

# 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*

### Model Boat Build at Boys & Girls Club

During this year we started a popular program for middle school students, building an accurate scale model



of a small boat, a Core Sound skiff. This boat and other similar skiffs were popular for fishing pound nets in the days before outboards became widely used.

The boat was designed by Warren Robinson for our use in this program. Janet Loyd wrote a successful proposal for a grant from the Mathews Community Foundation which was the beginning. Dave Montgomery built several prototypes to come up with methods of making the construction simple enough to be done in about 8 hours by middle school children.

Since none of the participants had experience in boat building we had volunteers working at each session demonstrating techniques and helping with the most difficult steps. During the building process conversation, questions, new words and as much maritime heritage as we could work in, while still keeping the sessions fun, provided the learning we were hoping to achieve.

Nancy Roche, Mathews Extension Agent, provided invaluable help in translating our written instruction for assembling the models into text that the middle school children could read and understand.

The volunteer builders were Stan Cath, Dennis Crawford, Dennis Gryder, Dave Machen, Dave Montgomery, Dennis Gillikin, and Elliott Riddick, the Technology teacher at Thomas Hunter.

Both Nancy Roche and Janet Loyd attended almost every session to help with the building, the teaching, and to be the authority figures for our participants.

The picture at left shows our last group of participants and helpers. Pictured are from left to right front row: Bill Riley, Dusty Moore, Tracy Green, Forrest Grover., and Elliott Riddick. Back row left to right are: Dennis Gryder, Nancy Roche, Dennis Crawford, and Dave Montgomery. It might not show in this photo, but the pride in accomplishment was very apparent in all of the students.

Several helpers were not present at this session since we alternated to avoid burnout.

### Invitation to MYC's July 4th Picnic

Commodore Will Story and the members of the Mathews Yacht Club have extended an invitation to all MMF members to a picnic at the Club on Saturday, July 5th. A picnic of hot dogs, hamburgers, and all of the usual accoutrements will be served. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Reservations are required. Make checks payable to the Mathews Yacht Club and send them to the attention of Pete Hall at MMF, PO Box 1201, Mathews, VA 23109. Deadline for reservations is June 20th.

*Keeping the Past in the Present Preserving it for the Future*

## Peggy Comes Home to Mathews



Through the generosity of Kim and Gretchen Granbery, Peggy of New Point will be coming home to the place where she first took shape. Peggy was built on Horn Harbor at the yard of William West of Peary by Harry Steven Hudgins in 1925.

She was commissioned by Walter Burroughs and his brother in law, Raymond Hudgins for the purpose of pound net fishing. Sometime in the 1930s Raymond died and Walter, always known as Captain Walter, retained ownership for the next 37 years.

She remained in the pound net fishery up until the middle 1950s when she was converted for crab dredging. She continued in this configuration until 1961 when she was sold to Carl Grinnell for his son Edward. The Grinnells decided to go into pound net fishing and she was re-configured as she had been when Captain Walter worked her.

As the fishing industry goes, pound net fishing went slack and crab dredging looked more profitable. So, out came the crab dredge rigs. Peggy continued dredging until 2001 when she was sold to Kim and Gretchen.

The Foundation hopes to have Peggy back home by the time this newsletter goes to press. We're in the process of changing engines and performing some routine maintenance on her.

When this work has been completed she'll be headed for home.

## Captain and Crew Needed

We are asking for volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming part of the team we are assembling to operate and care for Peggy should contact Pete Hall at 804-693-9335. We need people who can act as captain, crew, and who are willing, at haul-out time, to grab a paint brush or sander or whatever else is needed to maintain Peggy in tip top condition.

## MMF Member Gives Challenge Donation

A member of the Foundation who wishes to remain anonymous has presented a challenge donation to the Peggy of New Point Endowment Fund. The member will match dollar for dollar all donations up to \$5,000 given to the endowment between now and September 27, 2008, the day of our annual Mathews Maritime Heritage Day celebration. Checks should be made out to the Mathews Maritime Foundation and designated for the Peggy Endowment Fund.

## Sea Chests and Ditty Bags... What's This?

What's a Ditty Bag you ask? Well, it's a small bag in which a sailor keeps small tools, equipment and personal articles. Utilizing this concept MMF's Educational Resource Group put together a program featuring a collection of maritime resources and interactive activities to assist teachers, youth organizations, and churches in the education of at risk middle school students in the areas of boating safety, the Chesapeake Bay, and the maritime heritage of Mathews County.

The Sea Chests and Ditty Bags project is a series of kits consisting of a collection of educational print, video, and interactive materials related to Mathews maritime, boating safety, and the Chesapeake Bay gathered from local, state, and national organizations. The resource materials may be used as stand alone, hands-on lessons by instructors, or grouped for all day or all week classes. Mathews Maritime Museum members will assist teachers, volunteers, camp counselors, or day care providers in the Ditty Bag courses as resource instructors.

Thomas Hunter Middle School has already agreed to host a full day program called Chesapeake Bay Day sponsored by the Mathews Maritime Foundation to benefit all the 6th grade classes (110+ students).

