Although local and maritime history were stressed at the opening of the Calvert Marine Museum twenty-five years ago, it was clear even then that the Solomons area enjoyed not only a maritime heritage but also an environmental blessing from the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. Solomons was located ideally for the appreciation and study of not only its historical resources but also for the natural resources presented by these two bodies of water so important to Maryland. The local economy, of course, depended on the marine resources obtainable from the surrounding waters, but it is likely that these resources were taken for granted for many years.

The scientific study of the bay and Patuxent River at Solomons began in 1922 when Dr. Reginald V. Truitt, a zoologist from the University of Maryland, set up a small facility in a crab shed alongside Solomons harbor. This small beginning developed by 1929 into the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, sponsored first by the Maryland Conservation Department with course work offered in the summer months by various Maryland colleges and universities. CBL is now part of the University of Maryland, with laboratory and other buildings occupying much of the east side of Solomons Island. (It is an interesting sidelight that Dr. Truitt was also a founder and first president of the Calvert County Historical Society in 1954, thus linking his ecological and historical interests in the area.) The laboratory participated in the life of Solomons, providing space for U.S. O. activities in World War II and opening in the 1960s a small museum with exhibits relating to the area, including several aquarium tanks. A much larger state aquarium was planned for Sandy Point on Solomons Island, but the state decided not to fund this.

CMM has documented the early efforts of Harry M. Zachary, Gilbert C. Klingel, and others to explore beneath the surface of the bay's waters, starting with a rather crude diving helmet in 1926, extending to the "Bentharium" diving bell in 1934 and 1935 (a model of which is in the museum's exhibits), and then in 1953 and 1954 to the "Aquascope" funded by the National Geographic Society. (The large yellow "Aquascope" is one of the first items to be seen as a visitor approaches the Maritime History Hall.) Bay ecology has drawn a great number of scientists and students to Solomons over the past seventy-three years.

Carrying forward this ecological/historical interest, one of the founders of the museum in 1970 was William L. Dovel, a biologist then working at CBL. In items in the local press Mr. Dovel stressed the local and maritime themes for the newly formed museum, but he certainly had a broader view in mind. By 1971, Mr. Dovel was credited by the Calvert Independent with a design for an expanded museum at the present Solomons School site — a design that included a "biological" building.

When the museum opened in 1975 in the Solomons School building (the present Administration Building), a few natural history displays were soon placed in the main corridor, consisting chiefly of stuffed birds, fish, and other wildlife, including a popular display on the life cycle of the blue crab. As early as 1977 the museum provided visitors with live specimens from the local waters in two aquariums as part of a small "hands-on" display area. These were stocked intermittently with fish, crabs, and even a few seahorses. In an early period the museum adopted its present three themes as part of a mission statement, including the theme of the estuarine biology of the Patuxent River and adjacent waters.

The full development of the museum's estuarine biology theme, however, was to come only as a part of the museum's 1978-1982 Master Development Plan, the work of Cambridge Seven Associates. This plan provided two important features to help carry out its estuarine theme: (1) the saltwater marsh at the south end of the proposed boat basin, and (2) a series of aquariums in the new exhibition building. The boat basin with saltmarsh, tidepool, and walkway was opened in May 1984, and this outdoor exhibit remains popular today. When the new exhibition building opened in January 1989, the promise of estuarine biology exhibits moved forward, directed by Ken Kaumeyer who was appointed to the new position of curator of estuarine biology in 1988. The museum's estuarine theme was finally realized when the exhibit "Estuary Patuxent: A River and Its Life" opened in February 1992, described at that time by an article in the Bugeye Times. Even
FOSSIL FACTS
By Sandy Roberts

The Nomenclature of a Fossil Snail

Extinct for some three million years, the gastropod Ecphora, with its various species and subspecies, is found in Miocene and Pliocene Formations from New Jersey to Florida, including the Calvert, Choptank, and St. Marys Formations of the Maryland Miocene. This handsome snail, with its russet color, flaring ribs, and broad umbilicus is considered to be a diagnostic or index fossil, one that is used to identify and correlate geological strata of similar age. So popular had the genus become among amateur and professional collectors, that on May 14, 1984, the Maryland General Assembly designated Ecphora quadricostata (Say), a species from the St. Marys Formation in St. Mary's County, as Maryland's state fossil shell. What the legislature did not know at that time was that the name E. quadricostata (Say) had earlier been assigned to a different species of Ecphora from the Pliocene Yorktown Formation in Virginia. Therefore, the Virginia fossil had priority on the name E. quadricostata and Maryland's fossil shell would have to be renamed.

