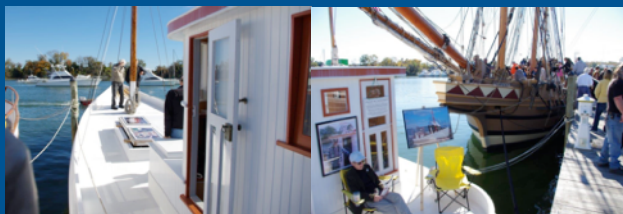


The Broadside



The view 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

The Mathews Maritime Park...

MMF Vice-president Tom Robinson reports that the project is on-track and progressing nicely through the various permit and approval requirements. Everyone I have spoken with on the Planning Commission, Planning Department and Board of Supervisors have expressed positive views and the need for such a park. It should be presented for approval at next month's Planning meeting, and then for final approval before the BOS in May.

Upon approval, our work will just begin. We will need to recruit new members and volunteers, advertise for donations of money, materials and labor.

Our architectural drawing will be finalized and published, along with a positive story about the park, museum and foundation.

I am really looking forward to starting, and completing, such a wonderful maritime, history and recreational project that will involve our entire board, general membership and volunteers for the foreseeable future.

Boat Builders of Mathews County...

The Mathews Maritime Foundation & Museum is currently compiling a list of Mathews boat builders of the Twentieth century. With every passing day we are losing the history of these men who built work boats, sail boats and pleasure boats in the County. We feel that this part of Mathews' maritime history should be preserved and are making every effort to do so.

Our list, so far, includes boat builders Brown, Colvin, Deagle, Diggs, Hudgins, Klingel, and Schlenk. Should you have any information that you would like to share on the men of Mathews who built boats here, we would love to hear from you. Contact us by phone at 804-725-4444 or on the web at info@mathewsmaritime.com

Books for Sale...

Museum curator Dennis Crawford reports that our library of nautical books and magazines is overflowing. We're out of room. He has culled out the duplicates from our collection and offers them for purchase for \$1.00 to \$4.00.

Some of the titles up for sale are: "Cruising Under Sail" by Hiscock; "Gipsy Moth Circles The World" by Frances Chichester; Chapman's "Piloting, Seamanship, and Small Boat Handling"; "Early Man and the Ocean" by Heyerdahl; and "American Sailing Ships" by Howard Chapelle.

Come by the Museum to view the entire collection of books and magazines for sale. Museum hours are 10 AM to 2PM Friday and Saturday.

Foundation Lapsed Memberships

In January, membership chairman Page Herbert, sent out a mass mailing to 166 of our members whose memberships had lapsed. This letter set forth an apology for our failure to keep members abreast and updated on our activities and programs. The letter also included a copy of the January 2021 issue of "The Broadside", the

Foundation's newsletter. This effort produced a 26.5% response rate resulting in 44 renewals.

New Member Solicitation...

Also, in January, President Marcy Benouameur posted a letter to 72 persons on our contact list inviting them to become members of the Foundation.

Her letter talked about the history of the Foundation, included the current issue of our newsletter, "The Broadside", and a sincere plea to help us fulfill our mission.

That mission is to preserve and protect Mathews County's rich maritime and cultural heritage through research, conservation, documentation and education. This mailing brought us six new members, a 10.3% response rate.

Treasurer Hall Seeks Volunteer

Pete Hall is asking for someone to come forward to serve as Treasurer of the Foundation. Hall has been in this position since 2006. It's a volunteer position that is critical to the operation of the organization. Serving as Treasurer of any organization would seem to be very demanding on ones time. Hall finds it just the opposite.

Having been at it for fifteen years he's got it down to a smooth running operation that requires on average nine hours per month. Hall uses Quick Books for Non-Profits to keep track of the Foundation's finances and it would be advantageous for one volunteering for this position to have a working knowledge of the software. However, it is not absolutely imperative. Hall says that he will work closely with the person who volunteers until he/she feels comfortable in the position.

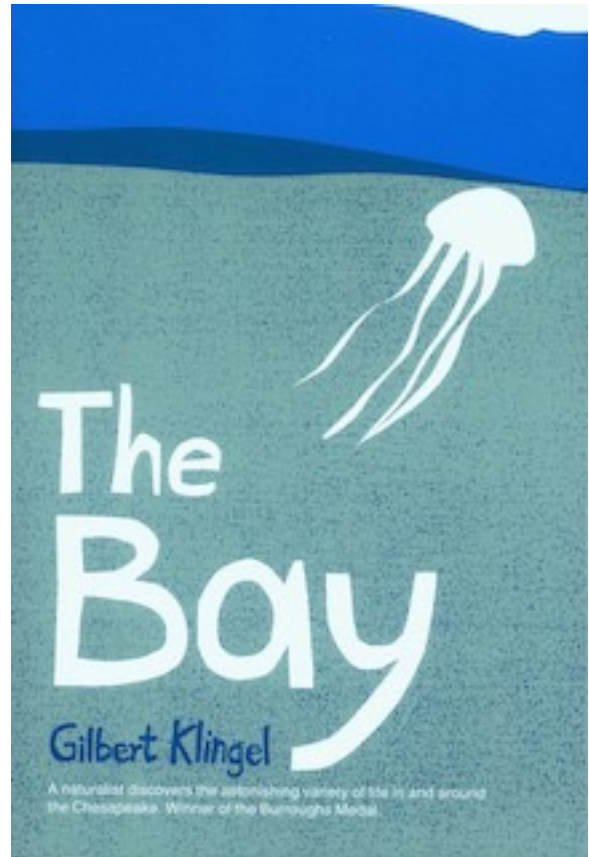
Those interested should call or text message him at 434-917-5281.

