

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

Candid Gold Seal of Transparency



Mathews Maritime Foundation recently earned a Candid Gold Seal of Transparency! Check out our nonprofit profile to keep up to date with our impact. Click on this link

<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/shared/010a4f1c-5157-4613-b30f-8fda39b29026> Keep this link handy, we want to make sure you always have the information you need to support our work with trust and confidence.

Museum Opening...

Museum to open Friday, April 19 for the summer season. Our schedule of openings will be Friday and Saturday each week from 10AM to 2PM. Off hours tours can be arranged by calling Dennis Crawford at 804-366-5337.

More Exposure for MMF...

To keep abreast of our activities and sponsored events follow us on Facebook and our blog. You can follow both of these, receiving posts to your email or phone if you like, and get the latest info as soon as it is posted. Check out these features through the links on our home page, www.mathewsmaritime.com, or directly at <https://www.facebook.com/mathewsmaritime> for Facebook, and for Peggy's blog go to <http://peggyofnewpoint.blogspot.com/>.

<http://peggyofnewpoint.blogspot.com/>. Like our page, sign up to receive posts, share with your friends, and get social with us!

And don't forget, you can always order t-shirts, books, calendars, Peggy prints, DVDs, and other items found in our Museum Gift Shop using our online store. We use a secure PayPal connection for checkout.

Nautical Book Sale - April 19 & 20...

Our museum library's vast collection of nautical and maritime related books has become unmanageable - too many books and not enough shelf space to put them on. Museum curators Dennis Crawford and Don Good have culled out the books that don't readily connect to the maritime heritage of Mathews County.

So, come take a look on the 19th and 20th. See a book you like, take it for a donation of whatever you feel comfortable giving.



Keeping the Past in the Present Preserving it for the Future

Maid King

Members and friends we need your help! MMF Director and model maker Don Good has been commissioned to build a model of a unique Mathews built boat, the *Maid King*. She was built by Lennie Smith on Pepper Creek in the 1920s. She looks a bit like a skipjack at the stern with a sail boat style rudder and stern just out of the water. She was an open boat and worked the Virginia pound net fishery. The boat mounted a pile driver to set net poles. The *Maid King*, we think, was anchored on or around Gwynn's Island and met her end on a burn pile around 1998.

We have some information on this boat but would like more to confirm what we do know and fill in the blanks. So, any one with a memory or a picture that they would be willing to share about this boat we would like to hear from you.

The Freya by Director John Bonner...

The Mathews Maritime Foundation has celebrated the work of Gilbert Klingel, Gwynn's Island boat builder, naturalist, writer, and adventurer in a DVD titled "The Legacy of Gilbert Klingel: Man of Steel". Copies are available in our Museum Gift Shop.

In 2016, we were fortunate enough to find one of his sailboats in St. Augustine, Florida. Named *Freya*, it became our task to restore it enough to allow us to sail her back to Gwynn's Island where she was built. Gilbert was a fabricator of steel during WW II and developed the best steel for his boats.

A volunteer crew went with me to St. Augustine, Florida and worked to bring her back home. It took a month of long days and hard work to effect the needed repairs that included: work on the mast; new running rig-

ging; and a general clean up both inside and out after years on the hard.

We sailed up to St Mary's, Georgia, then took her offshore, where we rapidly learned her wonderful sea keeping capabilities in big water. At Morehead City, NC we entered the Intracoastal Waterway and on arriving in the Chesapeake Bay at Wolf Trap light, were joined by the *Peggy*, and sailed through Hole in the Wall to our GI boat yard.

At this juncture, *Freya* needs further repairs. I am hoping for a new crew to continue her restoration. To accomplish this goal we are in need of monetary or material contributions to haul her out and clean and paint her bottom. In addition, she needs a new toe rail all around and re-construction of her deck house. She was a classic when built and is so deserving of restoration. I am hopeful to find a new crew here in Mathews to bring her back



Freya under sail in Hills Bay

Klingel's Green Heron...

Gilbert designed and built the Green Heron for himself. A scow, drawing only a foot of water, that he used to explore the creeks and tidal areas of the Chesapeake Bay for his naturalist studies. The flat bottom could sit on the mud if needed. He put a lateen sail up for leisurely cruising and a carved out space on

the bottom for the shaft and prop so he could motor close to shore.

She had been abandoned for 50 years outside of Urbanna, Virginia. We found her, transported her to Mathews and put her in storage while we debated whether to restore her or move her to our Museum as a static display. Well, decision made, she was moved to the MMF Museum last September to be preserved as a unique vessel. We need to



Freya as static display at MMF Museum on Main Street, Mathews

sand and paint the deck and cabin top, replace her ports and rig her with a lateen sail. As with the Freya, any help you can give us in restoring these fine boats to continue our maritime tradition will be gratefully appreciated.

Gwynn's Island Boat Shop (GIBS)...

The Mathews Maritime Foundation (MMF) set up their Gwynn's Island Boat Shop at the site of the former Pulley's Marine and Gilbert Klingel's boat yards in 2009. According to manager Peter Hall, the Board of Governors saw a need for a site to repair and re-fit donated boats for resale.

