

# The Chesapeake Paddler



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## CPA Annual Meeting: Nominations for CPA Officers Due

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association is a volunteer organization, and the people who volunteer the most are the elected officers: The Coordinator, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and the Steering Committee members. Now is the time to tell us who you think should play an active part in steering the club's activities. As always in recent years, in addition to balloting at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 6 at the T. Howard Duckett Recreation Center in Laurel, MD**, you will be able to nominate and vote online. Nominate someone who you think will help play an active role over the next year to vote on issues, create fun activities, and keep the participation of the club lively through 2017. The descriptions of the officers in our By-Laws read as follows:

**The Steering Committee** The property and business of the club shall be managed under the direction of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will make all decisions about operational activities of the club, unless specified otherwise in these bylaws. As a rule, routine decisions about specific club activities will be the responsibility of the individuals managing those activities, but they may be overridden by the Steering Committee if needed. The Steering Committee will determine which events are to be considered official CPA activities. If appropriate, it may set standards for such determinations so that it need not consider each activity, and it may then delegate to individual club members the responsibility for applying those standards to determine whether specific activities are official CPA activities.

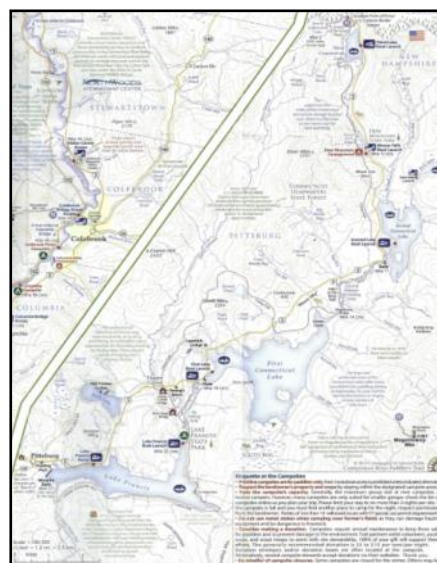
**The Coordinator** shall have overall responsibility for administration of the club and will be a primary point of contact for the club. S/he shall chair general club membership meetings and meetings of the

## The Connecticut Lakes: Source of a Mighty River

By Ralph Heimlich

The Connecticut River is one of New England's longest, cutting a 410-mile path between New Hampshire and Vermont and through Massachusetts and Connecticut to the sea. While the headwaters of this giant are not

navigable even by small boats, dams on the nascent river create open water for kayaks and canoes. Dave Isbell and I had paddled the navigable Upper Connecticut from Canaan, NH, to Hanover, NH (see ACK Vol 24 No. 7 October 2015; <http://www.connecticutriverpaddlerstrail.org/node/1591>). Now we were joined by Dick Rock and Greg Welker for an exploration of the headwaters before doing 75 miles of the river proper. This would be a mixed flotilla of two sea kayaks, a solo canoe, and Greg's Kruger Sea Wind. Paddling here is a joy, because the 25,000 acre (10,000 ha) Connecticut Lakes Natural Area was set aside as a land conservation project by the NH Fish and Game Department, with help from The Nature Conservancy, in 2002.



For our base, we chose the New Hampshire State Park at Lake Francis, a small park with camping and water access near Pittsburg, NH. We arrived only a day after a wild thunderstorm and confirmed 75 mph tornado that snapped trees like jackstraws and cut the park off from road access. Piles of broken spruce trees confirmed the storm's ferocity. Other choices are the Deer Mountain Campground, and numerous private hotels and lodges in and around Pittsburg. On our first day after arriving, we piled in the truck to drive 22 miles to the Canadian border.

New Hampshire State Route 3, dubbed "Moose Alley", winds along the course of the infant river through alder bogs and across brooks and ponds. Forewarned by numerous signs, we kept sharp eyes peeled for wading Moose, but were not rewarded with a sighting. We parked and negotiated the weirdest trailhead through the U.S. Customs barrier and up a steep trail along from border monument to border monument gaining 482 feet in elevation to Fourth Connecticut Lake, the source of the river. The trail wound around the pond that is Fourth Lake, and we were somewhat disconcerted by the blank space on the GPS screen that is Canada all around us (Here be monsters?)

