Fossil Exhibit
Now Open

The Museum's newest exhibit, FOSSILS OF CALVERT CLIFFS is now open to the public after a special well-attended preview for members on May 18. This is the largest exhibit of its kind on Miocene marine fossils.

Highlights include a 7x10-foot photo mural of Calvert Cliffs; a half scale model of the largest true bird ever to live on earth, PELAGORNIS, the false-toothed bird which had a wing span of 18 to 22 feet; and a 10 x 12-foot mural depicting the 12-million year old Calvert Sea and the animals which lived in it.

Several fossil whale and porpoise skulls, shark teeth, crabs, shells, and other Miocene fossils are on exhibit.

Formal dedication ceremonies will be held on September 22, at 7:45 p.m. See your calendar of events in this issue.

Early Remembrances of a Sailboat Captain

The end of the oyster tonging season in the early days of this century did not necessarily mean the end of boats and water for an enterprising waterman of the Patuxent River. There were a number of possibilities. One might "run herring," engage in the Eastern Shore trade, freight a variety of goods to Baltimore's markets, even build boats. James Webster Dixon of Olivet on Mill Creek, was one of those enterprising captains who over the years engaged in several of these activities.

THE HERRING RUN

From the time the herring run began in March until late May, Cap'm Webster Dixon and his crew were in the fish running business. A heavy demand existed among the farmers of St. Mary's County from Cuckold's Creek to Trent Hall for fish to feed their tenants and hired field laborers. Cap'm Philip Vail of Solomons, who regularly fished ten to twelve pound nets stretched from Cove to Cedar Points, supplied the fish; Webster Dixon, among others, engaged in supplying the fish to the Patuxent River farmers.

Leaving home on Mill Creek in complete darkness, Cap'm Dixon arrived at Vail's pound nets by dawn where he loaded his log canoe "LAURA" with as many as 23,000 herring for which he paid $1.00 per thousand. The route up the Patuxent along the St. Mary's side included stops at Cuckold's Creek, Sotterly, Sandgates, Horse Landing, Persimmon Creek, and Trent Hall. Sales were made at these stops on designated days. Farmers, alerted to the day for their landing, arrived by ox cart or wagon filling up every conceivable kind of container with herring at $2.50 per thousand. At Persimmon Creek, Thomas Holton, a black man, acted as agent for Dixon, drumming up trade among the inland farmers. During the season an individual farmer may have bought as many as 15,000 herring, salting them down for later consumption. No other kind of meat could be supplied to large numbers of people so cheaply. Herring were cheap; the more expensive shad and rock fish were boxed in ice and shipped three times a week by steamboat to Baltimore's fish markets.

(Cont'd on Page 2)
EARLY REMEMBRANCES
(Cont’d from Page 1)
THE EASTERN SHORE TRADE

When the herring run was over, it was time for the strawberry season to open on the Eastern Shore. Large numbers of pickers were needed for the harvesting of the fragile fruit at the moment of ripeness. The Western Shore supplied a number of these pickers. The quickest, cheapest, and easiest way to get over there was by boat and soon the LAURA was crossing the Bay to Crisfield with men and older boys from the Coster area to pick berries in the fields around Hopewell and Marion.

The harvesting season lasted two or three weeks, but Cap’in Dixon did not stay in Crisfield for the duration. The trip back home could not be an empty one, so he loaded ice in the hold of the log canoe and delivered it to the ice house at Solomons. Since almost all ice came from Maine by schooner trade, that arriving from Crisfield was welcomed. It had not had time to melt so much.

In addition to the Eastern Shore providing work, it was also the source of building materials. Before 1915 there was no lumber yard in Calvert County where finished building materials could be purchased. Using his small log canoe, the AMELIA, Webster Dixon crossed the Bay to Salisbury and the Adkins Lumber Company. From there he freighted back to Solomons all the flooring, windows, and doors used in the building of Cap’m Vail’s large house. Other houses in Olivet and Solomons were likewise supplied. In 1915 the Lyons and Gibson Lumber Company of Huntingtown was formed, but the Adkins Company of Salisbury built its own wharf at Holland’s Cliffs and thereafter served the Huntingtown firm with its finished products. Even then, log canoes and bugeyes from the Solomons area continued to go to Salisbury for millwork; the Chesapeake Bay was easier to navigate than the dirt roads of Calvert County.

