

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Volume 29 Issue IV

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Kayak School at the Brewery. Does Life Get any Better?

For the 60 students at SK101, the answer is, Yes. Real, on-the-water paddling lies just ahead.

By Lois Wyatt

What do kayakers love almost as much as being on the water in

their boats? Probably getting together to talk with others who share their enthusiasm for kayaks, gear, and related experiences. So it was that 12 CPA presenters and additional members came together March 31 on Kent Island at Cult Classic Brewery to help grow the ranks of sea kayakers in our Delmarva region. Annually, CPA

presents SK 101, an ambitious one-day immersion course to inform those thinking of joining us on many aspects of the sport, from basic gear and safety equipment to clothing suitable for different seasons, from planning and executing an outing to the best gear for transporting and storing boats. This year Shelly Wiechelt led the 101 planning committee with the support of members Andrew Blischak, Laurie Collins, and Rick Leader. Beyond CPA, several other area kayak groups encouraged their members to spread the word about the value of this educational day to anyone who may be interested. Most of the 60 participants are either new to kayaking or want to extend their range from recreational or whitewater kayaking to sea kayaking.

The group prepped for their morning of active learning with caffeine and food from the breakfast buffet. The icebreaker that opened the program was an introduction to four types of kayaks. Groups of about 15 gathered around to learn the features of Denise Parisi's recreational boat, Shelly's roto-mold touring boat with rudder, Laurie's sea kayak with skeg, and Bee Dawson's wood kayak built from a kit. After boats came paddles. Brian Blankenship introduced the participants to a proper forward stroke and explained features of six types of paddles - Euro or Greenland or wing, one piece or two, blades flat or feathered, blades symmetrical or not, shaft straight or bent. Next came the fashion show, kayaker style, presented by



Denise. Ralph Heimlich modeled the cold-water fashion of dry suit with balaklava, mittens, and high boots; Bee showed the cool water attire of her Farmer Jane wetsuit and additional neoprene jacket; and Bill Smith modeled hot weather minimalist attire of quick-drying long sleeve shirt and shorts. Rick was ready to hop in his boat donned with skirt, sunhat, and fully loaded PFD; questioned by Denise, he explained the purpose of each item attached to his PFD.

With CPA merchandise available to purchase, Marla Aron generated enough clothing sales to place a new order. After a delicious lunch of barbecue, attention again focused on the stage for Ralph and Bee's presentation from two perspectives of a paddling trip, the leader and the participant. They stressed the responsibilities for each and the importance of working together for the good of the whole group. Suzanne Farace introduced her audience to the local weekday piracies, some of the different kinds of paddling venues in our region, and a few of her favorite places, such as the Pocomoke River, Mallows Bay, and Turner's Creek. Rick helped the participants to consider factors like wind, weather, and current that should contribute to the go-vs-no-go decision about paddling on a given day. Rounding out the day was Sue and Rich Stevens and Andrew's presentation on several options for transporting and storing the kayaks, along with some dramatic horror photos of outcomes for folks who did not give sufficient attention to this aspect of their investment.

We thank Shelly, her team, and all the presenters who gave their time to educate and spread the word about how to get involved in a sport well suited to our water-abundant area. Whether one ventures up a creek, down a river, across the bay, or out on the sea, she /he can feel deeply satisfied to exercise and explore our great outdoors. We hope to see many of the 60 participants on the water this season. ♦

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

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

PIRATES OF BALTIMORE

The POB has new pirate co-captains, Jean Wunder, Suzanne Farace, and Bob Shakeshaft. This news is great for POB, which has been leaderless since Ed Cogswell stepped down. Please thank Jean, Suzanne, and Bob when you see them, or better yet, join them on a Pirates of Baltimore excursion.

PIRATES OF THE POTOMAC

After 18 years as pirate captain, Dick Rock stepped down and passed the eye patch to two new co-captains, Bob Maynes and John Gibbs. I do hope we still see Dick on the water from time to time and wish him the best of luck. I know Bob and John will do a great job and continue the tradition of the POP. Local piracies and the weekday opportunities they offer are an important piece of CPA's overall program. At all the active locations, CPA greatly appreciate paddlers willing accept the responsibilities of leadership. Our thanks to Jean, Suzanne, Bob, and John. Without the commitment and efforts of all our volunteers, CPA would cease to exist.