## Annual Meeting and Paddle

### Paddle

Rocky Gorge Reservoir, Laurel, MD

Supplee Lane Launch

16904 Supplee Lane, Laurel, MD 20707

Cold water paddle: At least a wet suit required

Leader: Linda Delaney (see <http://www.cpakayaker.com/calendar/85/3120-Annual-Meeting-Paddle/>)

You must contact the leader to participate

### Meeting

Sunday, November 6 beginning at NOON

T. Howard Duckett Recreation Center

16601 Supplee Lane, Laurel 20707

Lunch at NOON; RSVP to Sue Stevens [secretary@cpakayaker.com](mailto:secretary@cpakayaker.com)

Please bring a salad or dessert to share

[Continued p. 5; Nominations](#)

[Continued p. 5; Connecticut](#)

### [Nominations; cont. from p. 1](#)

Steering Committee. The Steering Committee may direct the Coordinator to perform other duties consistent with the bylaws. The Coordinator is the only person authorized to speak for the club. This authority may be delegated by the Coordinator.

**The Treasurer** shall perform all the duties generally incident to the office of Treasurer, subject to the control of the Steering Committee and the oversight of the Coordinator. The Treasurer shall have custody of all the funds and securities of the club, and s/he shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements. Such records shall be the property of the club. S/he shall deposit all such moneys and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the club. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the club consistent with Section seven of these bylaws. S/he shall provide financial information to the Coordinator or the Steering Committee in a timely fashion as requested.

**The Secretary** shall perform all duties generally incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the control of the Steering Committee and the oversight of the Coordinator. S/he has primary responsibility for maintaining club membership records, but may delegate day-to-day administration of that task to another club member. S/he shall give notice of all meetings of the general membership or the Steering Committee and all other notices required by these bylaws. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all meetings of the general membership and of the Steering Committee. All records of the Secretary shall be the property of the club.

Our webmasters, have created an online form you can use to enter nominations. Nominations must be entered **BEFORE OCTOBER 1** Use it at <http://www.cpkayaker.com/index.php?page=nominations>

Persons nominated can use another online tool to accept or decline their nomination, and to post a "Stump Speech" giving their experience and reasons why members should vote for them. These will be printed in the October issue of *The Chesapeake Paddler* and viewable online. If you see someone already nominated who you would support in November, then second their nomination by clicking on the text at the bottom of their nomination that says *Second Them!*. For each additional confirmation, the nominee will get a blue star to show their popularity. Note that nominations are NOT the same as voting. Nominations will show who is favored for an office or for the Steering Committee, and will eventually lead to the ballot for voting on positions in the coming year. This year, in addition to mail-in ballots and voting at the November Annual Meeting, there will be an online mechanism for voting, and you will need your **CPA member number** to authenticate your vote. The votes will be tallied at the Annual Meeting and will determine which individuals will hold which positions for the coming year. So, throw your paddling hat in the ring, or throw someone else the ring, but let the best candidates win! ☺

### [Connecticut; cont. from p. 1](#)



**Camp at Lake Francis State Park, NH**

Naw, just Canadians!). Once so remote that settlers seceded from BOTH the U.S. and Canada, establishing their own Indian Stream Republic, this area is still little visited. The view from the heights around Fourth Lake back into Maine and New Hampshire was inspiring, and we scoped out the other Connecticut Lakes, our paddling venue for the next few days. On the way back to camp, we scouted each of the lakes in turn. Third Connecticut Lake is a small (231 acre; 93 ha) but deep (up to 100 feet) natural lake that we surveyed from the parking lot, but decided against paddling.



**Fourth Lake Trail Head on the Canadian Border (Dave Isbell, Dick Rock, Greg Welker)**



**Fourth Connecticut Lake looking south toward U.S.**

Next day, we loaded up the boats and drove up to Second Connecticut Lake, a reservoir of some 1,102 acres (458 ha) with a nice public launch just off NH 3. We paddled up the lake against the western shore to shelter from a 5-10 kt wind, intending to follow the interconnecting river up toward Third Lake. Families of loons fished the lake, and we roused a flock of Goose (not Moose) as we turned up the river. Merganser and Teal winged off as we paddled up the narrowing river. We got as far as the bridge carrying the East Inlet Road, then turned around as the cobbled bottom came too close for comfort in our composite boats. The wind had picked up as we returned, making a bit of heavy going for the canoes. We went back to the launch, and then paddled on down to the dam.