The Boat Shop has also been a resource and home base for the Foundation's fleet, consisting of noted author and steel boat builder Gilbert Klingel's "Freya" and Harry Hudgins's 1925 buyboat "Peggy of New Point". "Freya" was fabricated in Klingel's Gwynn's Island boat yard, while "Peggy" was built in Horn

Harbor in 1925 and will mark her 100th year in 2025.

Along with boat repair and restoration work there have been several collaborative projects supplementing Marine Trades Education. One such project was with Rappahannock Community College that allowed them to convert part of the space in our building to provide electrical installation training to prospective ship yard employees. That program continued on until July 2016.

Another project, in 2012, was a joint effort between MMF and Mathews 4H extension agent Nancy Roche. It called for the building of six ten-foot sailing dinghies to be donated to the Jamestown 4H Center to establish sailing as part of their sport offerings (see *Jamestown Sailing article elsewhere in this issue*).

Recent projects include the building of a John Gardner lapstrake rowing skiff and a 10-



The John Gardner 15' flat bottom skiff

foot playground skiff for Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Gloucester.

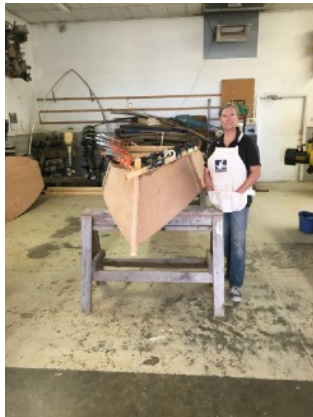
Ongoing projects in the shop include restoration of an Old Town "White Cap" sailing dingy. A traditionally built, flat bottom rowing skiff of local origin is getting new planking and a 12-foot rowing/sailing skiff is being built from scratch.

Work is continuing through the winter on Saturday mornings and includes a steady cast of regulars, all with various levels of boat-

ing and boatbuilding experience. Leading the group, Pete Hall maintained and repaired boats at Ginney Point and Mobjack Bay marinas. Pete has enjoyed working with and learning from many notable local builders including Joe Ortiz, John England and Lynn Davidson.

Volunteer Phil Mutton is a native of Reading, England and a retired Jefferson Labs employee. Phil enjoys kayaking, sailing and restoring historic boats and seeing how they're put together.

Carolyn August is the builder of the previously mentioned 12-foot "Salt Bay Skiff". Carolyn's vocation as a writer-editor leaves her with a need to work with hands-on projects. She chose the Bruce King design both for its salty looks and its ability to either be sailed or rowed. Carolyn previously attended boat building workshops and has immersed herself in learning about and using conventional and specialized boat carpentry tools.



Dennis Crawford, also the Curator at the MMF museum in Mathews, enjoys meeting the challenges the shop provides as well as learning new skills from other builders and having a place to polish old skills. Dennis has had a long-time interest in wooden boatbuilding, and enjoys sourcing the materials, making the fits, using skills unique to the profession and producing something that comes alive in its element. Other regulars include Rob Buhl and board member Dave Machen and Mike Moore.

Anyone interested in working with larger watercraft are encouraged to consider helping out with the maintenance and continual restoration needs of "Peggy", "Freya" and

"Green Heron". Plans are being worked out to bring "Freya" ashore and set up by the shop in order to carry out a major refit and restoration project. John Bonner reports he would like to recruit a crew to continue the restoration, including painting and wood working. Pete Hall would also like to see an expansion of efforts at the boat shop, to possibly include the construction of a 24-foot boat alongside a 15-footer.

Like most volunteer operations, Gwynn's Island Boat Shop has been set back by the recent pandemic, consequently there is room and a need for additional volunteers. All levels of experience are encouraged to participate, whether to learn, teach or both. Visiting hours are Saturday mornings, after 10am. The shop is located on the Gwynn's Island side of the draw bridge about ¼ of a mile on the right, just look for the sign. We'll have the coffee on, stop on by!

Jamestown 4H sailing program...

In 2012 MMF donated six 10' sailing dinghies to the Jamestown 4H Educational Center to be used in their newly initiated sailing program. The boats were built from kits provided by MMF that were paid for by sponsors; the Treakle Foundation, the Mathews Yacht Club, the Ruritan Club, the Lions Club and a host of individuals. All boats were assembled at GIBS by volunteers from the sponsoring clubs. About forty youths and adults participated in the program over a 2-year period. A good effort by all who were involved.

But alas, the sailing program at the Center lasted but three seasons - 2012-2014. A revival was attempted but was unsuccessful due to the unavailability of qualified instructors. There was always hope of starting up again but now ten years later that hope has died and the boats remain idle in their storage rack. What to do? Should we just forget about

the fate of the boats? or Should we ask to take them back.

A call to Sue Williams, the camp Director, gave us the answer. She asked that we take them back. So we now have all six at GIBS to be repaired as needed and then given to those who sponsored them.

GIBS Boat Shop Projects...

Shown here are some of the projects we have been working on over the past year or two.

15' dory boat that required repair of the hull both inside and out and new inwales and out-wales.



Before and after restoration

16' Flat bottom juniper skiff that was so badly eaten by worms that most of the bottom planks and a section of the starboard chine log and side plank had to be replaced.

The before picture...



Keeping the Past in the Present Preserving it for the Future

The after picture...



Playground boat built for Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Gloucester...

