MARINE LIFE REVISITED:  
An Update on the CMM Estuarium

In the year and a half since the museum’s estuarium exhibit opened in February 1992, the expected popularity of this estuarine exhibit has been clearly proved. Visitors are captivated by the various aquariums, their live occupants, and the interesting and colorful interpretative panels. There have been a few additions to the aquariums since the exhibit first opened, including black drum and black sea bass. Estuarium staff are now finishing work on a new jellyfish tank. Although most of us are not particularly fond of having a sea nettle wrapped around our legs, they are beautiful and fascinating animals when exhibited in an aquarium. So if you have not visited CMM in the past few months, plan a visit this summer.

Please Touch: A Hands-On Exhibit

Visitors during the summer months of 1992 — and on many weekends this past winter—enjoyed the touch tank located at the end of the estuarium. This tank is exactly what its name implies — a chance to actually touch some of the interesting marine life of the Patuxent watershed. Although the available animals may change from season to season, there is usually a terrapin or turtle, a horseshoe crab, fiddler crabs, and a display of live specimens to view under a microscope. Children are especially anxious — with some trepidation at times! — to touch and handle the animals that they usually see only behind glass or from a distance. Don’t miss the touch tank when you visit the estuarium. Unfortunately, the staffing of the touch tank depends on the availability of volunteers. Although the tank is usually staffed on weekends during the summer, it is not always possible to keep it open during the week. BUT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP: volunteer opportunities are open, if you might be interested. It helps, of course, if you enjoy working with marine animals and explaining their natural history to the public. If so, the staff of the estuarine biology department will provide some basic training so you can feel at home with the touch tank assignment. Please call Layne Bergin or Ken Kaumeyer at the museum for further details.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Maintaining the live exhibits in the estuarium is an around-the-clock activity, seven days a week. Museum staff members perform most of the behind-the-scenes work, but there are ways in which volunteers with a few spare hours may help out. At the moment these volunteer opportunities are filled, but call Layne Bergin for more information and to register your interest in this type of volunteer work.

The Otters Really Are Coming!

The original planning of the early 1980s for the estuarium exhibit in the Exhibition Building included an exhibit area for river

Continued to page 3

LATE NEWS

The Wm. B. Tennison should return to service in mid-July after extensive repairs. Beginning on Wednesday, July 14, Tennison cruises will leave CMM at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday, weather permitting. During July and August, the Tennison will make an additional trip at 12:30 p.m. (Only on weekends). All trips, however, will require a minimum of fifteen passengers. The vessel may also be chartered for special events when not on regular cruises. In the meantime, the Stars and Stripes makes a 2:00 p.m. cruise from the museum each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and may be chartered in the mornings. For details and charters, call CMM on (410) 326-8217.

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The following have joined the CMM staff recently: Beuna Weems, custodian; Panson Denis, Rhoda Switzer, and Tom Ostertag, admission clerks; and summer interpreters Ken Coggeshall and Steve Ruff.

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FOSSIL FACTS: STINGRAYS AND HAPPY TOADSTONES

By Sandy Roberts

Fossils and folklore have a long history of togetherness. Throughout the Middle Ages, fossilized toothplates of stingrays were thought to be stones that grew on the foreheads of toads. While not as potent as the horn of a unicorn, these toothplates nevertheless were believed to possess powerful magical and medicinal properties. Elaborate and precise techniques were prescribed for persuading the toad to relinquish his precious stone. First of all, the toadstone had to be taken from the head of an old toad while he was alive. Not only old and alive, but also old, alive, and happy, otherwise the stone would lose its power. This feat was achieved by placing before the toad a piece of red cloth — red being the favorite color of frogs and toads. Strangely enough, this is true — many a modern mill-pond frog has been caught on a fish hook baited with a bit of red ribbon. The toad, seeing the red cloth, would be filled with joy and would jump happily upon it and the magic toadstone would fall from his forehead through a hole in the cloth into a bowl of cold water hidden beneath. The cold water was most necessary, otherwise the frog would snatch up his fallen stone and replace it on his forehead.

Toadstones were worn in rings and lockets. They were thought to be sure indicators of poison, immediately changing color in its presence in any shape or form. Crushed and taken internally, they would break up bladder stones, would prevent epilepsy, and, according to Edward Topsell's 1608 History of Serpents, would "prevent all manner of gripings and pains of the belly and small guts."

Bits and pieces of broken stingray toothplates are common fossils on the shores of the Chesapeake. Stingrays use the toothplates, which are arranged in rows in the top and bottom of the mouth, to grind up shellfish, their favorite food. Perhaps we would all be wise to tuck one in our pocket, just in case!

