

# 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 [www.mathewsmaritime.com](http://www.mathewsmaritime.com)*

### ***The Year in Review...***

Throughout 2012 the Foundation continued on its mission to preserve and protect Mathews County's rich maritime and cultural heritage. Through Foundation sponsored programs like the Kids Kayak Camp, Chesapeake Bay Days, our monthly speaker meetings, and our annual Maritime Heritage Day. Also through 4H/MMF sponsored boat building as well as restoration of the *Peggy of New Point*.

### ***Peggy Endowment Donation...***

Cathy Mise, Assistant Vice President at the Mathews branch of Chesapeake Bank, presented a check for \$1,000 to Foundation Treasurer Pete Hall and members of the MMF Board of Directors. This donation will be added to the Peggy Endowment Fund which has been established to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of "Peggy".



L to R: Pete Hall, Cathy Mise (Chesapeake Bank), George Pongonis Dennis Crawford, Dave Machen, Marcy Benouameur, Jack Caldwell, Melissa Crawford (Chesapeake Bank)

### ***Peggy Raffle...***

John Bass of Mathews was the winner of the Frank Beamer autographed VT football raffle. Instituted several months ago the raffle was one of several means by which the Foundation is raising money for the Peggy Endowment Fund.



*John Bass with his prize*



*The winning ticket*

### ***Museum Growing...***

The Mathews Maritime Museum continues to grow and in the last 5 years has acquired over 1,500 new artifacts to add to its collection. Mathews men have served in a wide range of

maritime activities from our local waters to around the world. The museum's goal is to preserve these histories and traditions and pass them on to future generations.

Our newest displays include a diver's helmet on loan from Bob Gammisch, a Naval WW II 10 gauge flare gun donated by Doug Long, and a name board from the tug Brendan Turecamo donated by her captain of 20 years Charles M. Pugh, Sr.

The museum also sells quality books by local authors. We have three books from Jim Brown, whose designs have helped to shape the history of today's multihulls, and who is in the cruising hall of fame. We also have two books written by Gilbert Klingel, who was a naturalist, explorer, inventor, sailor, and boatbuilder. He was a pioneer in underwater research and built his own diving equipment including a submersible for the National Geographic Society. And we also have an historical perspective of the bay from 1925 to 1975 titled "Chesapeake Sailing Craft" by Robert Burgess. Mr. Burgess was curator of exhibits at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News.

The Museum is located at 482 Main St., Mathews Court House, VA., and open from May through November, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 2 PM, if volunteers are available. The Museum can be opened for a tour or special event if arranged in advance. Call the Museum at 804-725-4444 or Dennis Crawford at 804-725-9088 or Marcy Benouameur at 804-725-5668.

*Article by Dennis Crawford, Curator*



### ***MMF/RCC Partnership...***

The partnership we entered into with Rappahannock Community College is going well for both of us. The main reason for this partnership is to give RCC's Workforce Development Group a venue for conducting its marine trades education courses. This past year classes were held in the Spring and Fall to train individuals to be electricians employed by the Newport News Shipyard. For this training the classroom at GIBS was set up to simulate the area they would be working in aboard a ship under construction. For information regarding class topics and schedules contact Jason Perry, Vice President of Workforce Development Rappahannock Community College at 804-758-6751.

### ***Heritage Day Celebration...***

Once again rain dampened our celebration. This year it came in the form of blustery winds and torrential rain for most of the day. This year, our seventh for this event we followed the format introduced last year. That is, instead of utilizing a single venue, visitors were routed to seven maritime locations in the County. Starting at Morningstar's Gwynn's Island Boatel visitors enjoyed music by "Celtastrophe", saw wooden boats built during Family Boatbuilding events, inspected two workboats at the dock, and talked with members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Tidewater Oyster Growers Association and 4-H.

From the Boatel visitors were directed to our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop where our historic buy boat, "Peggy of New Point" is undergoing restoration and where Eric Hedberg is building reproductions of traditional Bay work boats. Callis' Wharf was their next stop. There they could observe an aquaculture operation and the vestiges of an old seafood business. Fourth on the tour was Island Seafood where one could choose from a variety of seafood for sale and receive a package of Deviled crabs free with the purchase of any seafood.

Number five on the tour was Gwynn's Island Museum with exhibits dedicated to preserving the history of Gwynn's Island and Mathews

County. From there visitors headed into Mathews Courthouse to take in the Maritime Museum and Tompkins Cottage. At the Museum they could view artifacts and photographs depicting the shipbuilding history of the County. Circa 1815, Tompkins Cottage is the headquarters of the Mathews Historical Society and the oldest building in the historic district.

