CMM’S NEWEST EXHIBIT OPENS

TREASURE FROM THE CLIFFS

By Michael D. Gottfried, Curator of Paleontology

The latest major milestone in CMM’s history took place on March 22 and 23 when our new three-thousand-square-foot paleontology exhibit, “Treasure from the Cliffs: Exploring Marine Fossils,” opened to museum members and then to the general public. This is the final of the three theme exhibits in the main exhibition building, opened in 1989, and the culmination of the ambitious master plan that has guided the museum’s development since 1978. As with the estuarine biology and maritime history exhibits, “Treasure” focuses on southern Maryland and the Chesapeake region — in this case the rich record of fossil marine life preserved in Calvert Cliffs and at other regional sites that were covered by the sea ten to twenty million years ago.

Museum visitors see a finished product, but are often unaware of the complex process and behind-the-scenes effort involved in developing a major exhibit such as “Treasure.” Initial work began several years ago, with a period of research and planning that included extensive surveying of museum visitors on their interests in and knowledge of fossils. We also visited other museums with new fossil halls, including the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque, the Tyrrell Museum in Alberta, Canada, and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. Staff at these institutions provided a great deal of helpful input, and seeing different styles of exhibitry and a variety of interpretive strategies helped us refine our approaches. Out of this initial period, we developed a conceptual design and established the basic content of the exhibit, taking into account our visitors’ interests and the knowledge gained from visiting the other museums. We focused on two primary goals: (1) to inform our visitors about the richness and diversity of regional Miocene fossils, and (2) to use the public’s intrinsic fascination with fossils as a means of introducing them to “science in action” — in this case, how scientists actually do paleontology, including field collecting, preparation, curation, research, and reconstructing ancient animals and environments.

The next big step, and one that every major museum project has in common, was raising the needed funds. We were very grateful to have generous support from CMM’s members, including our “Get a Piece of the Shark” fundraising drive, proceeds from two recent Bugeye Balls, and other individual donations. Corporate sponsorship from Mobil Oil and Washington Gas was also vital. CMM’s collaborative research with the South African Museum in Cape Town to produce the giant megatooth (Continued on Page 3)

CMM on the World Wide Web

The museum now has a presence on Internet! In fact, there are two locations for those who follow such things. The preferred site is maintained for the museum by the Southern Maryland Regional Library as part of its service to southern Maryland’s museums. Check out CMM at the following address (capitals are essential):


In addition to general information about the museum, the quarterly calendar will be available for those with Internet access. Another Web site is planned for CMM’s paleontology program, presently under development by an intern from St. Mary’s College, Carrie Horton. Details will appear in a future issue.
Each spring the Calvert Marine Museum is interested in learning of any sightings of live or dead sea turtles. These large turtles, primarily loggerheads, migrate occasionally into the Chesapeake Bay, especially in the spring. Although they are large (approximately two feet in diameter), the sea turtles we see are actually juveniles, about ten years old, which have just completed a migration here from the Sargasso Sea.

These turtles are often weakened from their long journey and are, unfortunately, struck by boats or die of other causes and then wash up on the beach. CMM wants to identify and measure any stranded sea turtles and will send the data to state and federal agencies that monitor turtle populations.

To verify that you have a sea turtle, check for the following:

1. Are the front feet flipper-like?
2. Is the turtle over one-foot long?
3. Is the turtle located at the bay or in a tidal tributary (not a pond)?
4. Is the turtle over five pounds?
5. Are there three or fewer claws on the front feet?

If most of the answers are “yes,” you probably have a sea turtle.

No sea turtles nest within the Chesapeake Bay, and any nesting turtles would be on a beach facing the open ocean, usually at night. Nesting sea turtles will be over three-feet long and over 150 pounds. The diamondback terrapin is the turtle most often reported as a sea turtle, since terrapins live in the bay. Terrapins are usually gray/black mottled, have five claws on the front feet, and do not have paddle-like feet. Terrapins resemble typical freshwater turtles.

If you see a sea turtle, please note the location and call Ken Kaumeyer at the museum. An attempt will be made to visit the site to determine the species, sex, size, and certain other information.

