the tenth hydroplane built by his father, Henry, back into racing condition.



# EXHIBIT R & D



Kerr Center scholars and staff have collected over 300 oral histories from a wide range of people who live, or have lived, on the Chesapeake Bay. (Left) Excerpts from this documentation, quoted on clouds, fill the exhibit with a diversity of opinions on the changing Bay.



(Above) Pictured here is Janice Marshall of Smith Island with her winning entry in the rockfish cook-off at the annual Commercial Fisherman's Trade Exposition in Ocean City. Eating and cooking local seafood is a big part of recreation on the Chesapeake. Through the years, food and the social events that go along with eating have helped to maintain communities around the Bay. Kerr Center scholars Harold Anderson, Kelly Feltault, and Virginia Jenkins have documented recreational food traditions.



(Above) Levin F. "Buddy" Harrison III, charter fishing captain and owner of the Chesapeake House resort on Tilghman Island, told Center scholar Kelly Feltault the story of his father, steamboat captain Levin F. Harrison, Sr., returning some friends to Baltimore after a visit to his home on the Eastern Shore, where he found several more "friends" packed and waiting to enjoy the family's hospitality. Harrison's famed Chesapeake House hotel and restaurant, charter fishing business, hunting and guide services, all grew out of this first humble encounter. Three generations of the Harrison family have hosted overnight guests and fishing and hunting parties at their place on Tilghman Island.