This interactive day will feature sail rigging, navigation, knot tying, Mathews maritime history, decoy carving, model boat building, scrimshaw, toeing for clams, crabbing, oystering, boating safety, the state of the Bay, and lots more. In addition to hands on displays and interactive activities, students will receive a Ditty Bag of take home resources and projects. It is anticipated that this will become an annual event at Thomas Hunter.

The major goal of this program is to present Mathews maritime history, the Chesapeake Bay environment, and boating safety in an interesting and memorable manner to inform and entice further investigation by the recipients. Additionally the community at large will benefit from the experience and knowledge gained by the participants.

This outreach program will also enable other organizations to come on board with information and resources for the betterment of the Mathews community. Most residents of an area are not familiar with the history and landmarks of their neighborhood. Vacations are often spent away from home. Through the Sea Chest and Ditty Bags program residents of Mathews County will learn about their nautical neighborhood, take pride in its heritage, and participate in the conservation of its resource.

### **Winter Speaker Series Well Attended**

The MMF sponsored Winter Speaker Series is held the third Thursday of each month from September through May. Most meetings are held at the Mathews Memorial Library except when we schedule a pot luck supper before our meeting. On those occasions we have met in the Fellowship Hall of Central United Methodist Church.

Our speakers this year have entertained us with some varied and interesting topics.

In early Fall Richard Payton, a retired educator from Petersburg, spoke of his experience as a young man working on the menhaden boats in the Chesapeake Bay.

Larry Chewing, noted local historian/author, spoke about his just published book, "Deadrise and Cross Planked", which recounts the many boatbuilders of this area and the vessels they built. Larry always draws a large audience and it gave him the opportunity to sell

copies of his new book as Christmas gifts. It also gave MMF an opportunity sell our 2008 Maritime Calendars.

In January Flotilla 66 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and a Milford Haven "Coastie" spoke to the group on boating safety checks and how Homeland Security has dictated new measures for protecting our shores against terrorist threats.

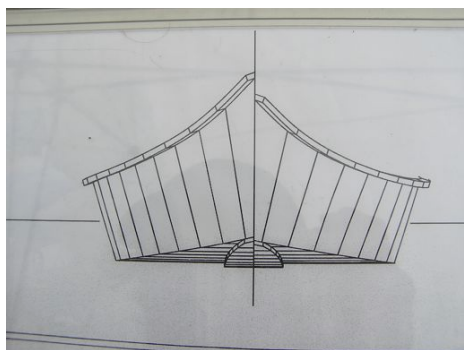
Fred Dent, known locally as "The Knot Man", showed us many examples of the unique objects he has created from knots, and walked us through tying a Turk's Head. It made us think about having small workshops in the future to help us perfect this old craft which is both useful and decorative.

Captain Irving Johnson of "Yankee" fame paid us a visit. Well, not really. He wasn't in person. He came to us through a home video that he shot himself while rounding Cape Horn in the last days of the tall sailing ships. Narrated by Johnson, with a sense of humor and always with his enthusiasm and overwhelming thrill of each exciting moment. The video was enjoyed by all.

John Crosthwaite, a docent at the Mariners Museum in Newport News, presented us with interesting accounts of two sea battles of long ago that he related to the current situation in the Middle East, and kept us engrossed with his account of two sea tragedies of modern maritime history.

Our speakers are chosen as their topics have something to do with the water and often to do with Mathews or the Chesapeake Bay area. We always welcome your suggestions for program topics and speakers, and also we invite you to attend these meetings. They are where we enjoy the company of others and the home cooked refreshments.

We are an all volunteer organization and we hope you will want to contribute YOUR ideas, time, energy, and effort to help us to grow and accomplish our mission, to preserve and protect the rich maritime history of Mathews County.



## Family Boat Building Event Scheduled for September

The 4th Annual Family Boat Building event will be held the weekend of Mathews Market Days, that is September 5-7 at the Foundation's Museum located at 482 Main Street in Mathews courthouse. Come, bring your family or a group of friends and build a boat together in a weekend, and then take it home with you. The event is open to anyone who has the desire to build a boat with the help of a professional boat builder.

With the recent interest from adults and children in the county to learn to sail and the lack of boats on which to learn, the Foundation has decided to offer a sailboat in kit form. It is hoped that families with children and parents interested in learning to sail might also enjoy building their own boat. There is nothing like the experience of building a boat and the pride of accomplishment one feels showing it to family and friends.

The boat is a 10' sailing dinghy called a "Nymph". It is an adaptation of a boat designed by William Atkin in the 1930's. Pictures of the Nymph can be seen at [www.atkinboatplans.com](http://www.atkinboatplans.com). On their home page click on "Little Boats" and scroll down to NYMPH and left click to see a profile and a description of the boat.

If you would like to get an upfront and close look at the Nymph, members of the Foundation with boat building experience will be building one at the Gwynn's Island Festival on June 28th. Come by our booth. We will be delighted to talk with you and answer any questions you may have regarding the Nymph and Family Boat Building.

