

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*

'Tis the Season...

For this the December issue of our newsletter I thought it appropriate to present a review of the Foundation's activities of this our 11th anniversary year. Before doing so I'd like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to those organizations and individuals who gave of their time and talent helping us continue to provide interesting and educational programs to the Mathews community.

The Year in Review..

Youth Activities...

We continued to provide educational opportunities to Mathews County children through our annual Kids Kayak Camp, Chesapeake Bay Days, model boat building, and Mathews Maritime Heritage Day poster contest. All of these events were well attended.

Eighteen kids participated in the Kayak Camp. Eighty Thomas Hunter Middle school sixth graders attended Chesapeake Bay Days and were exposed to various displays and demonstrations pertaining to maritime history and preservation of the Chesapeake Bay.

Model boat building attracted twelve youngsters each of whom had the opportunity to build a model of a Chesapeake Bay rowing skiff.

The poster contest drew from middle school students forty entries that depicted Mathews County's maritime heritage in some form or other.



Poster Contest Best in Show by Taylor Williams

Maritime Heritage Trail...

Work on the East River portion of the Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail is near completion. Janet Loyd, program coordinator, and her crew of volunteers (Marcy Benouameur, Dace Machen, Dave Montgomery, VIMS, and National Park Service's Rivers and Trails division) are to be congratulated on a job well done. You can see the results of their efforts on the web. Go to <www.mathewsmaritime.com> and click on "Mathews Maritime Trail - East River Guide".

Museum Collections...

Under the able direction of curators Dennis Crawford and Marcy Benouameur our collections continue to grow. Recent donations from the estate of Bill Jeter, by his sister Susan Pollard, include two model boats (one pictured) and some trophies and memorabilia from Bill's boat racing days.



With this and other recently donated models we are once again in need of display cases. If you are interested in building one or more contact Dennis at dcarrmatey@gmail.com or call the Museum at 804-725-4444.

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. To date two classes have been held. The first covered diesel engine maintenance and repair. The second was a course in the basic maintenance and repair of marine electrical and mechanical systems.

Heritage Day Celebration...

Our fifth annual Mathews Maritime Heritage Day celebration was again held at Horn Harbor Marina the last Saturday in September. Three-hundred to four hundred visitors got to see models of traditional Chesapeake Bay workboats made by the Croxton brothers, half-hull models by Daniel Ortiz, Heritage Day poster contest entries and winners, special Heritage Day postage cancellation, preview of the Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail, crab pot making, sculling demonstration,

and 4-H Extension Agent Nancy Roche with fun activities for the younger set.

Also on hand were the Tidewater Oyster growers, Larry Chewing and Marcy Benouameur doing book signings, music by Southern Friends, and food provided by Mathews Lions. In all it was a fun day for all.

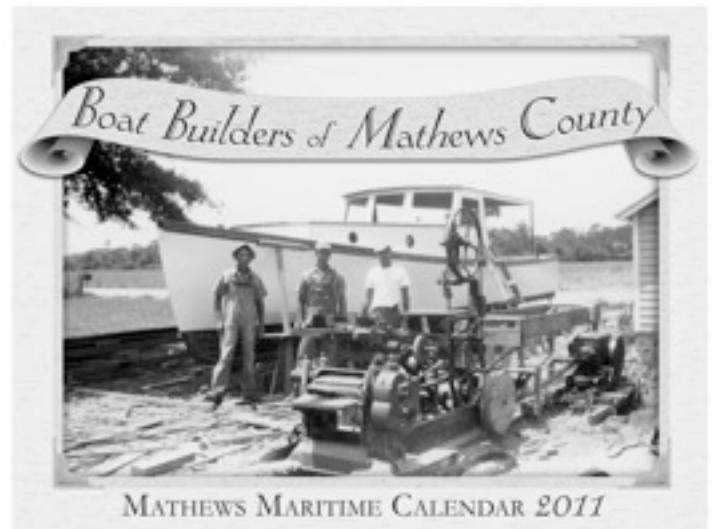
Our thanks to Dianne Fletcher and her crew at Horn Harbor for their hospitality in providing a venue for our celebration.

2011 Maritime Calendar...

Once again Nancy Lindgren, Editor and Grace Metzger Forrest, graphic design artist have produced a calendar, our sixth edition, of which to be proud. This year's theme, Boat Builders of Mathews County, was chosen to honor those who throughout the history of Mathews became proficient at creating boats used for work and leisure.

