

The **Chesapeake Marine Canvas Fabricators Association, Inc.** is an organization of Fabricators that design and manufacture fabric and upholstery products for the marine industry, as well as the Suppliers who support them. Each year the Association holds the largest Marine Fabrication convention in the Mid-Atlantic. With over 60 member shops, the CMCF is the 2nd largest marine fabricator group in the country!

Last year's Conference was one of the highest attended in the history of the CMCF with over 100 people in attendance over the course of the 3 days. We had 8 new shops, and 6 new vendors attending, a sign of how valuable this organization is to the fabricator and supplier community. The feedback we received was incredible and we've used it to help shape the 2024 Conference.

The 37th Annual CMCF Conference will once again be held at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, MD from February 15-17, 2024. We've used the feedback we received from the past year, to help us create some exciting and informative seminars, concentrating on what you, our fabricators, are interested in. There are two general themes for this year's conference, "Back to Basics" and "Finishing with Flair". We'll be focusing on what many people consider to be "basics" but with approaches and nuances to various techniques, that can make your project go from just "OK" to "Amazing!". We have all seen the pictures posted by fabricators that make us cringe. Whether it's wrinkled tops on bimini tops, sagging boat covers, or poorly fitting upholstery, there is room for all of us to improve and fine tuning your basic skills is a great place to start. Once the products are made, there is a whole other component of finishing a project; adding those special final touches to make it go from "this looks good" to a real "wow" moment. From patterning to color selection, to finishing approaches with accent colors, binding, welting, or gimp; there are many ways to make your project stand out from your competitors. Building on these themes we are working on the following schedule:

Planned Seminars:

- Aft covers to sunshades with Mike Charlton. Fabricating Palm Beach aft covers that convert to sunshades
- Perfect Cushions with Bill Marriot. Getting your cushions perfect, from basic box to complex knee-lift with inside curves, and finishing with gimp and welting
- Small Boat Project: We are going to have a small boat on site to demonstrate multiple projects and how to make a profit from them.
 - Using the EZ Frame Plus software to bend a bimini frame.
 - Bending and crowning a bimini frame
 - Patterning a bimini top with fabric, plastic/paper and digitally
 - Patterning seat covers, helm cover, engine covers.
 - Material selections
 - Patterning and installing flooring.
- Going Digital Year 2: Lessons learned and updates from our digital transition process with Zack Baccala and Adam Penner. Demonstrations of tools and processes that have been implemented to improve efficiency and profitability.
- New this year: Panel Discussion – instead of doing Round Tables, we are going to have an open discussion with a panel of experts. This will give everyone the opportunity to ask questions and hear answers from a group of experts in the field.
- Stress Management: Dealing with the stresses that come from owning and running a small business.

Our **Thursday Night** theme this year is The Big Game! With the NFL season ending just a few days before the Conference, it makes for a great opportunity to have fun and win some great prizes. So, wear your

favorite jersey or team clothes and prepare to participate in fun and games. (Yankees gear will automatically result in a point deduction during the games)

Please remember your pictures for the **Photo Contest!** You can enter a project in each of the categories. You can download the entry forms from the conference website ahead of time.

Saturday morning will be our **Market Day** with numerous vendors ready to meet with you and discuss new products and hand out sample books and cards.

This is also a **Holiday Weekend** for many folks so we worked with the Hyatt again to offer an extra night after the conference at the same price. Since we have a packed agenda for the conference, feel free to stay another night so you can relax and check out the local area. There are parks, shops and tons of great restaurants near the hotel. The Hyatt has a spa, a huge indoor pool, and an arcade, so there are a ton of things you can also do without leaving the property. So don't forget your bathing suit and treat yourself to an extra night! Since **Wednesday is Valentine's Day**, the Water's Edge Grill at the Hyatt will be open and running a special Valentine's Day menu. This is not included in the conference registration but is still a wonderful opportunity to have a nice meal on Valentine's Day. Make your reservations ahead of time by calling 410-901-6440 or go to <https://www.exploretock.com/watersedgegrill>