



# MATTAPONI TRIBAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

## Thank you, Virginia Tech!

We would like to thank the students and History Professor for their hard work in volunteering their time with the petition office over this past semester.

## LVA Indigenous Perspective Exhibition

On December 13th, Samuel McGowan, one of our Enrolled Tribal citizens, attended the Library of Virginia reception for the Indigenous Perspective Exhibition, at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. This exhibit will be open to the public beginning December 5th, 2023, through August 2024.



Mattaponi Tribal Citizen, Samuel McGowan

## Machicomoco Planning Committee Meeting

Chief Mark T. Custalow and Lois Custalow Carter were invited to attend the Machicomoco State Park, 10 -year master plan meeting on Thursday December 14, 2023.

Representatives, spoke on Archaeological sites that were identified, a small Native American village and a 17th century European site has been discovered. Several historical artifacts have been found.

This project will take at least 10 years to plan out, along with decades of future confirmed details involving continuous program planning.



Machicomoco State Park Sign

## Digital History Day

Saturday, January 13th, 2024, the petition office will hold an open Digital History Day during this time frame, 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. All Mattaponi citizens are welcome to come and participate in an oral history interview or preserve family history through digitization of documents, photographs, or cultural material. Participation will aid the petition for Federal Acknowledgement and support our tribe's history for generations to come. Please call the Mattaponi Petition Office to set up an appointment. We hope to see you there!

## Mattaponi Indian Baptist Church Christmas Events

There will be a short service of Worship and Fellowship on December 24th, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at the Mattaponi Indian Baptist church. Please come if possible!

“The Mattaponi Indian Baptist Church will be holding their annual traditional Old Christmas "Shaking of the Christmas Tree" on Sunday, January 7th, 2024, at 2:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome!



Mattaponi youth in the 2023 Christmas Play

## Mattaponi Indian Baptist Church Nativity Scene

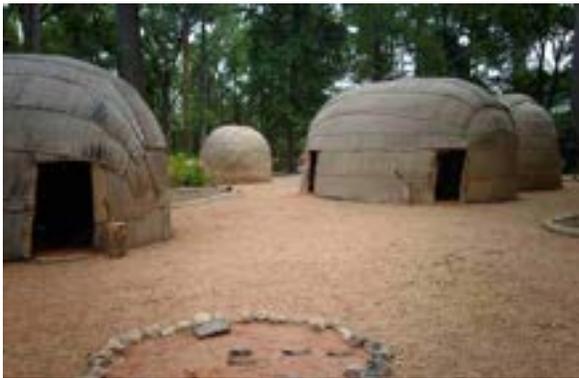
If you happen to be in the area, please go by and view our church's nativity scene. We would like to thank our Church congregation and all who worked hard in building and bringing this all together for everyone to enjoy!



Native Nativity Scene

## Indigenous Advisory Committee at Jamestown Settlement

Mattaponi Tribal members Tammy Heath and Samuel McGowan had their first meeting with the Indigenous Advisory Committee at Jamestown Settlement this month to discuss and share ideas of what our native communities would like to see incorporated within the museum as Jamestown. This committee is looking at remodeling their native exhibit areas. This opportunity will be able to further educate and display more about our people's heritage and cultural ways.



Paspahegh Yehakin at Jamestown

## Mattaponi Environmental Office Update

### Living Shoreline

The final designs for the Living Shoreline are almost complete. The permits are in the process of being finalized. The Environmental Department has been working with DCR and VIMS to finalize the design and begin our next steps to start the shoreline construction.

### Blueridge Prism Invasive Plants Workshop

Matt Venable attended a Blueridge Prism Invasive Plants Workshop this week. In this workshop a group of knowledgeable individuals located in the Tidal, Non-Tidal and Upland Regions gathered to form committees to target invasive species throughout the state. The coalition intends to involve state and federal regulators to facilitate programs for this purpose in the future.

### Visit to VSU Aquaculture Program

The Environmental Department visited the VSU Aquaculture Center last week and during this visit we were able to tour the different areas within their program to see how they operate as a hatchery. We will be partnering with staff members to gather ideas of what species would best fit our own Shad Hatchery to sustain a year-round program for years to come.

## The York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable

The Environmental Office staff, Tammy Heath and Matthew Venable, along with Project Director for Federal Acknowledgement Lois Custalow Carter, and Mattaponi Council Member Brandon Custalow attended “The York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable” event on December 7th, at Colosse Church. The York River and Small Coastal Basin Roundtable is a forum for information sharing and collaboration among water quality and conservation-minded stakeholders within the York River, Mobjack Bay, Dragon Run, and the Piankatank River watershed areas.



Coastal Map

## Language Project Director

The Chickahominy Indian Tribe has an open position for a **Language Project Director** managing the ANA Language Preservation & Maintenance Grant. You can find the Job application along with the requirements on the Chickahominy Indian Tribe Website: <https://www.chickahominytribe.org/careers>

- Applicants must submit a completed job application, cover letter, and resumé
- Applications may be mailed or submitted electronically to:

Chickahominy Indian Tribe  
ATTN: Lindsey Johnson  
8200 Lott Cary Rd  
Providence Forge, VA 23140

## Mattaponi Petition Office Closed

The Mattaponi Petition Office will be closed Monday Christmas Day, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th. The Office will also be closed Monday, January 1st on New Years Day.

 THE MATTAPONI PETITION OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! 



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