**STAFF NEWS**

Four new staff members joined CMM recently. Mrs. Teresa K. Baird will serve as an exhibits technician in the Exhibits Department. She comes to CMM from the Calvert County Cultural Arts Council where she was the administrative assistant. Mrs. Melissa Kersey McCormick has joined the Education Department as an educational assistant. In the summers of 1986 and 1987, she was the mate aboard the Wm. B. Tennison, and more recently has worked at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and in the Calvert County Public Schools. Ms. Barbara West is a new interpreter who will meet the public, and Ms. Renee Switzer is a temporary office clerk who answers most of the calls to the museum.
shark skeleton was supported by the American Association of Museum's International Partnership program. Our single largest source of funds was a grant of $173,500 from the National Science Foundation, which we were able to use in part to match a $100,000 bond bill from the state of Maryland.

With the needed funding secured, the more intense period of exhibit fabrication began in late 1994. This effort has been carried out by a diverse and very talented group, consisting of museum staff and a number of specialists brought in for particular needs (exhibit team personnel are listed at the end of this article). Particularly close attention was paid to making the replicated cliffs and re-created Miocene settings as realistic as possible. This was painstaking and time-consuming work that combined scientific accuracy with artistry to produce lifelike murals, three-dimensional habitat foregrounds, mounted skeletons, plants, lighting, sound effects, and graphics — all of which had to blend well to achieve the desired effect.

Now that “Treasure from the Cliffs” has opened, visitors can finally proceed through all three of the museum’s major exhibits in the intended order. “Treasure” sets the scene by interpreting and re-creating the marine environment of Maryland’s ancient Miocene sea, followed by “Estuary Patuxent” with its live exhibits showing present-day regional aquatic ecosystems, and concluding in “Maritime Patuxent” with the history of human activities on and around our local waterways. Together, these exhibits present a holistic view of this region’s natural and cultural history, the core of CMM’s mission to interpret our three themes — regional paleontology, estuarine life of the Patuxent River and adjacent Chesapeake Bay, and the maritime history of these waters.

As always seems to be the case with museum exhibits, we are never completely finished. Keep an eye out for interactive touch-screen computers that will be added to “Treasure” over the next several months, and for a future transitional area between the fossils and the aquariums that we think will be especially exciting — more on this to come!

**EXHIBIT TEAM:**

**Curator/Project Director:** Michael Gottfried; **Design:** Curt Bowman; **Fabrication:** James Langley, Denise Weller, Alan Manuel, James Edwards, Joseph Kangas; **Interpretive Strategy:** Lynne Warren; **Re-created Habitats:** John Macfarlane, Tim Scheirer, Bette Baumgarner, Chris Ray; **Murals:** Tim Scheirer; **Skeletal Mounts:** Connie Barut-Rankin; **Lighting Design:** Phil Anderson; **Audio and Video Production:** Soundwave, Acoustic Works, Cornell Library of Natural Sounds; **Consultants:** Linda Deck, Daryl Domning, Daphne Harrison, Paula Schaedlich, Leonard Compagno.
SEASON TO BEGIN ON MAY 1

CMM’s historic bugeye and passenger boat, the Wm. B. Tennison, will begin the cruising season on Thursday, May 1, 1997. Hour-long cruises of the Solomons harbor and the lower Patuxent River are offered from May through October, departing from the Drum Point Lighthouse at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, weather permitting. On Saturdays and Sundays in July and August, the Tennison offers an additional run at 12:30 p.m. Boarding for scheduled cruises will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with no minimum number of passengers, but a maximum of forty-five. For more information about regular cruises call CMM on 410-326-2042, or to inquire about chartering the Tennison, call 410-326-8217.

On two Tuesdays in July, the 15th and 29th, there will be a special excursion on each of those days planned on board the Tennison. These day-long trips will focus on the role of the Patuxent River in the War of 1812, and will include a visit to one of the sunken vessels of Commodore Joshua Barney’s flotilla. Passengers will be able to view the work in progress of the field school excavating the site and meet one of the archaeologists. Lunch on board will be provided. Details will be available in the next issue of the Bugeye Times. For further information call Karen Stone at 410-326-8217.

