

# The Broadside



## The voice of The Mathews Maritime Foundation

*Museum Located at 482 Main Street, Mathews, VA Mail to PO Box 1201, Mathews, VA 23109 804-725-4444*

### ***Foundation to Hold an Old Fashioned Picnic***

It has been quite some time since our last fundraiser so we have decided to present for the benefit of the community and the Foundation an "old fashioned picnic". Tony and Judy Hannold, the owners of "Samarkand", have graciously allowed us to hold the event at their residence on Woodas Creek. As some of you may already know, Samarkand was once the home of J. Edwin Treacle, the "Clam King".

The event is planned for Sunday, May 3 from 3 to 7 PM on the grounds of Samarkand. There will be live music, a silent auction, games, and a BBQ chicken dinner with ice cream for dessert.

Tickets for the Picnic are \$25.00 and can be purchased at the Mathews Visitors Center, the Virginia Cooperative Extension in Mathews, or by calling Nancy Lindgren at 725-4382 or Pete Hall at 693-9335.

### ***Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail***

The Mathews Maritime Foundation is working with other partners to develop the Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail (MMHT). The Trail will consist of a network of land and water routes that will preserve and interpret the historical, cultural, and environmental sites which shaped the maritime history and nautical heritage of Mathews County and will generate educational opportunities while developing appreciation of the area's natural and historic resources.

A proposal for a Rivers & Trail Conservation Assistance grant was accepted by the National Park Service in November. Phase I of the project will focus on water routes, and will follow the 90 mile Blueways Water Trail, which is a component of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. Future plans include bicycle and automobile routes.

This undertaking has been divided into six tasks: water trail assessment; education and stewardship organization; community engagement; heritage trail guide development; events and ecotourism planning; and local and regional coordination.

Project partners include VA Archeological Society- Middle Peninsula Chapter, Mathews County Historical Society, Mathews Memorial Library, VIMS, Middle Peninsula Planning District, VA Cooperative Extension, New Point Comfort Lighthouse Preservation Task Force, Mathews County Administration and Planning Department, Mathews Land Conservancy, Mathews Chamber of Commerce, MCVIC, Blueways Water Trail, Bay Trails Outfitters, and the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail.

Currently, public water access sites on the East River are being investigated. A display map and exhibits are being created to share information gained. Kids Kayak Camps (*see article elsewhere in this issue*), co-sponsored by Bay Trail Outfitters and VA Cooperative Extension 4-H will be held this summer. Children will be able to en-

*Keeping the Past in the Present Preserving it for the Future*

joy the river while learning conservation and kayak skills.

MMHT committee chairs are Marcy Benouameur, Dave Montgomery, and Janet Loyd. If you are interested in helping with this project contact Janet Loyd at 725-3007.

### ***Kids Kayak Camp***

One of the objectives of the Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail is to get more children out on the water to develop boating skills and to learn about their maritime heritage. Scholarships will be provided for youths of middle school age to attend a Kids Kayak Camp this summer.

There will be two camp sessions: July 27- 30 and August 10-13, four days each from 9:30 AM until noon. Ten children will be selected for each of these sessions. Jan Towne of Bay Trails Outfitters will lead the first two days of the Kids Kayak Camp and Nancy Roche of the Virginia Cooperative Extension 4-H will be in charge of the land-based activities during the second two days of the program.

For more information contact Jan Towne at 725-0626 or [kayak@baytrails.com](mailto:kayak@baytrails.com).

### ***Gilbert Klingel - A Man of Many Talents***

To finish up our series of articles on this fascinating man we present here a capsule of his interests and accomplishments as related by his daughter Marcie Benouameur.

Gilbert Klingel (1908-1983), a man of many talents, was not only a boat builder but also a naturalist, photographer, explorer, award-winning author, inventor, and metallurgist. Of all these talents, however, he was first and foremost, a naturalist. His writings portray a love and understanding of all creatures and their role in the ecological balance of nature. He knew that a breakdown of this balance would seriously endanger the environment of our earth.

He is known for three books and many articles. *Inagua*, also entitled *The Ocean Island* (1940,1997) was the result of a scientific expedition to the Bahamas which was sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History of New York and the Natural History Society of

Maryland. In *The Bay* (1951,1984) Klingel gives his wonderful observations of sea life in and around the Chesapeake Bay. His third book, *Boatbuilding With Steel* was published in 1973. A second edition appeared in 1991. This book was the direct result of thirty-two years experience pioneering the use of steel in yacht construction.

Klingel was also an inventor of underwater diving devices. At the request of the National Geographic Society, he designed and built "The Aquascope" in order to photograph sea life under the Chesapeake Bay. Klingel's invention was built in 1952 and tested in the waters around Gwynn's Island in 1953. The results of this research were published in the May 1955 issue of the National Geographic Magazine. The amazing photos shown in this article were the first color photos taken under the Chesapeake Bay. The "Aquascope" is on display in the Calvert Marine Museum, Solomon's Island, Maryland.

