

The Chesapeake Paddler



Publication of The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

Volume 28 Issue III

April 2018

Anne Arundel Harbors Upgrades, Threats to Water Access

Paddling improvements are cause for celebration. But continuing threats to equitable water access mean this is no time for complacency. Put down your paddle and take up your pen.

By Lisa Arrasmith

Anne Arundel County is becoming more kayak friendly each year. What is new for this season? A range of improvements including newly paved roads and paths, a sandy launch in place of a muddy one, and the always valued portapotties promise to make our launches more comfortable and to open up new possibilities.

The new paddle-in campsites on the Patuxent Water Trail at Emery Landing and Stocketts Run are set to be upgraded in May with portapotties and fire rings. Paddle-in camping website: <http://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/paddle-in-camping>

The improvements at Homeport Farm Park are almost completed and the park will reopen this spring. The old dirt access road now has a hard surface, the access path is blacktop and packed gravel instead of grass and bumpy roots, and the launch is a new sandy beach. The park also has an ingenious sod-topped parking lot and, most importantly, will finally get a portapotty. Homeport Farm Park website: <http://www.aacounty.org/locations-and-directions/homeport-farm-park>



Just add kayaks: Improvements at the Homeport Farms launch include a blacktop and gravel path ending in a sandy put-in. Photos/Lisa Arrasmith



The blacktop path at Homeport Farms

The improvements to the launch onto the Bodkin from Downs Park are almost done. Launching onto the Bodkin from Downs used to require determination - the course included maneuvering a kayak down a hill following a deer path and getting stuck in sucking mud and hung up on green briar. No more. That muddy launch is now a wide sandy beach and the hill is an easy gentle slope. The access path is completely paved from

the parking lot to the beach. This improved launch opens up an enormous amount of sheltered water for more casual paddling. Downs Park website: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/parks/downs/>

The boat ramp at Discovery Village in Shady Side is under active construction. If all goes well, the boat ramp will open this summer. [Discovery Village website.](#)

All paddlers should appreciate the efforts of those who called, test paddled, pored over maps, emailed, went to meetings and kept speaking up for public water access. When we say what we want, our elected officials know what we want. If you like what you see on this list, please **send a thank you email to County Executive Steve Schuh** exschu00@aacounty.org and the Anne Arundel County Council. County Council website: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-council/> .

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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

Recently CPA held the annual SK 101 workshop, attended by approximately 70 enthusiastic students with 16 instructors and presenters. I thought the instructors and presenters did a good job of keeping the students engaged and making it a great experience for everyone. Some of the presenters told the group why they kayak and more than a few stated they enjoy the wildlife they encounter. These comments made me think of some of the wildlife experiences I have had while paddling, especially because I have had the opportunity to paddle from Northern Canada to Florida, so my wildlife encounters have been extensive.

While paddling in the Canadian woods, I saw bears and moose. In Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, I remember a family group of a

black bear with three cubs which ran right through our campsite; fortunately for us they did not return after dark. A friend who was paddling and camping in Quebec was cooking fish he had caught when a black bear dashed into his campsite. He had taken the precaution to tie all the packs with food in a tree, but the bear grabbed the one pack not tied down and ran off with it. Among other things, this pack contained his wallet; he did find some of the contents along the trail but never recovered his wallet.

Moose encounters can be very cool but scary. Since moose have a short fuse, I always keep my distance, especially if they have a calf. I have heard stories of paddlers passing moose in narrow streams and the moose stepping into their canoe. Moose like to step on dry objects when possible, so a canoe looks inviting to them but is a disaster for those in the canoe. Deer can also make for an interesting sighting. I was paddling in Michigan near dusk on a very narrow stream with high banks when I heard something crashing through the woods heading my way. Suddenly a deer was airborne and landed in the river about ten feet in front of me - I was very thankful the deer did not land on top of me. Another day, I was winter paddling a stream in Pennsylvania which was narrow and fast moving. We came around a bend and about 100 feet in front of us stood three deer. As we approached, they took off, which also sent several other deer behind them on a hillside scurrying away. Around the next bend there they were again with the same results; this group of deer continued this game a few more times.