Loading up again, we headed down the road to First Connecticut Lake, the largest of the four (3,071 acres; 1,243 ha), it is the eighth-largest lake located entirely in New Hampshire. We drove to a picnic area

[Connecticut; Cont. from p. 5](#)**Connecticut River inlet to Second Connecticut Lake**

landlocked salmon, lake, brook and rainbow trout, and chain pickerel lurking in the 163 foot depths here.

Back at camp, we took the portage trail alongside the Connecticut River running between First Lake and Lake Francis. The river here is a rushing, gushing whitewater torrent dropping 259 feet in two miles. With a spring run, it may be navigable by whitewater boaters, but it looked pretty impassable to us. The sound of rushing water over the shade-dappled rocks was a cool refuge, and great habitat for brookies (restricted to fly fishing only).

**Connecticut River above Lake Francis**

Afternoon rain in the forecast suggested that we paddle Lake Francis so that we could beat a hasty retreat to camp, so we got an early start, launching at the camp boat launch. Lake Francis is 1,934 acre (783 ha) reservoir created by Murphy Dam, and pooling to 82 feet in depth. We paddled up the river to the point where the rapids ended, then along the eastern edge of the lake to a point called the "Six Mile View" down the lake toward Murphy Dam. Eagles and Osprey soared overhead, and families of Loons and Mergansers dove for fish in the lake. The 162-mile Cohos Trail (originating in the White Mountains) winds around the southern shore of the lake, following old logging roads, then turns up the east shore crossing the river at the River Road covered bridge before continuing loosely parallel to the river up to the Canadian Border at Fourth CT Lake.

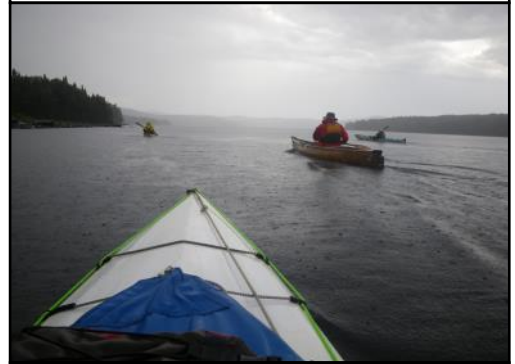
We ducked into Dead Water Brook and landed on a muddy island for lunch, as rain clouds threatened. Shortly after re-embarking, the deluge began and we paddled to the main lake before thunder started to boom and we

**Paddling up to the rapids on Connecticut River inlet to Lake Francis**

landed in sight of the dam to wait out the worst of it. After a respite, we were back on the lake paddling for the northern shore when the rain started again and we were forced ashore at the Lake Francis Ramp. We huddled under a tree (or in Dick's case, in the porta-potty) as lightening flashed and thunder boomed. Eventually the rain slacked off and quiet resumed, so we could get back on the water and paddle the rest of the way along the northern shore, back to the State Park. For our final day in the lakes region, a crisper 60-degree day following the cold front brought by the rain, we drove back to Second

Connecticut Lake. We chose the road to the East Inlet launch, another small dam creating a narrow lake with a long, meandering trail through dense alder swamps. Compared to other launches, this little beach was positively crowded with paddlers (there were 3), both coming back and heading out. But East Inlet is a little (60 acre), shallow jewel of an Adirondack-like pond, with red spruce, fir and white pine on the drier hillsides and alder, tamarack and black spruce cloak the wetter areas. The Norton

Pool area has some of the region's only virgin boreal forest remnants, and gas motors are prohibited. Although this is another prime piece of Moose habitat, the largest mammal we encountered was a "Bull" chipmunk bound and determined to cross the brook despite our presence.

