

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Reflections on the history of the CPA



This photo confirms the existence of a previously undiscovered settlement of degenerate offspring of colonial period pirates. Most noted for human sacrifices and eating raw chicken, these inhabitants may have a striking similarity to people you may be paddling with this summer.

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association got its start in the late 1980s and early '90s by a group of pioneering sea kayakers led by Chris Conklin and Ron Casterline. Some of the early group included, from left, [unknown paddler], Jerry Collins, Greg Welker, Barb Conklin, Chris Conklin, Diane Dickey, Les Dickey and Ron Casterline.

By Greg Welker

Over the last several years I have apparently become one of the few sources for the history of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association (CPA). I think I ended up as the default historian simply by being about the last full-time active paddler from the original group that made up the early years of the CPA. Last summer I found myself sitting at the Pier 7 Pirates after paddle dinners telling stories of how Pier 7 started, or on the forum explaining how the weeknight paddling groups became known as "piracies."

Now, I realize that I may be the of the only ones around who remembers some of our history and I think there may be at least some entertainment value in writing some of it down for posterity, or at least for the newsletter. However, since I did not start with the club with the intent to write a history, I will need to make a few disclaimers here in the beginning.

What I am writing is based on my experiences, what I have seen, heard, and been told over my years in the club. While a fact-filled, footnoted account of the club history would be great, there isn't that much actual documentation.

Between Jenny Plummer-Welker and myself we have a fairly solid collection of club newsletters that go back to about 1997, and I have some that go back further. I also have copies of old CPA newsletter articles that I have scanned and saved over the years.

I have been lucky enough to have some photos of early club events, and even some old emails as the club first started communicating on the world wide web and by email. Another original source item I will use in this writing is my kayak trip log, where I have recorded essentially every time I was in a kayak since buying my

[See History on page three](#)

From the CPA Coordinator**Start planning those wish-list trips**

By now hopefully everyone has had the chance to get out on the water. With the new age of social distancing and the apocalypse, paddling and/or paddle camping is a great way to get out with relatively lower risk. So far Ralph Heimlich has led two paddle/car camp trips this year and knowing Ralph a few more will pop up on the schedule. Just make sure to follow all local health and [CPA COVID-19](#) guidelines.



Bill Smith

One thing we can do now is plan for those wish-list trips. For many years I paddled and camped on rivers and lakes of Ontario, Northern Michigan and Quebec via canoe and kayak. This past winter I was researching a few trips I would love to do on Lake Superior. One of the trips is along the north shore of Superior from Hattie's Cove to the Michipicoten River; this route follows the coast of Pukaskwa National Park and Ontario Crownlands.

This 100-mile stretch is roadless and complete wilderness and considered the best section on Lake Superior or even the Great Lakes to paddle. This is an intermediate/advanced trip so you should plan on 2-3 wind days added to your schedule since wind and waves can turn this section into six-foot waves crashing along a rocky shore. Paddling this section before August is recommended since the winds pick up more frequently after that and even before August you really need to pay close attention to the weather because conditions can change in a hurry. You are completely on your own so you must be prepared for emergencies.

There are several little coves and sandy beaches thrown in so places to ride out the wind days can be quite pleasant. There are outfitters that would shuttle you back the hundred miles to your vehicle via boat if you chose not to paddle back. You can also paddle a shorter, easier section from Hattie's Cove to Oiseau Bay and back which totals about 32 miles and rated as intermediate. There are plenty of places to camp along the route on

sand beaches or near waterfalls. Several parts of this section have some form of outer islands or protection from the waves, but it is not continuous, so good map reading and paddling skill are required.

The really cool thing about this section is that there are at least five white water rivers that dump into Lake Superior with water falls including the White River, Dog River, Cascade River and the Pukaskwa rivers all made famous by Bill Mason, Ontario's legendary paddler and film maker. Almost every river I have encountered along Lake Superior's north shore end with a waterfall dumping into the lake so side paddle exploring or hiking is recommended especially up the Dog River which ends with Dennison Falls. The wildlife along this stretch include the woodland caribou, black bear, moose and porcupine.

If you do decide to paddle this section, you must sign in at the Pukaskwa National Park ranger station and sign out or call to notify them you are safe otherwise a helicopter will be looking for you at your expense. This section is located north of Lake Superior Provincial Park or Wawa, Ontario and south of Marathon, Ontario.

Happy Paddling and stay safe.

