

January 31st, 2024



# MATTAPONI TRIBAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

The office staff hopes everyone had a safe and happy holiday!

## ANA Deputy Commissioners Meeting



Lois Custalow Carter attended the ANA Deputy Commissioners monthly call with community Tribes across the United States. Through the “Administration for Children and Families on Wednesday January 24th, 2024.

Deputy Commissioner of ANA and ANA Representatives reported out on several high-level happenings such as:

- White House Tribal Nation summit recap
- Update on Division of Program Operations
- Several staff changes

## President’s Day Closure

Please note the Mattaponi Tribal Office will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024, in observance of President's Day.

## 2024 Mattaponi Powwow Committee and Volunteers

The Mattaponi Tribal Council is looking for volunteers to help plan for the Mattaponi Tribe’s upcoming powwow in June. Powwow committee meetings will be starting within the next few weeks. Anyone who is interested and would like to volunteer to be on the committee, please contact the Tribal Office, 804-353-5908 and leave a message or contact the Admin, Sierra Osbourne at [sierra.osbourne@mattaponination.com](mailto:sierra.osbourne@mattaponination.com). Mattaponi citizens, family, or friends are welcome to be on the Powwow Committee or to volunteer in prepping for this event and clean up afterwards. We are looking forward to celebrating our Tribe’s history and culture with this annual event!

## Conference Call

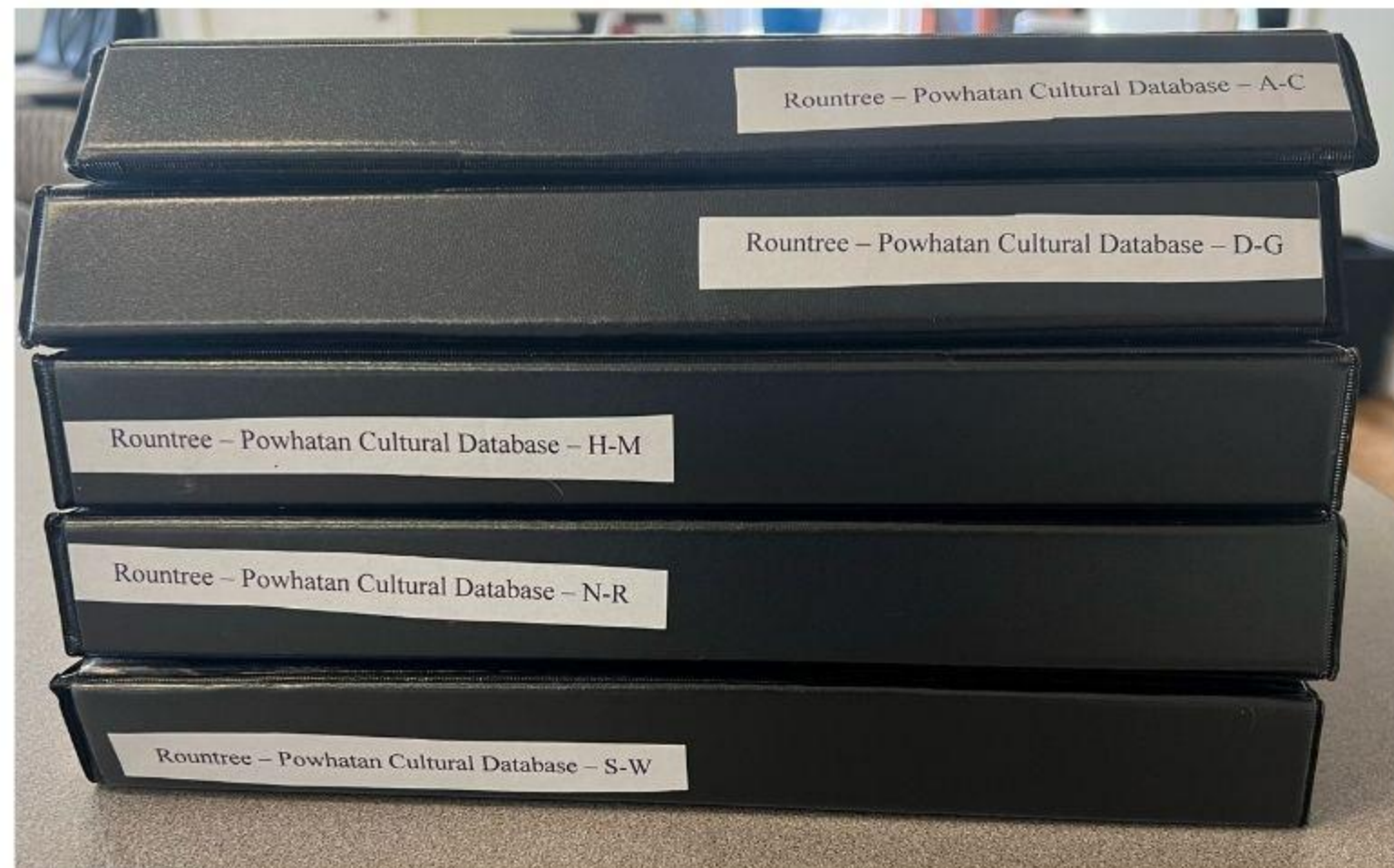
Lois Custalow Carter attended the American Indian and Alaska Native Count Census call on January 26th, 2024 (more to come).

