

# Foundation Offers Sneak Preview Of Museum At Ocean Isle Beach

BY DOUG RUTTER

The Ocean Isle Museum Foundation unveiled its recently-completed building Saturday, offering a sneak preview of what organizers say will be an important educational and cultural facility.

Foundation directors offered a glimpse of things to come to a group of about 50 elected officials, community leaders and Ocean Isle Beach property owners with a Saturday afternoon wine and cheese party.

The museum, which is located at the corner of Third and Laurinburg streets at Ocean Isle, is projected to open during the Easter vacation period of 1991, said Bill Jennings, a member of the foundation board of directors.

Originally named the Ocean Isle Nature Center, the facility will be called the Museum of Coastal Carolinas.

Jennings said it will feature collections and exhibits that spotlight the natural history and environment of the coastal area from Wilmington to Georgetown, S.C.

The 7,500-square-foot museum building will boast four separate display rooms when it opens, and directors plan to add two more wings in the future.

Jennings said the main attraction should be a "reef room" that will feature marine life from the area displayed in natural settings.

Fish and other specimens from the sea will be suspended from the aqua-colored walls of the sunken room. King and Spanish mackerel, a sea turtle and several species of shark were among the items displayed Saturday that will be part of the room.

"You'll be looking at a cross-section of underwater life," Jennings said. "You'll be walking through their natural habitat."

A collection of animals and birds will be featured in a smaller room of the museum, which will be set up to



VISITORS ADMIRE some of the marine life on display at the Museum of Coastal Carolinas at Ocean Isle Beach Saturday. The museum is expected to open next spring.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

look like a swamp. A bear, fox, deer and an alligator will be among the creatures that inhabit that museum's swamp.

A shell exhibit will occupy the other downstairs wing, and an upstairs room will be full of historically-significant items from the area. Educational displays on

tidal and wave actions will be set up in the lobby.

Foundation President Stuart Ingram, who initiated the effort to build a museum at Ocean Isle Beach, said the two wings that will be added when money becomes available will be used for an auditorium and a bird room.

The museum foundation was originally sponsored by the Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association at a time when Ingram was the group's president.

The foundation board of directors, which formed in January 1988 with its state charter and IRS non-profit organization designation, began raising funds in order to build the facility.

Jennings said the foundation has raised more than \$225,000 in donations and pledges so far. The remaining fund raising should be concluded before the museum opens next year.

The museum foundation took ownership of the facility from the builders Sept. 1. The museum is presently worth about \$500,000, not including the value of the land it sits on. The museum foundation has a long-term lease with the landowner, Odell Williamson.

Jennings said the museum will be staffed with volunteers. The facility will be open daily during the summer and on weekend during the fall and spring.

It will be open by appointment to students and special groups other times of the year. Student tours will be encouraged from area schools studying both natural and social history. There will be a nominal admission fee, except for local students.

Foundation directors, in addition to Ingram and Jennings, are state Rep. David Redwine, Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Betty Williamson, Alberta Tatum, Hayden O'Neil, Al Laughinghouse, Rae Cox, Davis Milligan and Alton Milliken.

## ATMC Members Will Elect 3 Directors At Annual Meet

Members of Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. will elect three directors and share \$1,000 in cash prizes at the co-op's 33rd annual meeting Friday, Oct. 5, at West Brunswick High School in Shalotte.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium, said ATMC spokesman Percy Woodard.

Current directors for Districts 1, 3 and 6 are on the ballot presented by the nominating committee. No candidates have been nominated by petition of the membership, Woodard said, but additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Up for election are Carol H. Danford, Lyle Wray King and D. Hayes Hawes Jr.

Mrs. Danford, of Shalotte, is seeking her fifth consecutive term. She has served as District 3 (Shalotte area) representative since 1977 and as president of the board since mid-1982.

King was appointed to the board in 1987 to fill the unexpired term of the late Lester Babson and is seeking his second elected term on the board. As District 1 board member he represents members in the Ash, Exum and Freeland areas.

D. Hayes Hawes Jr. is seeking his first full term on the board representing District 6, which includes the Bolivia, Antioch and Sunset Harbor communities.

He was appointed to the board in March 1990 to complete the unexpired term of his father, the late Douglas Hawes of Bolivia.

Directors serve three-year terms and may succeed themselves indefinitely.

In addition to electing directors, ATMC members will hear financial and operating reports for the past fiscal year. Entertainment will feature the Brunswick Cloggers, directed by Jimmy Watson.

Also, said Woodard, members will get to see a brief "in-house" video on Brunswick County photographed by Phil Morgan, videographer for Brunswick Electric Membership Corp., and narrated by ATMC General Manager Russell D. Price.

The pictorial essay depicts the diversity of the ATMC service area and the challenges and opportunities afforded in serving its members.

Numerous door prizes will be awarded as well as cash prizes. The grand prize is \$500. Refreshments will be provided.

## Young Artists' Work Featured

Art work by West Brunswick High School sophomores Laurel Keesee and Kristy Poulos is being featured in a month-long show in the Youth Gallery at Franklin Square Gallery in Southport.

Miss Keesee says her favorite medium is acrylic, but she also enjoys working with pen and ink and pastels. Her exhibited work shows her versatility in all mediums. Included are several published book covers, studies in black and white, textures, shapes, acrylics and pastels. She is the daughter of Randy Keesee and Annette Keesee.

According to a news release, her work "invites the visitor to stay a little longer."

Miss Poulos is a fourth year advanced art student. Her displayed work is in her favorite mediums of pastels, water color, oils and stained glass and includes portraits, landscapes and studies of animals in pen and ink, oils, watercolor pastels and

charcoal.

Her work is described in a news release as having an "easy to look at style". She is the daughter of Gary and Trish Poulos.

Both are students of Faye Fullwood, art instructor at West Brunswick High School.

The two-woman show can be viewed Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Youth Gallery.

The Youth Gallery is one of only two galleries in the state to feature the work of young artists. It is located upstairs in the Franklin Square Gallery in Southport.

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