Upcoming CPA Events

Due to the rapidly changing response to COVID-19, please refer to the [CPA Meetup Calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information on scheduled CPA events.

Click [here](#) for the CPA COVID-19 Guidelines.

History, from page one

first boat.

I will also do some legwork and see if my memories match those of other long-time members with whom I am still in contact. However, reader be warned, the memories of those of us who are older club members are sure to have a few glitches and blank spots that will become apparent.

I suspect that some items of history will always have as many versions as there were participants in the actual event. So, with all of these caveats, I offer my account of the *Chesapeake Paddlers Association History – To the Best of My Recollection*.

I start sea kayaking and meet the CPA

I have long been active in the outdoors, whether backpacking, cycling, or hiking. In the mid-1980s I became interested in bird watching and wildlife photography. As my photographic interests began to focus on waterfowl, I found that I needed a way to get closer to the birds in the marshes and swamps. In 1990, I began to research my options for watercraft. Canoes were one option, but I felt that they would not be able to handle the open water I would need to traverse to reach many of the areas where the birds would be found.

I started looking at sea kayaks. At that time, sea kayaking was essentially unknown in the Chesapeake Bay area. For boat purchases, the retail options in the Washington DC area where I was living were limited to essentially REI and Hudson Trails. The common plastic boats available at the time were Aquaterra's Chinook and Spectrum. REI carried two glass boats – Current Design's Solstice (there



Early CPA trips established the basic principles of safety that endure today. From left, Greg Welker, Joq Martin, Dave Mood and Don Polakovics get ready to launch at a 1996 trip from Broomes Island.

was only one version then) and the Pisces.

After reading the few books on sea kayaking I could find (remember – no internet back then) I decided on the Pisces as my boat of choice. I purchased the boat in April of 1991. The next weekend found me at the Allen's pond, the neighborhood duck pond. I put the boat in the water and STEPPED into the boat. Luckily, the resultant fall landed me in the cockpit and not in the pond. So began my sea kayaking.

Two kayak trips later I was paddling out of Piscataway Creek and north on the Potomac River when I saw another sea kayaker in the distance. You need to remember, sea kayaks were rare – this was the first time I had seen another person with a sea kayak! We met on the river, and the paddler told me about a group called the Chesapeake Paddlers Association. He told me the phone number to call for information about the club, and I repeated it to myself for the next two hours all the way back to my parked vehicle where I could write it down.

[See History on page four](#)



The author's first sea kayak, the Current Designs Pisces. Kayak models and dealers were limited in the early 1990s.

History, from page three

To this day I don't know who that lone sea kayaker was that I encountered. After getting home I called the number and ended up speaking to a gentleman by the name of Chris Conklin. We talked about the "new" club, how to join, and I was invited to my first CPA club paddle. So started my association with CPA and the sport of sea kayaking.

My first trip with CPA was similar to the experiences of many people paddling with the club for the first time. Not only did you need to learn new faces and names, but you had to learn the gear, the boats, and how to paddle.

On that first trip out of John Firth's house on the Gunpowder River Delta, one individual stands out for me for the patience he displayed. Steve Fleming and his wife both paddled, and Steve took the time to patiently paddle alongside me trying to teach me how to paddle.

I don't know how many times I ran into his boat, but he kept at it until I finally figured out how to paddle straight. Other individuals in that first paddle or two were Chris and Barb Conklin, Les and Diane Dickey, Ron Casterline, Mike Hughes and Chris Holtz among others.

The origins of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association

CPA formed in the late 1980s and early '90s during the very early days of sea kayaking in the Chesapeake. These were the days when sea kayaks were so rare that when you saw someone drive by on the beltway with a sea kayak you very likely already knew them. If you didn't recognize them you turned around and followed to meet them. Sea kayakers were rare and were generally very independent people. My understanding is that the idea of forming a club in the Chesapeake Bay area began when Chris Conklin and Ron Casterline met each other.

I've never been clear on how the two of them met, although Ron had been sea kayaking for a while in the New England area before moving to Maryland. In the July



Skills development and mentoring were also early priorities of CPA. Jenny Plummer-Welker practices rolling as Diane Dickey looks on.

1992 newsletter Chris notes that he has been paddling for five years, making his start in sea kayaking about 1987. Chris first started collecting the names and contact information for fellow sea kayakers back in 1988 (as noted in the July 1993 newsletter).

In many ways Chris and Ron were the two original pillars of the club. Chris was the visionary and group leader who had the goal of a sea kayak club that spanned the Chesapeake Bay area.

