



MATTAPONI TRIBAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Mattaponi Petition Office Monthly Updates!

Mattaponi Tribal Enrollment

The Enrollment/Collection Specialist, Olivia Garcia has been reaching out to lineal Mattaponi descendants or family members about becoming enrolled members of the Tribe. Mattaponi Tribal Enrollment may be wrapping up within the next couple of months. In order to finalize the submission of the Mattaponi Indian Tribe's Federal Acknowledgement Petition, at that time, Tribal Enrollment will officially be closed until further notice. If you have not renewed your Tribal Enrollment, or if you are a lineal descendant who is interested in becoming an Enrolled citizen of the Mattaponi Indian Tribe, please contact the Tribal Office 804-353-5908, or contact Enrollment/Collection Specialist, Olivia Garcia at olivia.garcia@mattaponination.com or Project Director, Lois Custalow Carter at lois.carter@mattaponination.com. You can also drop by the office Monday-Thursday 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

OFA Meeting

The Mattaponi Indian Tribe sent a delegation to Washington DC, last week to visit the Department of Interior in preparation of our Federal Acknowledgement Petition submission. We will be officially submitting our petition this year. We are confident in receiving a positive finding and joining the rest of the Virginia Tribes and securing our Tribes Sovereignty. Thanks to our team and our tribal citizens for all of their hard work in making this a reality. Stay tuned for future updates.

Exciting News!

The Mattaponi Indian Tribe & Reservation has been selected as one of 11 communities to be awarded from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding.

This \$1.7 million-dollar ICDBG grant will establish an office on the Mattaponi Indian Reservation and employ 2 full time employees to support this project. This funding will assist low and moderate income enrolled tribal citizens on and off the Reservation with housing rehabilitation needs to ensure safe and secure living arrangements. More communication about this project will continue.



VA 250 Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council

Ken Custalow, along with other members of the Virginia Tribes met with Virginia 250 Committee members to discuss the engagement and representation of the Virginia Native Community in the 250th celebration of the American Revolution. Virginia 250 says the meeting had a clear message that the "250th anniversary of the American Revolution is a moment for all Americans, and all Virginians, to unite and engage in meaningful dialogue, ensure all stories are told, and commit to an inclusive commemoration that represents the diverse experiences of our communities."

NARA Research Trip

On February 26th and 27th, 2024, some of our staff at the Mattaponi Petition Office and our consultants from Kenah Consulting LLC made a trip to Washington D.C. to visit the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to gather information and conduct research about the Mattaponi Indian Tribe. This is an ongoing initiative.



SANS Technology Institute

This establishment does not offer grant or scholarship financial aid at this time. However, it may be a great educational opportunity. This institution may offer more flexibility than the traditional college experience. Cybersecurity is their primary focus. The graduate programs are designed specifically for working professionals. They offer the option of taking courses 100% online and they have almost 20 years of experience delivering high-quality online classes with proven results. You can apply throughout the year and start a few months later. All of the courses are regularly updated for real-world relevance and include hands-on labs that gives skills, you can apply on the job from day 1. As you complete the program, you'll earn industry-recognized GIAC certifications. If you are interested, sign up for a free Online Information Session to learn more and connect with their team.

<https://www.sans.edu/info-sessions/>

Mattaponi Indian Museum Tour

Two educational professors from VCU, along with representatives from the Chickahominy and Upper Mattaponi tribes came to the reservation on Thursday February 15th, 2024, and went on a tour of the reservation and the Mattaponi Indian Museum. A gentleman who is a citizen from the Oglala Lakota Tribe also visited the Mattaponi Indian reservation. The RRTC Indigenous Initiatives has created an outreach, educational and training program to serve and give voice to Indigenous members in Virginia. Their focus is to highlight and build upon available resources to the Indigenous disability community. Sharing and learning together, Talking Circles, Resources, Gatherings, Trainings, and Collaborations. For more information, please reach out to lois.carter@mattaponination.com.

