Pelagornis, a giant extinct relative of pelicans and gannets, is one of the stars of CMM's new fossil hall "Treasure from the Cliffs: Exploring Marine Fossils," now scheduled for completion in February/March 1997. These flying giants had a wingspan of up to eighteen feet and were armed with a wickedly serrated beak. Recent visitors have seen our full-sized Pelagornis skeleton soaring over the exhibit entrance, and artist Tim Scheirer is now putting the finishing touches on his Pelagornis painting in the new mural showing life along our coast fifteen million years ago. The mural depicts a sandy beach and marshy area, with a bald cypress swamp in the background. A skull and painting of the crocodile Gavialosuchus will also be featured in the coastal habitat.

The Pelagornis skeleton will soon be flying in its permanent home in front of the new mural, and, along with the giant great white shark and long-snouted dolphins in the undersea habitat, will provide a dramatic depiction of our region's prehistoric marine and terrestrial life. (Mike Gottfried)
During the past several months the museum has been further involved with at least three of southern Maryland's lighthouses: Cove Point, Cedar Point, and, of course, Drum Point. This involvement will lead to a new exhibit in the changing exhibit areas, to open on October 12, with photographs of the Cedar Point Lighthouse in the lower exhibit area, and Cove Point and other Southern Maryland lighthouses displayed in the mezzanine gallery.

Earlier this year the United States Coast Guard announced that it was planning to vacate the Cove Point Lighthouse, the second oldest lighthouse in Maryland, dating from 1828. In 1986, the Coast Guard automated the Cove Point light, so it was no longer necessary to have staff at this light station. Soon after this automation occurred, the museum expressed to the Coast Guard an interest in taking over this light station as part of the museum’s facilities, interpreting its history and possibly using the former keeper’s house for some museum purpose. At that time, however, the Coast Guard housed some of its local personnel in the facilities of the light station, but it recently decided to move the personnel elsewhere although maintaining the navigational aids located there. When the museum was advised of this change, discussions were begun with officials of Calvert County as to the possibility of the county negotiating with the Coast Guard for the use of the station for the museum. These discussions are continuing.

One of the major concerns of county officials is the condition of the riprap protection at the Cove Point light station, in need of serious attention if the light is to be protected from the types of storms that occur in the bay. Coast Guard funding is not sufficient to replace the riprap, but an appeal to Senator Paul Sarbanes has resulted in the proposal for inclusion of funds in the Coast Guard budget to support this work. If the funding is forthcoming, and if Calvert County agrees to accept the responsibility for the future upkeep of the lighthouse, the museum will have access to a most interesting and significant new exhibit. Photographs of the Cove Point Lighthouse are included in the gallery exhibit.
In another federal action, the United States Navy announced in January that it planned to dismantle the remains of the lighthouse structure on Cedar Point, now part of the Patuxent River Naval Air Test Center. Cedar Point Lighthouse is exactly one hundred years old this year, but it was abandoned as an active light station by the Coast Guard in 1928. The primary reason for its short life was the natural erosion of Cedar Point, compounded by man-made erosion from the nearby dredging of aggregate. In the first step to contain the erosion, a rubble wall was built as early as 1907. This lighthouse was considerably different from the other lighthouses near the Patuxent River, being built in a cottage style with a brick basement and first floor, and an upper floor of frame and shingles. The light was contained in a lantern supported by a tower that projected from the roof. As the building deteriorated over the years, there was interest in preserving as much as possible of the structure. To this end, the lantern tower was removed by the navy and the Friends of the Cedar Point Lighthouse in 1981 and was placed as part of the exhibit at the Air Test Center Museum in Lexington Park where it was dedicated in 1985. A future road-widening scheme in Lexington Park may bring about another move.

Concern over the possible further hazards of the deteriorating building prompted the navy early this year to announce their plans for dismantlement, seeking from the public any suggestions for possible uses of parts of the structure. CMM expressed an interest, this time for certain parts of the roof for possible incorporation into a planned picnic pavilion to the east of the museum’s parking lot. The museum was also interested in some sample bricks from the structure, since these were produced in a brick factory that once existed on Ship Point across Solomons harbor from the end of the island. The navy has agreed to donate the roof and bricks to CMM. Both current and early photographs of the Cedar Point Lighthouse are shown in the exhibit.

The mezzanine gallery exhibit will also document other Southern Maryland lighthouses, from Point No Point and south and up the Potomac River to Fort Washington— a total of fourteen lights. (There were no lighthouses on the Patuxent River above Drum Point.)

The museum’s Drum Point Lighthouse this summer received a new coat of paint on the roof, sides, and supporting structure. Interior painting and floor refinishing are planned for fiscal year 1998.