Like any good leader, he constantly reinforced in us the club vision and the key components of safety, group trips, and organization. It was Chris who did the paperwork of keeping the member list, typing and xeroxing and mailing the newsletter and its calendar of club events. Ron was the skills teacher, the one who stood beside you as you learned wet exits, talked you through rescues, and spent countless hours teaching me to roll.

Unfortunately, I got to do my first wet exit before I got my first lesson on how to do one. If you think your first wet exit was scary, try doing it for the first time when you had only read about how to do it! Ron was paddling beside me, he put me back in the boat using a two-boat rescue, whereupon I did my second wet exit because of the sea nettle that I sat on when getting back into my cockpit. My kayak log reads:

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History, from page four

"3 hours @ Cray's (Carr's) Wharf down off MD-214 with the Chesapeake Paddlers. First accidental capsized while surfing a wake. Reentry by use of 2nd kayak. Easy. Nettle sting. 6 miles."

I remember soaking in the bath tub a long time that night ...

As I mentioned above, Chris Conklin was the editor of the newsletter and the keeper of the membership list. He was also the treasurer, and what later became known as the "Coordinator" of the club. When a new member joined the club for \$10/year, they would receive the most recent copy of the membership list, which came out once or twice a year, and a back copy or two of the club newsletter.

The newsletter would typically contain trip reports, the calendar of events, and an article or two by Chris on topics such as swim support strategies, group trip rules and organization, safety standards, etc.

It was through the newsletter that, as a club, we put in writing the practices we were learning through the school of hard knocks. The newsletter also put in writing for the club what were becoming the standards for trip leading and club safety. The May 1992 newsletter contained the following article on group trips and minimum standards:

Notes on Group Trips and Minimum Standards

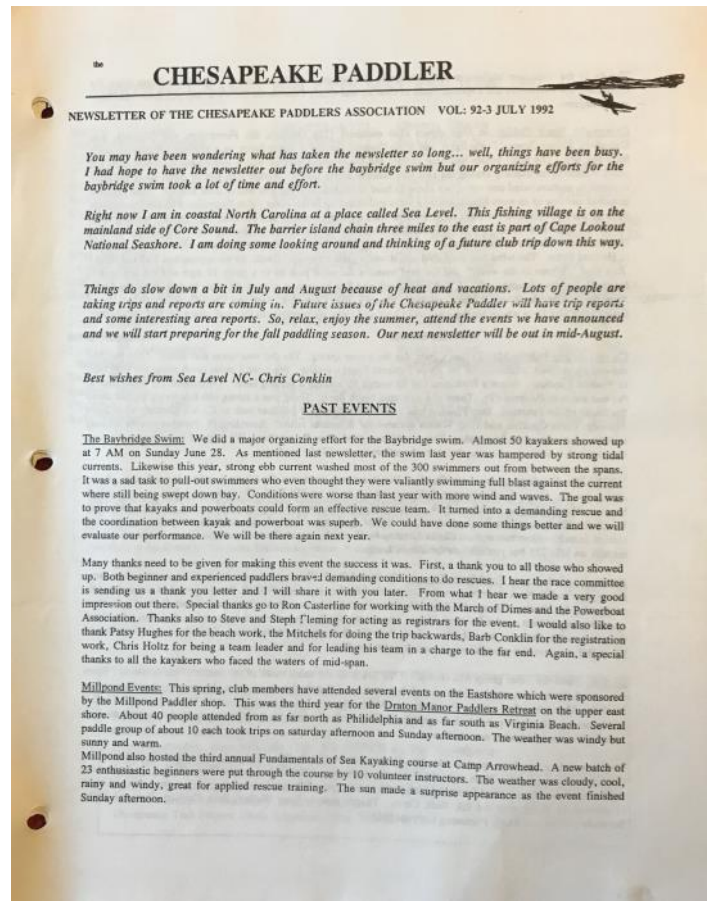
By Chris Conklin and the Chesapeake Paddlers Association

GROUP TRIPS

A paddle group is two or more kayakers (6-8 seems good). Groups can be loose informal impromptu gatherings of paddling peers, more controlled announced club trips, commercial trips, or highly controlled instructional activities.

It is your decision to paddle with a group. By deciding to paddle together you acknowledge a common bond which involves a group decision making process, a concern for the welfare of fellow paddlers, and an acceptance of minimum standards.