**"Six Mile View" to Murphy Dam****Fleet in the rain on Lake Francis****Launch at East Inlet****East Inlet with Rump Mountain**

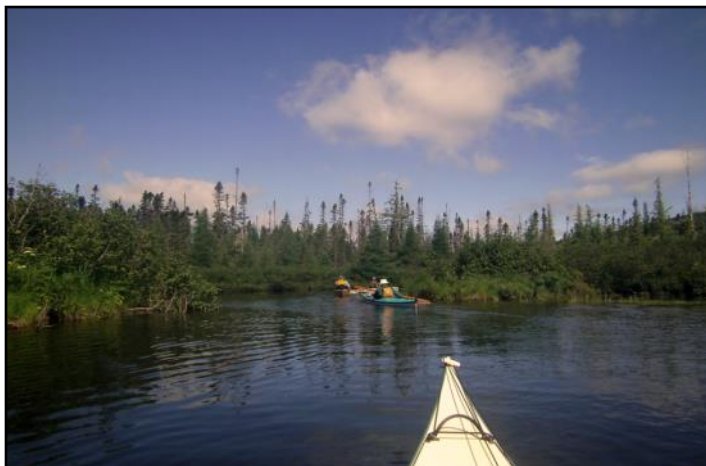
This peaceful paddle was a fitting farewell to our time in the far northern Connecticut Lakes. The remainder of the day was spent sorting and drying gear and slimming down from our "luxurious" car camping equipment to

## Paddle Chesapeake Paddlers Association 2016 Calendar

Date	Title	Summary
Sept 3-10	<a href="#">Loons of the Adirondacks</a>	ADK Kayaking - Cabin Style
Sept 5	<a href="#">Hatton Creek Beginner Paddle</a>	Labor Day Holiday Paddle on Peaceful Hatton Creek
Sept 10	<a href="#">Kent Island Paddle #6</a>	Practice for endurance to circumnavigate Kent Island
Sept 11	<a href="#">Chapel Point Park Port Tobacco Meander</a>	Explore an old Maryland port river - 10-12 miles
Sept 12	<a href="#">Head of the Bay</a>	Havre de Grace to Battery Islands or Turkey Point.
Sept 18	<a href="#">Swan Point from Southern Park</a>	Paddle near Cobb Island to an isolated beach.
Sept 19	<a href="#">Talk Like a Pirate Day</a>	AAArrrrrgggghhhh.
Sept 19	<a href="#">Choptank River/Harris Creek</a>	Paddle Harris Creek area.
Sept 24	<a href="#">Kent Island Paddle #7 Final</a>	Circumnavigate Kent Island.
Sept 24	<a href="#">Wye Island Circumnavigation</a>	Paddle around Wye Island
Sept 26	<a href="#">Franklin Point State Park Monday Paddle</a>	Paddle out of a new MD State park onto the Bay.

\* Non CPA Event

[Connecticut; cont. from p. 6](#)



**Into the Alder/Black Spruce Swamp**

the more Spartan gear we would take kayak camping on the river for the next 5 days. Next morning, we packed up our dew-soaked tents early for the drive down to the Pastures campground in Orford, NH. There, we parked our trucks and met up with Scott Edwards, who runs Hemlock Pete's Canoes in Orange, VT, our shuttle for boats, gear and ourselves up to Lancaster, NH, for the 75-mile downriver run.

The Connecticut Lakes are an interesting, unique paddle destination for kayakers and canoes and an excellent place to beat the heat of the Mid-Atlantic in July and August. Check it out!



"Bull" Chipmunk

[http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry/francis\\_pittsburg.pdf](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry/francis_pittsburg.pdf) [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry/firstconnecticut\\_pittsburg.pdf](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry/firstconnecticut_pittsburg.pdf)  
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<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/newhampshire/places-preserves/fourth-connecticut-lake.xml>  
<http://nhconnlakes.com/>  
<http://connecticutriverpaddlerstrail.org/> ☺



**Ralph Heimlich, Dick Rock and Dave Isbell with the BWT (Big White Truck)**



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Kiptopeke Sea Kayak Symposium  
Sept 23 – 25  
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**The Chesapeake Paddler**

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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.