

# The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Volume 28 Issue IX

October 2018

## Don't Let Democracy Drown in Dark Waters!

*Warm up your voting chops by casting your CPA ballot. The polls are open.*

### Coordinator

**Bill Smith** It's been a real honor to serve as coordinator for the past two years and to serve again this coming year. Besides performing the coordinator duties, I enjoy being an active trip leader which I plan to continue into the future and get more involved with the water access issues. I have been an active paddler since my pre-teens and hope to continue for many years to come. Thank You for your support.



### Secretary

**Sue Stevens** I have been CPA Secretary for several years now, and would be honored to serve you all again. Most often, you can spot me kayaking with our weekly Wednesday-after-work Arundell Pirates; as well as helping out with the other folks at other events, and organizing the annual Wye Island Circum-navigation day trips, the week-long ADK excursion, and other local day trips. I work with Rich, my husband, to coordinate membership info with payments received, and collecting CPA PO incoming mail monthly. As I keep track the club membership, it is encouraging that so many of our members continue to be involved in CPA – by coming out for events, campers, and day trips, and of course- renewing their own membership for multiple years (it's better savings discount too!) I welcome our many new members who join during the year – and HOPEFULLY keep coming back for more trips and skills days. My tasks as Secretary include managing the off-line CPA membership database, handling our monthly Paddler newsletter e-distribution, and; of course, reminding folks – through the year - about their CPA membership renewal. I am very happy to serve our very active club members.



### Treasurer

**Rich Stevens** I have been treasurer for several years now, and would be honored to serve again. Now that the Club is incorporated and on a sound legal basis, I've worked to insure that all the proper federal and state filings have been kept up to date. I've also worked hard to insure that members are reimbursed in a timely manner, all payments are properly recorded and deposited, and that the necessary paperwork is kept up to date in an orderly fashion. I plan on continuing to work to seek other ways for the Club to give back to our members and to insure that Club funds are spent wisely. Although I generally hate paperwork, I've enjoyed my work for CPA. No fame and glory, but a necessary part of a corporation.



### Steering Committee



**Linda Delaney** As a new kayaker, I feel I can assist CPA by representing that segment of our membership and providing what I hope will be helpful insight into what draws new folks to the sport and to CPA.

**Ralph Heimleisch** I have been an active member of CPA for the last 16 years, and am honored to be nominated to continue on the Steering Committee. My particular interests are a) trip leading, particularly multi-day kayak touring trips; b) training new trip leaders to continue the Club's strong programs; c) water access issues, particularly promoting new paddle-in campsites; and d) interfacing with other recreational and environmental organizations that pursue goals congruent with sea kayaking interests. This past year, I've worked with MD DNR staff on plans for a new State Park on the



[See Nominees, page 7](#)

# THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

*The mission of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association is to provide a way for people to enjoy sea kayaking within the Chesapeake Bay area and to promote safe sea kayaking practices through educating the local sea kayaking community and the interested public.*

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### Advertising Rates:

We accept display advertising that relates to the interest of our readers. Monthly rates are as follows:

size	cost	dimensions (col)
1/8 page	\$20	2.4" x 3.5" (1)
1/4 page	\$32	4.9" x 4.7" (2)
1/2 page	\$50	7.5" x 4.7" (3)
Full page	\$80	7.5" x 9.75" (3)

A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e., .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email or call for more information and for 10-month discount. See advertising contact in masthead.

Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months. Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has sold...tell us!

## THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

The Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb. The deadline for submitting copy is the 15th of the preceding month. Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Contact [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

The newsletter may be reprinted whole or in part if credit is given to this newsletter and any identified author (unless an article is specifically copyrighted), and a courtesy copy is sent to the Editor. The download link or file for the electronic version of this newsletter may not be posted or forwarded to non-members without the express consent of the Coordinator or Editor.

## News From the CPA Coordinator - Bill Smith

It's October; it's fall and a great time to get out and paddle. I love paddling in the fall because the days are a little cooler, water temperatures are more refreshing, the power boat traffic is lighter, and the fall colors are displaying their annual splendor, making your old paddling locations like a new adventure. So, if you don't see a trip on the calendar you like, consider leading your own or organizing a peer paddle among friends.