Joining a group does not relieve you of personal responsibility. You have the right to say no. If you



Early CPA newsletters were simpler in layout but covered similar topics such as supporting the Bay Bridge Swim, a paddlers retreat and a sea kayaking course.

feel uncomfortable or that the situation is beyond your capabilities, inform the trip leader.

A group trip may have an individual or individuals because of greater experience or for other reasons can be thought of as trip leaders. There are numerous of trip leading styles. And these styles can vary with considerably. There is a range of decision making possible. Trip leaders and experienced paddlers may make the decisions. There may be a group consensus process. Consultation with less aggressive paddlers is important.

In traveling as a group it is usually a good idea to make sure all paddlers know the destination and route. Distance separation between paddlers varies with conditions. In less demanding conditions greater separation is tolerated. As the situation becomes more challenging there is a necessity for a group to keep in closer contact.

When there are differences in paddling speed, faster

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History, from page five

paddlers need to slow down to stay with the group and slower paddlers need to work at keeping up. Sometimes trip leaders may make special arrangements when great differences in paddle speed exist. Trip leaders often assign lead and drag paddlers. Have a plan if separation occurs.

In route, never leave a group without permission.

The three most common tension increasing incidents on a group paddle are: 1. Paddlers separated from the group. 2. Group crossing of traffic channels, challenging water conditions, or open water crossings. 3. Capsize procedure: one or two boats help - others depending upon instruction will either raft-up, head into the wind, or seek shelter.

THE EIGHT MINIMUM STANDARDS

1. *It is your responsibility to make sure your boat and equipment are in good repair and available before a trip.*
2. *Except in the most benign conditions, PFD and spray skirts are worn at all times while on the water.*
3. *You are required to have a PFD, spray skirt, paddle float, and pump. Other gear may be required depending upon the type of paddle.*
4. *You are required to know and practice individual and group rescues.*
5. *Dress for the water temperature.*
6. *Let someone know where you are going.*
7. *Stay with the group.*
8. *Know your capabilities and limits.*

It is in this article that you can see the formulation of the current club safety rules and trip leading ethos. You have the idea of trip leaders, lead and sweep (called drag in the article) paddlers for a group, and the idea that you paddle to the least common denominator of the group's speed and skill. The eight minimum standards reflect the beginnings of the minimum gear requirements, self rescue requirements, and dressing for the water.

The newsletter also carried trip reports, such as the one below from the December 1991 edition.

It was a great event. Even back then we were hitting up local outdoor stores for giveaways! Unfortunately, High Island no longer exists, having eroded below the waves as is the fate of many of the islands that were in the Chesapeake.

An enduring legacy

If you have paddled with CPA for any length of time you can see Ron and Chris' legacy within the current club. It's there in our core values for group values and safety requirements and for teaching new paddlers.

Many of CPA's early members have moved away from the area or on to different stages of their lives. The last time I saw Chris Conklin he was out riding his motorcycle and scouting new launch locations for himself and Barb. Ron Casterline retired to the beaches of North Carolina and I get the occasional holiday card from him. Les and Diane Dickey are retired and living in southern Maryland and keep track of CPA via our Facebook posts. ♦

(Future issues: History of CPA Piracies)

High Island Paddleout Picnic and Rodeo Saturday Sept 21: This event comes under the heading of "something different". About twenty paddlers showed up on a beautiful clear and the seasons first slightly cool day for the first annual (I sure hope we have another) High Island Paddleout Picnic. This was Ron Casterline's idea and it took us a year to get it scheduled and it turned out great. High Island is a small island on the Rhodes River about three miles in from the Chesapeake. There are two launch sites within a mile of the island: Carr's Wharf and Chotes Wharf. This gave us double access to the island and paddlers launched from both wharfs.

We had a spectacular pot luck picnic. Ron then started pulling events out of his bag. We started with a short race a quarter mile out around a floating dock and back. Ed Schramko and Tom Hartnack came in first and second in Seda Gliders. Judy McClasin and REI kindly donated prizes for the events. Everyone got orange whistles and various other prizes. The next event was a relay using hand paddles. The third event was a tennis ball pick-up, Barb Conklin pick up the most tennis balls getting a mini-hammock prize (...ok...she had help from an xxx announonus downer paddling a green orion - the mini-hammock Barb won has been seen hanging between trees on tropical islands in the Florida Panhandle). We did not have time for the kayak tug-a-war which I was looking forward to. Eventually wanderlust took hold and we all paddled to the Smithsonian Reserve leaving the island to the indians. Later we reluctantly left the island each heading to their landing. This was a great event and thanks Ron for organizing it.