While paddling in Florida I have encountered many alligators, otter, manatees and monkeys - yes monkeys. The Silver River near Ocala has several rhesus monkeys best observed from a distance. The park ser-



vice estimates up to 800 monkeys along a 40-mile stretch of Silver and Ocklawaha Rivers. Another time and place in Florida, we were taking a water break when a manatee went up to another paddler in our group and put his head in her hand; the manatee then put his flipper up on the deck of her boat. The manatee also put his flipper on the deck of

my boat and used the bottom of my kayak and as back scratcher. This manatee made his rounds of several other paddlers in our group. Manatees are gentle giants and very social. It is against the law in Florida to approach or touch a manatee but I'm not sure what the law says about the manatees touching you; either way it was a very cool experience.

I have paddled past or around several hundred alligators and never felt threatened by them but

did have two encounters when I should have felt threatened. Fortunately for me, I didn't know enough about alligators at the time to know I was being challenged. On two occasions I was approached by an alligator that was swimming with the full length of its body on the surface, a sign of aggression and a situation that should be avoided. I have also met many water moccasins about which I have heard horror stories but not once did I feel threatened; they usually swam away or watched from a distance as we passed. One of my native Floridian paddling friends told me that in 16 years of paddling he has never been bothered by a water moccasin. I could go on about additional wildlife encounters another time.

Probably you have stories to tell. What are some of the most memorable wildlife sights on your kayak outings?

Hope to see everyone on the water soon.

~ Bill

Lend Your Digital Skills to CPA!

Chesapeake Paddlers Association needs an additional member for the Website Team. This person would be responsible for posting information to the CPA websites (<http://www.cpakayaker.com> and <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums>) and making any necessary changes to the web content, including updating the WordPress and phpBB® Forum Software installations. Works with other members of the Website Team, the Coordinator, Newsletter Editors, and Steering Committee members. If you have website experience, especially with WordPress and phpBB, please reply to steering_committee@cpakayaker.com. ♦

Paddler Profile: Joan Ellis

By Bob Browning

Lives in: Eastern Shore Maryland/Ft Lauderdale Florida

Real job: Property Manager

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No

Number of years paddling? 22 years

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? How did I end up with a wooden boat? About 22 years ago, my son wanted a kayak. He did the research and found the Chesapeake Light Craft kits on the web. We decided to make it a family winter event. We cleaned out the living room, put tarps down, set up saw horses and went to work. By spring we had a fleet of finished wooden boats. I was never in a kayak before we launched the boats, so I had an interesting learning curve. Most places I go, I get the same questions – “Is it wood?”, “Did you make it?” and “How heavy is it?”

What boats do you paddle? Yes, I paddle a CLC 16LT. Yes, it is a wooden boat and yes, I made it. Just for the record, I do own two other non-wooden boats, but I always gravitate back to my CLC when I need to get where I want to go in comfort and with confidence. It fits me; what more can I say.

Rudder or skeg? Neither

Type paddle used: Warner Camano

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? Paddle year round because I go south in the winter - in my youth I could not wait to paddle in the first snow storm. Now I head south!

Do any winter paddling? No, I try not to paddle in the cold. 38 years in Connecticut proved that I could, and I no longer feel I need to!

Favorite local paddling location? Any place I have not paddled.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why: All paddles are great - CPA's included

Cooler paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? My “Yacht” travels with me up and down the East Coast. My favorite trips have been a week in the Everglades, Maine and Connecticut. Last year my goal was to paddle every canal in Fort Lauderdale. With a street map on the deck, I manage to do all, unless climate change has



formed more. A non-wooden trip was a week on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? That would have been last winter when I was crossing the inlet at Port Everglades, intercoastal side. The International Airport runways end on the intercoastal waterway and when the airport closed due to shootings, every available Coast Guard, Marine Police and military vessel was sweeping the water, guns showing. I was descended upon by a Coast Guard boat informing me to evacuate the area “NOW.” It wasn't till I got back to the ramp that I knew why I was being escorted by an armed vessel.

What do you like about CPA? I found CPA on line and decided to give it a try. When deciding to join a CPA paddle, I weigh the time and distance to travel vs time on the water. Living and working on the Eastern Shore forces you to make those

choices. What I have discovered is that sometimes just getting to the site is as interesting and informative as the paddles. I've driven through areas I would never have gone if it were not for the CPA paddles. ♦

Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile? Contact Bob Browning at:

BBBrowning43@verizon.net



Paddlers!

The Potomac River Swim Needs You!

The 2018 Potomac River Swim (7.5 miles) needs support kayakers to accompany individual swimmers on **Saturday June 2, 2018**. You can really make a difference!