I joined a peer paddle over the Labor Day weekend organized by Gail Davidson, Dennis Green, and Adam Mattel to the three lighthouses - Baltimore Shoal Light, Sandy Point Shoal Light and Thomas Point Lighthouse. In addition to us four, the group included Mike Aaby, Jean Wunder, John O'hara, Maywin Liu, and Jaclin Gilbert. The trip was about 22 miles in length. Traveling to the three lighthouses piqued my interest in their history.



The first lighthouse we visited was the Baltimore Shoal Light just north of the mouth of the Magothy River and 1.5 miles off the shore of Gibson Island. Though the light is now privately owned, the navigational aids are still maintained by the Coast Guard. This one is the newest lighthouse in Chesapeake Bay with construction beginning in 1906. Due to the unstable soils, the foundation needed to be very deep, which required expensive preparations. The original construction suffered a serious setback when the caisson rolled over during a storm, resulting in the contractor being put out of business. It was a very expensive challenge for the next contractor to right the structure and complete the work, so the construction total was three times the original estimate. It looks as if it had a recent overhaul and is now in good condition, much better than my first visit to it a few years ago. The lighthouse was first automated in 1923 and modernized again in 1964 with the first atomic fuel cell to power a lighthouse. As an experiment, it failed, so the fuel cell was removed one year later. Both this light and our next were sold in 2006 to private owners.

Our second destination was the Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse, 0.6 miles off Sandy Point and just north of the westbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The structure was built in 1853 but fell into severe deterioration from lack of maintenance. It also suffered from vandalism with the Fresnel lens smashed in 1979 and the fog horn stolen. The navigation aids today are solar powered and maintained by the Coast Guard. Currently the owner has repairs underway to restore it.

Built in 1875, our third was the Thomas Point Lighthouse off the mouth of the South River, the last screw pile lighthouse still on its original foundation and the last surviving house-type lighthouse in Chesapeake Bay. Three similar lighthouses were relocated to museums. As of 1964, Thomas Point was also the last manned lighthouse and remained manned until automation in 1986. Thomas Point Lighthouse was considered for listing on the national historic

registry, which would have made the lighthouse the ninth in the country with this distinction. Others were planning for it to be demolished in the late 80's, but public backlash saved it from destruction.

Beyond our hatrick of lighthouses, another memorable part of this trip was crossing the mouth of the Severn River and entry to Annapolis from Hackett Point to Tolly Point, a distance of four miles. Besides being a very bumpy ride with confused seas, we were paddling around a sailboat race with multiple classes, and power boats coming and going from every direction. All these challenges required vigilance during the crossing. I do not think I have ever paddled in a busier place than during this crossing.

After returning home from this paddle, I took my shirt off to get in the shower and discovered I had a rash in the area where my spray skirt tunnel contacts my skin. I first assumed it was a rub rash but when it seemed to get worse I went to the doctor who asked me if I had been swimming in the bay. I was told by the doctor I picked up a virus similar to invitigo and was prescribed antibiotics. I believe the nastiness from all the rain is the culprit but it hasn't kept me out of the water. Life goes on.

As you may have guessed, this paddle worked because of a shuttle. We put in at Spriggs Farm and took out at Beverly Triton. It was not too complicated as I was able to fit all into my van for the return to fetch vehicles at Spriggs. Overall this was a very fun trip with talk of doing it again next year. It could easily turn into an annual event.

Hope to see you all on the water this fall. Do not forget that voting and the annual meeting are only a month away.

~ *Bill Smith*

Do you enjoy reading of the paddling adventures, local and distant, of other members? Do you like getting new ideas for paddling trips? Are you advocating for paddling access or amenities in your area? Have you pondered questions relating to kayak gear? Variety is the spice of life, and of newsletters. Please write an article reflecting your thoughts, experiences, and discoveries to share with our paddling community. We all become a bit wiser and excited to be on the water again. We need your input to make *The Chesapeake Paddler* the best it can be. We look forward to your contributions to this publication. ♠

# Paddler Profile:

## Joy Chambers

By Bob Browning

**Lives in:** Annapolis, MD

**Real job:** Semi-retired arts lawyer in my own firm in Old Town, Alexandria, Va. Received a Doctorate in History of Photography from Georgetown two years ago.