The scientific naming of fossil or living animals and plants follows set international guidelines. An italicized modern Latin alphabet must be used when the scientific name is printed. The genus name must be capitalized, and is nearly always a Greek or Latin word which describes a key feature of the fossil. It precedes the species and subspecies names which are not capitalized. The species name may be descriptive, refer to a locality, or be the latinized name of the finder or other deserving person. Subspecies may repeat the name of the species; many paleontologists are skeptical of subspecies because it can be very difficult accurately to subdivide fossils down to so precise a level. The last name to appear is that of the person who originally described and named the species, but this name is not italicized and is capitalized.

In 1987, the paleontologist Druid Wilson, following the international guidelines governing scientific nomenclature, proposed a new name for Maryland's state fossil shell - Ecphora gardnerae Wilson. He retained the genus Ecphora, indicating that the Maryland shell does belong with other Ecphoras, but assigned it to the new species gardnerae, a name that recognizes paleontologist Julia Gardner. Following Wilson's work, in 1988 two other paleontologists - L. W. Ward and N. L. Gilinski - further subdivided Ecphora into subspecies, choosing the name Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae for the snail in question. Thus, the current scientific name for Maryland's state fossil shell is now Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae Wilson, a name recognized by the Maryland legislature on October 1, 1994.

This example demonstrates how complicated it can become to agree on scientific names, but it is very important because these names give scientists the world over a common language to use when they discuss or write about fossil or living plants and animals.

NEW MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR AT YOUR SERVICE

The museum's new membership coordinator is Sybol S. Cook. Sybol joined our staff in July — replacing Rita Adams who retired at the end of June — but she's been with us since 1988, helping with community education projects.

Sybol, a native of Lusby, brings with her eight years of program administrative experience from Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Charles County Community College, Southern Maryland Community Action, Calvert and St. Mary's County Public Schools, and East-John Youth Center. In her spare time, she supports an array of community projects and is completing graduate work in the History of Ideas at Johns Hopkins University.

Says Sybol: "I look forward to getting to know our members' interests throughout the year. If you have thoughts on how I can help to enhance your museum experience, please call or drop in any time." Sybol will be in the membership office Mondays through Thursdays.
A SPECIAL DAY TO CELEBRATE CMM'S Silver Anniversary

At Calvert Marine Museum, we're enjoying the pride of a job very well done, and we'd like for you to share in the celebration! Saturday, October 21, will be a full day of activities, guest speakers, contests, exhibit previews, refreshments, and special promotions. Our immense pride in an institution that has been preserving, educating, and entertaining for twenty-five years will bring together the museum's best friends and valuable caretakers from all over Maryland. We want very much to spend this birthday with programs that express our thanks to the patrons, founders, and legislators who have made CMM's achievements possible. We also want to honor the children and adult members who can take advantage of our stupendous progress seven days a week, year 'round.

Our program for the day will include something for visitors and members of all ages. The main event will be a formal ceremony from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the boat basin. Our new cookbook will be on sale with volunteers offering tasty samples of many of its recipes. Musicians will present selections for your entertainment, food can be purchased on site (refreshments after the ceremony), and the kids can be gathered for the puppet theater, storytelling, a costume parade, and many prizes. (Supervision will be provided for young visitors from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.) Drawings will be held throughout the day.

BEST OF ALL — we will introduce Calvert Marine Museum's newest otter, a more-than-lifesize friend and ambassador who will be on hand for the Silver Anniversary and other important events, representing CMM and welcoming all to our beautiful facility.

Bring the family on October 21! Join us all in a day to recognize how your membership has contributed to the museum's impressive past and what it will help bring to an exciting future.

OUR 1996 ENGLAND TRIP
The International Festival of the Sea!

Join your fellow members next spring at a world's fair of the sea — "Bristol '96." See flyer insert for tour itinerary and fees. Each paid registrant means a $200 donation to CMM!
SUMMER 1995 AT CMM

In 1994 the late Webster Poe, St. George’s Island waterman, donated a bateau to CMM, and earlier this summer visited CMM to discuss its restoration. Shown here, left to right, are CMM boatwright Jack Krolak, Mr. Poe, CMM curator of maritime history Richard Dodds, and CMM maritime history volunteer Paul Adams.

