

The Broadside



The voice of The Mathews Maritime Foundation

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on the web at www.mathewsmaritime.com*

Kids Kayak Camp July 2010 session...

By Marcy Benouameur

The first session of the Kids Kayak Camp took place July 6-9 on the East River in the Bohannon area of Mathews County. The four day camp included two days of water activities and two days of land based activities. The July camp was a big success. The children not only developed their kayaking skills and had fun on the water, but also enjoyed the two days of educational activities.

The first day of the Kayak Camp was devoted to paddling techniques and water safety. Jan Towne of Bay Trails Outfitters gave kayaking instruction on land during the first hour. Then the children practiced their skills on the water. Jan was assisted out on the water by her son Sawyer and paddler Marcy Benouameur.

The second day of the camp the kids learned some rescue techniques on land and then were ready to get out on the water to play water games and paddle in the East River. They also learned how to get in and out of their kayaks by themselves when going on shore to wade in the water during those two hot July days.

On Thursday, the third day of the camp, the children participated in environmental land based activities. The first class was about birding. Birders Debbie Harriman and Carol McCormack gave wonderful instruction about how to recognize various birds from their shapes,

colors, or calls. The children then learned how to use binoculars to actually do some bird watching.

For the second class the kids went out on the dock and learned about various Chesapeake Bay creatures. Matt Rowe, Mathews County Planner/Wetlands Coordinator, gave this instruction. May Sligh of the Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) gave demonstrations about The Chesapeake Bay watershed and about water quality. Ursula Lemanski of the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program was here to observe and participate in these activities.

On Friday, the last day of the camp, the kids learned about maritime heritage, woodcraft, and boating safety. Michael Steen of the Watermen's Museum in Yorktown, and Wyatt Vrooman gave demonstrations about Virginia Indian maritime heritage. Next, there was a woodcraft class which included building a bird house. Stan Cath, Millie Montgomery and Janet Loyd assisted the children in this activity. Home Depot had donated the wooden pieces for the bird houses. The children only had to nail and screw the pieces together. Last but not least was instruction in boating safety/navigation and a demonstration about responding to water emergencies by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The kids were given their T-shirts on Thursday and brought home a bird house on Friday. They also went home with a folder full of

Keeping the Past in the Present Preserving it for the Future

information and handouts about what they had learned.

The Kids Kayak Camp was sponsored by The Mathews Maritime Foundation, Mathews County, and Bay Trails Outfitters. The two summer camps were made possible by a grant from the Mathews Community Foundation.

There will be another Kayak Camp this summer from August 3-6. This session is filling up quickly now. Hopefully we will have another ten children registered for the camp who will enjoy it as much as the ten kids in the July session.

The camp is open to Mathews County middle school students. It takes place in the mornings from 9:30 AM to noon on each of the four days. For more information about the August camp, please contact Bay Trails Outfitters at 725-0626.

To see pictures of Kayak Camp activities during the July camp session go to <http://www.mathewsmaritime.com/kayakcamp.htm>

Klingel's "INAGUA" Rereleased...