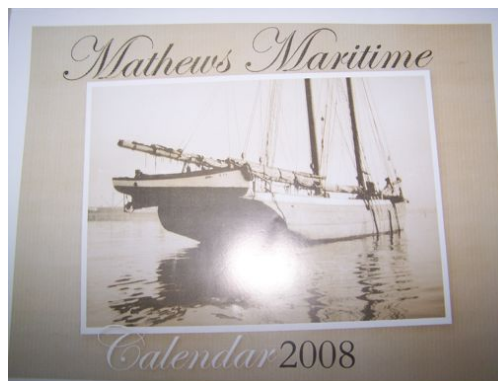
Those interested in participating in the event in September can sign up at our booth or before. Space is limited. Deadline for sign up is July 7th.

Foundation volunteers with boat building experience will produce the boat in kit form with all pieces and parts pre-cut and ready for assembly. The kit price is \$1250.00

and includes the hull as well as the sail, spars, rigging hardware, dagger board, rudder, tiller, and two 6' oars with oarlocks.

Call Pete Hall at 804-693-9335 for full details of the event.

## MMF 2009 Calendar



The 2009 Mathews Maritime Calendar is underway with this year's theme being GENERATIONS OF WATERMEN.

It has proven difficult to find photos of Fathers/Sons who worked the water a generation ago as they were busy working rather than taking pictures in addition to the fact that there were fewer cameras available.

Our watermen have worked so hard, and there are fewer working the water today, so we felt we would honor them in this way.

If anyone has photos depicting this theme (even brothers, uncles and nephews) please give Nancy Lindgren a call at 725-4382, and share them with us all.

## Maritime Heritage Day- September 27

The third Mathews Maritime Heritage Day celebration will be held the last Saturday in September (the 27th) at Horn Harbor Marina. from 9 AM to 4 PM. Honored guests will be the watermen of Mathews.

We will once again have demonstrations of crab pot making, oyster



dredge net weaving, mending of nets, and crab picking as well as local artisans selling their unique artworks that relate to our County.

Individuals and non-profits come together for a day like no other.

Since the watermen will be working that day, we hope to have them provide a boat parade in the afternoon to show off their vessels and to give us an opportunity to applaud their hard labor. Come join the celebration

### Museum Thankful for Additions to Collections

MMF has many people to thank for their wonderful donations of photos, objects, and boats to help make your maritime museum a special place.

The Stillmans have supported our efforts from day one with a number of items that pertain to the Merchant Marine Service and to Alton Smith's (Mildred's father) legendary boat building activities. Captain Jack and Mildred will be moving to Williamsburg soon. We will miss Captain Jack on the Board. His perspective and guidance have been most helpful to us.

The large anchor on the lawn in front of the Museum was given to us by Betty Zane Ripley White of Bohannon. It was given in memory of Harold C. "Pete" White, William Cecil Ripley, Jr., and Oliver Wingfield Ripley.



Just recently, Kenny and Margaret Hudgins donated their model of "Ginnie", a deck boat, and its "tow

bat".

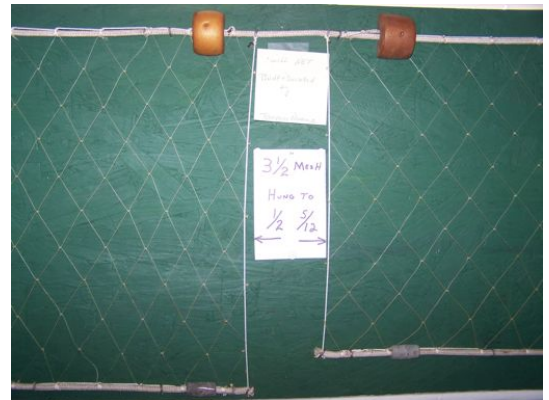
Dicky Hudgins brought in an old outboard motor from the estate of Johnny Forrest of Gwynn's Island.

Kevin Godsey contributed several oyster and fish tins in addition to his Treakle fish tag from the Fulton Fish Market in New York.



Will Story, Commodore of the Mathews Yacht Club, donated a MYC burgee along with a booklet on the history of the Club. All presented in a nice frame.

Tommy Owens made a demonstration board showing different size gill nets.



Many others have helped us to gather Mathews' maritime history, and we have promises of more to come. We're grateful to you all for entrusting us with your special memorabilia and appreciate your willingness to share them with us.

## **Boat donor program boats available for purchase**

**The boat donor program is an opportunity for individuals with boats they no longer need or want to donate them to the Foundation for a tax deduction. And for the individual looking to buy a boat, this is an opportunity to purchase one at a below market price.**

The boats currently available for purchase include the following.

At left a 1972 model 22' Catalina sailboat with a 5 HP Nissan outboard engine. Asking price is \$750.00

Also available is a 1978 model 23' Grampian sailboat listed at \$750.00 (below left).

For those looking for a power boat we have two available. One a 1985 model 20' Renken runabout with cuddy cabin and an EZ Loader trailer. Asking price \$4800.00 (upper right).

The other power boat is a 1982 15' Sunbird bow rider (no motor) with a Long trailer. We're asking \$775.00 for this rig (at right).



**Mathews Maritime Foundation  
PO Box 1201  
Mathews, VA 23109  
804-725-4444**