An early trip report from the CPA newsletter in December 1991.

CPA kayak car camping in the age of Coronavirus



Paddlers practice social distancing along the disused rail bridge on the Tuckahoe above Hillsboro.

By Ralph Heimlich

Relaxation of lock-down orders in Chesapeake Bay states since mid-May recognizes that outdoor activities like camping and kayaking are less likely to lead to new COVID-19 infections than many other types of activity, such as opening beaches, bars and restaurants (see <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/15/us/coronavirus-what-to-do-outside.html>).

I'd already successfully led a CPA post-lockdown day trip, so my next planned trip was a car camper to base day trips by kayak in the area of the Tuckahoe Creek and Choptank River on Maryland's Eastern Shore, planned for the weekend AFTER Memorial Day.

On May 29, six CPA members (Jim Allen, Helen Dawson, Suzanne Farace, Gary and Michelle Trotter and Ed Johnson) joined me at Tuckahoe State Park for a three-day car camper. Camping is proving a popular escape from the lockdown isolation, so Gary and Michelle had to get a site at nearby Martinak State Park because all the sites at Tuckahoe were reserved.

As I have done in the past, I attempted to check in at park HQ when I arrived, only to find out that Maryland DNR has instituted new contact-less check in procedures. There is a clipboard at the campground entrance with a list of reserved sites, and small blue "Reserved" placards

on each site already taken. You can still try to drive up for a site, paying into a deposit envelope, but my experience is that you really need to make reservations well in advance through their [website](#) if you want to be sure of having someplace to camp. In preparing for my next camper to Belle Isle, VA, I found a similar situation: All sites were reserved well in advance.

After setting up camp, Jim Allen and I drove over to the boat ramp on Tuckahoe Lake and launched to go up the creek from the reservoir. We paddled across the lake and saw a couple of sea kayaks on the beach, which turned out to be Gary and Michelle. We four then paddled upstream against a slight current due to recent rains. The creek was very high, making it easy to paddle upstream, but many trees had blown down, making it harder to pick our way upstream.

We were finally blocked well below the small landing off the non-electric campground loop, and had to turn back. Hopefully the park staff will clear some of the worst blow downs later in the season as this paddle under the green canopy of shady trees is a pleasant one in mid-summer heat.

Following [CPA guidelines](#), we all prepared our meals separately, but got together for a campfire, spacing

[See Camper on page seven](#)

Camper from page seven

ourselves out by more than the regulation six feet and wearing our facemasks. If nothing else, it confused the campfire smoke.

Probably the most concerning part of post-lockdown camping is using the park bath houses. Maryland DNR posted a twice-a-day cleaning schedule and required masks, but I rarely saw anyone else in the men's room. I avoided using the shower and didn't linger, and also made a point to go at "odd" times rather than first thing in the morning or immediately after dinner.

Helen and Suzanne adopted a complete avoidance strategy, erecting Poo Pagodas (see [here](#)), portable potties (see [here](#)) and [Sun Showers](#). If you do use the park restrooms, wear your mask, wash your hands thoroughly after use (you do that anyway, right?) and carry a small bottle of sanitizer to wipe any surfaces you need to touch.

On Saturday, rather than my usual trip down the Tuckahoe to Ganey's Wharf on the Choptank, we opted to paddle upstream from Covey's Landing and return, due to the timing of the tide change. No one was at the launch when we arrived, and we quickly unloaded (with our masks on) and were in the water before any others arrived at the ramp. We had absolutely perfect weather

for our paddle, and observed a lot of wildlife on the way upstream. The wild iris were particularly stunning. Hillsboro ramp was a bit crowded by the time we arrived at about 11 AM (another group of kayakers from Easton was having a trip), so we paddled on by.

We went as far as the old railroad bridge, then returned downriver to Stony Point Road landing for lunch. We again masked and social distanced for lunch, and only a few other people drove in, none of whom got out of their cars. More folks were at Coveys Landing when we arrived about 3 PM after a 12-mile paddle, so we waited our turn at the ramp, then masked up to reload the boats.

We again had a campfire on Saturday night, but most people were tired from our day's paddle and turned in early. Next morning, we packed up camp, then headed farther down the Choptank to Kingston Landing, our launch for paddling Kings Creek. Because we had a later launch time (10 AM), there were more people at the ramp, but masking and careful social distancing got us on the water with no problem.

