

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Close call at Jug Bay, a cautionary tale



Rescuers from several nearby counties gather after sunset at Jackson Landing to assist in the rescue of a stranded kayaker in the nearby marsh of Jug Bay Natural Area, part of the Patuxent River Park. (Photo: Greg Kearns)

On December 5, 2020 a kayaker who had launched from Jackson Landing at Patuxent River Park became stranded when strong winds turned much of Jug Bay into a large mudflat. After attempts to rescue the kayaker by land and water failed, a successful helicopter rescue was completed.

The following hour-by-hour account is from those involved, including Patuxent River Park naturalist Greg Kearns and the rescued kayaker "Chris," as told to CPA member Dave Linthicum. Dave lives across the river from Jackson Landing and was a witness to the event. Thanks to Dave for putting together this report for all kayakers to learn from (Dave has changed some names to protect their privacy) - Ed.

"When is the tide coming in so we can get an airboat to

him?" the Prince George's County Fire Department commanding officer asked with concern. "With this wind, the water isn't coming back at all tonight," replied 37-year park naturalist Greg Kearns. "We're going to need a helicopter."

How it got to that point:

HOUR ONE: "I was trying to paddle back to Jackson Landing," Chris recalled. "The headwind kept getting worse, I got turned sideways, broadsided by a wave, and tipped into waist-deep water. It was between 2:45 and 3:15 p.m. I wedged the kayak under a big tree trunk out on the mudflats and figured I'd head toward shore." He was paddling with no lifejacket, solo, in a 17-foot sea kayak.

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From the CPA Coordinator

Happy New Year everyone!

I am truly looking forward to the new year and am optimistic that 2021 will be an improvement over 2020. I like to think back about all the positive things that happened this past year, but I am also reminded of all the family and friends lost this year.

Hopefully with the vaccines and improved medical treatments we will move out of this gloomy time.

This New Year reminded me of some of the past New Year traditions we used to follow. One of my past traditions back when I was a white-water canoer was a New Year's Day paddle. We would go in any kind of weather, but we took all the precautions as far as cold weather gear and always had a backup plan. One year we arrived at the Casselman River in Western PA to find the river full of slush, like a giant flowing snow cone. We launched in the slush and soon found out that the slush would break apart in the rapids but quickly reform after the it reached the pool below.

It was cool to paddle in but later in the day as the temperatures dropped the slush forming in the eddies would freeze. We would use the eddies in a rapid as a sanctuary but as they froze your boat would just bounce off and throw you back in the current except now you were running the rapid backwards. At the takeout, one of our friends jumped in the water and floated by us with just his head sticking out of the slush, wish I had a camera ready. This tradition was started by my friend Charlie who told us his father and grandfather had an old tradition of hiding money outside on New Year's Eve and then bringing it back on the house on New Year's Day, meaning you would have money coming in the year. The Charlie tradition was if you paddled on New Year's Day you would have plenty of water and good paddling throughout the new year.

One year I received a call from one of my paddle companions who wanted to paddle Sewickley Creek in



Bill Smith

Western PA on New Year's Day. As far as I know we are the only ones who ever intentionally paddle this stream since it flows right below a hazardous waste site that was controversial with lawsuits and later becoming a super fund clean up site and with US Steel and the waste site operator buying out houses in the nearby community of Yukon, PA. I know many residents took the money and still stayed in their homes, but a large portion of the residents got the hell out.

Other than a couple of class III rapids the stream really had little to offer, the banks are wooded but also piled with tailings from some old coke ovens and steel mill waste, so it would make a great backdrop for a horror movie. As we planned, I met Tom at the takeout and rode together with our boats to the put in. Tom lectured me about keeping our boats upright since a swim would probably result in a trip to the emergency room. But being white-water paddlers, a little toxic waste or raw sewage would not keep us off the water. There are several streams in this area that are only runnable after a major rain event which usually means the sanitary sewers are overrun and leaching into the stream, so a great paddle sometimes means with sewage.

We parked just before a bridge over the stream on a narrow road. Being a stream of this caliber meant there were no trails to the water, not even a fisherman's trail because who would want to fish this stream even if any fish survived. So, a bushwhack to the water would be necessary. After fighting our way through the thick brush, we finally reached the bank. I immediately launched into the current at the top of a rapid since we had to launch single file. I had to ferry upstream to midstream and do a peel out to catch the current and ride it downstream. After passing under the bridge, I caught an eddy behind a bridge pier, so I was able to look upstream. As soon as I stopped paddling, I could hear some yelling and cursing realizing it was Tom coming through upside down, he was not a happy camper.