Our sincere thanks to the Foundation members and volunteers who helped to make this day a success.

### ***Donor Boat Program...***

The donor boat program continues to provide funds to the Foundation to support our many programs. Since its inception in 2004 we have taken in 110 boats of various types and sizes. As of this writing 95 have been sold generating \$ 120,660. for the Foundation. In this year alone, 17 boats were donated and 22 sold bringing in \$23,800. Our sincere thanks to all donors as well as purchasers. We are grateful for your support.

All donor boats for sale are listed on our web site <[www.mathewsmaritime.com](http://www.mathewsmaritime.com)> for anyone looking to buy a boat. Contact Pete Hall at 804-693-9335 for additional information or to see the boats close up. All are located at our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop.

### ***Speaker Meetings...***

Our third Thursday of the month from September through May speaker meetings continue to be well attended. On tap for this year are: Feb 21 Ed Moore – Jack Tar on the Waterfront; Mar 21 Rich Asaro – A Sailor's Life in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century; Apr 18 Anna Holloway – Driven from the Sea: Oyster Pirates and a 'Little Travesty' on the Chesapeake Bay, 1882-1883; and May 16 Ron Lewis – Construction of Deadrisers and Skipjacks on the Bay (tentative title)

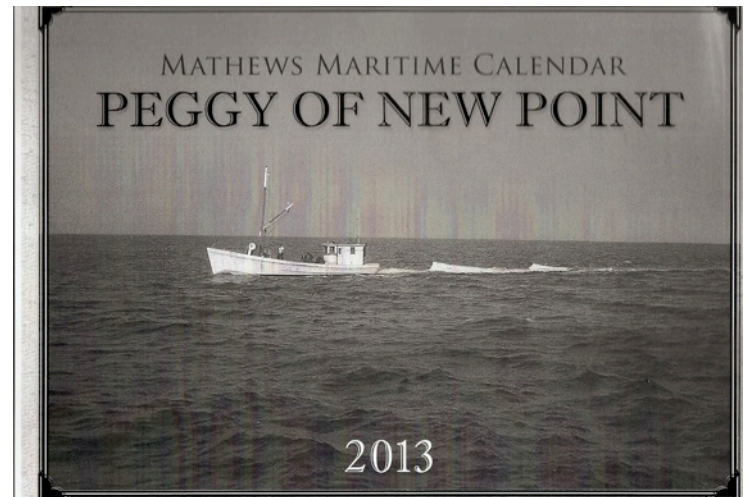
### ***2013 Maritime Calendar...***

Once again Nancy Lindgren, Editor and Grace Metzger Forrest, graphic design artist have produced a calendar, our eighth edition, of

which to be proud. The theme of the 2013 calendar is "Peggy of New Point". The calendar, first published in 2006, began primarily as a fundraiser but as Nancy says, "It has become more a source of nostalgia, information and anticipation of each year's debut during Market Days. I've been fortunate to meet people who share their photos and the stories they represent, and hope that when you uncover photos that are interesting or unique you'll provide us with copies."

We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Terry Grinnell Hudgins and Sissie Grinnell, daughters of the late Captain Edward Grinnell who owned PEGGY for forty years. Their enthusiasm, personal recollections, and photographs used for each month, honor his memory. Thanks also to Elsa Cook Verbyla for writing the photo captions.

If you haven't yet purchased one of these calendars they are available for \$10.00 each at Vicky's Beauty Shop in Cobbs Creek, M&M Building Supply in Port Haywood, the Mathews Visitors & Information Center, and The Cottage (Roane's Antiques) in the Courthouse.



### ***4-H/MMF Boat Building project...***

This has been one of our most ambitious undertakings. The idea for this project was conceived in January of 2010 when we learned that the Jamestown 4-H Center was planning to establish a sailing program as part of their camp offerings and was looking for a fleet of suitable

sailboats. As we had some boat kits left over from our Family Boat Building event, we decided to partner with Nancy Roche, the Mathews Cooperative Extension Agent, to contact individuals, marinas, yacht clubs and the like to solicit “adoptions” to fund a fleet of six boats. The boat, a 10’ William Atkin design called the “Nymph” is a flat bottom hard chine boat quite suitable for kids learning to sail.



*4H boats at the Jamestown 4-H Center prepare for launching.*

In 2011 three of the six boats needed were built and delivered to the Jamestown Camp and were commissioned in a ceremony on June 29 of that year. In July funding for two more boats was received from The J. Edwin Treacle Foundation and Dr. Timothy Catchings. A third boat, a “Nymph”, was donated by the Johnson family of Mathews who had purchased the boat built at our Family Boat Building event in 2008. Construction of two new boats and restoration of the donated boat began in January of 2012. All three boats were delivered to the Camp in June in time for the first camp session of the summer.