PIRATES OF ???

Anyone interested in serving as captain of the Pirates of Sugarloaf or Pirates of the Eastern Shore or in starting a new Piracy should contact the Steering Committee at steering_committee@cpakayaker.com

KAYAK NAVIGATION

CPA recently ran their annual kayak navigation class at the Cult Classic Brewery with Paula Hubbard, an excellent teacher on this subject. I have taken the class a few previous times, so it should be routine for me, but that is not what I find. Being from the mid-west where tides are nonexistent, I had a hard time learning the concept of tides and currents. I always assumed that at high tide the current stops flowing in, but that is not the case. I always wondered why tides and currents were mentioned when I assumed they were one and the same or interchangeable.

During this year's class I had one of those "Ah-hah" moments when I learned that unless you are at the top of the tidal run, the water level will not rise any higher at high tide but the current will continue to flow inward to reach the top of the waterway which continues to create a current, so at high tide you are no longer fighting the incoming tide but you are still fighting the incoming current which is running below the surface. Therefore, when planning a trip where tides are a factor, I need to consider the tide charts and also the current charts to determine ideal launch time and direction. Currents are a little more difficult to determine because tide stations are more plentiful than current buoys. Some assumptions must be made since locations are not coordinated with each other. Reading the current

charts takes some getting used to. Below are two links for tides and currents in the Chesapeake Bay

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/Tide-Finder.aspx>

https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html?gid=1402#listing

THE GREAT CHESAPEAKE BAY SWIM and POTOMAC RIVER SWIM

Calling all swim support volunteers. As the calendar moves toward summer, organizers of open water swim events need the support of kayakers as safety boaters. This year I have committed to help with the June 9th Chesapeake Bay Swim, something I have always wanted to do and decided this is the year. With about 1000 swimmers expected, clearly that equates to a lot of kayakers needed to help with the event. The Bay Swim is one of the biggest swim events in the country, so swimmers from several states and countries are expected. The event offers two separate courses, a one-mile swim involving about 400 swimmers near the Kent Island shore and the better-known 4.4-mile cross bay swim of about 600 swimmers. With so many swimmers, a minimum of 50-60 kayakers are necessary. Proceeds from this event support different Chesapeake Bay environmental groups and the March of Dimes, so it is not only a great cause but a badge of honor to participate. <https://gcbs.kayakswimsupport.info/>

Organizers of the June 2nd Potomac River Swim across the 7.5-mile mouth expect 40 or more registered swimmers. Though powerboats form a box around the swimmers, the field spreads out enough that a kayak with each swimmer is necessary. The upright kayaker marks the location and progress of each swimmer. At the same time the boater also supports the swimmer by carrying snacks and water for their rest breaks and helping to hold a good course line across that expanse of water to the distant Maryland shoreline, which is impossible for the swimmer to eye. Swimmers, event organizers, and the environmental groups who benefit from the proceeds all thank the volunteer kayakers repeatedly and treat them to two nights of camping at Pt Lookout SP along with Friday evening dinner and Saturday buffet lunch on the beach. It is a good feeling to assist the swimmers and contribute to such an ambitious endeavor.

July 13th the 5-mile Chester River Swim for Life is another event that depends on kayakers for help.

If you are interested in helping in any of the swim events, check the CPA calendar and Meetup for more details and links.

~ *Bill Smith*

Is it time to renew your CPA membership?

Dreaming about kayaking on warm breezy summer days? Now it's time to get ready for more kayaking trips with CPA as you buff up that boat and locate all your gear. Do you know if your CPA membership is up for renewal? Many trip leaders expect you to be an active CPA member when you join their trips.

Our CPA dues are a true bargain. The annual rate is only \$10 and includes your family members. Or choose a multi-year rate of \$18 for 2 years; \$27 for 3 years; or, the best deal of all, \$35 for 4 years of membership. When your own membership is coming due, you will receive at least four monthly reminders. You can check for your renewal date on the printed version – please don't forget to renew in time. There are a lot of SK102ers whose membership is also coming up for renewal in this May. Only active members receive our CPA Paddler Newsletter (10 issues a year); it is not otherwise available online. Please sign up to receive the newsletter via email. Then you will see all the events and news fast and in color.