The rest of the day was without incident, but Tom was in a foul mood to say the least. Neither one of us ever mentioned wanting to paddle this stream again.

Rescue, from page one

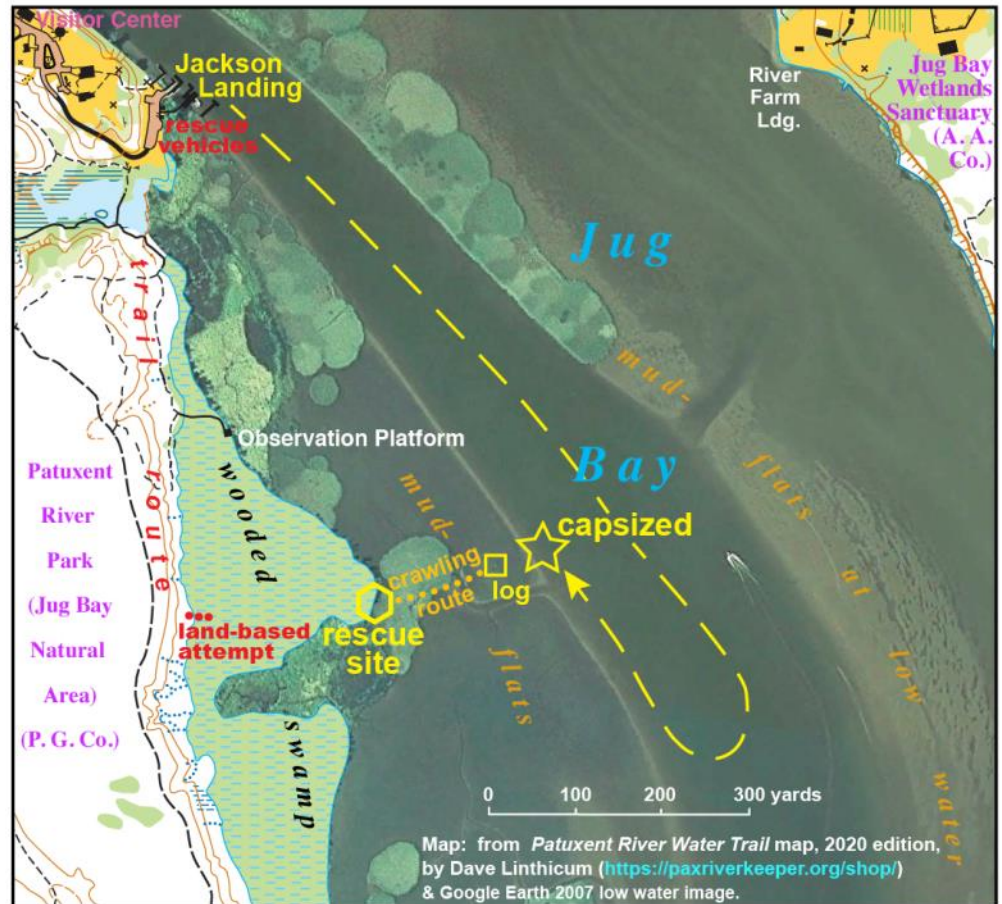
Half-mile wide Jug Bay can appear placid, but during a “blow-out” 4/5 of that width is mudflats. Dec. 5th was a blow-out. Steady winds of 15 to 21 mph from the northwest and gusts to 32 mph were recorded every hour from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. two miles inland. The Patuxent had even stronger winds. Jug Bay’s shallows became mudflats. Deep mud. Two hundred yards of mud for Chris to cross.

“Trying to get to shore on all fours across the mudflats, I would reach out in front of me with my paddle, then scoot my knees to the paddle, and repeat,” said Chris. “Inchworming” was incredibly slow going. “I must have spent an hour and a half crawling through the mud. I finally got to the edge of the trees and tall marsh grass (phragmites) and thought I might have better footing. I didn’t.”

The problem with the wooded swamps at Jug Bay is that the various obstacles multiply each other. It’s not just the softest, “muckiest” mud, not just the briars ripping at you everywhere, and not just the maze of fallen ash tree trunks from the emerald ash borer outbreak. It’s all three, added together.