This project highlights so many positives: youth and adults working together toward a common goal; volunteers creating opportunity for valuable educational programming for youth; small donations adding up to making a big difference; collaboration among organizations; benefits to youth beyond the classroom such as

teamwork, problem solving, decision making, skill development, generosity and community service, quality control, and pride in work. Youth who build these boats will see their work and will be able to witness how their work is benefiting others when they attend camp. They will have an opportunity to leave a legacy.

### ***Sixth Annual Chesapeake Bay Day...***

Crabs, oysters, caulking mallets, swords and steamboats. What do they all have in common? Chesapeake Bay Day! Eighty-five sixth grade students celebrated the annual event with a day full of anticipation and maritime heritage.

Sponsored by the Mathews Maritime Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Day is a day when students at Thomas Hunter Middle School learn about the Bay and maritime activities from the past to the present. Visiting different stations, the young people were taught how to tie knots and identify crabs. Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District representatives demonstrated how yard runoff pollutes the water and the Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association explained how oysters clean the water.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 66 informed the kids on boating safety and in the proper way to don a PFD, personal flotation device. “Shipbuilding Tools and Traditions” allowed students to caulk a seam using a caulking mallet and iron, cut lumber with a 2 person cross cut saw, and plane a board. County planners stressed the RPA and the need to protect the Bay; members of the Sesquicentennial Committee shared Mathews’ importance in the “Water and the War” and the Archaeological Society of VA, Middle Peninsula Chapter exhibited artifacts discovered on Mathews’ shores.

Costumed interpreters from the VA Cooperative Extension 4-H and MMF presented a vignette of “Steamboat Days”. Weaving a story of travel by steamboat from Norfolk and Baltimore to Mathews in the early 20th century, the students learned about the cargo transported between the wharves and the hazards of such travel.

Students at the Oyster Tonging station got to experience what it is like to tong for oysters. Climbing to the top of a platform, the students tried to catch oyster shells using long handled tongs and then transfer them to a basket.

“The “Chesapeake Bay Day” is an opportunity for young people to experience the past and develop an appreciation of the maritime heritage of Mathews County”, said Janet Loyd, coordinator of this annual event. “The preservation of the Chesapeake Bay is also paramount in the instruction, as the students will inherit the next generation of the Bay’s environment. We are appreciative to all the organizations which participated and have a similar interest in preserving the maritime history of this area.”

### ***Peggy of New Point Restoration...***

Can you remember what life was like before we had microwave ovens? As we live our day-to-day lives, newer technologies continually emerge to replace what we have grown to admire. Do you ever wonder about living in an earlier time? How different the day-to day lives must have been for those who never knew the benefits of our modern conveniences. Just think about travel during the times prior to the introduction of engine powered vehicles. No planes, trains or automobiles; and only sailboats for voyages over water. Those were different times in Mathews County.

Back at what we used to call the “turn of the century” Mathews was known as a prominent center for boat building. Boats were important around the Chesapeake before highways took over the “shipping” business. Not just small boats either. Sea going ships were built here in Mathews. Indeed, many sons of Mathews went to sea, as well. On a per capita basis, Mathews has seen more of its own employed in positions of responsibility aboard ships than any other county in the United States.

The Cardinal has been designated as the Official Bird of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Do you know what the Official Flower is? Did you know that Virginia also has an Official Boat? Most people are unaware that the Chesapeake

Bay Deadrise has been designated as our state’s Official Boat. “What’s with that?” you ask. Well, think of it this way: In the entire universe, it is believed that life, as we know it exists nowhere other than in our solar system. And so far, we have yet to find such life anywhere else but on the third planet from our sun. On this planet, it has been pronounced that estuaries are of singular importance to our planet’s well-being. The premier estuary on the Earth is known to be the Chesapeake Bay. For several hundred years, a unique form of vessel design and construction has been relied upon to enable the successful accomplishment of man’s quests upon this Bay. The deadrise design has been the hallmark of boats intended for use throughout the Chesapeake Bay region, and it is becoming extinct before our eyes. As technologies advance around the waterfront, newer methods of boat manufacture and propulsion are making the deadrise design obsolete. These boats are quickly going the way of the horse and buggy.