Kings Creek is a beautiful little tributary of the Choptank, with hardly any development along it's length. We saw quite a lot of beaver sign, and lots of turtles out basking, but all the little Nutria platforms that The Nature

[See Camper on page nine](#)



Jim Allen paddles on the Tuckahoe above the State Park reservoir.



CPA members wear masks and social distance during a lunch stop at Stoney Point on the Tuckahoe.

Camper from page eight

Conservancy had put out a few years ago to monitor the invasive rodent were gone. Maybe that's one problem solved, amongst so many. At the end of about a nine-mile round trip, we masked up to load up for the trip home.

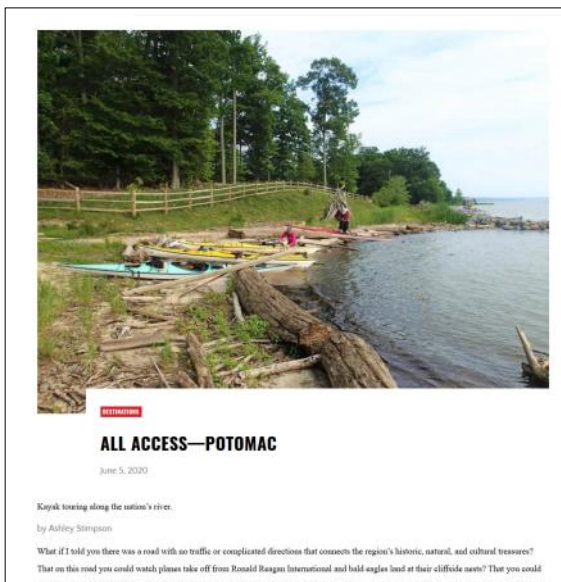
We had three great days of kayaking with beautiful weather and excellent conditions. With proper attention

to social distancing and use of masks at launching, lunching and landing, we felt reasonably safe in paddling each day, following the [CPA guidelines](#).

If you are itching to get back on the water, car camping and day tripping from a base is a great way to do it. Make your reservations early and be sure to take all of the necessary COVID-19 precautions.

Pictures at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/WT63AjX9XtwdCure8> 💧

Chesapeake Bay Magazine features CPA member



CPA member Ralph Heimlich was featured in a recent [article](#) in the June 2020 Chesapeake Bay Magazine about exploring the Potomac river by kayak and the proliferation of access points and paddle-in campsites.

“Google-search ‘kayak’ and ‘Potomac’ and Heimlich’s name will be scattered throughout the top results,” wrote Ashley Simpson in her article. “He’s been leading trips down the river for the Chesapeake Paddlers Association for decades. If anyone understood the need for access—parking areas, launch sites, campsites—it was him. The Ellicott City resident is a fan of kayak touring—packing everything you need in your boat and heading out on the water for days—and he has plenty of stories of aborted trips thanks to the once-un navigable distances between access points.”

Click [here](#) for the full Chesapeake Bay Magazine online issue.

Anne Arundel County approves shoreline restoration



A living shoreline that was recently installed at Kyle Point on the Severn River. (Photo: Erik Michelsen)

Anne Arundel County will embark on a \$3 million shoreline restoration project in the Shady Side area near Annapolis as reported by the [Capitol Gazette](#).

The County plans on creating a “living shoreline” on the West River near Jack Creek Park and on the mouth of the Severn River.

Living shoreline projects use materials such as plants, coconut fiber and oyster shells to create habitat and provide protection from waves and are alternatives to traditional bulkheads and rocks.

Other benefits include reductions in erosion and sediment pollution by creating new marshes.

Memorial Day paddle at Mallows Bay

By **Melissa Boyle**

It was absolutely wonderful finally getting out to paddle on Memorial Day. There was beautiful weather, too. I had been wanting to paddle Mallows Bay with Rich Acuti ever since I went there several years ago for work. So we made it happen.

This was the furthest we've ventured away from home since mid-March. But we took many precautions to stay safe: packed our own snacks and water, didn't stop anywhere on our way to or from there, that sort of thing, and practiced social distancing the entire time.

Everyone was cooperative at the launch and gave us space, which was much appreciated. We had a wonderful, relaxing paddle among the “ghost ships.” We timed it to arrive and paddle at low tide, which is said to be the best viewing of the ships.