Other men in other boats did similar work, but each maintained his integrity as an individual willing to be challenged and to accept the risks of captains his own boat on the broad reaches of the Patuxent River or the Chesapeake Bay.

Tennison Schedule

Cruises on the 1899 bugeye WM. B. TENNISON, the oldest certified passenger carrying vessel in the Chesapeake Bay, are now available through October 21, 1979.

One hour cruises around Solomons Harbor leave the Museum dock, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 3:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.; adults $3.00, children under 12, $2.00, children under 5 are free.

In addition, there are three hour cruises on the beautiful Patuxent River Saturday and Sunday at 4:00 p.m.; adults $7.00, children under 12, $4.00 and children under 5 are free.

CMM members receive a 10 percent discount.

Special charter cruises are also available at $50.00 an hour. For further information contact Capt. Bill Hall, (301) 326-3719 or write the Museum.

WHALES SIGHTED

Although a little rough in the morning, those of you who missed the May 5 pelagic bird trip missed out on a rare experience. Over thirty persons spent the day traveling nearly seventy miles off Ocean City to Baltimore Canyon to waters over 400 meters in depth.

(Cont’d on Page 3)
WHALES SIGHTED
(Cont’d from Page 2)

Sixteen fin whales were spotted, several surfacing only fifty feet from the vessel. On the way home two Atlantic white-sided dolphin played in the bow wake.

Several pelagic birds were observed including: Artic Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, Sooty Shearwater, Gannet, Red and Northern Phalarope, and Wilson Storm Petrel. Several shore birds were also seen far off shore and probably lost; Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Ruddy Turnstone, and Lesser Yellowlegs.

It is indeed unusual to observe as many whales as close to the vessel as this trip provided. If enough interest is generated a repeat trip can be arranged.

NEW RESIDENTS
(Cont’d from Page 2)

lighthouse was moved, a Barn Owl lived in the water tank of the dining room. Not easily displaced, the owl retained his unique home right up to the day the lighthouse was finally moved.

Nearly every spring a pair of Osprey begin nest-building around the cupola balcony but the large numbers of human visitors successfully frightened the Osprey away to build a nest at some other, no doubt, less desirable location.

Now if we could only find a way of keeping birds from nesting in the Small Craft Shed.

ACQUISITIONS

DULLY RAWLS: U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Light House Service clothing.
LEONARD DELOZIER: Blanket, knife, fork, and napkin holder from U.S. Light House Service Ship WISTERIA.
THOMAS WALSH: III: 20 antique marine outboard engines.
EDWARD EDDLEMAN: Binoculars, thermometer, and barometer.
SOLOMONS ISLAND YACHT CLUB: Six signal flags, 1 set of racing flags, and signal cannon.
ROBERT EARLES: Indian mortar stone.
MRS. RUSSELL KETCHUM: Hand drill and wood plane.
EARL STANTON: C1900 moulding and wood working lathe.
ALICE MURPHREE: Watercolor of working lathe.
J. J. WILBAR: Sport fishing equipment and diving equipment.

INTRA-MUSEUM LOANS

POTOMAC RIVER MUSEUM: Loan of Indian artifacts from CMM collection.
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, Smithsonian Institution: Donation of 5 slabs with fossil brittle stars from CMM collection.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

BALTIMORE GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY: A 7x10 ft. mural of Calvert Cliffs for new exhibit room.

NOTICE

The Museum has just published its most recent educational booklet, “FOSSILS OF CALVERT CLIFFS” by Wallace Ashby. Available for $1.50, the booklet is a popular account of the prehistoric history of Miocene fossils from the Southern Maryland area.

Orders by mail should include 50 cents for postage and handling.

SUMMER CALENDAR AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All programs begin at the Museum at 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted. All programs are free to members and $1.00 to non-members unless otherwise noted. For additional information call D. Ordwein, 326-4162.

JULY

11 OIL SPILL CLEANUP AND MOSQUITO CONTROL. Lecture and demonstration of new techniques developed as a result of the research done by the U.S. Navy. The speaker, Mr. William Barger, is a research chemist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington.

27 MOVIE NIGHT. Fin Fever, Bugs and Bass, Take Two From The Sea. Films related to the taking of seafood from our waters. Docents will be on duty in the Museum’s exhibit room from 7:00 p.m. Films begin at 8:15 p.m.