Enter the Mathews Maritime Foundation to preserve the maritime heritage of this very special region. Formed only a decade ago, this organization seeks to prevent the loss of our rich local maritime history. As part of its mission, the MMF has sought to engage the public in a “hands-on” manner with the wonders of our boat-building heritage. This activity has been facilitated by the availability of a small marine railway and repair shop on Gwynn’s Island. Originally established by Gil Klingel, the legendary builder of steel boats, this boat yard affords the people of Mathews an opportunity to experience the art of wooden boat building and repair. Presently, the MMF is conducting an extensive overhaul of an 88 year old, Mathews built vessel that has spent most of her life engaged in the local commercial fishery.

Few people now alive will remember the day she was launched from Peary, Virginia. It was back in 1925 that a brand new PEGGY entered the pound-net trade for Mr. Walter Burroughs, who named her for his daughter. The business was good back then, and before long the owners of these deadrise fishing boats took to

racing against each other. PEGGY was speedy.

She began life with a 35 horsepower engine. As the racing aspect of these vessels' lives evolved, engines with maximum power were sought. PEGGY received a fast turning, 200 horsepower diesel for the express purpose of earning her owner "bragging rights". Races were conducted in the Bay, just off from the beaches along lower Mathews. All the stops were pulled out in those attempts to beat the competition. Decks were removed, as were pilothouses. Engines were "hopped-up" by the best mechanics of the day and all excess weight was removed from the boats to lighten their load. After starting a diesel engine before a race, its battery would be removed and left on the dock. Fuel tanks were removed temporarily and races were run on five-gallon cans. In 1946, PEGGY had her bottom replaced by a master boat builder, Mr. Alton Smith. The wood selected for this job was chosen after tests were conducted to determine the differences between various woods in terms of water absorption. When PEGGY was ready for launching, Alton sent a man to Gloucester to buy all of the shoe polish he could find. They then shoe polished her entire bottom to give her an advantage for racing.

PEGGY went on to become a crab dredger for many years under the ownership of Mr. Edward Grinnell. She hailed from New Point then and was a regular part of the Davis Creek fleet. Some of today's Mathews watermen have many fond memories of Captain Edward and can tell fascinating stories of life onboard PEGGY of New Point. Time had taken its toll on PEGGY, and like all biodegradable objects, she began to deteriorate. She was donated to the Mathews Maritime Foundation by her previous owners, Kim and Gretchen Granberry who recognized the role that she could play for the people of Mathews, as a sea-going representative of our proud heritage.

Today, PEGGY of New Point has a new engine, all new decking and is awaiting her new pilothouse. She has received the considerable attention and skills of a highly professional shipwright, Mr. Eric Hedberg. What is equally important however, is the attention and affection

that PEGGY is receiving from volunteers who have seen their labors rewarded with a sense of ownership. They have earned a kind of equity in a genuine treasure from Mathews County Virginia's past. In the days ahead, PEGGY will travel to Norfolk and Urbanna, Virginia; to Baltimore and St. Michaels, Maryland; and beyond to allow others to know why we are so proud of the Mathews County maritime heritage.

Entering the New Year, it is gratifying to review the progress made during 2012. However, what is more exciting is the nearness of our completion of the remaining work that will enable PEGGY of New Point to embark upon her new life. We're only three months from being back in service and underway again. While the cold weather lasts, our efforts have moved indoors to the shelter of our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop. It is there that PEGGY's new pilothouse is being constructed. Refinishing work is progressing on her mast and rigging hardware.

These final tasks are being addressed by a team of loyal volunteers from the Mathews Maritime Foundation under the direction of our able shipwright, Eric Hedberg. We look forward to sea trials in April and the resultant celebration of PEGGY's new role in our community. (Article by George Pongonis)



*Peggy model built and donated to the Mathews Maritime Museum by Edward Diggs*

***Volunteers, We thank you...***

Volunteers play an important role in our successes. You lighten our load and make it possible for us to provide many programs and activities for the benefit of the citizens of Mathews County.

Our thanks to: Janet Loyd, Dave Montgomery, Dave Machen, and Marcy Benouameur for their work on the Maritime Heritage Trail.

Also thanks go to: Dennis Crawford for his efforts as curator of our museum collections and to Millie Montgomery for maintaining our membership data base and e-mailing of meeting announcements.

Thanks also to the Peggy restoration crew, that is Eric Hedberg, Dave Mortimer, George Pongonis, Dave Machen, Bob Gammisch, Kerry Hall, Dennis Crawford and Pete Hall.

I know there are some volunteers we may have missed thanking. Please accept our sincere apology for the omission and know that we do appreciate your volunteer effort and thank you for it.

For those of you reading this who would like to volunteer to work with us on any of the programs we have going we welcome your call. Contact the Museum at 804-725-4444 and leave your name and contact number. Or you can e-mail us at <[info@mathewsmaritime.com](mailto:info@mathewsmaritime.com)>. Either way we'll get back to you.