By Marcy Benouameur

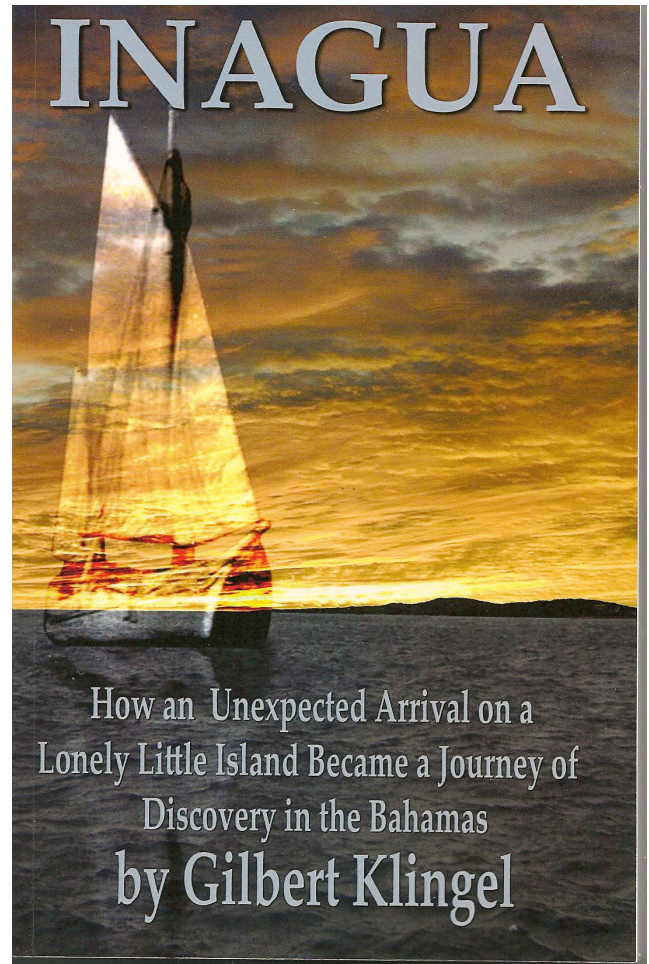
INAGUA by Gwynn's Island boat builder Gilbert Klingel is back in print. A new edition has just recently been released. Gil Klingel's daughter Marcy Benouameur has written a new introduction which brings the story into the present. We learn here how Klingel came to settle in Mathews, Virginia and how he established the Gwynn's Island Boat Yard. The Mathews Maritime Foundation is now part of this history since we are currently leasing the Gwynn's Island Boat Shop located on the site of Klingel's legendary boat yard.

INAGUA is a shipwrecked naturalist's true story of adventure and discovery on a lonely island in the Bahamas. Klingel found a natural world never before described in great detail. Written with beauty and rare perception, this unusual narrative will delight anyone loving natural history and adventure.

A website is being developed for this book. Many unpublished photos have recently been discovered and these have been converted

to digital format. The website now includes photos showing the construction of the Basilisk, the vessel built for this scientific expedition in 1930. The Basilisk was a replica of Captain Joshua Slocum's famous Spray. There is a detailed biography of the author Gilbert Klingel and much more. The website is constantly being updated and we welcome your comments as this website grows in content and scope. See www.inaguabook.com for more information.

Signed copies of the book can be purchased from the Mathews Maritime Museum for \$19.95 plus tax. Please stop by when we are open or call the museum at 725-4444 to reserve a copy.



Tour de Chesapeake...

By Nancy Lindgren

The Tour de Chesapeake refreshment booth on May 15 at lovely Horn Harbor Marina was again a success. Our MMF volunteers wel-

comed tired and hungry bikers in need of a respite, a cool drink and a snack. Home made(!) goodies were provided by Roger Gamble and Michael Swiderski which gave competition to another booth where we heard home made chocolates were available.

We thank Diane Fletcher and her staff at the marina for providing this beautiful, breezy venue that we all appreciated. Thanks also go to the volunteers who manned the booth and, the night before, cut up a crate of oranges and set up the supplies on site.

The volunteers at the booth or in the museum that day included Kerry Hall, Barry Wells, Pete Hall, Penny & Joe Gowdey, Marcy Benouameur, Diane Fletcher, Janet Loyd, Dennis Crawford, Dennis Gryder, Bill Walters, Paul Stimson, Roger Gamble and Michael Swiderski..

Thank you ALL for your volunteer help. Your hearts and hands are always welcome!!!

Oral History Project Update...

By Nancy Lindgren

The oral History project is progressing nicely with Bronwyn Hughes filming interviews that Nancy Lindgren does with people who have had a connection to the water..either within Mathews, or beyond. The finished product will serve as a video, adjunct to displays at museum, and maybe even a documentary about Mathews! We are seeking a diversity of jobs to balance the many occupations that have provided Mathews men a living through the years.

Since the last newsletter, conversations have taken place with Charles Lee and Helen Forrest, Arnold Ripley, Captain Jack Stillman and Travers & Trudy Thompson. The wives have been included to add comments on their husband's career, or to tell of their experiences during those times. Their comments are welcome as they reveal a different "take" on the subject, as well as showing cooperative effort necessary for a marriage.

