

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

Message from our President...

Our thanks go out to our MMF members and volunteers who came out and supported our Maritime Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday, July 17. Thanks also to the many in our Mathews community and those who came from afar to join us in this celebration.

We were fortunate to have a sunny July day with a gentle breeze for this event which contributed to the relaxed atmosphere. There appeared to be great interest and enthusiasm from the attending crowd regarding the museum and the artifacts displayed therein as well as the exhibits spread out on the lawn outside of the museum.

It was so good to see friends and acquaintances we hadn't seen for some time and to meet newcomers interested in what we do. Thanks to all for making this event a big success!

We are already planning for another maritime heritage event in cooler weather, most likely in the Fall. *Marcy Benouameur, President*

Model Boat Raffle...

MMF in conjunction with Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, is holding a model boat raffle to benefit the hospital. The boat is a 1/12 scale model of a Chesapeake Bay deadrise work boat built by MMF Director and model builder Don Good.

The model is on display at our museum, and will be traveling to other events around

town. 100% of funds raised are going to Riverside Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester, VA. Drawing to be held at the hospital's Festival of Lights celebration in Dec.

To enter please use the Riverside Founda-



tion payment portal at <https://donatenow.net-workforgood.org/riverside> for credit card transactions of \$10 or more. For every \$5 donation you will have 3 tickets entered in your name. \$10 will get 6 tickets, \$15 will get 9 tickets, and so on.

When at the site, select the amount you wish to donate, then the payment method (credit card or PayPal), and then go to "I want my donation credited toward" and select "Model Boat Chance Drawing – Benefiting Walter Reed" in the gift designation drop-down and complete your transaction. Please note that there is a \$10 minimum on the donation portal.

Raffle tickets may also be purchased at the MMF Museum on Friday & Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM. Additional locations, as they are

set up, will be posted on our web site, and on our Facebook page.

New Members...

We welcome seven new members to the Foundation/Museum. They are: Bob and Ann Buhl, Tim Mooney, John Russell, Paul Russell, William Russell and Paul Richardson. If you missed signing up to become a member, you can stop by the Maritime Museum any Friday or Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM or go to our website: www.mathewsmaritime.com and sign up there.

Heritage Day Celebration...

Most all who visited the Museum and the exhibits in tents on the lawn outside of the Museum got a good taste of the maritime history of Mathews County and of the work that the Mathews Maritime Foundation is doing to preserve that history.

Curators Dennis Crawford and Peter Wrike conducted tours inside the museum for 45 visitors, some locals, some newcomers to Mathews, and some from outside of the County. Most were impressed with our newest exhibit that depicts the Steam Boat Era.

Outside of the museum visitors had an opportunity to visit six tent stations to learn about some of the projects and activities the Museum is involved in.

President Marcy Benouameur and VP Tom Robinson manned our welcome tent. Here visitors were told about the mission of the Foundation/Museum, our goals and the projects we are currently working on.

Tom Edwards of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 66 was on hand to talk boating safety to all. He passed out boating safety themed coloring books to visiting kids. And kids could try their hand at tossing a life ring at a target 20 feet distant.

Grace Forrest and her daughter, Ella, were set up in another tent offering face painting to visitors young and old. Though mostly the young took advantage of Grace's and Ella's artistic talent.

George Pongonis, alternate Captain of the deck boat Peggy of New Point, was on hand to talk about Peggy's history and her life working the fishing/crabbing industry on the Chesapeake Bay.

Visitors had an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets from Director Don Good and his wife Debbie for a Chesapeake Bay deadrise model boat built by Don. The raffle is in support of the Riverside Walter Reed Hospital. See page 1 for details.

Pete Hall and Dave Rowland set up a boat build to demonstrate boat building techniques. The intent was to encourage sign-up and participation in an ongoing boat building class at our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop.

In addition to these activities, country music by John Atkinson of Gwynn's Island was playing in the background throughout the event and was perfect for the occasion.