1994 MARITIME ENGLAND TRIP

For romantics who love the sea — how about a great adventure? Spring 1994 will find the Calvert Marine Museum sponsoring "Down to the Seas Again: Exploring the Seafaring Legacy of Southern England." This will be a memorable trip for those who would like to see the uniquely English way of life and to explore the heritage of the sea.

This program is particularly suitable for travelers who hate the routine of standard tour offerings. The itinerary includes a beginning and end in London, with visits to historic Plymouth, Exeter, and Portsmouth — all highlighting England's seagoing legacy. This trip will be paced for comfort to allow plenty of time for shopping, visiting the local pub, or taking afternoon tea.

Inserted in this issue of the Bugeye Times you will find additional information and a detailed itinerary. The trip price includes a donation of $200 to the museum to help build our programs and exhibits. If you are interested in participating in what promises to be a most exciting experience, at the same time helping CMM keep alive our own maritime heritage, please contact Lord Addison Travel at P. O. Box 3307, Peterborough, New Hampshire, 03458.
otters, native to the creeks and marshes of the Patuxent River. When the Exhibition

Building opened, a fundraising campaign for the estuarium exhibit used the slogan “The Otters are Coming,” and incorporated this slogan in several mailing pieces and even on T-shirts and sweat shirts appropriately illustrated. Due to the cost and complexity of the otter exhibit, the estuarium was constructed in two phases, with initial focus on the indoor aquariums. During the past year Ken Kaumeyer, curator of estuarine biology, and Curt Bowman, curator of exhibits, have worked with consultants and various governmental agencies to develop the final plans for the otters. This exhibit, funded with the generous support of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, will be entirely outside of the Exhibition Building, at the southeast corner near the marsh walk and the freshwater pond. An otter pool will have both above- and below-water viewing, a sandy beach, and a river bank background. There will be a state-of-the-art, ozone-bromine life support system to maintain high standards of water quality for the otters. Project bids will soon be sought, leading to contracting and construction in the months ahead. Two young female otters have been located in Louisiana and will arrive at the museum this fall.

ANOTHER BUGEYE BALL SET FOR FALL

Once again the Calvert Marine Museum Society will be holding the very popular and major fundraising dinner dance, the Bugeye Ball, on Friday, October 1, at the Holiday Inn in Solomons. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a glamorous evening of dining and dancing, while at the same time supporting an important CMM project that is not in the county budget. Invitations will be mailed later in the summer, but in the meantime, sponsors are sought. Individuals and businesses interested in sponsorship should call the Development Office for details. Sponsors contributing $500 and above will be named in the ball program. Proceeds from the 1993 Bugeye Ball will be designated to benefit the new fossil hall, the final major project of the museum’s first twenty-five years. This exciting and innovative exhibit — “A Window in Time: Maryland in the Miocene” — will feature a dramatic full-sized replica of a portion of the Calvert Cliffs; a depiction of Maryland’s coastline of fifteen million years ago; a re-created underwater habitat with a giant forty-foot-long fossil Great White Shark, whales, and dolphins; and will include a working fossil laboratory. Enjoy an evening at the Bugeye Ball and help the museum to bring ancient Maryland back to life!

Betty Foyle

Cmm lost a valued volunteer with the death of Betty Foyle in May. During the past three years Betty worked faithfully each week in the library, filing newspaper clippings and newsletters. A memorial fund to benefit the library has been established in her name. Contributions may be sent to the CMM membership Office.

MUSEUM STORE YARD SALE A SUCCESS

CMM’s first annual yard sale, managed by the museum store and held on Patuxent Family Discovery Day on May 1, was most successful, netting over $1,100. There are plans to make it a regular spring fundraiser, with collection from members ongoing throughout the year.

Thanks to all who donated items, baked for the bake sale, volunteered their time, and spent some money. It was real team effort in the best tradition of the Calvert Marine Museum.
Melvin A. Conant, Solomons Island Model Boat Club member, explains the fine points of his radio-controlled model to young visitors at CMM's Patuxent Family Discovery Day, May 1.

Photo by Tom Hall

A reception for members of the Maryland Humanities at CMM on May 14, 1993. Here Paula Johnson, Rick Bailey (left) and George Tilghman (right).

Installation of exhibit cases in new library space, Ad

Children enjoy "Chessie" at CMM's Patuxent Family Discovery Day, May 1
Photo by Tom Hall
Activities

Council was held following the council's meeting of the council, talks with CMM board members

Photo by Tom Hall

Work on the Wm. B. Tennison at Zahniser's Sailing Center, spring 1993.

Photo by Tom Hall

Participants in the "Oyster House Row," part of the activities on CMM's Patuxent Family Discovery Day, May 1.