Quite a few magazine and newspaper articles have been written about Gilbert Klingel over the years. The latest appeared in the August 2008 issue of Chesapeake Bay Magazine. There is also a permanent exhibit about his life and work at the Gwynn's Island Museum.

### ***Green Heron Back in Mathews***

Last fall another Mathews built boat was brought back to the County by the Mathews Maritime Foundation. This one, the *Green Heron*, was the last boat built by Mathews boatbuilder Gilbert Klingel. She had been sitting for a number of years in a wooded area of Urbanna. There



was seemingly no way to get her out of the woods except by helicopter! She was surrounded by trees and many other obstacles. Thanks to MMF members Dave and Millie Montgomery, Pete Hall, Dennis Gryder, and John McCloud, a way was found to overcome these obstacles. Marine service worker Kenny Haywood provided a flat bed truck and with his help and the expertise of the MMF crew, the *Green Heron* was finally removed from the Urbanna woods on November 1, 2008. She is temporarily on private property in Mathews awaiting repairs.

The *Green Heron* is a 30 foot scow motor-sailor with a cambered flat bottom and a 12 inch draft. This unorthodox vessel is one of many custom-made steel boats (ranging in size from 30 feet up to 75 feet) Klingel built over a period of more than thirty years. The *Green Heron* was built in 1977 for himself and was launched at his Gwynn's Island Boat Yard on December 17, 1978 and was the last boat built at his Yard. This lateen-rigged steel "Creek Crawler" takes her inspiration from the Sampans of the Far East.

One may wonder after all those years of building steel vessels that could sail the oceans, why he would build a boat of this type. Klingel and his wife Virginia had cruised the Chesapeake Bay and the Intracoastal Waterway for years. His 31 foot sloop *Pleiades* was great for sailing the seas but it could not get close to shore or into the creeks and coves that he often longed to see.

He decided to design a different kind of boat to suit his purposes. He once had seen a movie showing a sampan sailing in the Mekong River Delta. It was from that memory he designed the *Green Heron*. The steel hull of his "Creek Crawler" could float on a foot of water and if the tide ran out, she could sit upright until the tide came back in.

Now that spring is finally here, the time has come to think of her future as a Mathews Maritime Museum exhibit. Volunteers will be needed to evaluate and repair the *Green Heron* in order to make this a reality. If you like "messing around in boats" and wish to help on this project, give us a call at 725-4444.

### ***Family Boatbuilding Event***

We have selected a boat to be built at this year's event which is scheduled for September 12-13 at our museum located at 482 Main Street in Mathews Court House. The boat, the Six-Hour Canoe, is the brainchild of Mike O'Brien, editor of Boat Design Quarterly from the publishers of Wooden Boat magazine.

She is suitable as a personal boat. She is 15'3" in length with a beam of 31 1/2 inches, and is constructed of 6mm marine grade occume 1088 plywood. Light and easy to carry and handle, she is an ideal boat for an introduction to boat building.

The Six-Hour Canoe will be in kit form with all pieces and parts pre-cut and ready for assembly. The price of this kit is \$375.00. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early by contacting Pete Hall at 804-693-9335 for full details of the event. Pictures of the boat may be viewed at [www.mathewsmaritimemuseum.com/boatbuilding.html](http://www.mathewsmaritimemuseum.com/boatbuilding.html).

### ***Mystery Item***

Can you identify the item pictured here? Some of the artifacts we have at the museum have baffled us as to their use or purpose. The



item pictured is one such item. We know it was used as a part of the pole driving rig used to set pound poles. What we would like to know is how it was rigged. Pictures of it in use would be a great help to us. Barring that, a good written description of its use will be much appreciated by our museum curators.

***National Trails Day - East River Rally June 6***

Last fall the Maritime Foundation initiated a project to expand on the concept of the Mathews' Blueways trails. Since then we have been working to define a Maritime Heritage Water Trail. The concept has expanded further to identify features that are not just of maritime interest but also of other historical, archeological, wildlife and ecological significance. The basic idea is to provide information to people who enjoy time on the water and to enrich their experience with descriptions about points of interest along the trail.

With these goals in mind we are encouraging people to come out and enjoy paddling on the East River on National Trails Day, June 6 from 9:00 to 3:00. The gathering is meant to be spontaneous with people starting when they wish and ending when they choose.

Boats can be put in the water at two public launch sites, Town Point and Williams' Wharf and from any friend's home along the river. We hope that people can enjoy the scenery, the exercise, and the chance encounters with other paddlers. If you have questions or ideas call Dave Montgomery at 725-1709 or email [davemil@visi.net](mailto:davemil@visi.net).

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