

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
on the web at <http://www.mathewsmaritime.com>*

Mathews Maritime Special Event



Help us to turn \$50 into \$20,000. We're asking you to help us reach this goal by participating in The Amazing Raise. This is an online event sponsored by The Community Foundation (TCF) serving the greater Richmond Region, Gloucester, Mathews, the River Counties and Southside Virginia.

TCF has committed \$100,000 to support grant prizes that will be distributed among winning nonprofits through incentive prizes and grand prizes.

During the 36-hour online giving event, the more unique donors who give a gift of \$50 or more to MMF, the greater our chances of winning bonus grants up to \$20,000. An eligible or unique gift is defined as one gift of \$50 or more given to one organization from one donor. If MMF is the organization with the most unique donors with gifts of \$50 or more we will receive the top prize of \$20,000.

The race begins at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18th and ends at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 19th. To count toward prizes and

grants your donation must be given during this 36 hour time period. You can make your donation any time during this 36 hour time frame. Go to our web site at www.mathewsmaritime.com and click on the icon for Amazing Raise Donation.

Then using your credit or debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express) enter your credit card information and the amount of your donation. Your data is entered into a secure web portal provided by KIMBIA.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Peggy Re-Christening October 12th...

by George Pongonis, Director

PEGGY is back in service again. The public is warmly invited to welcome this 88 year-old vessel into her new role as a sea-going representative of the maritime heritage of Mathews County, and indeed much of Tidewater.

As the flagship of the Mathews Maritime Foundation, PEGGY of New Point shall be on display at various waterfront festivals throughout the tidewater region. She will allow the history of our native, deadrise workboats to be appreciated by people who attend such events as Norfolk's Harborfest, Hampton's Bay Days, Urbanna's Oyster Festival and the like.

Our goal is to have PEGGY of New Point look as she would have appeared during her days as a vessel fishing pound nets. This was the purpose for which she was built. Her original owners were in the business of trapping fish in

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what were known as pounds. These were very cleverly designed structures that enabled long stretches of netting to lead passing fish into a chamber from which there was no escape. To erect such a structure in the Bay, where it was subjected to strong storms and swift currents, miles from shore, required that stout poles be driven well into the bottom.

This was a difficult chore requiring forty foot trees to be cut down and de-limbed in the woods. Then they were sharpened to a point on one end and loaded aboard a boat like PEGGY. A pile driver mounted near the bow was used to drive these poles deep into the bottom. A line of poles as long as a football field would be driven at a site where the fishing expectations were high. At the deep-water end of this line of poles, a series of poles were driven in the form of a heart. This heart shape funneled into a square called the head, which was the trap where fish accumulated, day and night.

Each morning, a crew of men cast off from their dock to transit the Bay's waters from one pound to the next. Those fish trapped within the head of each pound were harvested with a huge, dip net, then landed aboard and stowed in the hold of vessels like PEGGY before their return voyage to port. PEGGY was ideal for this work. After serving the needs of the Burroughs family for thirty-five years, PEGGY was acquired by Ed Grinnell to conduct his pound fishing operations on the far side of the Bay. He often sold his catch in harbor at Cape Charles before returning to Mathews for supper and some well-earned rest.

October 12th is the day for PEGGY's rechristening celebration and fund-raiser. Watch for announcements in the Gazette-Journal and on WXGM radio.

Mathews Maritime's .com Gets a New Look

by Grace Forrest, Webmaster

The Mathews Maritime Foundation's website at www.mathewsmaritime.com, has recently been updated to reflect the Foundation's new mission: *to preserve, present, and participate in*

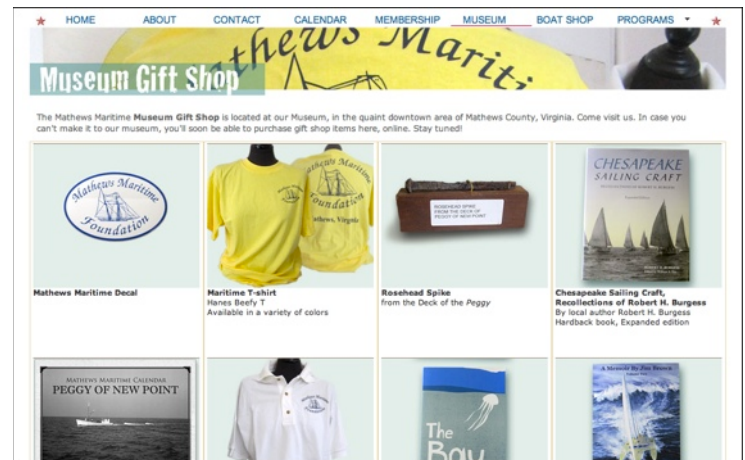
the rich maritime and cultural heritage of Mathews County, Virginia. The new and improved site features simplified navigation, new pages, and a fresh look that blends history with growth.

A vintage photo of *Peggy of New Point* dredging crabs in the Chesapeake is in the forefront of the new Home page. This image will change occasionally, but will continue to spotlight local watermen. Below the *Peggy*, are four modules announcing the latest happenings. These change frequently, so check back often so you don't miss out.

The navigation menu established on the Home page remains the same throughout the site, making it easy to move around. A timeline has been added to the About page, showing the maritime history of Mathews in an easy-to-understand format, and three new pages have been added.

A Museum page now outlines the museum's collections, and future plans are to expand this into an online catalog for research. A Boat Shop page introduces the Gwynn's Island Boat Shop, and makes one realize how much activity is going on over there at the waterfront.