Winter concerts were popular during February and early March, held in CMM’s auditorium. Mary Ann Redmond, jazz/blues vocalist, entertained at two concerts on February 15, and “Eddie from Ohio” at two shows on March 1. Further concerts in the Waterside Music Series are listed in the calendar.
OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBERS . . .
By Sybol Cook – Membership Coordinator

SOCIETY SNAPSHOT
Total Membership: 2,176
Corporate Members: 51
New Members: 49

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! A hearty welcome to the forty-nine new members who joined the society last quarter! Special thanks to these new premium level members: Contributing – Kathryn & Kenneth Bogdan, Ed & Judy Green, R. M. Harris, Duane Heidemann, Jim & Ann Mulder; Sustaining – Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Crosby, David & Laurie Meiser; Corporate Associate – Moms in the Kitchen, NetPro, Inc.

TAKING MEMBERSHIP TO A HIGHER LEVEL are these members who upgraded their memberships last quarter: Mrs. Christiana Alexander, Ann & David Brownlee, Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Caddy, Mark Caggiano & Karen Crawford, Mr. & Mrs. Skipwith Calvert, Sue Chabot, Ralph Chapman & Linda T. Deck, Robert Falke, Magda Freeman, Fred & Dianne Gebhard, Bruce & Karla Gentile, Thomas Gwynn, John J. Hurley, Mary & Tom Konrad, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Litz, Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Lusby, Nancy & Kent Mountford, Robert Pfeiffer & Shirley Mihursky, W. R. Roebling, John Santic, Richard & Margery Schnappauf, Dr. & Mrs. David H. Secor, Charles Scares, Sue Veith & John Rheem, Raymond Tanner, Mr. & Mrs. Thurland Wilkinson.

COOK’S CONUNDRUM’S ——————
What’s in a Name?
Inquiring minds want to know! How did the “bugeye” sailing vessel earn its unusual name?

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

MARITIME HISTORY NOTES
A curious sidelight to the history of the Weems Steamboat Line came to light recently when Richard Dodds, CMM's curator of maritime history, noted in the Calvert Gazette of May 20, 1893, a reference to “A Handsome Memorial” in Grace Episcopal Church in Baltimore honoring Mason Locke Weems and his wife Matilda Sparrow Weems. Mr. Weems was the founder and owner of the Weems Steamboat Company who died in 1874. The memorial — a baptismal font — was presented to the church in 1894 by Mrs. Sydney H. Forbes, daughter of Mr. Weems, and at that time a co-owner of the line with her sister, Mrs. Henry Williams. The article described how the memorial was to be sculpted in Scotland from a single block of white Carrara marble by an unidentified sculptor, copying from a similar memorial Mrs. Forbes had seen in the cathedral in Inverness, Scotland, which in turn was copied from an original in the Dom Cathedral in Copenhagen, Denmark.

On a later trip to Baltimore, Mr. Dodds photographed the memorial that is still in Grace Church, and then provided the current church officials with the background information that was not known to them. The Weems Line played an important role in the history of Solomons and the Patuxent River, as described in detail in Dr. David C. Holly’s book, Tidewater by Steamboat: A Saga of the Chesapeake, published in 1991 as a joint venture of the Johns Hopkins University Press and the Calvert Marine Museum. The book is for sale in the Museum Store for $29.95.

The Maritime History Department has been fortunate this spring in having help from an intern from St. Mary’s College, Kate Marks. Ms. Marks has cataloged a number of artifacts in the maritime history collections and recorded information from the Patuxent River Maritime Industries oral history records that date from the early 1980s. Before completing her internship in May, Ms. Marks will also complete a project in the museum’s archives.

Museum Loses Long-Time Supporter, Elizabeth M. Kriel
Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh Kriel, related to several Solomons families, died in Baltimore on February 11. Mrs. Kriel, 82, was the daughter of Joseph Elmore Marsh, granddaughter of the prominent Solomons blacksmith Charles Lyman Marsh, granddaughter of early store owner George W. Hayward, and great-granddaughter of Capt. Thomas Moore, owner of an important nineteenth-century shipyard on the island. Although she did not live in the county, she maintained regular contacts with relatives here and had a great interest in the area’s history, donating many photographs and archival materials to CMM, as well as supporting the museum through membership in the Bugeye Society. Mrs. Kriel, who married the late Edwin L. Kriel in 1938, is survived by her son, Dr. Edwin Hayward Kriel.
YEAR-END APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS FOR 1996

The boards of the Calvert Marine Museum and the Calvert Marine Museum Society, the director, and the staff thank the following 185 donors to the 1996 Year-End Appeal for their contributions of nearly $14,500, a significant increase over the 1995 appeal. This support will add measurably to the museum’s ability to carry out educational and other important programs in 1997.