Photo by Robert Hurry

Sharkfest ’95 – shark hats add to the interest shown by young visitors as paleontology volunteer Mike Ellwood explains fossil preparation during the July event.

Photo by Mike Gottfried

CMM aquarist Paula Bohaska tells young students about river otters during one of the sessions of this summer’s “Camp CMM.”

Photo by Richard Dodds

Volunteer Council president Buck McClellan (seated), CMM librarian Paul Berry, and volunteer coordinator Layne Bergin examine one of the microfilms of two local Calvert County newspapers purchased with funds raised by the Volunteer Council during the past year, especially from the yard and bake sale on Patuxent Family Discovery Day in May. These newspapers, from the late nineteenth century through 1920, will add to the information available about the local area.

Photo by Richard Dodds
This past summer has been especially active at the museum, with a number of events for all ages. Some of these are pictured here.

**Sharkfest '95** — Paleontology volunteer Mike Ellwood describes fossil preparation to young visitors at the newly opened “paleo prep lab” portion of CMM’s paleontology exhibit. Photo by Mike Gottfried

**Sharkfest '95** — Wallace Ashby, author of the newly published third edition of Fossils of Calvert Cliffs, and illustrator Mary Parrish autograph copies for visitors to Sharkfest in July. Photo by Mike Gottfried

Mike Young (left), Al Lavish (right), and two other volunteers from the Patuxent Small Craft Guild work at Calvert Marina to restore the Grover oyster skiff in preparation for its move to CMM later this year. Photo by Richard Dodds

Staff and volunteers in CMM’s maritime history department visited the Smithsonian Institution on July 26 to learn more about the Smithsonian’s activities in maritime history. Here, Paula Johnson (center), former CMM curator of maritime history and now Smithsonian maritime specialist, describes an item in their collections. Photo by Richard Dodds
Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebrated -

CMM BROADENS ITS HORIZONS:
ESTUARINE BIOLOGY ON DISPLAY

then, however, the full plans for the estuarine exhibits were not complete, awaiting the opening of the very popular river otter exhibit in 1994. Despite the long wait for fulfillment, CMM now has, in its twenty-fifth year, a notable estuarine biology component to present to visitors.

The "Estuary Patuxent" exhibit in the past few years has been the principal effort of the estuarine biology department, a department now numbering four staff and nearly twenty volunteers. (See the "Volunteer Spotlight" on page eight for an example of the contribution of volunteers.) But Ken Kaumeyer and his staff also participate in various educational programs. Articles have appeared from time to time in the Bugeye Times on ecological topics, and in 1987 the museum published Marshnotes: An Introduction to the Salt Marsh by Jeffrey Rothenberg. Soon after the exhibition building opened in 1989, the Discovery Room began to attract visitors of all ages. This hands-on area then had small aquariums and also presented other opportunities to explore some of the ecological features of the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River. Ecology is still a part of the Discovery Room experience, but the Estuarium's aquariums, touch tank, and river otter exhibit now provide most of the museum's estuarine biology program.

The interest in natural resources in Solomons and in the Calvert Marine Museum has grown in parallel with the general public concern for ecological matters, particularly those involving the Chesapeake Bay. Estuarine biology is now firmly established at CMM, and the exhibits and programs increasingly attract visitors and students. Come and enjoy our varied presentations — live animals, descriptive panels, the outdoor otter tank and marshes, and the beauty and benevolence of the water visible from almost any point in the area.

CMM bay life exhibits in mid-1980s. Photo by Paula Johnson

WONDERFUL LATE NEWS — A NEW GRANT!

The museum has been notified of the award of one of the General Operating Support grants from the federal Institute for Museum Services. The $112,500 grant is for the next two years, and may be used for a variety of operating purposes. CMM plans to use some of the funds to prepare video presentations for museum orientation and on the Drum Point Lighthouse. Only 275 museums out of 1,070 applicants were successful; only six grants were awarded in the state of Maryland.