We'll continue our filming, so if you can suggest people of particular interest, please let Nancy or Bronwyn know. Our information files, including videos about people, places, boats , and

the maritime history of Mathews will always have room for more!

Boat Builders of Mathews Theme of 2011 Calendar...

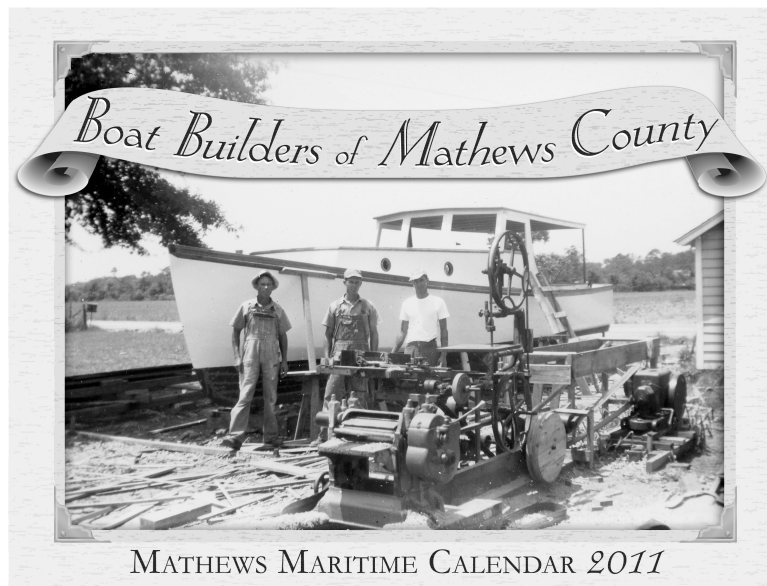
By Nancy Lindgren

The Mathews Maritime Foundation calendar for 2011 features boat builders of mathews. There is a collection of photos showing this wonderful aspect of Mathews' maritime history that is so important it is depicted on the county seal. While we didn't get ALL the builders, we have a representative group of the ones who have passed on, as well as some presently living in Mathews or elsewhere.

Their skills added to the reputation of Mathews for being an important boat building area since Revolutionary times. Though the materials and methods may have changed throughout the years, the skill and intuitive nature of boat builders has not. It's an honor to showcase them in our calendar.

The calendar will make its debut at Mathews Market Days at our booth and then be available at the Museum Gift Shop, the Visitor's Center and other selected outlets to be announced. Retail price of the calendar will be \$10.00.

We thank the contributors of the photos and the information that accompanies them.



Thanks and our sincere appreciation go to graphic artist Grace Metzger Forrest for the calendar design and layout, and to Elsa Verbyla for contributing captions to the photos.

Thanks also go to our sponsors who support the cost of the printing which is done by the Gazette Journal.

Still Need More Model Cases...

Museum Curator Dennis Crawford is seeking volunteers to build additional cases for our model boats. Cases are needed for: The "Iva W" which is 3' 4" long and 2' 9" high; a flat bot-tomed skiff 1' long; and a better fitting case for our pond boat model of the USS Missouri at 2' 8" long.

Thanks go to Joe Ortiz for the recently completed case for our model of the deck boat "Ginnie" and her bat boat.

Mystery Artifact Donation...

Attached are photos of blocks left on the Museum's porch. The note left with them said that they might have been used on a 1915 era Skipjack. No indication of who left them or any other history. We would like very much to recognize the person who made this donation. It is our hope that you will see this article and come forward. Thanks.



Photo by Dennis Crawford

MMF-RCC Partnership...

The Rappahannock Community College Marine Trades program is now set up at our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop and ready to begin classes. The initial class to be held at this facility will be for ABYC certification on diesel engines. This class will be taught on August 6,7,13,and 14 from 8 am to 4 pm each day.

Dates to mark on your calendar...

August 3-6 -Kids Kayak Camp -
2nd Session

Sep 10-11- Mathews Market
Days

Sep 25- Mathews Maritime Heritage
Day at Horn Harbor Marina



Photo by Dennis Crawford