14-29 LADY KATIE Skipjack Cruises continue with a few open spaces. Call 326-4162 for information.

AUGUST

3 STRIPED BASS. A lecture by Dr. Joseph A. Mihursky of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

11-19 LADY KATIE Skipjack Cruises continue with a few open spaces. Call 326-4162 for information.

21 MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHESAPEAKE. A lecture on the ecology of the Bay and the Patuxent River by Dr. Eugene Cronin, Chesapeake Research Consortium.

31 MOVIE NIGHT. Challenge of the Ocean. Film related to the variety of life in the sea, their relation to one another and man’s dependence on them. Docents will be on duty in the Museum’s exhibit rooms from 7:00 p.m. Film begins at 8:15 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

8 RADIO CONTROLLED MODEL SAILBOAT RACING. View races from the Museum waterfront and Lighthouse. Closing event of the day will be a race between Mel Conant and Pepper Langley. Watch local newspapers for details.

21 THE ROLE OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PILOT. A lecture by Captain Patrick Lynch of the Maryland Association of Bay Pilots.

22 FOSSILS OF CALVERT CLIFFS. Formal dedication. Refreshments will be served.

28 MOVIE NIGHT. Sense of Wonder. Narrated by Helen Hayes, is based on Rachel Carson’s writings. Docents on duty in exhibit rooms at 7:00 p.m. Film begins at 7:45 p.m.

29 CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL CLIPPER TRIP. Take a trip back through time by riding on a canal barge. The canal originally ran from Washington, D.C. to Cumberland. Partially restored, it (Cont’d on Page 4)
SUMMER CALENDAR
(Cont'd from Page 3)

offers a pleasant outing. Museum members $7.50, non-members, $10.00. Advanced registration required no later than September 10.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS
JULY 18 THROUGH AUGUST 22, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring your own sandwich; beverages will be provided.

SIX CONSECUTIVE WEEKS - a program of varied activities (movies, hands-on experiences in the Museum, field trips, and skills development) designed to interest all ages. An advance enrollment fee of $5.00 for members and $7.50 for non-members assures a place in all six sessions. Individual sessions are available for $1.50 members and $2.50 non-members. Since enrollment is limited early registration is encouraged.

WOODCARVING CLASS
July 18 through August 22 (6 sessions)
Begin with a simple nameboard and progress through additional carving projects as skill and time permit. Qualify for membership in the John Olsen Chapter of the American Shipcarvers Guild which meets year round at the Museum.

NAUTICAL SKILLS LABORATORY
July 18. Demonstrations of a variety of nautical skills; model making, knotting, eel and crab pot construction. Plan with instructor for additional sessions if needed.

A DAY WITH FOSSILS
July 25. Guided tour of the new paleontology exhibit room; hands-on session of instruction in identification and classification of fossils, use of teaching games on paleontology included. A field trip for collecting fossils as a follow-up experience.

ESTUARINE STUDIES
August 1. After viewing audio-visuals on the importance of wetlands to the food chain, field experiences will give participants opportunity to examine life in the marsh, creek, river and Bay.

CANOEING FOR BEGINNERS
August 8. Learn basic water-safety techniques as well as how to handle a canoe. Possibility for a day-long trip.

SPORT FISHING
August 15. Learn to rig a line for a variety of situations; some hints for selecting time and location to fish; spend part of day practicing.

CATCH-UP DAY
August 22. Time allowed for follow-up experiences in activities already begun in previous sessions.

RESERVATION FORM

□ Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Trip  □ Weekly Wednesdays 6 sessions
  $ 7.50 members  $5.00 members
  $10.00 non-members  $6.50 non-members

Total Amount Enclosed
$_________________________

Make checks payable to:
PROGRAMS
Calvert Marine Museum
P.O. Box 97
Solomons, Md. 20688

Name _____________________
Address ____________________
City ________________________
Zip ________________________
Phone ______________________

The BUGEYE TIMES is the quarterly newsletter for members of the Calvert Marine Museum. Named for the traditional Bay sailing craft, the bugeye was built in all its glory at Solomons, "Bugeye Capital" of the world.

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM
Solomons, Maryland 20688
Tel: 301-326-3719
A Quarterly Newsletter for Members of the Calvert Marine Museum

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PERMIT NO. 35
PRINCE FREDERICK, MARYLAND