## **Tribal Citizen Samual McGowan was featured in a Magazine Article**

Sam McGowan, a citizen of the Mattaponi Indian Tribe has been featured in several magazine articles, presented programs, lectures, and workshops. He is the son of Shirley Little Dove Custalow McGowan and grandson of the late Chief Webster Little Eagle Custalow of the Mattaponi Indian Tribe and Reservation. Samuel started traveling with his mother at an early age, teaching the history of his Algonquian people and demonstrating past and present Mattaponi culture and history.

## **Helen Rountree Collection**

Helen Rountree has gifted to the Mattaponi Indian Reservation Tribal office her books and field notes from previous years back. The Federal Recognition office staff has identified and collected pertinent information that will go into our tracker for our Mattaponi Indian Tribe's Petition, along with other pertinent collections.



Some of Helen Rountree's Collection

## **New Heating System**

There was a new Heating system installed in the Community building this month. The monies used was generous donations collected of over \$12,000.00 in memory of Susie E. Custalow, who passed away on November 29th, 2023. She is the mother of Chief Mark T. Custalow, Lynn, Lois, and Jacob Jr.

The family and the Mattaponi Indian Tribe appreciate the ongoing prayers, and continuous love you have shown through this difficult time.

## **Mattaponi Resident Meeting**

Monthly Town meetings continue on the reservation for lineal enrolled official resident voters 18 years and older.

## Updated Mattaponi Indian Tribe and Reservation Website

The Mattaponi Indian Tribe and Reservation has officially launched an updated website for the Tribe which was funded by the Commonwealth History Fund through the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. The Mattaponi.gov site features sections about the tribe's history, latest news, Tribal Enrollment, and contact information for the Mattaponi Indian Tribe. Please visit our website to stay up to date on future events and updates regarding the tribe.

## TC Energy Scholarship Program

There are exciting opportunities for students in the TC Energy's scholarship program. Scholarship applications opened on January 22nd, 2024, and are accepted up until Friday, May 3rd, 2024. They offer three different types of scholarships:

- Indigenous Legacy Scholarships
- scholarships for Trades students
- scholarships for STEM focused students

Students can apply at [www.tcscholarships.com](http://www.tcscholarships.com).

If an individual or group of students would like to learn more about the program, please contact [starpark@tcenergy.com](mailto:starpark@tcenergy.com). They will be happy to share some tips and tricks on the application process.

## Library of Virginia's First Friday Event

On a quarterly basis the library hosts a program known as First Fridays. They have a theme, like portraits, traditions, etc. and are open to artists across Virginia. During The FF events, they have the exhibit, cheese, fruit, and beverages. They also have a makerspace in which folks enjoy making something related to the theme. If you are interested, please get in touch with the Library of Virginia.

Link to the program: <https://lva-virginia.libcal.com/event/11409779>

Call to artist announcement:

[https://www.lva.virginia.gov/documents/2024\\_First\\_Fridays\\_Exhibition\\_Application\\_010323\\_Fillable.pdf](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/documents/2024_First_Fridays_Exhibition_Application_010323_Fillable.pdf)



(804) 353-5908



[mattaponi@mattaponination.com](mailto:mattaponi@mattaponination.com)



[Mattaponi.gov](http://Mattaponi.gov)

# Mattaponi Environmental Office January 2024 Update

## **Raft (Resilience Adapted Feasibility Tool) Project**

Thank you to all the volunteers that have committed to the RAFT Committee Team! We still have a spot available if a Mattaponi Citizen is interested. We will hold our first meeting next month (February) to begin discussing ways to keep our community safe both environmentally and in health if a natural or coastal disaster should occur. If you would like to volunteer, please email Tammy Heath at [tammy.heath@mattaponination.com](mailto:tammy.heath@mattaponination.com).

## **DOF Tree Giveaway**

The Department of Forestry (DOF) has awarded a Free Tree Giveaway through Friends of the Rappahannock and would like to donate to the Mattaponi Tribal Citizens a total of 125 3-gallon native trees this Spring. Trees can include American Breech, River Birch, Black gum, Cypress, Flowering Dogwood, American Holly, Red Oak, and White Oak. If interested or would like to see if a specific type of tree will be available, please contact the Environmental Office Tammy Heath at [tammy.heath@mattaponination.com](mailto:tammy.heath@mattaponination.com) or Matthew Venable at [matthew.venable@mattaponination.com](mailto:matthew.venable@mattaponination.com). The ordering will be first come for the 125 available. Once the orders have been placed a shipment of trees will be sent to the Mattaponi Environmental Office for pick up around Springtime.

## **Environment Department Water Testing Training and Volunteers**

The Environmental Department had their first water testing training day on January 18, 2024, and a future training day on February 7, 2024 (weather permitting). We tested the Mattaponi River for Water Temperature, pH, Salinity, Oxygen and Turbidity (water clarity). The water testing results were at a normal level and will set our baseline for future testing. Beginning in March we will be testing the Mattaponi River twice a month and would like to extend the invitation for Mattaponi volunteers to join and help with water testing. All equipment required/needed will be provided. If anyone is interested, please visit the Environmental Office, or contact Matthew Venable at [matthew.venable@mattaponination.com](mailto:matthew.venable@mattaponination.com) or Tammy Heath at [tammy.heath@mattaponination.com](mailto:tammy.heath@mattaponination.com).

## **Shoreline Project**

Great News! The JPA for the Shoreline project has been completed. Chief, Council and the Environmental Department will review and begin the next phase of the project.