Calvert Marine Museum Society presents in outdoor concert...

The BAYSIDE TOYOTA
Waterside Music Series

The Neville Brothers
with Aaron Neville
Special guests ~ The Mary Ann Redmond

Saturday, May 24 7:30 p.m.

For Information Call: 410-326-4881

To Buy Tickets:
✓ Mail or Fax order form to CMM
✓ Purchase at CMM Gift Shop, 10:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily
✓ Telephone credit card charges, Call 1-800-787-9450

All Sales Final • No Refunds or Exchanges • Gates Open 6:30 p.m. • No Coolers or Lawn Chairs

Sponsored in part by: Bayside Toyota, 97.7- The Bay, DM Group, Calvert Marina Chesapeake Publishing Group, Carmen’s Gallery, Holiday Inn-Select Solomons, Main Message Center, Mom’s in the Kitchen, Lighthouse Inn, New Bay Times-Weekly, Coors, Coors Light, Samuel Adams, and Jones Communications

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P.O. Box 97, Solomons, MD 20688
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT —
Recognition Luncheon Honors 1996 Volunteer

About eighty of CMM’s volunteers gathered on March 2 at the Southern Community Center in Lusby to enjoy a buffet luncheon in their honor, recognizing volunteer contributions made during 1996. Because of the increasing number of museum volunteers and the popularity of this annual luncheon, it was necessary to move the event to a new location from the Solomons Island Yacht Club where it was held in former years. Catered by Moms in the Kitchen and served by the museum staff members — who also prepared the excellent desserts — this year’s luncheon again provided an opportunity for staff to thank volunteers for their service.

A special treat for volunteers this year was to hear from someone outside of the museum how important the museum is to Calvert County and how volunteers play an essential role in its success. Mr. Arthur Brisson, executive director of the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce, explained that Southern Maryland’s economy depends to a great extent on visitations to our many recreational, cultural, and natural resources — with CMM a prime tourist attraction. Citizen participation through volunteering is recognized by the local governments and businesses as very important to area success.

As in past years, each department head presented certificates and new badges, as appropriate, for the hours worked by volunteers. Those recognized for one hundred hours or more in 1996 were: Paul Adams, Doris Berry, Paul Berry, Cynthia Bonora, Laura Cole, Melvin Conant, Beth Davis, Jackie Donaldson, Mike Ellwood, Robert Fleming, Dan Grosso, Bob Hall, George Halvosa, Liz Halvosa, Darryl Hansen, Kit Kearney, Dede King, Mary Konrad, Tom Konrad, Bill Lake, Al Lavish, Zelma Margelos, Buck McClellan, Kay McClellan, Don Miller, Pat Miller, Gladys Osborne, Gale Parks, Eleanor Prince, Carey Randall, Sandy Roberts, Jim Robinson, Marilyn Ruark, Margaret Saville, Ruth Showalter, Albert Snelson, Cheryl Snelson, Edward Sprague, Pat Sprague, Joan Sweeney, Doris Sweet, Ginny Thayer, Bev Walker, Debbie Walker, Gayle Wichers, Margie Wilbar, and Shirley Wilder. New badges with appropriate stars were awarded to those volunteers whose total service now exceeds 1,000 hours: Zelma Margelos, 3,034.3; Bill Lake, 2,704.5; Al Lavish, 2,577.75; Ruth Showalter, 2,096.75; Marilyn Ruark, 1,256.25; and Dan Grosso, 1,023.7.

The volunteer achievement award for this year went to Bill Lake who also accumulated the greatest number of volunteer hours for the year: 824. Bill’s work was actually spread over three departments: Maritime History, Estuarine Biology, and Paleontology. His award, presented by director Doug Alves, included a special certificate, a new lunch sack, and the nomination for Maryland’s Governor’s Volunteer Award.

ANOTHER AWARD FOR THE BUGEYE TIMES

For the second consecutive year the Printing Industry of Maryland has presented its 1997 Print Quality Award for the best newsletter to Heritage Printing and Graphics for producing the Bugeye Times. This honor is a tribute to the successful partnership that has been developed between Heritage and CMM for more than ten years.