Job Opportunity - Tribal Liaison in the National Capital Region

Incentives:

Permanent Change of Station costs are authorized (as needed and subject to policy)

Position: Regional Tribal Liaison -
GS-0301-13

Duty Station: Washington, DC
(telework eligible)

**For more information, please visit
the link below:**

<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/777226800>

Major Duties:

- Program Management and Administration
- Nation-to-Nation Consultation Support
- Federal Policy Implementation and Training
- Cooperative and Collaborative Partnerships, Contracts, and Agreements Facilitation

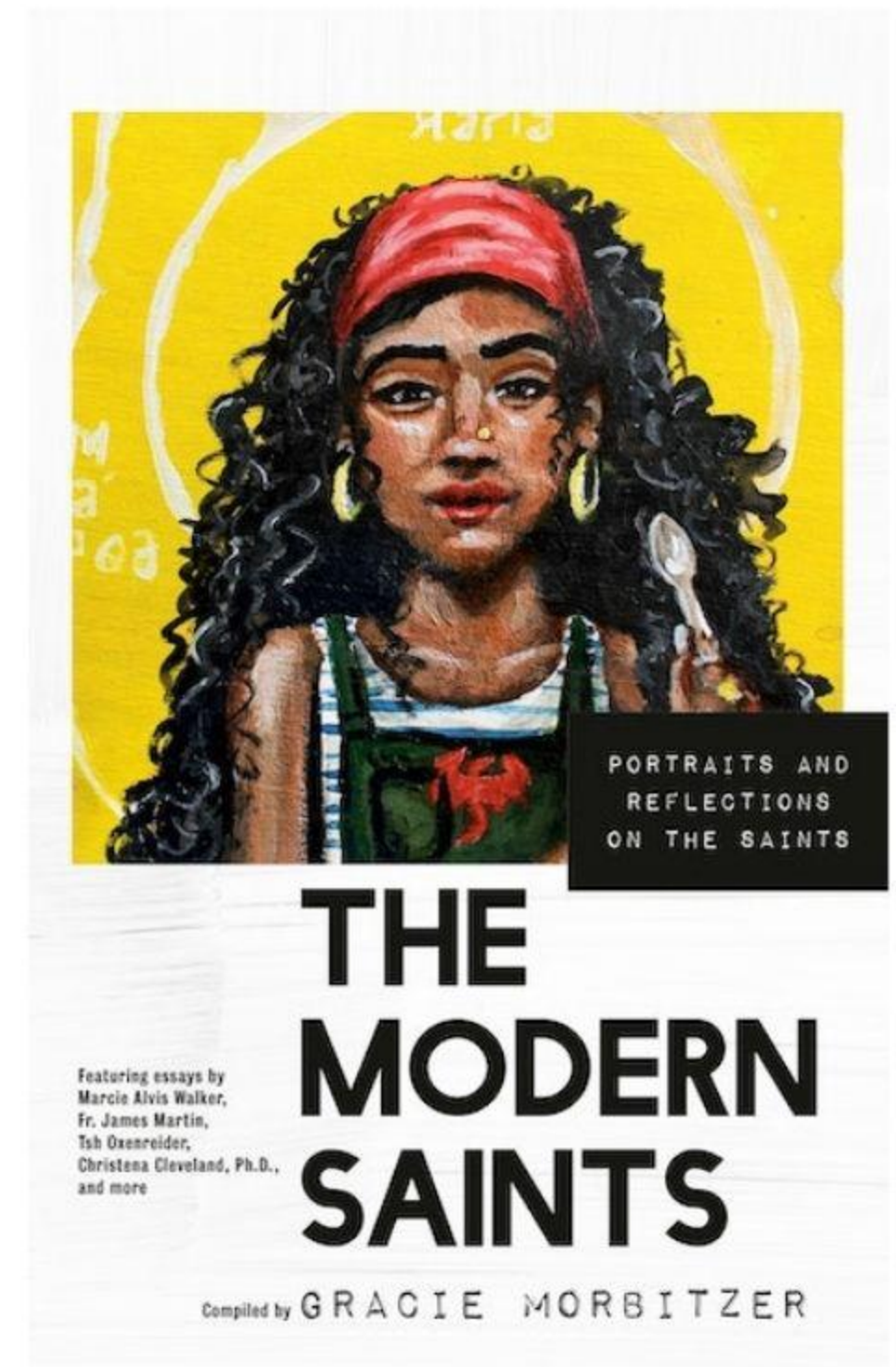
Regional Resilience Equity Workshop

The monthly Regional Resilience Equity Workshop held their monthly meeting on February 14th, 2024, to focus on healthcare, mental wellbeing, economic development, and funding opportunities. One Core Workgroup and Subgroup Leads will be contacting organizations to discuss project ideas and see if they would fit the community foundation's restricted funding for the region. Regional Resilience Equity Director will be coordinating with the committee and Lois Custalow Carter to schedule in-person meeting at the Mattaponi Indian Tribe & Reservation, and tour of the Mattaponi Indian Museum.

The Modern Saints

Mattaponi Tribal citizen, Sarah Quint, gifted a book to the Tribal Office earlier this month. She was one of the contributing authors of “The Modern Saints.”

Sarah’s chapter talks about ST. Brendan, who is described as an “Irish monk who ventured to the shores of Turtle Island” teaching the word of Christ. You can visit <https://www.themodernsaints.com> to purchase a copy of the book.



Mattaponi Resident Meeting

Another Mattaponi Indian Reservation resident Town meeting was held on February 15th at the community building. Friendly reminder, all lineal Mattaponi enrolled residents are invited to attend this monthly meeting. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and is held on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Mattaponi Petition office and Kenah Consulting LLC Meeting

On Thursday, February 15th, 2024, Kenah Consulting LLC, visited the Mattaponi Tribal Office and met with the Petition Office team. They reviewed and audited Vital information that the petition office staff has collected throughout the project. The consultants sat down with each staff member individually and went over next steps towards completion. They also took a tour of the Mattaponi Museum. The Petition Office staff would like to thank the Kenah Consultants for their hard work and dedication to this project.