It's easy to renew [online via PayPal – please click here](#).

Or you may mail your renewal check to:

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.
PO Box 341
Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341

New Website Debuts

After numerous glitches began showing up on our web site in spite of nearly a year of work behind the scenes, we hope by the time you read this that our newly revised and more secure web site will be online. In that time Gregg Banse was hired to take over the more complex aspects of our web site maintenance. Our volunteer web team still plays an active role, but this task was becoming overwhelming in terms of the time it required. Although the site name remains basically the same, we are switching to a more secure encrypted platform (search HTTP vs. HTTPS). The Forums have been updated and a new Commercial Posts section added. A set of posting rules has been adopted http://cpakayaker.wpengine.com/about-cpa/mission_bylaws/cpa-web-posting-policies/. Navigation has been simplified. These are just some of the changes. With any comments or suggestions, contact Rich Stevens, treasurer@cpakayaker.com. As with all web sites, this one is a work in progress. We hope you appreciate the improved site. ♦

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. ♦

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

Fri 5/17- Mon 5/20	Chickahominy Area camper	5 pm 5/17-9 am 5/20, Adv Beg, car camp, paddles on area rivers, re-serve your campsite asap
Sat, May 18	KIP 2019, 14th Annual series, #2	6 am-6 pm, build strength, skills, and confidence for personal paddling goal, w some to circumnavigate Kent Is
Sat, May 18	Use Your Greenland Paddle Paddle	10 am-3 pm, esp for those who recently made a new Greenland but open to all
Sat, May 18	Okoumefest Chesapeake Light Craft, non-CPA event	9 am-5 pm, demo day at Matapeake SP,
Sat, May 18	DC Skyline - Full Moon Night Paddle	6:30 pm-9:30 pm, Columbia Island Marina, meet at 6:30 to launch at 7, leisurely paddle on Potomac at twilight
Sun, May 19	Pool Rolling, Williamsburg	2 pm-5 pm, RF Wilkinson Family YMCA, Wmsbg, VA
Tu-Th, 5/21-23	area piracies	check CPA calendar for details
Fri 5/24-Sun 5/26	Upper Patuxent Kayak Kamper	5/24 12 pm-5/26 5 pm, Adv Beg, upper reaches of Pax R Water Trail, to 2 new paddle-in campsites
W-Th, 5/29-30	area piracies	check CPA calendar for details
Sun, June 2	Annual Gear Swap, Fall-Out Of Your Boat Day, & potluck lunch	9 am-4 pm, potluck lunch at pavilion w grills, displays of kayaks and gear, kayak outfitting, well-equipped PFD; practice wet exits & rescues; etc
Tu-Th, 6/4-6	area piracies	check CPA calendar for details
Fri 6/7-Mon 6/10	Potomac Kayak Kamper	10 am 6/7-2 pm 6/10, Adv Beg, 30 mi in 3 days on mid-Potomac R, launch Malloes Bay, camp Widewater SP, Caledon SP, & Chapel Pt SP
Sat, June 8	KIP 2019, 14th Annual series, #3	6 am-6 pm, build strength, skills, and confidence for personal paddling goal, w some to circumnavigate Kent Is
Sat, Jun 8	Baltimore Flotilla for a Healthy Harbor, non-CPA event	7 am-10 am, hundreds of boats paddle around Baltimore Inner Harbor to celebrate clean water efforts, \$
Sun, Jun 9	Great Chesapeake Bay Swim, non-CPA event	9:30 am-4 pm, Adv Beg, kayak support needed for 4.4 mi swim bet bridges & 1 mi swim on Kent Island shore
Tu-Th 6/11-13	area piracies	check CPA calendar for details
Sat, Jun 15	Magothy R Paddle	9 am-4 pm, Adv Beg, 10+ mi, Sillery Bay; Gibson, Dobbins, & Little Islands, contact trip leader
Tu-Th 6/18-20	area piracies	check CPA calendar for details
Sat, Jun 22	Magothy R Leisure Paddle	9 am-4 pm, Beg, 5-6 mi in protected waters nr Cypress Creek, contact trip leader
Sat, Jun 22	Marshall Hall to Pamunkey Creek & Mt Aventine mansion	9 am-5 pm, Adv Beg, 13 mi, explore creek, land at Chapman SP for lunch & visit Mount Aventine mansion
Tu-Th 6/25-27	area piracies	check CPA calendar for details
Tu-Th 7/2-4	area piracies	check CPA calendar for details
Sat, July 13	KIP 2019, 14th Annual series, #4	6 am-6 pm, build strength, skills, and confidence for personal paddling goal, w some to circumnavigate Kent Is
Sat, July 13	Chester R Swim for Life, non-CPA event	8 am-2 pm, seeking support kayakers for 5 mi swim
Sat, July 20	Magothy River to Severn River Paddle	8 am-4 pm, Adv Beg, 16 mi w 5 mi shuttle, around Cape Saint Claire, under Bay Bridge
Sun, July 28	Battle Creek on the Patuxent	8:30-2 pm, Adv Beg, fr Broomes Island area upstream to explore Battle Creek, 12-15 km