Photo by Jack Krolak

Administration Building.

Photo by Robert Hurry
**SPRING 1993: A Move To Remember**

Museum staff and volunteers will remember the spring of 1993 as a period of sore backs and bruised knuckles, but also with great satisfaction as they saw the results of the long-awaited completion of space in the renovated Solomons School—now the museum’s Administration Building. Occupying the renovated space justified the frustration of delays. Fundraising for this renovation began nearly nine years ago, and architectural planning went on during a similar time period. Opening of the Exhibition Building in January 1989 made it possible to begin serious work on the renovation, with the removal from the building of exhibits, offices, library, and storage during early 1989. With complete funding achieved in late 1991, and with preparation of plans and bid documents in early 1992, it was finally possible to contract for construction work in the late spring of 1992. Although there are still a few construction items to complete, the CMM Administration Building is now “open for business.”

Following the permission to occupy the building and delivery of furniture in late March, moving of offices from the North Annex began. Library stacks were installed in April, and the move from the East Annex of the library and archives began late in the month, continuing for several weeks. Installation of movable filing systems for the paleontology and maritime history collections began in June, with the moves of these collections to follow.

Earlier issues of the *Bugeye Times* have included articles listing the activities planned for the Administration Building. While much of the building is devoted to behind-the-scene staff activities—exhibits, estuarine laboratory, maritime and paleontology storage—museum visitors are welcome in the museum office and in the library, both located on the first floor. Signs will direct visitors from the parking area to the entrance to the building. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

**Library and Archives**

Of considerable interest to museum visitors will be the library and archives, now located in the entire west half (front) of the first floor in facilities with comfortable space for research and adequate housing for collections. This new space emphasizes the important role of the library in its support for museum programs of collecting and interpreting the three themes to which CMM is committed. Although this is not a circulating collection, visitors are welcome to use the materials in the library area. Since it is staffed chiefly by volunteers, users are urged to make appointments in advance by calling the museum, but drop-ins will be accommodated whenever possible. For the present, the library hours are the same as those of the museum office.

The new library/archives facility consists of three parts: the central reading area with reading tables, the card catalog, a copying machine, and a microform reading machine; the library stacks are to the south; and the archives stacks and files are to the north. These areas are separated by walls of built-in glass exhibit cases, so designed that the reading area can still be used even though the stack areas are secured.

CMM’s library now contains over 4,500 cataloged books and pamphlets, predominantly on the three museum themes. Maritime themes, including the maritime industries and cruising literature, comprise forty-five percent of the collections; the related local history of the Chesapeake Bay area makes up fifteen percent; paleontology and Maryland geology comprise twenty percent; estuarine sciences, natural history, and ecology constitute fifteen percent; and Chesapeake Bay fiction, one percent. Staff needs are supported by some basic works on museum topics—exhibits, education, conservation, administration, and development—making up four percent of the collection. There are very few general reference books since the local public libraries provide these works. Bibliographic access to the cataloged collections is through a standard card catalog—authors, titles, and subjects—with books shelved according to the Abridged Dewey Decimal classification scheme. In addition to the cataloged works, there are several hundred works awaiting full cataloging, but accessible by finding lists.

Magazines are also collected by the library, with the chief emphasis on maritime and local history. These holdings at present total some 225 bound volumes and several thousand unbound issues. A few of the magazines provide indexes, but contents are not otherwise listed. With only limited funds for binding, the museum’s holdings are mostly in separate issues.

The museum’s archives collections developed gradually, consisting chiefly of records of local businesses. Examples of such records are: M. M. Davis & Son Shipyard; J. C. Lore and Sons Oyster Company; J. C. Webster store; Sollers and...
Dowell Sea Food Company at Sollers; Orem Lowery Sea Food at Broomes Island; the F. & H. Benning Oyster and Lime Company at Galesville; and the Albert E. Brown and Brothers, Sailmakers, at Winona. There are also some personal scrapbooks, research notes for books, and similar materials. The archives holdings also include boat plans (many from the Davis shipyard), plans of both the Drum Point and Cove Point lighthouses, and numerous maps and charts.

Photographs play another important role in the archival history collected by CMM. Over eight thousand general photographic prints and negatives are held, with most of them cataloged and available for research use; over 2,600 color slides have been listed. A large folk life and oral history collection includes another 8,500 black and white negatives and 8,000 color slides. Copies of many of the museum’s photographs are available for a fee, but specific requests should be discussed with the curator of maritime history, Richard Dodds.

The museum is always interested in adding to its library and archives collections in any of the major fields. Early sets of boating magazines, such as Yachting, Rudder, and Forest and Stream would be particularly useful, as would books in the natural sciences, geology, and paleontology. Further information about the museum’s library, archives, and photographic services may be obtained by calling the museum on (410) 326-2042.