Encyclopedia Virginia

Tribal Archivist/Collection Specialist, Katie Gibson has been working with Chief Mark T. Custalow and Project Director Lois Custalow Carter on updating the existing Encyclopedia Virginia pages on behalf of the Mattaponi Indian Tribe and Reservation. Within the next couple of months, the link to the current pages should be approved and published.



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MATTAPONI ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE MONTHLY UPDATES

DOF Free Tree Giveaway

A Friendly reminder of a Free Tree Giveaway for our Mattaponi Citizens given through the Friends of the Rappahannock and The Department of Forestry (DOF). The Environmental Department will be placing an order by March 8th, 2024, to have a shipment of trees delivered to the Mattaponi reservation by the first week of April. Trees will be given in 1 to 3-gallon sizes and can include American Beech, River Birch, Black Gum, Cypress, Flowering Dogwood, American Holly, Red Oak, and White Oak. If you are interested or would like to see if a specific type of tree will be available, please contact the Environmental Department Tammy Heath at tammy.heath@mattaponination.com or Matt Venable at matthew.venable@mattaponination.com.

Water Monitoring on the Mattaponi River

A water analysis test was conducted February 7, 2024, on the Mattaponi River. The water test results came back excellent with a 0 in Salinity, and within average range for Oxygen and pH levels. The Environmental Department will be completing another water analysis on March 6th and a second water sample date later in the month - TBD. If any volunteers would like to join in the fun, please contact the environmental office Tammy Heath at tammy.heath@mattaponination.com or Matt Venable at matthew.venable@mattaponination.com.

Future possibilities for our Mattaponi Hatchery

The Environmental Department has been in communication with other hatcheries and Environmental organizations. Seeing how they operate their facilities for growing many different species of fish, in hopes of using this knowledge in our own hatchery with native species. In the future, we would like to bring back some aspects of the shad restoration program as we had in the past. We are exploring other opportunities in different species of fish, native and non-native. This will be during the off season of shad. This could further our community and may bring more employment opportunities.