***Kids Kayak Camp***

Nineteen middle school students are now more proficient in their kayaking thanks to the Mathews Kids Kayak and Conservation Camp held last week in Bohannon.

Sponsored by the Mathews Maritime Foundation with support from Mathews County, the National Park Service RTCA, Mathews Community Foundation and the West Mathews Civic League, the camp featured kayak instruction by locally based outfitter Dianne Campbell of Mobjack Kayaking. The kayaks were launched from a cove located on the East River. Richard and Danette Machen provided the site. Skills taught in the week long camp were basic

stokes, edging, wet exit and t-rescue as well as assisted, unassisted, and cowboy rescues. The youth demonstrated their new skills to the parents the last two afternoons of the camp session.

Conservation was integrated in the land-based classes. Water quality information was provided by May Sligh from Department of Conservation and Recreation while Bev Holmberg taught the class on mosquitoes. Nancy Roche, VA Cooperative Extension- 4-H, allowed the campers to design and build their own boats from recycled water bottles, which they raced against each other by producing their own wind power. Carl Theil-Goin, from the Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District, demonstrated how to use a GPS to locate a geocache on the property.

On Wednesday members of the Mathews Maritime Foundation, led by Dave Montgomery assisted the youth in constructing bat houses and Laura Kellum, intern for the National Park Service, taught the principles of "Leave No Trace" as the campers hiked to the waterfront. Thursday's activities included Marine Life. George Pongonis, Jon Lucy and Captain Charles Machen shared stories and examples of local marine creatures while on board the R/V Langley and Dave Machen gave an update on the restoration of the deckboat "Peggy of New Point".

Friday brought information on bird identification by Northern Neck Audubon Society members Debby Harriman and Carol McCormick and the U S Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 66 demonstrated boating safety with lifejackets, push-to-talk radios and weather watching.

The all week, all day camp was deemed a success by the enthusiasm and excitement of the campers. "Discovery Questions" were given out each night and the correct answers added points to the team's score.

Janet Loyd, camp coordinator, gives praises to the team of volunteers, which led the land-based activities and the able guides and camp nurses-, Michele Plotino, Nancy Katsuki, Lisa Machen, and Lynda Alexander. Marcy Benouameur, waterfront coordinator, managed the

kayaking activities with her numerous LIPPS volunteers.

“Everyone worked together to provide a safe and enjoyable camp experience for the youngsters. It was a great camp and the weather was perfect.” Janet Loyd wishes to express thanks to the parents for allowing us to share this outdoor opportunity with their children. *(article by Janet Loyd)*

**Mathews Xmas Parade...**

Peggy’s Pilot House gets decked out for her appearance in the Mathews Christmas parade. Take a look at her.



*MMF Director George Pongonis holding trophy for best float by non-commercial organization in the parade. Terry Grinnell Hudgins holding on as well.*

**Foundation Financial Position...**

Here is a summarized statement of the Foundations Activities for the year 2012. It is presented here to give you a picture of our financial position and well being.

The Foundation continues to support its mission to preserve and protect Mathews County’s rich maritime and cultural heritage through research, conservation, documentation and education.

Our monthly lecture series, Chesapeake Bay Days, Mathews Maritime Heritage Day, kids Kayak Camp, MMF/4-H Boat Building, and model boat building all are the focus of our mission.

Statement of Activities

Revenue

Contributions	\$18,831.
Grants	1,380.
Boat Donor Program	23,800.
Gwynn’s Island Boat Shop	7,250.
Gift Shop	3,816.
Membership Dues	5,590.
Special Events	<u>2,992.</u>
Total	\$63,659.

Expenses

Educational Programs	\$ 4,569.
Boat Donor Program	2,276.
Insurance	2,463.
Building Rental	10,800.
Building -Equip. & Repairs	2,342.
Utilities	3,323.
Peggy Restoration	44,131.
Museum Operations	3,141.
Membership Development	168.
COGS	<u>1,365.</u>
Total	\$74,848.
Change in Net Assets	( \$11,189.)

Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2012

Assets:

Cash & Equivalents	\$ 18,684.
Peggy Endowment Fund	22,659.
MV Peggy	85,000.
Other Assets	<u>9,543.</u>
Total	\$135,886.

Liability & Equity

Accounts Payable	\$ 511.
Equity	<u>135,375.</u>
Total	\$135,886.

The Foundation now has a profile on The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia web site. To view profile go to... <http://giverichmond.guidestar.org/NonprofitProfile.aspx?OrgId=1047401>

If you wish to make a donation to the Foundation you may do so when viewing our profile.