We are grateful to the those individuals who contributed the photographs for this edition and 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.



Donor Boat Program...

The donor boat program continues to provide funds to the Foundation in support of our many programs. Since its inception in 2004 we have taken in 77 boats of various types and sizes. As of this writing 62 have been sold generating \$78,935 for the Foundation. In this year alone, 19 boats were donated and 13 sold bringing in \$17,995. Our sincere thanks to all donors as well as purchasers. We are grateful for your support.

All donor boats that we have for sale can be viewed on our website at <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 up close. All are located at our Museum on Main Street in Mathews or at our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop.

Other Events...

During this year we participated in several area celebrations and festivals. On May 15 we hosted a rest stop at Horn Harbor Marina for cyclists in the Tour De Chesapeake.

On July 11 we took our informational display to the Watermen's Heritage Celebration at the Watermen's Museum in Yorktown.

September 10-11 found us at Mathews Market Days, and on October 9 we took our display to Deltaville Maritime Museum's Art/Seafood Festival.

All of these events combined with our local events kept us quite busy throughout the year.

Speaker Meetings...

Our third Thursday of the month from September through May speaker meetings continue to be well attended. Some of our speakers and their topics presented this year include: Michael Swiderski, Kayaking through the Everglades; Jim Brown, the future of multihulls in the America's Cup competition; Janet Loyd, Mathews Maritime Heritage Trail- East River portion; and the Croxton brothers, traditional Bay boats in model form.

4-H/MMF Boat Building project...

Our most ambitious project of the year is this boat build. The idea for this project was conceived last January when we learned that the Jamestown 4-H Camp was planning to establish a sailing program as part of the camp offerings. MMF had some kits left over from its 2007 Family Boat Building event that they felt would be ideal for the program.

The boat, a 10' William Atkin design called the "Nymph" is a flat bottom hard chine boat quite suitable for kids learning to sail.

Fund raising began in January of this year with the hope that by September we would have raised enough through individual donations and through sailboat "adoptions" to fund a fleet of six sailboats. As of this writing the Piankatank Ruritan Club and the Mathews Yacht Club have each adopted a boat; and contributions from individuals, marinas, and others are sufficient to fund a boat. The Yacht Club has also donated a sailboat that is ready to go except for some minor repairs. That makes four boats. Efforts to fund the remaining 2 boats will continue through the spring and those boats will be built as funding makes that possible.

We began building the 3 boats that have been funded and to make repairs on the boat that was donated on November 13th. On hand for the boat building were several members of the Mathews Yacht Club, six 4-H youth, and Extension Agent Nancy Roche.

Professional boat builders Joe Ortiz and Tim Scheid along with Pete Hall and Dennis Crawford were on hand also to guide the building of the boats. It is expected that the boats will take 40-60 hours for completion from assembly to finished paint and rigging.

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.



Pictured here are boatbuilders at our second building session at our Gwynn's Island Boat Shop. Photo by Dave Machen



4-H'r Michael Stewart fastening side panel to transom of boat. Photo by Dave Machen

Museum Renovation Progressing...

Our renovation of the Museum building interior is moving along slowly due to an issue with the building's plumbing. We are hopeful of achieving a solution before the year is out. Once this is done we can move forward with electrical upgrade, floor refinishing, ceiling tile replacement, and painting, etc. Hopefully we can complete this phase of the renovation by Spring.

With the help of our present cadre of volunteer labor (Michael Swiderski, Project Leader; Jack Caldwell, Architect; Dave Machen, Nancy Lindgren, Dennis Crawford, Stan Cath, Marcy Benouameur, Dennis Gryder, Hank Furniss, Bud Mathews, and Paul Vanden Bout) we should be able to meet this deadline.

We have put together a "wish list" of items and materials needed for this restoration. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated. Our list includes: track lighting, flush mount receptacles, pine tongue and groove flooring, a dehumidifier, under counter refrigerator, ceiling tiles. And for an ADA conforming bathroom we need: floor tile (ceramic or other), grab rails, 36" entry door, exhaust fan, light fixtures, toilet, and



wall mounted sink.

Boatbuilder Joe Ortiz right instructing Belle Massimino (with plane) and her sister, Rayne Massimino. Photo by Dave Machen

Here are some more photos from our activities this year

Chesapeake Bay Days 2010...

Photos by Dave Montgomery



4-H.MMF Boat building project...

Photos by Dave Machen



Keeping the Past in the Present Preserving it for the Future