Coal Ash, Suburban Runoff Damage Patuxent

By Ralph Heimlich

CPA paddler Dave Linthicum passed along that Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman recently released two reports regarding water quality on the Patuxent River, one of our premier paddling destinations. One report deals with pollutants from coal ash, and the other, with fisheries affected by increasing salinity from road salt and suburban runoff.

The first is on the many coal combustion products found in Mataponi Creek as it flows immediately adjacent to the location where the Chalk Point and other electrical generating stations have been depositing coal ash (CCBs) for decades (See map). Yes, burning coal to make electricity pollutes the air and releases greenhouse gasses, but of the most dangerous substances in coal remain in the ash that's left over.

Dave comments that: "Having paddled the lovely tidal and lowermost non-tidal section of Mataponi Creek a few days ago (new bald eagle nest; longest beaver dam (2016) I've seen in the region), the list of chemicals below is quite distressing to me. We of course can't expect Mataponi Creek to be as pristine as when Native Americans were living on its banks, but gee whiz that seems like a lot of chemicals 'above regulatory standards'.... I'm guessing that our all-time record of 74 inches (S. MD) of rain in 2018 (old record: 60) didn't help."

In 2013, the owner, GenCo, agreed to fix the ongoing pollution and to pay \$2.2 million in penalties to Maryland and Prince George's County. The report was based on groundwater testing data made public for the first time last year, required by new federal regulations set forth in 2015 by the Obama administration. These regulations are targeted for relaxation by the current administration.

The second report describes the decline in recent decades of spawning of herring in the Laurel-Eagle Harbor section of the Patuxent by Jim Uphoff with the Maryland DNR Fish Habitat and Ecosystem program. This report summarizes the movement from rural to suburban landscapes in the Patuxent drainage and the resulting decline in herring spawning success.

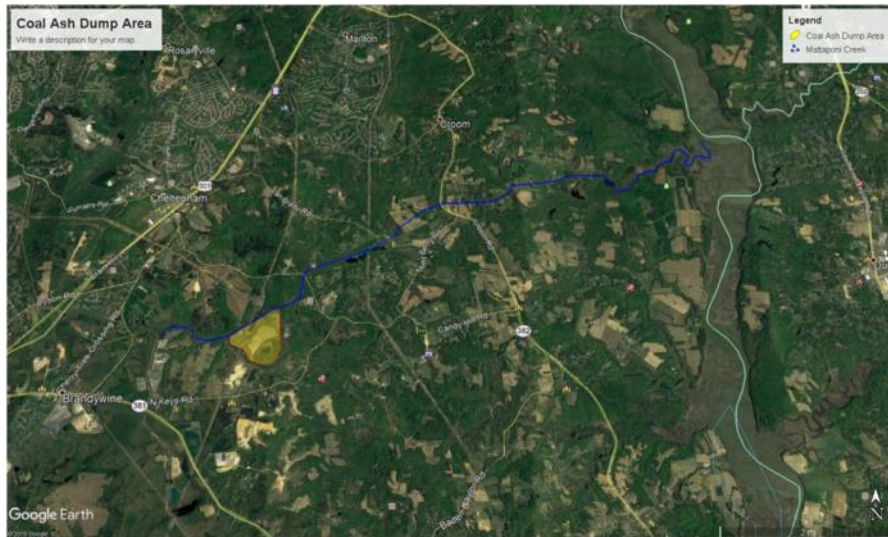
In the past herring were one of Maryland's most prolific fish species accounting for as much as 7.5 million pounds per year. Since 1977, however, less than a million pounds have been harvested yearly.