Backwoods BBQ turned out to be very popular. Their food truck was there all day for everyone's convenience.

The Old Town "Whitecap" sailboat created quite a splash. It even got its picture in the July 22 issue of the Gazette Journal on the "Mathews Mirror" page. This 13.5 foot wooden sailboat is the sister ship of the "Tinkerbell" that was sailed across the Atlantic in 1965 from Falmouth Massachusetts to Falmouth England in 75 days by Robert Manry, a copy editor with the *Plain Dealer*.

***Freya* Rescue...**

Gilbert Klingel's "Freya", located at the Gwynns Island Boat Shop, requires some repairs and some cleaning. Our first project is to unstep the mast, sand it down to prepare for repainting, and repair some areas where moisture is getting into the wood. The mast will be placed on sawhorses to make it easier to work on.

This project will require members and anyone interested in participating to complete the work. Most importantly we need monetary contributions from the community to restore *Freya* to her best. See mathewsmaritime.com

and contribute to the *Freya* fund or mail a donation to Mathews Maritime Foundation, 482 Main St. Mathews, Va. 23109. She is a classic boat for her era and a shining example of a Mathews shipbuilders talent. Please help us to save her.

Klingel's Green Heron ...

Also on our list of Klingel boats needing restoration is the "Green Heron". Klingel built this boat for his personal use and designed it with a very shallow draft, one foot. In this way it enabled him to sail up small creeks to study creek life up close.

She has been abandoned in Cobbs Creek for many years and we are starting a plan to have her moved to Rappahannock Community College so that their welding class can effect repairs to the hull.

Once repairs are completed she may become an in-water exhibit beside the *Freya* at our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop. As with the *Freya*, donations to help us with this project will be most appreciated.

Museum Exhibits...

Museum collection curators Dennis Crawford, Don Good and Peter Wrike continue their work creating exciting and informative exhibits depicting Mathews Maritime heritage. Most recently, Don has constructed a movable exhibit showcasing the tools of an early shipwright.



Donated Boat Sales...

We are most grateful to those who have donated boats, motors and other items to the Foundation. The sale of these donations has provided us with a major part of the funding needed to sustain Museum and Foundation operations.

Recent sales include: a Water Wheeler paddle boat; a 12' aluminum John Boat; a 13' Skipjack sail boat; two outboard motors; and a 31' O'Day sloop.

Several of the small boats and motors on our donated boat listing were on display at our July 17 Maritime Heritage Day celebration. Interest was high among those attending which resulted in the sale of the above items.

Nautical Library...

We learn from Curator Denis Crawford that our extensive library of used nautical books is still overflowing. This is mostly due to the fact that we have two and in some instances three of a given title. As mentioned in the last issue of the Broadside we are anxious to reduce the size of our library and therefore, have placed a number of these used books for sale at bargain prices.

Visit us Fridays & Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM, or call (804)725-4444 during that time to see if we have the book you are looking for.

Peggy Sunday Cruises...

Members can sign up for a cruise on the deck boat the "Peggy". Beginning this Fall, MMF MEMBERS will have the opportunity to spend an enjoyable and educational Sunday afternoon aboard "Peggy of New Point".

A schedule of cruise dates, starting in September, will be published on our website at www.mathewsmaritime.com where you can make your reservation. Registration is first come, first served and limited to one trip per season so that as many members as possible can be accommodated.

Please note that we are, at present, limited to six (6) people per cruise and you must be a

member of the Foundation in order to participate.

Boat Builders of Mathews County...

We mentioned this project in the April issue of The Broadside and wanted to bring it up again as it is one of our most important and necessary projects. 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

Some snapshots of maritime activity...

Grace Forrest face painting one of the young visitors to the Maritime Heritage celebration



New sign at the entrance to MMF’s Gwynn’s Island Boat Shop.

Pete Hall and Dave Rowland at work on a “Mike O’Brien Six Hour Canoe” at the Maritime Heritage celebration.