**Do you regularly attend a Piracy?** No

**Number of years paddling?** About 30 years paddling. But about a decade was spent sprint kayaking on a masters team at Georgetown's Washington Canoe and Kayak Club with almost no sea kayaking during this period. For the last 3 years or so I have been sculling a lot more than paddling.

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** I lived in Old Town, Alexandria, Va. and Belle Haven Marina was on the bike path I regularly enjoyed. First kayak fit into back of my Volvo Wagon. A few years later, discovered CPA at Pier 7 and bought a secondhand Derek Hutchinson double-ended that was way too advanced for me. Pier 7 paddlers helped me grow into boat.

**What boats do you paddle?** WS Tempest 18; white Epic 18

**Rudder or skeg?** Skeg on Tempest; rudder on Epic

**Type paddle used:** Euro

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking?** Regularly scull with Annapolis Rowing Club, 2 x / week during the season. Also canoe from our pier.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** Biking, sailing, hiking

**How often on average do you paddle between May and October?** Probably only about three times a month on the Severn. I live on Saltworks Creek, off the Severn, and have a pier in my backyard.

**Do any winter paddling?** Not anymore!

**Favorite local paddling location?** Chincoteague paddling the southern inland islands. I got the heavy Tempest to be able to navigate the Intercoastal waterway from a trailer I was given at a campsite on the Southern end of Chincoteague. I no longer have the trailer, but still occasionally car top the Tempest to site. I paddle alone and have trouble getting kayak off the car, so this campsite always had fisherman around who welcome the distraction of hauling a kayak. My best kayaking is done solo on inland islands, watching



laughing gulls protect nests, herons and egrets up close fishing and ignoring me, oystercatcher and loons a few feet away. Shorebirds by the hundreds, pelicans going home at nighttime.... HEAVEN!!

**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why:** Asseateague kayak camping – loved daytime paddle and nighttime hiking with headlamp.

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** As a beginning paddler, I had an opportunity to paddle to Penikese Island, part of the Elizabeth Island chain, off Martha's Vineyard (MV) over 4 days, with last day being a 25+mile day. It was for a MV fundraiser and we stayed at homes on different islands. It was relatively protected ocean kayaking with a small group of Vineyard experienced paddlers. My first year of this paddle, we had 35 mile winds. Fortunately, I had been honest about my lack of serious ocean kayaking experience

with group leader, a Cambridge architect who was not a professional kayak leader but interested in raising money for his charity. He assured me that he had a kayak I could not topple; thankfully, he was right. It had the widest bottom I have ever seen. After a few terrifying minutes, I enjoyed the surfing because of my confidence in the boat design. I learned quickly that not all kayaks handled waves and wind the way my Hutchinson double ended did. I made the trip the next 8 summers, never again getting heavy weather.

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why?** See above

**Future bucket list trip(s)?** I'm mostly retired. In a few weeks we will spend nine days on a Catamaran in the Galapagos, my second trip, and I don't expect to kayak. I want to photograph as many as I can of the 14 Darwin finches that illustrate "living evolution." In Sept. we rowed (scull) Lago Maggiore connecting Italy and Switzerland, on a six day trip organized by "Row the World" and populated by friends from Annapolis Rowing Club. My current bucket list for kayaking would be Alaskan icebergs. At this stage of life, I am more interested in scenery than excitement or even exercise, which is plentiful seasonally on the waters of Annapolis.

**Three things you like most about paddling?** Solitude in nature. Intimacy with self and water. (Even in group paddles, you can isolate without offending group members. Or have conversations if you need to get a different kind of energy going. I wear hearing aids and can turn them off if needed to get quiet.) Beauty.