Kayakers accompany individual swimmers on their crossing and get: - pre-swim supper/briefing on Friday, June 1. - camping at Pt. Lookout State Park on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. - post-swim picnic at Pt. Lookout State Park on Saturday, June 2. - commemorative t-shirt. More info: <http://www.potomacriverswim.com>
Sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TQ9HYG3>
Cheryl Wagner (202) 387-2361 cherylw46@yahoo.com

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What's Next in Public Water Access?

Now is the time for input into next year's budget, for further opportunities to increase public water access, and to stand against threats to existing public access. In Anne Arundel the current focal point for both opportunity and threat is [Beverly Triton Beach Park](#). **The sooner the better for such input from water**

access advocates with the next deadline of May 1, 2018. Please "like" the [Public Water Access Committee](#) Facebook page to keep up with public water access in Anne Arundel County and elsewhere in the region.

The county released the [final master plans](#) for the five Mayo peninsula parks in February 2018.

Beverly Triton Beach Park is the only one of these five that may be in the upcoming FY19 budget, which begins July 1, 2018. The proposed improvements at Beverly Triton are modest: surfacing the parking lot across the street from the gate, connecting the park to the public sewer system, and putting in a small building with flush toilets. These basic amenities would be a capital footprint on this park and make it harder for some future county administration to close Beverly Triton again.

Many of the neighbors around Beverly Triton oppose any improvements because they want to force the county to close the park again. They had it to themselves as a de facto private park for 30 years; people do get set in their ways. If they wanted it for themselves, however, they should have bought it for themselves.

What can you do about the budget? In Anne Arundel, the County Council can only **remove** items from the county executive's budget. Therefore, it is essential to ask County Executive Steve Schuh to put public water access projects **in** his budget before he presents it to the council on May 1, 2018. **ASAP please ask**



Photo/Lisa Arrasmith

Public access to Mayo peninsula parks like Beverly Triton Beach Park, pictured, remain threatened. Voice your support for access and improvements by May 1 using links in this article.

County Executive Schuh to include the public water access projects **you** want in his budget. It would be great if you requested that he include funding for the decades-overdue improvements at Beverly Triton Beach Park. Please include your full name and snail mail address so he knows you're a real person. [Budget Request link.](#)

The County Council cannot add but only take items out of the county executive's budget. I suspect a lot of horse trading is going on right

now. Please get a jump on that horse trading by also sending your public water access request to everyone on the county council. Again, remember to include your full name and snail mail address so they know you are a real person.

District 1 Councilman Pete Smith peter.smith@aacounty.org

District 2 Councilman John Grasso john.grasso@aacounty.org

District 3 Councilman Derek Fink dfink@aacounty.org

District 4 Councilman Andrew Pruski andrew.pruski@aacounty.org

District 5 Councilman Michael

Peroutka michael.peroutka@aacounty.org

District 6 Councilman Chris Trumbauer ctrumbauer@aacounty.org

District 7 Councilman Jerry Walker jerry.walker@aacounty.org

Please also cc: Linda Harris, Councilman Smith's assistant linda.harris@aacounty.org

I don't have any inside information on the budget. We will all find out what's in it on Tuesday May 1, 2018. After that, the council must vote on the budget by June 15, 2018. [Click here for May 1 meeting information.](#)

What if you are not a resident of Anne Arundel County? Does your voice have a place in this push? Yes. Your individual comments lend character to your message, but here are two for you consider. Local retail businesses benefit when Anne Arundel develops as an ever more appealing destination for green outdoor activities. In addition, through the state's Program Open Space, all Marylanders pay for these parks, and through the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund, all of us support efforts to clean up the bay and develop parklands. Thanks to all for advocating for public water access. Again, when we say what we want, then elected officials know what we want. ♣

The Backstory...

Amy Argetsinger, ". . . BUT DON'T GO NEAR THE WATER," *Washington Post* June 15, 1997: <https://goo.gl/f2PMa1>

Laura Sullivan, "A ghost beach on the bay waterfront: Residents think of Beverly-Triton Beach as a private preserve, but Anne Arundel County wants to open the park to all." *Baltimore Sun* July 11, 1998: <https://goo.gl/VSH4gv>