Since 1950, the degree of development in the Patuxent River drainage, measured by the percent of impervious surface area, has climbed from less than 2 percent in 1950 to more than 12 percent in

2013, a change that marks a transition from a rural area to a suburban one. As impervious surface increased in the Patuxent, the trend in juvenile alewife, a similar species, declined, even though it was doing fine in other parts of the bay watershed.

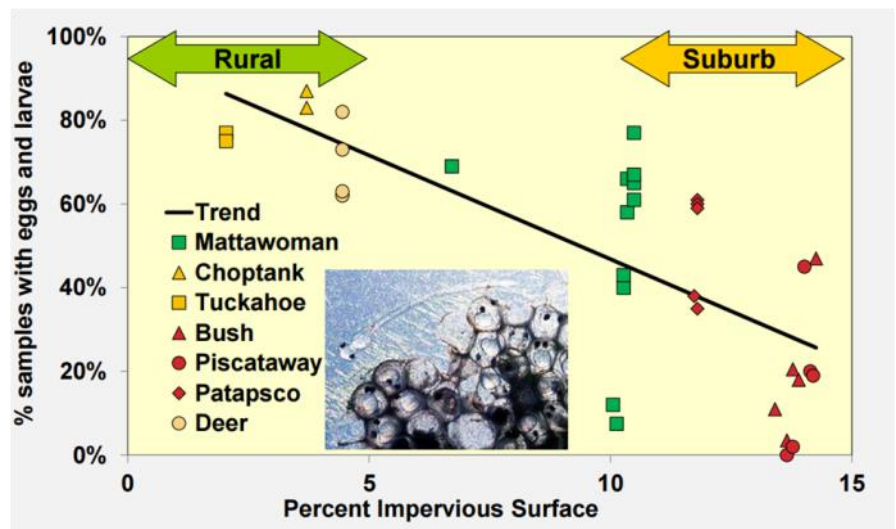
More impervious surface means that more pollutants enter the waterways from surface runoff. While these pollutants include

nitrogen and phosphorus, sediment, and other chemicals, one of the big culprits is sodium chloride, that is, road salt. Increased salt in the water, as measured by electrical conductivity, is toxic to freshwater marine life and anadromous herring spawn in fresh water. The trend upward in electrical conductivity indicates increasing amounts of salt in the water, a bad sign for spawning herring in the Patuxent. ♠

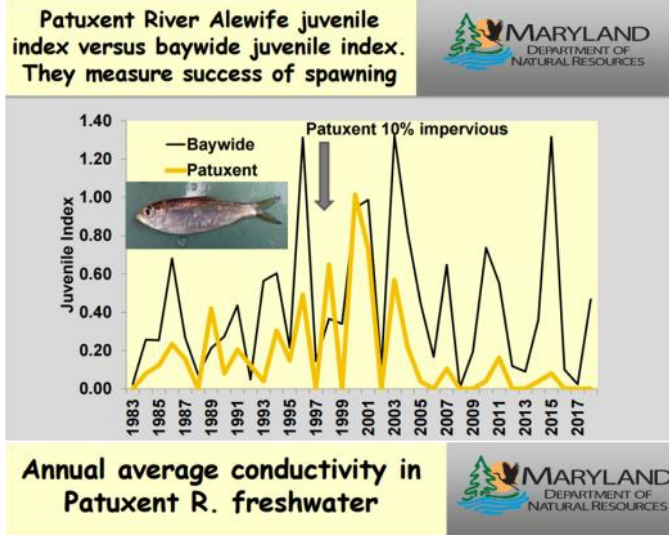


Location of Brandywine Coal Ash Dump map by Ralph Heimlich

[Continued on next page](#)