Finally, a Museum Gift Shop has been added for online purchases of Maritime t-shirts, annual calendars, nautical books by local authors, and more. The site now has the ability to accept online donations and memberships, and while you're visiting the Membership page, check out the Volunteer Opportunities section. You can help and this section will tell you how.



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2014 Calendar Topic

by Nancy Lindgren, *Calendar Editor*

The Mathews Maritime Foundation published its first annual calendar relating to the maritime history, boat building, watermen, and culture of Mathews in 2006. These have been an ongoing fund raiser for the group's activities, as well as a way to honor the connection Mathews has always had with the water. They have provided a source of interest in the people who live in Mathews and beyond, as well as a way to meet those who know the history, the people who were and are part of that history, and a way to record, preserve, and show this history in a pleasing manner.

The 2014 calendar will honor the Merchant Mariners of Mathews County...those who served their country by plying the waters during war and peace times. Included will be those who work on tug boats, often as an alternative to being a waterman as that way of life has been fading due to costs and changes in fishing laws.

Several months ago we asked for your help in providing us with photos of the men and/or their ships that help to tell a story that the public will find interesting. Your response has been overwhelming so much so that there were more photos than we could include in the calendar. So, it looks like we may have to produce a volume two for 2015.

The calendar is at the press and will be available for sale at Market Days. Look for us at the Cooperative Extension booth, the Mathews Maritime Museum, or the Visitors Center.

Museum Collection...

by Curator Dennis Crawford

For centuries, until the electronic age, sailors used a lead line, or sounding line, to find their water depth. A weight attached to a line lowered into the water until it hit bottom, allowed a sailor to see by the marked line, or feel by night, the depth of the water.

Traditionally the marks on the line were at every 2nd. or 3rd. fathom (fathom = 6 feet) at 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17, and 20 fathoms. The

"leadsman" would call out the depth as he read it off the line. If the depth was at a mark he would call "by the mark" followed by the number. If the depth was between two marks he would call "by the deep" followed by the estimated number.

The lead line was also used to estimate position and anchoring information. A wad of tallow in a hollow at the bottom of the weight would bring up a sample of the bottom sediment (sand, pebbles, clay, shells, mud, etc., or if it came up clean - seabed was rock.). It allowed sailors to better estimate their position and get information about anchoring needs.

The Mathews Maritime Museum has two lead lines that were used in the Chesapeake Bay. Come in and try your hand at using one of the sailors tools that have been used from antiquity to well into the 1900's.



Ship In A Bottle Mystery...

By Dennis Crawford

The Mathews Maritime Foundation Museum recently received a model ship in a bottle. The model is of the *Thomas W. Lawson*, the only 7 masted schooner, and the largest, ever built. The *Lawson* ended up being an oil carrier, and foundered on a reef south of England creating the first case of oil pollution in the English Channel.

The label attached to the bottom of the bottle reads: "To Clarence H. Buchanan. Made

by Vic. Raymond on a north bound voyage from Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela to Baltimore, Maryland aboard the *S/S Marore* March 1965. " Does anyone have information on either of these sailors ? If you do, please give us a call at 804-725-4444.

MMF Future Plans for Expansion...

by Marcy Benouameur

The Mathews Maritime Museum continues to receive donations of artifacts and items of maritime interest. Not too long from now, we will be running out of space at our current location on Main Street in Mathews.

Looking ahead to the future, we are asking for your suggestions in finding a site for a new expanded museum and working waterfront. Criteria for this future site would include: Easily accessible waterfront property (with or without house or building) in an area sheltered from storms, with deep enough water for the *Peggy* and similar boats to come and go, along with kayak landing, adequate space for possible sheds for small boats preservation, events and parking.

Membership participation in this process, as well as ideas for fund raising, will be greatly appreciated. Please send your responses to mail@mathewsmaritime.com - all suggestions are welcome.

Call for Museum Docents...

by Nancy Lindgren

PLEASE, think of volunteering your time to act as a "docent" at the museum. Dennis Crawford has been putting in many hours maintaining the "workings" behind the scenes at the museum for years, as well as being there many Fridays & Saturdays to welcome visitors.

Our museum is a special place, holding a lot of Mathews' rich maritime history which is displayed very well, and receives enthusiastic comments by those who visit it.

Generally, there is little to do during the open hours..bring a book, review the exhibits yourselves, but welcome visitors with a smile and willingness to either show them around or just to be available for any questions. If answers

are not known, the name and phone number can be taken and someone will call them with information.

It's not hard (!), and takes only a minute to contact Dennis (804-725-9088) or e-mail him at dcarrmatey@gmail.com to hear him smile at your offer! Participation of our members is welcome and needed--too few are doing all the work that is involved in making any group of volunteers grow and prosper.

Harborfest 2013...

Mathews was well represented at this year's Harborfest. There were three first place winners in different classes of events.

Local waterman Kerry Hall, who also serves on the Mathews Maritime Foundation's Board of Directors, won "Best Overall Lines" in the boat parade for his boat the *Travis B*.

There were two 1st place race winners, Kerry's son Travis won in the high performance diesel class. and another local man, Carlton Haywood from New Point won in the medium performance diesel class.

All in all a great day for the men of Mathews County. Hip Hip Hooray!!



Travis Hall aboard the Kerry Shannon

Museum Building/Grounds Spruce Up...

Our front yard anchor has a new coat of paint and the entryway steps a new hand rail as well as yellow paint to more clearly define the leading edge. Volunteer Dave Montgomery painted the anchor and Director Dave Machen installed the hand rail and painted the steps. Great job!