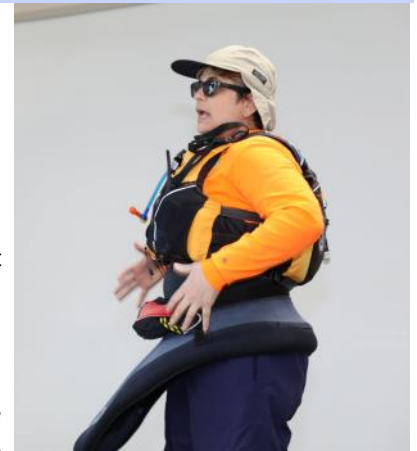
SK 101 offers know-how to newbies

Testimonials, expertise, and a kayak petting zoo give 360 preview

SK101 hosted 81 participants on March 10th at the beautiful riverside West River United Methodist Center south of Annapolis. Presentation topics included kayak design, paddle variations, kayak gear, safety, and kayak transport. A primer was provided on how to take part in a CPA trip and on the many places to paddle around the Bay. A new feature for 2018 was a dozen one-minute testimonials on inspiration for paddling, boat favorite paddling locations. Over a dozen kayakers were on display during break and lunch and a variety of hand-outs were made. Many from Virginia joined those from a dozen



personal selection and a dozen kayakers were on display during break and lunch and a variety of hand-outs were made. Many from Virginia joined those from a dozen



available. Guests from Delaware, DC, Pennsylvania and Maryland towns. Event coordinator Rick Leader offered a hearty thank you to the 18 CPA members who generously donated their time to make the day a success. ♦

Photos/Rich Stevens



Thoughtless Paddlers Monopolize Trip Signups, Inspire New Policies

At the recent trip planning meeting a number of trip leaders expressed a concern over a few people signing up for almost every trip as soon as it is posted and then frequently cancelling at the last minute or just not showing up. These people are apparently signing up for trips simply to hold a place while not being really serious about attending, but instead waiting to see if there is anything else that they would rather be doing on the date of the trip.

CPA trip leaders frequently limit the number of participants who may come on any particular trip. This can be for reasons of trip management, safety, limited parking, limited launch facilities, or any number of other reasons. This often results in a number of people on the wait list for a particular trip. If someone who had no serious intent to attend a trip in the first place cancels at the last minute, the people on the wait list have often made other plans by that time. This person who has cancelled has essentially taken away the ability of people who really wanted to go on that particular trip to participate.

Obviously, this is not fair to the people on the wait list or to the trip leader. In one case last year there were 28 people signed up for a trip and 12 people who actually attended, in spite of perfect weather.

Meetup allows trip leaders to see how many people have signed up for trips and events, how many times they have participated, and how many times they were simply no-shows. If a trip leader notices that a person who has chronically cancelled or not shown up has signed up for a trip with a limited number of spots, they can now move that person to the wait list, even though there may be spots available. They can even remove that person entirely. The same goes for people who do not reply in a timely manner to a request from the trip leader for more information.

While there are always legitimate reasons a paddler may have to cancel participation in a particular trip, please be considerate of others and do not sign up for trips and events that you do not seriously plan to attend. ♦