Chris knew things were getting serious. “I was starting to shiver and my legs started to not work. The sun was going down, the temperature was dropping, and I was thinking this might be it for me.” The actual temperature was 50 degrees at noon, 45 at three, 41 by sunset. Wind chills were in the 20’s.

HOUR TWO: Chris needed a lucky break. He got one. A third of a mile away, upriver, instead of heading home, Greg Kearns decided to drop off some equipment at the Jackson Landing shed. He ran into fellow park employee Ted Pietrucha locking up for the night.



A map of Chris' route from Jackson Landing to his eventual capsized point, his unsuccessful attempt to crawl to safety and the spot where the helicopter hoisted him to safety.

“Greg, there’s a kayaker still out. I’ve seen him before. I know his car,” said Pietrucha.

“Out in this?” Greg asked incredulously. “It was gusting near 40 at Mt. Calvert.”

Out on the dock in the howling wind, Greg began shouting, “Is anybody out there?” Research Assistant Molly Janc stood next to him. On the third try, “Molly, did you hear that?... a faint ‘Help’?” It was nearly 5 p.m., ten minutes after sunset. The two jumped in their jon boat. Spotting what appeared to be a kayak silhouette against a log, Greg yelled, “Where are you?”

“Over here, by the trees” came a faint reply. Separated by 200 yards of deep, sucking mudflats, “We’ll try to get to you from land,” Greg yelled and motored back to

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[Rescue, from page three](#)



Jug Bay includes the deeper water of the Patuxent River and large marshes on both sides of the river that can become expansive mud flats when the winds get strong, even at high tide. Photo: [Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

Jackson Landing.

“Ted, can you stick around? Molly, can you grab our chest waders? I’ll get two spotlights. Let’s see how close we can get on foot,” said Greg. Ten minutes later they were within 200 yards of Chris. But all 200 yards were wooded swamp.

“Do you have a phone?” Greg yelled. “No. And I’m really cold and wet,” replied Chris.

HOUR THREE: It had taken Greg, usually called “Mr. Marsh Walker,” five full minutes to go at best 15 yards. “I’m stuck...I’m not going to get any closer to him,” Greg shouted back to Molly, his six foot-three reach little advantage. “Molly, can you go back and guide the first firemen back here? And ask Katherine to help at the dock as the 9-1-1 guys arrive?” (Katherine Dami is a Patuxent River Park research assistant.)

Still up to his upper thighs in swamp mud, Greg called Ted. “Dial 9-1-1; tell them we’ll need a helicopter. I don’t see an airboat being able to get to him. Tell them we have the kayaker’s location pinpointed. Get a hold of Park Police.” It was pitch black when the first three firemen followed Molly down the trail to Greg (fresh from a 15 minute struggle extricating himself from the

swamp.) Soon a commanding officer joined them, agreeing about the helicopter, “This isn’t going anywhere on the ground,” he said.

HOUR FOUR: It’s now 6:45, and the PG Co. helicopter is leaving. With both a visible spotlight and Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR), it had been circling for a half hour. On the ground, Greg and rescue personnel had aimed spotlights. Pointing to Google Maps imagery on his phone, Greg said to the commanding officer, “We’re at the blue dot of course. He’s right over here on the swamp edge.” The helicopter had done a dozen big circles until, over the radio, Greg and the officer finally heard, “We’ve got eyes on him. He’s still moving some.”

By now, PG fire and PG Park Police each had multiple vehicles at Jackson Landing including an airboat. There was a four-person rescue team in orange survival suits and helmets. Charles County F.D. had an airboat, and Calvert F.D. was on site. At 7:15, an Anne Arundel F.D. Zodiac boat came upriver at high speed. None could get close to Chris.

HOUR FIVE: At 7:30, State Police Helicopter *Trooper 2* was on site. It had needed to return to Andrews to refuel

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after an earlier call. It immediately set up 125 feet above Chris (not much above the treetops.) To observers, it appeared to not move an inch, hovering steadily despite the winds over 20 mph, lowering a rescue technician with an aerial hoist “screamer suit.”

At 7:47 Chris and the rescuer were hauled up and the helicopter headed to Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital. At 9 Greg headed home for dinner.