SOLOMONS: ITS HISTORY REVIEWED IN NEW BOOKLET

Visitors to the Calvert Marine Museum frequently ask for a written history of the Solomons area. Unfortunately, there is no single source to provide this information to inquirers. In 1983 CMM participated in the production of a "walking tour" booklet, but this was issued in only a limited edition that was quickly exhausted. One of the objectives this past year of the curator of maritime history, Richard Dodds, was to update the 1983 walking tour booklet, but also to incorporate in it much of the considerable research on the Solomons area undertaken by the museum during the past twelve years. The work of Merle Cole, Geoffrey Footner, Paul Berry, Paula Johnson, and others has appeared in museum publications. Richard Dodds has expanded this research through visits to the National Archives, the Maryland State Archives, and various libraries. In addition, he has interviewed a number of long-time residents of the area. The result of all this effort is a new booklet on Solomons and adjoining areas to be published by the museum early this fall. Entitled Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour, the booklet will provide up-to-date information on local history and will describe some ninety-four sites on Solomons Island, in Avondale (Johnstown), and in the nearby areas. With sites identified on three maps, users will be able to tour and appreciate the colorful history of Solomons. When published, copies of the booklet will be for sale in the museum store.

The museum continues its efforts to document the history of Solomons and the surrounding areas on the Patuxent and the Chesapeake Bay. Photographs, family papers, and other records are always welcome for addition to the museum's archives, or these can be copied and returned.

SHARK TEETH URGENTLY NEEDED!

CMM's Discovery Room is desperately in need of fossil shark teeth for the fossil sand box. More and more small visitors are coming to enjoy this hands-on exhibit area, where they delight in searching for a fossil souvenir. Since the museum wants to continue to offer these souvenirs to visitors, it is hoped that collectors would contribute these teeth or other fossils. To donate, call Anne Larsen at (410) 326-8217.
As the temperature begins to drop, we are reminded of the approaching holiday season. The weekend of December 8 to 10 will see the annual Yuletide events at Solomons. The area will be aglow with luminaries to light your way to the shops, including the museum store, on the two evenings of Friday, December 8, and Saturday, December 9. On Sunday evening, December 10, the museum — including the Drum Point Lighthouse — will reopen for the traditional members only Yule Party, with Santa, goodies, hayrides, a Yuletide bonfire, and the Weems Steamboat Line eggnog toast. Invitations will be sent during November to remind you to call in your reservations.

Remember to visit our store during the Christmas Walk and the Members' Yule Party. CMM's store is gearing up with some exciting new merchandise in anticipation of the season's events. Whether you are looking for something large or something small, the museum store has a varied and interesting selection of gifts. The children's corner has some wonderful new books, activity boxes, and sweatshirts, along with their favorite treasures. For the rest of the family there are beautiful throws, unique jewelry, and decorative items. The museum store recently produced a Hometowne Collectible rendition of the Drum Point Lighthouse that will make an excellent stocking stuffer or hostess gift!

The store also stocks a large selection of books including all the museum press books still in print. Included are: Merle Cole's Cradle of Invasion (1984, reprinted 1994), describing assault training at the Naval Amphibious Training Base on the Dowell Peninsula during World War II; Paula Johnson's Working the Water (1988), with text and photos of the local maritime industries and the museum's collections of maritime objects; Geoffrey Marsh Footner's The Last Generation (1991), the story of the Davis family and shipyard with their name; “Pepper” Langley's I Remember (1990), reminiscences of his life in Solomons; and research associate David C. Holly's Tidewater by Steamboat (1991), recalling the era of the Weems Line on the Patuxent and other rivers. (Dr. Holly also has a new book published by Tidewater entitled Chesapeake Steamboats and available in the store.)

Don't forget that museum members regularly have a 10 percent discount on store purchases, with an additional 10 percent on many items during the evening store hours on December 8 through 10. Bring your membership card and help support other activities of your museum with your purchases. The store honors VISA and MasterCard.

Of course the store also has plenty of wonderful holiday decorations and Christmas cards — lighthouses in bottles, hand-painted ornaments of the Drum Point Lighthouse, gold shells, porcelain angels, sailboats, and fishing boats. There's something for everyone!

**FIRST ANNUAL SOUTHERN MARYLAND MUSEUMS CHRISTMAS SHOP-AROUND**

**Farthings Ordinary, Historic St. Mary's City**

**Saturday, December 2, 10:00 - 4:00**

**Sunday, December 3, 11:00 - 3:00**

**Admission: FREE**

Come visit several museum shops under one roof! A great time to shop for those hard-to-find Christmas gifts and special items. Farthings Kitchen will also be open with a limited menu for lunch. Participating museums are: Calvert Marine Museum; Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum; Accokeek Foundation's National Colonial Farm; Naval Air Test and Evaluation Museum; Point Lookout State Park; Historic St. Mary's City; London Town Publick House; Captain Salem Avery House; St. Clements Island-Potomac River Museum; and more....