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

Date	Event	Summary
Sat, Apr 7 A3	Navigation - Classroom	9:00 am-7:00 pm, trip planning & day-of issues, tides & currents,
Sat, Apr 7	Patuxent River cleanup	8:00 am, clean up trash from the river, 2 groups work to meet at Rt. 7 Bridge. If you don't have canoe, volunteer to join a crew
Wed, 4/18-Sun, 4/22	Great Dismal Swamp	4/18 7:00 pm-4/22 9:00, Adv Beg, car camping Northwest River Park, Chesapeake City, paddle Dismal Swamp, Northwest River, & Back Bay
Sat, Apr 21	Kent Island Paddle Prep (KIPP)	first of monthly group meetings to help improve skills & build endurance to prepare for personal distance challenge paddle in Sept
Apr 20-22	non-CPA event: East Coast Paddlesports Symposium	4/20 7:00 am-4/22 5:00 pm, Charleston SC, history, technique, hands-on experience, on-water classes, access to boat demos
Wed, Apr 25	Pirates of Potomac	5:00 pm-7:00 pm, season opener, check CPA calendar details
Fri, 4/27-Sun, 29	SK102 20th Annual Skills Clinic	4/27 4:00 pm-4/29 1:00 pm, Lake Anna VA, \$65, wet exits, stroke improvement, rescues, rolling, et al
Sat 4/28-Sun, 5/6	non-CPA event: Sails Angels Spring Gathering	4/28 9:00 am-5/6 3:00 pm, Tall Pines Harbor, Temperanceville VA, on Pocomoke Sound
Wed, May 2	Pirates of Arundell	5:00 pm-8:30 pm, season opener, check CPA calendar for time and launch location
Th, May 3	Pirates of Georgetown	6:00 - 8:30, season opener, check CPA calendar for details
Mon, May 7	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 3:30, explore around Wye Is
Th, 5/10-Sun, 5/13	Western Sinepuxent Bay	5/10 7:00 pm-5/14 9:00 pm, car camping at Shad Landing to paddle Western Sinepuxent Bay
Mon, May 14	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 3:00, Tred Avon River from Oxford
Fri, 5/18-Sun, 5/20	Sail the Patuxent	5/18 8:00 am-5/20 7:00 pm, sail the length of tidal Patuxent, camp at paddle-in sites
Sat, May 19	KIPP #2	second mtg to help improve skills & build endurance
Sat, May 19	Use Your Greenland Paddle	10:00, Adv Beg, Jonas Green Park, esp for participants of paddle-making workshop, but open to all
Sat, May 19	non-CPA event: Okoumefest, CLC	9:00 am, see CPA calendar for details
Mon, May 21	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 4:00, from Chaptico Wharf to Cobb Is
Th, May 24	Pirates of the Patuxent	6:00 pm-9:00 pm, season opener, check CPA website for details
Fri, 5/25-Sun, 5/27	Gather at Chickahominy	5/25 11:00 am - 5/27 2:00 pm, Adv Beg, car camper
Sat, 5/26-Sun, 5/27	Practice Kayak Camper	5/26 9:00 am - 5/27 5:00 pm, for paddlers with at least Level 1 skills, try out kayak camping with support from those more experienced
Sat, Jun 2	non-CPA event: Potomac River Swim Support	8:00-5:00, free camping Pt. Lookout SP, experienced kayakers to accompany individual swimmers & provide support, 7.5 mi crossing
Sun, Jun 3	Gear Day & Fall-Out-of-Boat Day	9:00 - 4:00, Truxton Park, Annapolis, w potluck lunch
Mon, Jun 4	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 3:30, explore Bodkin & Parsons Is, Eastern Bay
Sat, Jun 9	KIPP #3	third mtg to help improve skills & build endurance
Sat, 6/9-Sun 6/10	Martinak Car Camper	6/9 9:00-6/10 6:00, Adv Beg, Martinak SP, paddling on Tuckahoe
Sun, Jun 10	Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay	9:30 am-3:30 pm, Adv Beg, from Quantico cross Potomac
Mon, Jun 11	Circumnavigate Barren Is	9:00 - 5:00, Int, open water crossing
Sat, Jun 16	St Clements Is champagne brunch	9:00 - 3:00, fr Newtowne Neck SP to St Clements, potluck
Mon, Jun 18	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 3:30, Adv Beg, explore waters of Eastern Neck Is
Mon, Jun 25	Islands of the Chesapeake series	10:00 - 3:30, Int, waters of Poplar Is, exposed open waters
Fri, 6/29-Sun, 7/2	Fourth of July Holiday Pocomoke Car	6/29 3:00 pm - 7/2 1:00 pm, Pocomoke River SP, paddle area water-



CPA's 20th Annual SK102 Skills Clinic

April 27-29, 2018

Lake Anna, VA

SK102 is CPA's on-water skills clinic weekend.

Registration Period: February 10-March 10, 2018

Register Here: <http://sk102.eventbrite.com>

*SK102 offers on-the-water skills classes covering kayak design; wet exits; basic strokes; intermediate strokes; stroke improvement; bracing; self-rescues; group rescues; advanced rescues; towing; Greenland style paddling; and foundations of rolling. Additional on-land courses (e.g. navigation, kayak camping, etc.) are also offered. SK102 is designed to teach beginner or intermediate kayakers proper paddling technique and the skills they need to kayak safely. **IT'S ALSO A HECK OF A LOT OF FUN.***

SK102 sells out every year with a significant waitlist.

Where: Lake Anna is 2 hours south of Washington DC. The lake is a nuclear power plant cooling pond, so the water is very clear and heated – allowing you to practice wet exits, rescues, and rolling in warm water in early spring! The location is private property on which you are welcome to camp.

Cost: \$65, which includes the cost of two days of all volunteer instruction, camping on-site, morning coffee, Saturday night dinner, porta-potties and a one year CPA membership.

Required: You are required to bring a sea or light touring kayak, spray skirt, life vest, paddle, pump, and paddle float. You will be required to sign a release of liability.

For more information, please contact Catriona M. and Maxine M at SK102@cpakayaker.com

The Chesapeake Paddler

Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 341

Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341

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.