**What do you like about CPA?** Friendliness on kayak camping trips.

**One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you?** I can be good at expressing my passion for the arts and experience with serious, successful artists. ♡

*Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?*  
 Contact Bob Browning at:  
[BBBrowning43@verizon.net](mailto:BBBrowning43@verizon.net)

# Road Scholar program offers plethora of paddles

*CPA member discovers where love of learning and joy on the water meet*

**By Ed Santlman**

For those of you who have become seniors, Road Scholar, formerly known as Elderhostel, offers not-for-profit programs all over the world. The length can be from several hours to ocean liner trips which span the globe. The organization has been organizing get-togethers and travel programs since 1975 and can be (but not always) quite economical. I have been on about 15 trips, with subject matter ranging from philosophy to national parks, from

baseball spring training to kayaking. Trips include just about any subject you can think of. I even enrolled in a four-hour Grant Wood talk and guided tour of an exhibit at the Renwick Gallery in D.C. Catalogues for Road Scholar are available at most libraries or on the web.

My most interesting trip was to the Tampa Bay Rays baseball spring training in St. Petersburg, Florida; the Rays don't play their pre-season in Tampa. We heard talks by a sport writer, an ex-manager, several players and even the ex-mayor of St. Petersburg, who spoke of how to get a team for your city, great for anyone who has about a billion dollars to spare. We even saw three games that week. Generally, the programs last 5-6 days and include all housing and meals, so except for alcohol (BYOB), you don't spend a dime between arriving and departure. Usually there are talks or classes in the evenings.

For the last nine years, my main focus has been on full-time kayaking trips. Some kayaking programs include hiking, biking or bird watching, etc. I don't choose those. I've done programs in Fernandina Beach, Florida, and Great Camp Sagamore in the Adirondacks. My favorites, however, were the programs in "The Outdoor Lodge in Glen Sutton, Quebec", and "Kayaking the Low Country in South Carolina." I prefer programs that I



Photos/Ed Santlman

can drive to in a day. I've heard the program at Assateague is quite good as is the one on the lower Columbia River in Washington State.

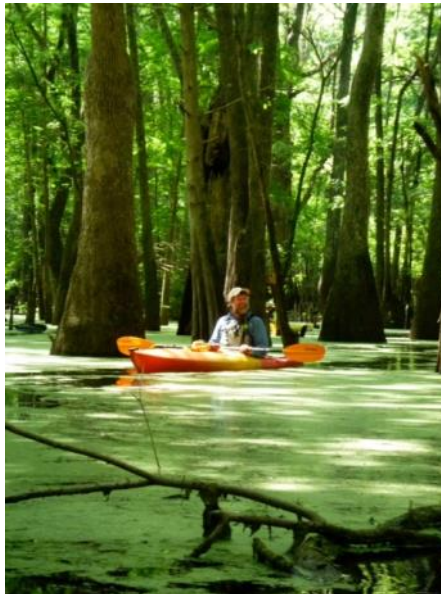
The Quebec paddle featured five-star meals with paddles on Lake Willoughby, Vermont, and lakes and a river north of the border. Lac Brome and Lemphremagog in Quebec featured a paddle through a swamp and even a stop at a Tiki bar. Downstream on the Missisquoi River included class one rapids. There

were 18 student paddlers and three guides on all our day paddles. These trips included much instruction in paddle techniques and bracing. On Lake Willoughby, we had a 15 to 20 knot wind, so we skipped the self-rescue demos. Cocktail hours and meals were a

blast. In South Carolina, the Low Country paddle featured great meals and accommodations. There are two types of programs, one for beginners and one for more advanced paddlers (They don't work us too hard). There were about thirteen students and at least two guides for each day outing. The paddles included several blackwater rivers in the Ace Basin which in springtime were overflowing, so I actually paddled through the woods. The swamps in South Carolina are awesome; we would even see several alligators if we were lucky.