Water Lobby Day with King William's Delegate and Senator

On January 30th, 2024, the Environmental Department had the opportunity to meet with Delegate Keith Hodges and Senator Richard Stuart during a Water Lobby Day at the General Assembly Building in Richmond. We were able to express our concerns about a few Environmental bills that are waiting to be passed within the House. We reiterated that some could harm or help our community, and on the reservation. Currently, the Environmental bills discussed have reached Crossover Day on February 14, 2024, the last day to consider bills within their chambers. The Environmental Office will communicate updates on these bills as we receive them.

Rappahannock Water Intake and Discharge Project

There have been recent concerns about Caroline County's water intake from the Rappahannock River, and then a water discharge into the Polecat Creek after its many recycled uses. This water intake is planned to have an intake of 1 million gallons per day (mgd) in the first year to 8.9 mgd with a possible 13.9 mgd by 2038. Water will first be used to supply Caroline County residents with drinking water, then reused for local business purposes, and then to cool a potential data center that will be located in Caroline County. After the water has been used for all necessary areas requiring water, it will then be discharged into Polecat creek. Polecat Creek is a small creek that flows into the Mattaponi River watershed located in Caroline County. If this discharge is permitted, it will potentially disrupt the ecological balance of our riverine system, by adding in pollutants and can hurt our source of livelihood over the years to come.

The Environmental Department has been researching this matter via web, joining webinar meetings and traveling to various locations including the Caroline County Town Hall meeting held on January 22nd, and also meeting with our delegates. DEQ (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) is still looking for more information to justify why this water would need to be pulled from the Rappahannock river before approval of the permit application. During the Caroline County town hall meeting it was advised that their application will be expiring soon and will have to resubmit another permit. They also stated that if water could not be withdrawn from the Rappahannock river, then their next source of obtaining water would be to purchase water from another water entity and would still discharge wastewater into Polecat Creek after its many reuse cycles. So far, the discharge permit has not been submitted. We will keep looking into this matter and as more information becomes available, we will pass it along to tribal citizens.

Raft Meeting held on February 26, 2024

Thank you to the citizens that participated in making the Mattaponi RAFT meeting a success. We appreciate all the wonderful ideas and areas of concern that each participant has given to ensure that our community can move forward in a time of need.

Living Shoreline Project

Phase 1 of the living shoreline project has been completed. The JPA (Joint Permit Application) has been submitted to VMRC (Virginia Marine Resource Commission) and a permit number has been assigned. VMRC will be sharing the permit with all appropriate agencies for any comments. Once all agencies have accepted the JPA, we will then enter Phase 2 of the project – construction.

Environmental Department will be collaborating with the University of Richmond Local Indigenous Landscaping Team (LILT) and Students

The LILT team from the University of Richmond's Department of Geography and Environment, the Global Sustainability Junior, and Senior students are collaborating with the Environmental Department to create a geographical landscaping storyline map of our Mattaponi reservation. In addition to working with the Mattaponi, the students will also be working with other local tribes in Virginia, to create their own geographical map storyline.

These story maps can address community interests by using Earth science information in decisions, actions, and policies. The maps could help us see on a timescale how climate change, air pollution, coastal hazards, urban flooding, and deforestation have affected our land in the past or could affect our land in the future. This opportunity will not only benefit the students to further their education but will also allow us to have real time information to make educated decisions for our communities.

Fun Fact: Did you know that the relationship between a fish and a mussel is unique

Did you know that the relationship between a mussel and a fish is symbiotic - a mussel can maintain water quality for a fish and concentrate nutrients that feed macroinvertebrates (animal lacking a backbone), that in turn feed fish. In return, mussels rely upon fish to produce their next generation. Each type of mussel has a specific type of host fish that it needs to reproduce, if the mussel does not have the correct fish around it when trying to reproduce, she will not be able to have babies. A mussel must “go fishing” to attract its host by using two types of lures: mantle lures and brood lures.

They will wave a fleshy appendage called a mantle lure that resembles a minnow, a crayfish, a worm, or other small creatures that a larger fish wants to devour. Once she attracts her host, she then expels her larval mussels that will then attach themselves to the gills of the host. They will stay with this host for several weeks eating the bacteria that grow while developing into juvenile mussels before detaching themselves to fall to the bottom of a stream or river. This process does not harm the fish because they are microscopic and in turn they get a free ride to a new home.