If Cove Point Lighthouse is added to the museum exhibits, and elements of the roof of the Cedar Point Lighthouse are incorporated into the proposed picnic pavilion, CMM will enhance its interpretation of the lighthouses of the Patuxent River area.
SUMMER ACTIVITIES

CMM experienced a busy summer, full of activities participated. The Young Salts programs began in late and fourth Saturday; Camp CMM was held in July and of Maryland State Marines held its first Revolutionary 30; two model-boat races in the Boat Basin; Sharkfes annual Members’ Summer Picnic on August 24; a Corporate Caper dinner in the Exhibition Building on activities are pictured on these two pages.

Sponsors enjoy the Corporate Caper in the Exhibition Building on September 5.

Photo by Debra Yortsy

Cedar Point Lighthouse cake was a centerpiece of the Corporate Caper.

Photo by Debra Yortsy
S AT CMM —

In which members and visitors
June and then on each second
and August; the Patuxent Company
War Encampment on June 29 and
1 was successful on July 20; the
concert on August 29; and a
September 5. Many of these

Joe Norris, right, entertains museum
members at the Members' Annual
Summer Picnic, August 24.
Photo by Debra Yorty

CMM's Mike Gottfried points out details of
shark anatomy to visitors during Sharktest!
Photo by Leslie Scher Brown
PATUXENT RIVER APPRECIATION DAYS (PRAD) TO RECOGNIZE CEDAR POINT LIGHTHOUSE

The centennial of the Cedar Point Lighthouse will be featured in this year’s PRAD events, October 12 and 13, beginning with the opening ceremonies in front of the Administration Building at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 12, attended by officials from the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. The national anthem will be sung by Northern High School student Melissa Anstead. Throughout the weekend there will be an exhibit pertaining to the Cedar Point Lighthouse in the lower gallery, as described in the separate article on page 2. As customary for PRAD weekends, there will be plenty of music, history and science exhibits, food, crafts, and free boat rides. The annual PRAD parade will be on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. There will be no parking on museum grounds, but in the field across from the museum or at the Navy Recreation Center, with a free shuttle to provide transportation.

PRAD logo by James O’Rourke, age 9

SOLOMONS CHRISTMAS WALK

By Maureen Baughman
CMM Store Manager

I still remember the first time I came to the Solomons Christmas Walk many years ago with my husband and a couple of friends. It seemed almost magical that evening. A light snow was falling as we traipsed from store to store munching cookies and drinking hot cider. The candle luminaries lit our way and added to the magic of the evening. We sang along with the carollers and visited the J. C. Lore Oyster House. Our last stop was the museum, where we toured the exhibits and sat on Santa’s lap. We felt like kids again!

This December, on Friday the thirteenth and Saturday the fourteenth, I hope that everyone has the opportunity to join us for the Solomons Christmas Walk and enjoy a little magic of their own. On Saturday afternoon, Santa will be at the Lore Oyster House taking last minute wishes from all of the children. A lighthouse keeper will be on duty in the Drum Point Lighthouse at the museum to transport you back to the holiday season of 1910. Carollers will be singing at the museum and around the island, as well as many other forms of entertainment. A full list of activities will be published soon.

The museum offers free admission during the Friday and Saturday evening hours of the Christmas Walk, and the museum store will be open, offering free gift wrap for your purchases. Don’t forget that museum members receive an extra 10 percent discount on most items in the museum store (for a total discount of 20 percent) during the evening hours of the Christmas Walk and also during the Members’ Yule Party.

The store is ready for all of the holiday shoppers with Christmas ornaments, cards, stocking stuffers, books, and special gifts. We have added many new items to our inventory, including jewelry, carved waterfowl decoys by Solomons’ residents Ed and Judy Green, pottery, and lighthouse lamps. We also have many new books in our inventory, such as Bay Beacons by Linda Turbyville; Sharks! The Mysterious Killers — a companion volume to the Discovery Channel’s Shark Week; Of Tide and Thyme, a cookbook by the Junior League of Annapolis; and for the children, Tousoose, the Story of a Canada Goose, by Priscilla Cummings.

We hope you have a magical holiday season!
OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBERS...

By Sybol Cook – Membership Coordinator

SOCIETY SNAPSHOT
Total Membership: 2,271
Corporate Members: 47
New Members: 96


TAKING MEMBERSHIP TO A HIGHER LEVEL are members who upgraded this quarter: Ms. Barbara Bickelhaupt, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blackman, Thomas & Beth Byrne, Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Dyke, Mrs. Mary Evans, David Fisher, Jack & Faye Hammett, Lynne & Katherine Harris, Dr. & Mrs. Edward Hinman, Richard & Sandra Holler, Mr. & Mrs. William Hopkins, Ms. Carol Inscoe, Mr. & Mrs. Carlin Jones, Ms. Mary Kilbourne, Bud & Rosemary Kilmon, William & Emilie Long, Violet & Robert Miller, Danny & Sheri Norris, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rigelski, Dennis & Mary Roderick, Mrs. Susan Ellsworth Shaw.