If you are familiar with the Road Scholar programs and want to participate in an active outing, I would recommend you check them out. I have only done

kayaking trips within a day's drive and have always taken my own kayak, life jacket, paddle, and other basic equipment. ♦



## Annual Meeting Voting Ballot

At the meeting, we will discuss CPA business and elect the association officers (Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer) and the other six Steering Committee positions. We posted electronic notices asking candidates to send their name and a brief “campaign speech” to “webmaster@cpakayaker.com”. The deadline was October 5 so they could be listed on the proxy ballot in this newsletter. If you would like to run for one of these positions but didn’t submit your name in time to be posted on the ballot, please feel free to conduct a “write in” campaign. Check the website (<http://www.cpakayaker.com/nominations>) to see who is running along with their “campaign speeches”. If you can’t attend the annual meeting, you may vote electronically on a link provided on the website (<http://www.cpakayaker.com/vote>). You will need your member number to vote—an email was sent to your email of record with the member number in September. Only one valid ballot per membership, including family memberships. You may also fill out the proxy and mail it to the address below. We will count proxy votes at the same time as “live”, votes at the meeting.

**Your CPA Member Number** \_\_\_\_\_ (required for a valid ballot, emailed to you in September).

**Officers** (choose one of each)

**Coordinator (vote for one)**

\_\_\_ Bill Smith

\_\_\_ (Write-in Candidate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary (vote for one)**

\_\_\_ Sue Stevens

\_\_\_ (Write-in Candidate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer (vote for one)**

\_\_\_ Rich Stevens

\_\_\_ (Write-in Candidate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Steering Committee** (choose six)

\_\_\_ Linda Delaney

\_\_\_ Ralph Heimlich

\_\_\_ Paula Hubbard

\_\_\_ Katherine Neale

\_\_\_ Chip Walsh

\_\_\_ Shelly Wiechelt

\_\_\_ (Write-in Candidate) \_\_\_\_\_

### Vote for CPA Officers and Steering Committee

After you’ve voted, please tear out this page, place in a stamped envelope, and mail to:

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Attn: Ballot

P.O. Box 341

Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341

**Ballots must be received by October 31, 2018 to be counted.**

## Upcoming Events. For the most up-to-date listings, visit the [CPA Meetup Calendar](#)

Date	Event	Summary
T W Th 10/2-4	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
T W Th 10-9-11	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Wed, Oct 10	Upper Elk River	10:00-3:00, Adv Beg, explore the Upper Elk and its creeks
Sat, Oct 13	Maxwell Hall 250th Anniv Colonial Faire	9:00-5:00, paddle downriver to Maxwell Hall Lndg, walk around Faire (10-3) for demos of weaving, tobacco culture, swordsmanship, etc
Mon, Oct 15	Upper Chester River	10:00-3:00, Adv Beg, explore Upper Chester fr Crumpton past Millington.
T W Th 10/16-18	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sun, Oct 21	Fall Foliage at Fountainhead	10:00-12:00, dress for fall temps
T W Th 10/23-25	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Wed, Oct 31	Mid-Chester River / Southeast Creek	10:00-3:00, Adv Beg, 10-12 mi, paddle Southeast and Island Creeks
T W 10/30-31	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sun, Nov 4	Annual Membership Mtg	1:00-4:45, pizza and potluck sides & desserts, business mtg, Eastport-Annapolis Neck Comm Lib; gear logo sales
Th 11/8-Su 11/11	Chickahominy Camper	12:00 pm 11/8 - 4:00 pm 11/11, car camper, paddles on area rivers, reserve campsites now, potluck Sat dinner

### [Nominees, from page 1](#)

Bohemia River, updated entries for the Chesapeake Bay Launch Site and Paddle-in Campsite Atlas on CPA's web page, and continued leading trips. If elected, I hope to continue these efforts in support of the sea kayaking community.



**Paula Hubbard** CPA has done a great job in promoting safe kayaking, water access, and water safety education. I enjoy the time I have spend working with CPA members and would like to continue serving on the steering committee.

**Katherine Neale** I am honored that several members of CPA have nominated me to be a member of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association Steering Committee. I have been a CPA member since June of 2006, and have enjoyed many of the activities and fellowship that the club has to offer. If elected, some of the things I would like to work on are: 1) Recruiting and training of more trip leaders from the membership, so we can offer more trips; 2) Getting more members more involved in their local Piracies; 3) Promoting the club to new paddler; and 4) Helping to support safe and responsible sea kayaking.