Rededication of Solomons School Building

No new building or major construction is complete without a formal dedication, and CMM’s Administration Building is no exception. On Friday, September 24, 1993, state and county officials will join museum staff and visitors in a formal ceremony to rededicate the former Solomons School. This ceremony not only marks the opening of the renovated Administration Building, but also recognizes three other significant museum events: (1) the completion of the Master Development Plan for museum buildings; (2) the honoring of those who participated in the founding of the museum in 1969 and 1970; and (3) the effective adaptive reuse of a historic county building.

Planning for additional museum buildings began very soon after the museum opened in a small building on Solomons Island in October 1970, but no final decisions were made until after the occupancy of the Solomons School building and the installation of exhibits there in 1975. The prestigious architectural firm of Cambridge Seven Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was hired in 1979 to develop a plan for museum buildings on the land surrounding the school building. (Cambridge Seven Associates is well known for museum work, including the National Aquarium in Baltimore.) This plan was adopted by the museum board and county commissioners in the early 1980s, and work began in phases as funding was available. Phase I was the boat basin, completed in 1984; phase II was the Exhibition Building, opened in January 1989; the third and final phase was the renovation of the Solomons School, now completed, bringing to a close the building program of the Master Development Plan. From the original plan, only the estuarine and paleontology exhibits remain to be finished.

The completion of the Master Development Plan is an appropriate time to honor the foresight and planning of those who conceived of the museum and whose efforts in 1969 and 1970 made possible the beginnings of the Calvert Marine Museum in a small building on Solomons Island. These founders will be recognized during the dedication ceremony.

Related directly to the renovation of the building is the design work that Cambridge Seven Associates has done to provide effective adaptive reuse of the 1925 school structure, certainly of historic significance to the many residents of Solomons and adjacent areas who attended the school during its forty years of existence. Replacement of the shingle siding and windows has restored the building to near its 1925 appearance, while the interior has been completely redesigned to meet the space and environmental needs of modern offices. A tour of the building following the dedication ceremony will demonstrate clearly the effectiveness of the work of the architects, engineers, and contractors.

Calvert Marine Museum members are cordially invited to attend the rededication of the Solomons School as the Administration Building at 2:00 p.m., Friday, September 24, at the south entrance to the building. Following the ceremony, all who attend are welcome to inspect the building.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT —

Sandy Roberts, Docent

Docents are the activists of the volunteer team, special people with the positive energy needed for the museum's most vital role: education. But it's a difficult job to sell to new volunteers. Natural inclination along with life experiences seem to play a part in choosing a docent role.

Here's one story. Born in Washington, D.C., Sandy Roberts spent childhood summers in Carroll County, Maryland. Days of digging in the woods and creeks for Indian relics and hearing her grandmother's German tales made lasting impressions. But a planned career in archaeology changed to majors in English and history on scholarship to the University of Maryland.

Sandy's fossil connection — "a dirty, wet interest" — came through her college roommate who lived at Scientists' Cliffs. Marriage to John "Bud" Roberts took her overseas with adventures in England, Germany, and Singapore. Sandy taught English in Singapore, and during the confrontation with Malaysia, checked schools daily for bombs. Cobras and monsoons added to the challenge.

Stateside, Sandy volunteered at her son's school, started an adult literacy program in Fairfax County, Virginia, and taught kindergarten for ten years. Fossil research continued with frequent visits to Scientists' Cliffs, and, finally, a home there. In 1978, when the call went out for teachers to guide school groups at the Calvert Marine Museum, Sandy volunteered.

In addition to being a docent, Sandy's fossil interests led quickly to the formation of the CMM Fossil Club for which she serves as membership chairman. Sandy also created The Ecphora newsletter, the fossil club quarterly, and remained editor for five years. For the Bugeye Times she writes and illustrates the frequent feature, "Fossil Facts." Sandy Roberts' many contributions won her recognition as the second recipient of the Volunteer Achievement Award, presented for outstanding commitment to the museum.

Her teaching style is gentle. "You can teach so much more by stories," says Sandy. Any child lucky enough to have heard the tale of the moon snail and the scallop has lived a brief moment in the distant Miocene age. This issue's "Fossil Facts" on page 2, for example, illustrates how Sandy relates fossils with history. The stories Sandy heard as a child linked with a lifelong love of learning and sharing have created her very special gift, that of the role of docent. (Layne Bergin)

MIRROR DONATION NEEDED FOR DISCOVERY ROOM

The Education Department needs a standing mirror for use with the children's costume area in the Discovery Room. If you have such a mirror to donate, please call Craig DeTample at the museum.

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