**VOLUNTEER COUNCIL HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING**

Over thirty-five volunteers and guests met in the museum's auditorium on Saturday afternoon, September 9, for the annual meeting of the Volunteer Council. During the business meeting, the officers and departmental liaisons reported on the activities of the past year, followed by an election of officers: president, Dan Grosso; vice-president, Tom Konrad; corresponding secretary, Cindy MacArthur; recording secretary, Shirley Wilder; and treasurer, Dee Danzig. Director Doug Alves presented Volunteer Emeritus badges to long-time volunteers Pete and Zelma Margelos and Dorothy Ordwein. At the end of the business meeting, former museum director, Dr. Ralph E. Eshelman, reminisced about the early days and personalities at CMM and presented a brief slide program, part of the recognition of the museum's twenty-fifth anniversary.

CMM's volunteers enjoyed a sail on the Potomac River aboard the skipjack Dee of St. Mary's on August 23. Photo by Layne Bergin
There are many reasons why people volunteer. In the case of Eleanor Prince and Ruth Showalter, an interest in the welfare of children surfaced frequently during a chat at Eleanor’s Scientists’ Cliffs home.

This might explain how, as new volunteers, these two neighbors were recruited for docent duty back in the museum’s early schoolhouse days. With a laugh, Eleanor recalled coming on board with only minimal training and seat-of-the-pants preparation: “We were told to just take the groups around and read the labels ahead of them!” Ruth and Eleanor learned the ropes quickly, also guiding student field trips to the beach and hands-on learning aboard the Wm. B. Tennison. Each put in many hours in the development of young minds, fifteen young minds at a time, in rotations of three to four groups each day.

But career backgrounds, in addition to philosophies, made Eleanor and Ruth candidates for museum education. Both of these active individuals are retired teachers, pure gold in the volunteer business. Ruth majored in biology, switching from hydro-biology at the graduate level to a degree in education. She taught first grade and liked it — “little ones are enthusiastic, ask questions, and just loads of fun” — and eventually became an elementary school principal. Eleanor’s students were older. As a high school chemistry teacher, her strong science background was enhanced with hands-on experience, running tests and reading meters. These skills eventually led Eleanor to a new volunteer responsibility at CMM, bringing her friend Ruth in beside her.

In the Estuary Patuxent exhibit, opened in 1992, each of the aquarium tanks represents a different habitat. Weekly water chemistry testing is essential for maintaining the health of the fish. For the past two years, Eleanor and Ruth have been teaming up to provide the estuarine biology department with the data necessary to maintain each of the twenty-five, and sometimes as many as thirty exhibit, reserve, and quarantine tanks. They check temperature, PH, fresh and saltwater nitrates, salinity, and occasionally ammonia and nitrite levels. All this information is recorded and used by the aquarium staff to determine what tank maintenance is necessary. Ken Kaumeyer noted that this is very important work performed by Ruth and Eleanor: “We need accurate information each week on the water quality of each tank. Without these data we would not know if conditions were satisfactory to maintain a healthy environment for the animals.” Out of the three volunteer teams that originally took this work on, Eleanor and Ruth now handle the project themselves, a commitment of three and one-half hours each week. They’ve even trained a substitute — volunteer Sandy Roberts.

“Eleanor and I work together real well,” says Ruth, and each had warm words for the estuarine biology staff: “I enjoy working for them because they truly appreciate what we do,” shared Eleanor.

What they do is deceptively more than what appears. Catching them sipping iced tea on the porch turned out to be a rare moment of inactivity for these community-minded women. Ruth volunteers at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum library one day a week, is past president of the Maryland Library Association’s trustee division, serves on the state committee of Citizens for Maryland Libraries, and is secretary of the Friends of the Library of Calvert County. She works with hospice, and has traveled to Alaska and Russia with her church mission committee. Eleanor also travels, especially with Elderhostel, delivers Meals on Wheels, was a judge with Ruth for the county History Fair, and serves on the county’s Water Board.

Both Ruth and Eleanor will participate in an upcoming study by the League of Women Voters — a survey of county children at risk. With their energy and dedication behind it, the welfare of these children already seems brighter. (Layne Bergin)