OCTOBER

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND THE DISMAL SWAMP
The hard gray lines of the Freedom Tower in Manhattan contrasted sharply with the bright fall foliage we found near our anchorage in Jersey City just a few miles away.
Sanderlings and horse shoe crab exoskeletons were equally numerous on the marshy beach.
An estuary near Phillips Creek, Maryland showed some gorgeous colors as sunset.
Tangier, Virginia, population 727, was the last territory held by the British after the Revolutionary War. Today’s islanders are descendants of those soldiers and still speak with a thick Cornish accent.
The town’s economy is faltering as ocean acidification and increased protection for predatory striped bass have lead to severe restrictions on crab fishing.
Tangier is slowly washing into Chesapeake Bay. The island loses several feet each year to erosion and sea level rise. This sea wall is the latest attempt to halt erosion.
Dried sea sponges and marsh grass abound in Tangier’s mud flats.
The salty mud dried and cracked at low tide but the marsh was flat enough to show the tide creeping back in a few inches per minute as the sun slowly sank.
We kept the Wildcat festive for Halloween while sailing through the root beer colored water of the Dismal Swamp.
Dramatic forms and hues made the Dismal Swamp a much more beautiful trip than the name suggests.
The skeletons of trees killed by increasingly salty water dot the swamps in Virginia and North Carolina. Salt water intrusion caused by sea level rise has made these places uninhabitable for many species.
CLIMATE ODYSSEY

Happy Halloween! See you in December!