Patuxent Water Quality, continued



2018 SEMI-ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2018, BRANDYWINE ASH MANAGEMENT FACILITY, BRANDYWINE, MARYLAND

GenOn MD Ash Management LLC, 25100 Chalk Point Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608

October 2018

Prepared by: Geosyntec Consultants, Inc., 10211 Wincopin Circle, Floor 4, Columbia, Maryland 21044

The Site is located in Brandywine, Prince George's County, Maryland (map below) on Mataponi Creek, a tributary of the tidal Patuxent, and is operated by GenOn MD Ash Management LLC (MD Ash)1. The Site encompasses approximately 217 acres, of which approximately 139 acres have been developed to manage CCB (Coal Combustion Byproducts) materials. The Site has accepted CCB materials from the Chalk Point and Morgantown power generating stations. Prior to November 2007, CCB materials from the Potomac River generating station were also managed at the Site. Approximately 29 acres, referred to as "Phase II", are actively being filled in lined cells. The remaining 110.4-acre inactive portion of the Site where CCB materials have been placed includes an 81.9-acre portion known as "Phase I" and two smaller portions known as Historical Area 1 (17.1 acres) and Historical Area 2 (11.4 acres). These three areas are unlined.

Features of the Site and their locations are presented on Figure 1-2. All inactive areas are covered with a vegetated soil and geosynthetic cover system. The cover system consists of a 40-mil high-density polyethylene (HDPE) liner, a 200-mil geocomposite drainage layer, and a two-foot thick vegetated earthen cover.

Surface water samples were appropriately labeled, preserved on ice, and shipped via laboratory courier under an executed chain-of-custody to LLI. Analyses of filtered and unfiltered inorganics, total suspended solids, total dissolved solids, total hardness, total alkalinity, ammonia nitrogen, chemical oxygen demand, total nitrite/nitrate nitrogen, chloride and sulfate were performed by LLI according to standard methods.

The following CCB indicator parameters were selected for long-term groundwater trend analysis because they have been detected **above regulatory standards** (or background concentrations) more than other parameters at most monitoring wells at the Site:

- Unfiltered Boron
- Unfiltered Molybdenum
- Unfiltered Calcium
- Unfiltered Sodium
- Unfiltered Lithium
- Unfiltered Sulfate
- Unfiltered Magnesium
- Unfiltered Sodium
- Unfiltered Manganese
- Unfiltered Total Dissolved Solids.

Help Wanted, Apply Within

Do you have editing and/or desktop design skills? Have you ever wondered how you could contribute to our club? The newsletter team that brings you *The Chesapeake Paddler* seeks one or two additional members to ensure continuity of the publication. Currently, Lois Wyatt copyedits all submitted articles, while Beth Boyd handles the layout tasks (including photos and titles), using *Microsoft Publisher*. New members of the team would share these duties with Lois and Beth, allowing more flexible newsletter staffing in any given month. *The Chesapeake Paddler* is published 10 times per year. All materials are shared electronically via Dropbox. Please [email Lois](mailto:Lois) to ask questions or discuss the jobs further. ♠



Potomac River Swim Seeks Kayak Support

The 2019 Potomac River Swim (7.5 miles) seeks support kayakers to accompany individual swimmers on Saturday June 1, 2019. Kayakers receive:

- pre-swim supper/briefing on Friday, May 31.
- camping at Pt. Lookout State Park on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1.
- post-swim picnic at Pt. Lookout State Park on Saturday, June 1.



- commemorative t-shirt
- Swim proceeds are donated to a variety of area environmental organizations.

To sign up go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YJV9BJH>

More info: <http://www.potomacriverswim.com>

Cheryl Wagner (202) 387-2361
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The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

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REMINDER: Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you will receive an e-mail reminder prior to your membership expiring; please notify the Secretary for changes to your email address. If your CPA membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send in your dues. SEE BOX ON PAGE 2 FOR ADDRESS.