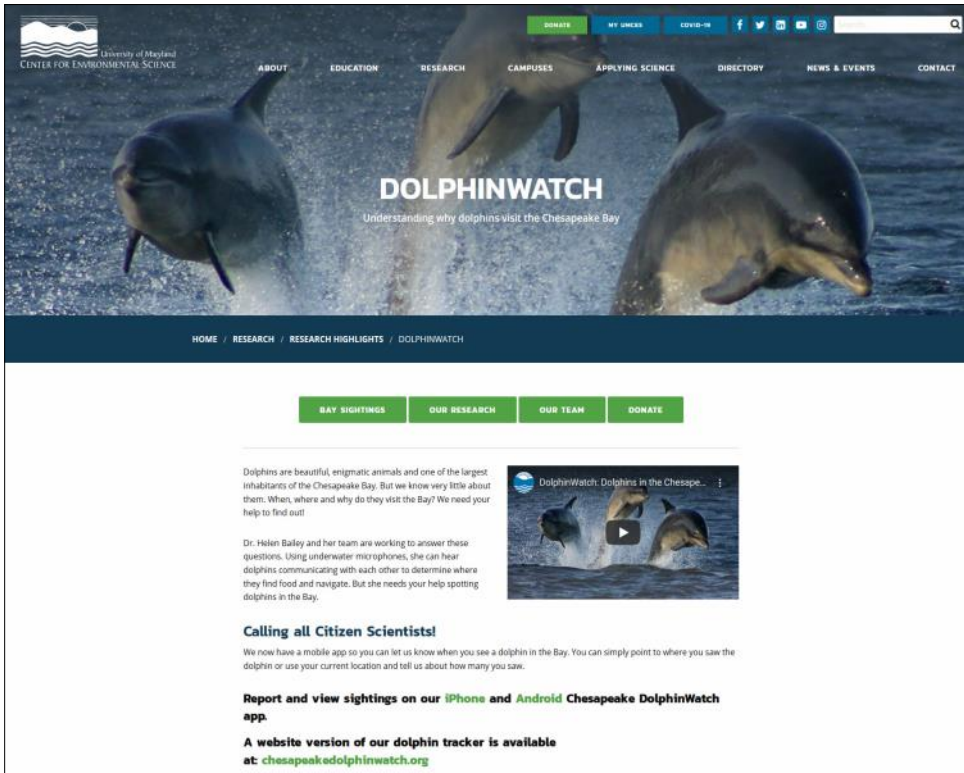
We saw lots of turtles, river cooters basking in the sunshine, but couldn't get real close without them slipping off into the water. There were many birds, too, from Ospreys and Bald Eagles to Baltimore Orioles.



Melissa Boyle and Rich Acuti venture out for a post-lockdown trip to the Mallows Bay Marine Sanctuary.

If you've never been, put [Mallows Bay](#) on your paddling bucket list for 2020!

New App to report dolphin sightings



Dolphins are beautiful, enigmatic animals and one of the largest inhabitants of the Chesapeake Bay. But we know very little about them. When, where and why do they visit the Bay? We need your help to find out!

Dr. Helen Bailey and her team are working to answer these questions. Using underwater microphones, she can hear dolphins communicating with each other to determine where they find food and navigate. But she needs your help spotting dolphins in the Bay.

Calling all Citizen Scientists!

We now have a mobile app so you can let us know when you see a dolphin in the Bay. You can simply point to where you saw the dolphin or use your current location and tell us about how many you saw.

Report and view sightings on our iPhone and Android Chesapeake DolphinWatch app.

A website version of our dolphin tracker is available at: chesapeake-dolphinwatch.org

Sighting dolphins is one of the most remarkable kayaking experiences you can have. Now, you can help research into when, where and why dolphins visit the Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. Helen Bailey and her team at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory are studying how often dolphins actually come into the Chesapeake Bay, how long they spend here, what areas of the Bay they are using and why.

You can use their new [App](#) to report the location of any dolphins you encounter to help further their research. Click [here](#) for more information about the project.

Reminder about CPA dues extension

By Sue Stevens, CPA Secretary/Membership

Just to let you know that everyone (all 628) has now received an additional 12 months to their Membership due date. Our newest 48 members – up through CPA member #4280, who joined this spring – also got another 12 months. They also have received their first CPA membership card and new membership packet in the mail in early June.

There are no CPA membership dues needed for the next 12 months! If you went ahead and sent in a payment by check or PayPal this month, your due-date will be extended to match your amount.

So, please dust off your CPA membership card and add 12 months.