COOK’S CONUNDRUMS
Murphy’s ‘Laws

Each Thanksgiving, Mr. Murphy’s wife’s four cousins and their spouses visit for dinner. Cousins refer to cousins by middle names and to noncousins by first names. The noncousins refer to everyone by first names. Five people sit on each side of the table. Mr. Murphy’s chair is in the middle of one side. Each person makes a statement to Mr. Murphy, beginning with the person on his left and proceeding clockwise: (1) “My spouse sits between Lynn and Don.” (2) “I’m Alice; I married one of the cousins, Joe.” (3) “You’re seated next to my husband Preston.” (4) “My wife Wilma is directly opposite Cheryl.” (5) “Of the cousins, Lynn is tallest; I’m next, then Carolyn; Ann is shortest.” (6) “I’m Thomas; Sarah’s my wife.” (7) “My husband’s Jack.” (8) “Beth is directly opposite Ray.” (9) “Mary’s taller than Wilma but shorter than Ray.” Spouses sit on opposite sides of the table, but not directly opposite each other. No cousin sits next to another cousin. Who is who?

Win a prize! Send your diagrammed solution to Cook’s Conundrums, CMM, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, MD 20688.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY...

SOCIETY HOSPITALITY SUITE AT PRAD

MEMBERS’ YULE PARTY
Sunday, December 15, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
The museum’s favored holiday tradition features a brass quintet, Christmas carols, wagon rides, the traditional Weems Steamship Line eggnog toast, and SANTA! In the true spirit of the season, members are invited to share favorite holiday treats. Your culinary specialty, sweet or savory, is a gift everyone will treasure. The Yule Party’s growing popularity means limiting it to members only. To treat family and friends to this event (and a full year of fun) consider a gift membership. See the enclosed gift membership flyer for details, or call Sybol Cook, your membership coordinator, at 410-326-2042.

THE 1996 YEAR-END APPEAL
An Opportunity for Unrestricted Support
As the museum approaches the end of another wonderful year, we reflect gratefully upon the many ways you’ve shown your support for preserving and sharing Southern Maryland’s natural and cultural history. Most of you know that the year’s end also marks Calvert Marine Museum’s annual appeal for unrestricted gifts. Year-End Appeal gifts provide much-needed unrestricted funds for project expenses. In past years, for instance, the Year-End Appeal has facilitated exhibit repairs and has enabled us to add significant items to museum collections when those items were offered. You will receive in October a letter detailing how unrestricted gifts supported museum projects last year and how your 1996 Year-End Appeal gift will help meet current needs. All gifts are tax-deductible and will benefit museum projects directly. Be assured that your gift has a tremendous impact upon the museum’s ability to maintain responsiveness and excellence.

MEMBERS WRITE
“As future residents of Asbury-Sohmons, we thank you for the very special [Asbury] day, June 11th. The enthusiasm of those involved is understandable.

Most sincerely,
Marietta & John Sietz”
NEW MUSEUM ACTIVITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE — THE MARINERS’ GUILD

There has been a void in the museum. There is little for twelve-to-seventeen-year-olds to do. They are too old for programs such as Young Salts, and are not old enough to volunteer. The Education Department is correcting this by offering a new club for just this age group, to be called the Mariners’ Guild. The premise behind this club is to involve young people in such museum projects as helping with the Discovery Room, the Drum Point Lighthouse, and special events. From this experience they will gain an understanding of giving one’s time to a particular cause, as well as gaining important communication skills. In return for their assistance, they will enjoy special activities — behind-the-scenes tours, field trips, and presentations. Starting in the summer of 1997, participating guild members will have a week-long retreat, where as a group they will choose their own agenda.

There were two planning sessions held in August for potential members and their parents. It was decided that the guild will meet twice a month, with exact times and dates for these meetings yet to be established. Attendance at one of these meetings per month is required. The first official meeting of the guild was held on Saturday, September 11, with eight young participants and a few parents. A logo for the club was designed, as well as flyers that they could distribute to the public. At the end of the meeting the participants were given basic training and a tour of the Discovery Room by Jean Hooper.

The guild will be helping out the staff at the following upcoming events:

- Discovery Room Take-Apart (before the Bugeye Ball), Friday, September 20, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
- Discovery Room Put-Together, Saturday, September 21, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.
- Beach Clean-up, Thursday, September 26, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- PRAD, Saturday and Sunday, October 12 and 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you would like to be involved with the guild or know a young person who would like to become a member, please call Leslie Scher Brown, Volunteer Coordinator, at 410-326-2042.

VOLUNTEER COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

This year’s annual meeting of the Volunteer Council will be held on October 8, at 2:00 p.m., in the museum auditorium. This is an excellent opportunity to participate in the business of the council and the selection of officers. Although primarily for council members, others are invited to attend to learn about volunteer opportunities and responsibilities.

LATE NEWS

CMM’s volunteer Dorothy Ordwein will be Calvert County’s representative as one of “Maryland’s Most Beautiful People,” a state-wide program to honor volunteers. Dot’s twenty-five-year association with CMM was a major factor in her selection. Congratulations!