Gilbert Klingel...

MMF President Marcy Benouameur, daughter of Gilbert Klingel is excited to report that the new year 2021 unexpectedly brought in a renewed interest in Gwynn's Island boat builder Gilbert Klingel, his life, his books, his explorations, his undersea diving, and of course his boatbuilding.

Requests for photos and information suddenly came pouring in from three different sources, two well known magazines and a museum, which were scattered in different locations from Maryland to Massachusetts. Read on...

Chesapeake Bay Magazine...



The April issue of Chesapeake Bay Magazine, now on the newsstands, features an article about Gilbert Klingel, his life and his works. It focuses especially on his award-winning book The BAY since this year is the 70th anniversary of its publication in 1951.

The BAY is a classic known for Klingel's unique presentation of this very special estuary. Written from the viewpoint of a naturalist, it is all about the Bay itself, its history and the creatures living above and below these waters. It was this book that inspired the National Geographic Society to contact Klingel about building a new undersea diving submersible to take color photos under the Bay for the very first time.

Klingel designed and built the Aquascope in 1952 and the project took place off the shores

of Gwynn's Island in 1953. This story with the remarkable color photos appeared in the May 1955 issue of National Geographic Magazine.

Sea History Magazine

The Spring issue of Sea History Magazine appeared in mid March. On page 44-45 of this issue there is a full 2 page article about Klingel and his encounter with an octopus while diving off the shores of the island of Great Inagua in 1938. This article was written for youth to create an interest in learning about the sea. Klingel is also mentioned on page 46 about his undersea diving and on page 47 regarding the Basilisk, his replica of Joshua Slocum's famous Spray.

Sea History Magazine is published quarterly by the National Maritime Historical Society. This non-profit organization has a very impressive and interesting website which I urge anyone who loves the sea to take a look at: www.seahistory.org See also seahistory.org/kids or seahistory.org/magazine to look at the entire magazine page by page.

You can also find the kids' article about Gilbert Klingel at the main website above in blue. From the Home Page Menu on the top of the screen, click on Sea History for Kids. Then click on Animals (Animals in Sea History – written and illustrated by Richard J. King). Then scroll down to Caribbean Reef Octopus and click on the photo of the Octopus (double click to enlarge). That brings you to the article about Gilbert Klingel.

The author of Animals in Sea History, Richard King, is a writer/educator for kids in middle school through high school. He is affiliated with Mystic Seaport, CT. and Woods Hole,

MA. His articles are all online and may be used for our MMF museum youth education programs.

At some point in time this could help fill our museum gap in marine biology and could lead to a future museum exhibit on undersea exploration and research by Gilbert Klingel, Morgan Wells and others.

Basilisk historic photos requested by Oxford MD Museum

When Stuart Parnes, Curator of the Oxford Museum in Oxford, MD discovered that the www.inagua-book.com website had photos of the Basilisk in construction at Conley's Shipyard in 1930, he requested these photos for an exhibit about the historic boat yards of Oxford.

The photo gallery of the Inagua book website shows the Basilisk photos in five general categories but there are no captions for each photo. Back in the 1930's Klingel had made a scrapbook of all 55 of his original photos with captions included. Since these cap-

tions would be useful for research or any museum exhibits, my sons and I decided to take this project on. Using Google Slides, the photos were transferred one by one, a link created, captions added and some photos enhanced for better viewing.

While working on this project, we discovered that the Basilisk was one of two replicas of Joshua Slocum's Spray built at Conley's Shipyard. It appears that these two are among the most exact replicas of the original Spray and



The Basilisk in full sail

were called by some “the Oxford Sprays.” The first of these two was built for Pete Culler (also known as Major Culler). Klingel found this boat in construction at Conley’s Shipyard in July of 1929 while searching for a suitable vessel for the proposed scientific expedition to the West Indies.

He realized the moment he saw the hull that this was the type vessel he desired. It was modeled after the famous original “Spray” of Captain Joshua Slocum who sailed the original around the world alone in the late 1890’s. The plans for Pete Culler’s “Spray” came from Australia where they were obtained by Pete Culler and his son. Culler rigged his boat exactly as the original, with rope strapped blocks, etc.

Slocum’s voyage around the world was facilitated by a special feature of the Spray that would allow it to steer itself. This was done by finding a balance between the trim of the sails and the rudder and then lashing the helm to let the vessel sail itself.

Klingel utilized this same method on the Basilisk to survive that terrific 1930 storm in the Atlantic Ocean. On page 29 of his book IN-AGUA, he describes how this method saved his life and that of his shipmate Wally Coleman. It was all thanks to his gallant little ship, the Basilisk, and Captain Slocum’s survival method.

Freya Work Day...

John Bonner, head of the committee tasked with the restoration of FREYA, says she is ready for a good clean up in preparation for the coming repairs. He is calling for those interested in helping to meet at the Gwynn's Island Boatyard on Saturday, May 1 at 10 AM. Email John at <bayslady@gmail.com> to let him know of your intent to help out. He will inform you if the weather will be a problem. Be sure to bring a mask as it will be required.

Donated Boat Sales...

Boat sales continue to sustain the Foundation. To date chief salesman Dave Machen has sold four boats, two power and two sailboats. Boats that we have for sale may be viewed on our web site <www.mathewsmaritime.com>.

Featured this month is a **1991 Wellcraft, 2600 with:** twin 200 Yamaha outboards with counter rotating props; sea star steering; trim tabs; radar; Garmin fish finder; bridge enclosure by Marine Fabricators of Topping, Virginia; head; galley; and live well. Engines just checked over for Rockfish season. Priced at \$15,000.



Wellcraft 26 on boat lift



Wellcraft 26 200HP Yamahas