If you have any thoughts or questions, please contact us at: membership@cpakayaker.com.

Hope to see you all on the water kayaking ... just a bit later!



Kayaker paddles for veterans

Jeff Loeffler, pictured above, completed a 444-mile journey down the Susquehanna river to raise awareness of suicide among veterans.

Despite making his journey during the pandemic, Loeffler raised almost \$10,000 for the veterans organization [Stop Soldier Suicide](#). The trip lasted from May 1 through May 15.

Source: [The Daily Star](#), Oneonta NY.

Bay area paddlesports surge in popularity

CPA member Lisa Arrasmith was featured in a [Bay Weekly](#) article about the resurgence of paddlesports in the age of COVID-19.

In a canvass of local kayak and SUP retailers, interest in paddlesports is on the upswing as people look for sports they can do outdoors and socially distance.

"Families can kayak and SUP together. It's easy to social distance once you're on the water. The Chesapeake Bay has hundreds of public launch sites and thousands of miles of shoreline. It's easy to start paddling here," said Arrasmith.

Click [here](#) for the full article.

Bay Weekly

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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- SPEAKING UP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
- EDITOR'S LETTER
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- GARDENING FOR HEALTH

Launch Your Summer

Paddlesports are Booming

By Kathy Knotts

W hile city streets may be less congested due to an increase in teleworking, the waterways are seeing quite

Stuck at home? Count fireflies!

Mass Audubon
Firefly Watch

Also known as "lightning bugs," fireflies are neither bugs nor flies—they're actually beetles that light up using a chemical reaction in their lower abdomen (the bottom part of their body). Some of them light up in a specific blinking pattern, like a secret code that they use to "talk" with other fireflies and to find mates. Flashes can be quick or long-lasting, and one kind is in a j-shape. Use the below chart to help identify the most common fireflies and report your sightings at massaudubon.org/fireflywatch.

Flash Patterns of Common Fireflies

| Species | Flash Pattern (seconds) |
|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Photinus ignitus</i> Single Flash | 0, 5 |
| <i>Photinus marginellus</i> Single Flash | 0, 3, 6, 9 |
| <i>Photinus pyralis</i> Single Flash | 0, 5 (j-shape) |
| <i>Photinus macdermotti</i> Double Flash | 0, 2, 8 |
| <i>Photinus consanguineus</i> Double Flash | 0, 1, 5, 6 |
| <i>Photinus carolinus</i> Multiple Flash | 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 |

Learn more about fireflies and participate in the Firefly Watch at massaudubon.org/fireflywatch.

Stuck at home or do you need a fun summer project for your kids? Try counting fireflies in your backyard. It's the insect equivalent of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

The [Massachusetts Audubon Society](#) is sponsoring a Firefly Watch where volunteers spend 10 minutes each week identifying fireflies in their back yards.

Fireflies, or lightning bugs, are actually beetles that use a chemical reaction in their abdomen to create light signals. But the signals aren't random. Different types of fireflies use different light patterns for communication and to attract mates.

Similar to trying to identify buoys at night by the seconds between flashes, you can identify the fireflies by their flashing pattern and report the types to the Firefly Watch.

There are three main types of fireflies in North America.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

www.cpakayaker.com

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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 news_editor@cpakayaker.com for more information and for a 10-month discount.

Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for three 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... please 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. Articles and illustrations (graphics, photos) should be submitted as separate attachments to: news_editor@cpakayaker.com

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Launch of the month: Cat Point Creek



Site Cat Point Creek
Lat/Long 38.006330, -76.806769
Address 4037 Menokin Road
Warsaw, Virginia 22572

This is a nice rural creek. Access is through the Menokin Foundation grounds. Drive straight in toward the house. If the visitor center is open, please check in with them. Otherwise, drive straight to the old mansion, then take the second left along the field and down into the woods. What they label a "trail" is actually the access road to the launch.

You may need to bring your car up to the overflow parking lot at the top of the hill if there are too many cars for the small parking lot. The launch is at the midpoint of the creek, so travel both up and down stream is an option. Cat Point Creek is featured in a great [article in the Bay Journal](#) by Leslie Middleton.

Cat Point Creek and other Launch of the Month entries are taken from the [Chesapeake Bay Access and Paddle-in Campsite Map](#), which is part of the CPA website. You can enter either the location or street address to find them in Google Maps. Try them out, and look for more in each issue of the newsletter. - **Ralph E. Heimlich**

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 to: CPA, P.O. Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0341.