

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

Peggy Endowment Fund Raffle

We have had a wonderful gift of a hand pieced quilted throw made by Barbara Lewandowski for us to raffle off with the proceeds going to the Peggy of New Point Endowment Fund.

Tickets are reasonably priced at \$1.00 each or 6

for \$5.00. They are available at the Mathews Visitors Center (Sibley's), at the Maritime Foundation Museum, or from any one of our Board Members.

The drawing for the quilt, titled "Storm at Sea", will be held at our Speaker Meeting on January 21, 2010.

Family Boatbuilding Event

We have an opening for one more family to participate in this 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 fir 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. Contact Pete Hall at 804-693-9335 if you wish to fill this opening and for full details of the event.

Pictures of the boat may be viewed at www.mathewsmaritimemuseum.com/boatbuilding.html.

Museum Visits Increase

It should be noted that increasing numbers of visitors are coming to our museum. Locals bring visitors, groups from within and out of Mathews have arranged tours, and the Maritime Museum Education Consortium has held a meeting to acquaint other maritime museums in the area with our facility. We've even hosted an 80th birthday party for a local waterman.

Some folks wanting to visit the museum have been confused as to its location. Apparently our big "Mathews Maritime Foundation" sign



gives the impression that the building is the Foundation office, not our museum. To remedy the situation we will soon install a sign over our front portico lettered "MUSEUM" to more clearly define what is in our building.

Wittman & Morgan Present at Forum

The Mathews Maritime Foundation was represented at a legislative forum that the Mathews Community Foundation hosted for non-profit groups to meet with Congressman Rob Wittman and Delegate Harvey Morgan to make them aware of the various programs each provides for the benefit of the citizens of Mathews.

While many groups provide the basic needs of food, shelter, and medication others seek to foster cultural activities, to educate, and to preserve for students and adults the history of this lovely County.

MMF welcomes every opportunity to tell our story, to promote our museum and its growing membership, and to talk about the restoration of "Peggy of New Point". The Watermen's Museum Festival at Yorktown on July 12 and the Buyboat Reunion at Urbanna on July 31- August 1 gave us such a opportunity.

Artifacts On Loan/Donated to Museum

Our museum continues to receive loans and donations of artifacts from many sources. Some of our more recent acquisitions are described below along with the names of the lender/donors.

Randolph Hudgins and his son William have loaned us a model of the blockade runner "Caroline". The full size ship was built by Lewis Hudgins of Fitchett's Wharf in 1859.



James Coyle bought at Eva Mae Grinnell's garage sale a "branding iron" that had belonged to Captain Ed Grinnell, owner of the Peggy of New Point.

It was used by him to burn his u n i q u e "G82" into his crab pot buoys. The iron is on loan indefinitely.



Many books have been brought in by Percy Hicks Severn, sister of Patty Zierow of the Mathews Art Gallery. They are to be added to our lending library of nautical books and magazines. These books belonged to Percy's cousin and before we put them into circulation Percy plans to inscribe each volume in calligraphy to reflect her late cousin as donor.

Lisa and Jay White on Woodas Creek uncovered a Civil War cannon ball while preparing to plant a tree. It has been documented and research is continuing to piece together its story of being fired by a Union vessel, likely in the East River, towards a Confederate gunboat in one branch of Woodas Creek. It is a non-explosive type ball that is heated to red hot before being placed in a cannon and fired on a target. The effect being to set the target on fire upon impact. The Whites intend the ball to be on loan to our museum, as their five year old son, Dylan, would at sometime want to show this off to his friends as his own.

Kids' Kayak Camp

The first of two sessions of Kayak Camp was held the week of July 27 with two days of on the water instruction in Kayaking and two days of land based activities. The eight children who participated were enthusiastic and eagerly took to the water to learn the basics of kayaking and water safety.

The land based activities included GPS and compass navigation, chart reading, building of

boats with soda bottles and other materials, a relay race on a “navigable water course” set up on land, and a competition to determine the fastest and most “unsinkable” of the soda bottle boats. The kids had a wonderful time and learned some valuable skills to boot.

The Kid’s Kayak Camp is sponsored by the



Mathews Maritime Foundation in collaboration with Bay Trails Outfitters, Blueways Water Trail, Mathews County, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and scholarship assistance from the Mathews Community Fund.

The second and last session will be held the week of August 10.

Buyboat Reunion at Urbanna

Peggy of New Point has just returned from the 2009 Reunion Homecoming of Chesapeake Bay buyboats held in Urbanna on Friday and Saturday, July 31-August 1.

Though she was least attractive of the sixteen buyboats in attendance, she was warmly welcomed by all. By least attractive I mean she is by comparison not as well appointed or “yacht like” as the others. Which raises the question: why are most all of these buyboats more like yachts than the working boats they used to be? Should they not be used and maintained to reflect their original intended purpose?

The answer in my mind is two fold. First, the industry that supported these boats has long since disappeared. What was once their cargo (oysters, crabs, fish) is now transported to market by rail and truck. Second, in order for these boats to survive and avoid being driven up some creek to be left to rot and die, they have taken on a new role, that of providing a comfortable live aboard platform for their owners.

It is apparent from talking with the owners of these boats that they love their boats, are passionate about them, and proud to be saving and preserving a part of history for the next generations. The consensus among all is that these boats need to be used, “worked,” rather than permanently tied to some dock or displayed on land. So to keep them working owners have installed accommodations to make them comfortable for cruising while at the same time maintaining the outward appearance of a traditional buyboat. Well, almost all!

Below in a comparison...*Peggy* on the left, the *East Hampton* on the right. *Peggy*, as a museum owned vessel, will be restored to her original purpose.



Keeping the Past in the Present Preserving it for the Future

MMF'S Maritime Trail Receives Federal Grant

The Mathews Maritime Foundation's initiative "Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail" was recently awarded grant funding from the Federal Highway Administration through the Virginia Recreational Trails Program of the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the development of a web based water trail map and guide. The guide will serve as a vehicle to promote safe recreational use of the East River, increase the awareness of local resources, and advance river stewardship.

Created by the Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail partners, in collaboration with Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the guide will use a web-based format for distribution. VIMS will produce the maps and design the layout for the final product.

Mathews County will assist with GIS data development, Mathews Maritime Foundation, working in collaboration with the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program will coordinate the project de-

sign team, research and compile educational information, and draft the text.

In addition to maps and graphics, the guide will include educational components of Wildlife Viewing Ethics, Leave No Trace Stewardship Principles, Kayak and Canoe Trip Planning Tips, Water Safety Information, Regulations on Boating and Fisheries, and Interpretive Information on Mathews' Heritage Resources. A 2011 completion date is projected.

The Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail program was initiated in 2008 with the receipt of the National Park Service's River Trails Conservation Assistance Grant.

The Heritage Trail being developed is a network of land and water routes that 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. If you are interested in helping with this project contact Janet Loyd 804-725-3007.

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