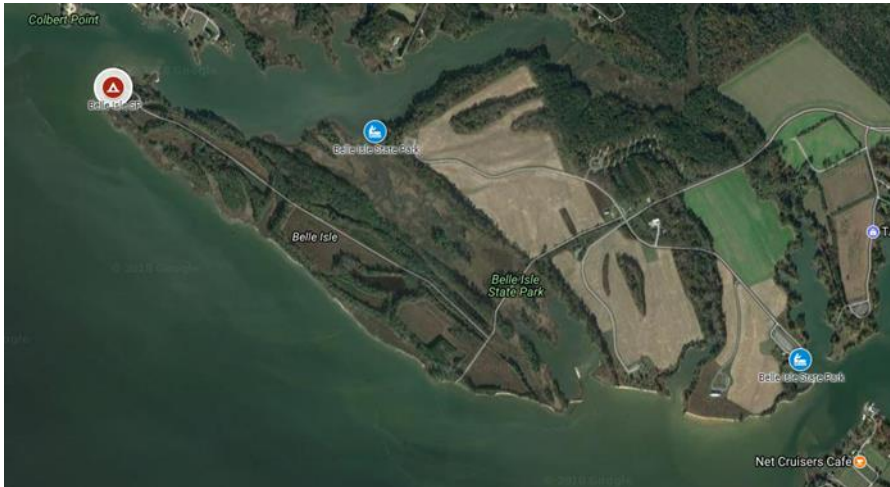


**Chip Walsh** Last year I learned a lot about CPA waivers. For one thing, I learned our insurance does not require us to collect waivers more than once a year. If elected I will ask the club to eliminate the requirement for per-event waivers. But I can't do it alone. If you vote for me, you should also let others know you favor a "one waiver" policy. Let's make CPA a paddling club, not a paperwork club!

**Shelly Wiechelt** I am excited about being nominated for the CPA Steering Committee. Kayaking brings me great joy and CPA provides me with lots of opportunities to realize that joy. CPA has helped me to expand my kayaking skills via training at SK 102, trip leader training, KIPP series, and pool sessions. There are numerous chances to paddle with great people! I really enjoy the organization and would very much like to give back to the community. I intend to promote the CPA mission of helping people safely enjoy sea kayaking. I hope to bring new ideas and new energy to the committee to help generate even more fun learning and playing opportunities for our members. If elected, I will work diligently to promote a welcoming, inclusive, fun, and safe paddling club. ♡



## Three Launches of the Month: Belle Isle State Park, VA



Site: Belle Isle State Park Canoe and Kayak Launch  
 Lat: 37.782797 Long: -76.604809  
 Address: 3087 River Rd Lancaster, VA 22503  
 Type: dock and small beach  
 Parking: Large  
 Restroom: Yes  
 Ownership: VA DEC  
 County: Lancaster  
 State: Virginia  
 Water Body: Rappahannock River  
 Comments: Canoe and kayak launch onto Mulberry Creek

Site: Belle Isle State Park  
 Lat: 37.774041 Long: -76.584125  
 Address: 3087 River Rd Lancaster, VA 22503  
 Type: ramp  
 Parking: Large  
 Restroom: Yes  
 Comments: Boat ramp directly onto river

Site: Belle Isle SP Paddle-in Campsite  
 Water Body: Rappahannock  
 River Mile: NA  
 Website: [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/belle-isle#cabins\\_camping](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/belle-isle#cabins_camping)  
 Phone: 804-462-5030  
 Lat: 37.784501 Long: -76.617544

*These launches put you onto the Rappahannock River or a tributary (Mulberry Creek) and you could paddle to the campsite for an overnight. The state park campground is one of the best in the state and makes a good base camp for paddling the lower Rappahannock area.*

<http://www.cpakayaker.com/chesapeake-bay-access-and-paddle-in-campsite-map/>

### The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

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