Chris wrote on Dec. 14, “I was lucky to have no permanent damage. I was in the hospital for six days to recover from hypothermia and rhabdomyolosis (death of muscle fiber from extreme muscle strain and/ or prolonged muscle compression from long-term immobilization. It can lead to kidney failure, liver issues.)

“I’m not 100% yet but feeling better every day. Please accept and extend my extreme gratitude to those involved. It was a life-changing experience and when I am emotionally stable enough, I will return to personally thank my rescuers.

“I’m so lucky Greg decided to go to the shed at the end of the day.”

Footnote from Dave: [Patuxent River Park \(M-NCPPC\)](#), not ordinarily involved in rescue operations, is evaluating a potential policy change regarding kayaking in adverse conditions.

Suggested warnings could include :

- *Do not paddle if there is a 20 mph wind predicted from any direction. Such a wind from the north will result in difficult waves, a potential deep water capsize, and nearly inescapable shallow water and mudflats in Jug Bay.*
- **Wear personal flotation at all times.**
- *Don’t paddle without a wetsuit or dry suit if **either** wind chill or water temps are predicted below 50.**
- *Avoid paddling alone.*
- *Take a map and cell phone in waterproof cases and, if temps are below 60, a change of clothes in a waterproof bag.*
- *Check tides.*
- *Tell someone your paddle plan.*
- *Stay with your boat if you do capsize.*
- *Never underestimate the conditions.*
- *For emergencies: Prince George’s County Park Police, 24 hours, 301-459-3232.*

**CPA recommends following cold water paddling guidelines from the [National Center for Cold Water Safety](#) and treat water temps below 70F with caution.*

Potomac Riverkeepers target ‘Trash Island’



The [Potomac Riverkeeper Network](#), volunteers and local businesses have teamed up to target what has become known as “Trash Island” in Oxon Cove near Oxon Hill farm in Maryland.

The area, administered by the National Park Service, has accumulated large amounts of plastic and other trash, primarily from storm runoff.

The group obtained permission to remove the trash and has spent every Saturday in January, 2021 collecting it and arranging for it to be hauled away.

(photo: [Potomac Riverkeeper Network](#))

Four days of kayaking on the Potomac



A group of CPA members prepare to launch from Mallows Bay Park for a kayak camping adventure on the Potomac.

By Ralph Heimlich

I've been pushing kayak camping (also called kayak touring) on the Chesapeake Bay rivers and shores as part of CPA activities for more than 20 years. This year's installment was a successful version of the trip we tried to do in Spring of 2019, involving the new paddle-in campsite at Virginia's Widewater State Park, and a second stop at Virginia's older Caledon State Park paddle-in camp.

Seven intrepid CPA members (John Gibbs, Ed Johnson Carolyn Sanford, Barbara Southworth, Sophie Troy, Lois Wyatt and I) set off from Maryland's [Mallows Bay Park](#) mid-morning on Friday, September 25. Our boats were fully loaded with all our camping gear and food and water for a four-day trip.

Mallows Bay, in addition to being the focal point of the new Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary, has a gated entrance and allows overnight parking of vehicles, necessary for extended kayak touring on the River. Any park that offers paddle-in camping should also be set up to offer safe overnight parking. As much as it would be nice to depend solely on the River for going and coming, modern life requires most of us to get to the launch and

run shuttles using cars that have to be parked somewhere safe during the trip.

We spent a little time checking out the wrecked wooden WWI ships and the steel Chesapeake ferry wreck in Mallows Bay before heading downriver around Liverpool point. The weather was fair and almost calm, a beautiful September morning. Eagles wheeled overhead and landed in the tall trees lining the bluffs above the Potomac.

A couple of miles downriver, we pulled into a beach along Smith Point, part of Maryland's undeveloped Purse State Park for lunch before crossing the river. Purse State Park is the site of what would have been a nuclear power plant. Fortunately, it was never developed and Maryland acquired the land for a park.

The cliffs along this part of the river are part of the Aquia Formation which formed in the Paleocene Era about 60 million years ago when a gigantic meteor hit the earth. This area was covered with warm shallow water which made it a suitable habitat for sand tiger sharks, mackerel sharks, Turritella (snails) and Eagle Rays more specifically

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Cownose Rays which all lived during this time period. We searched for shark teeth and other fossils along the surf line as we ate our lunch, then got back in the boats and headed to Smith Point.

The Potomac at Smith Point is 3.5 miles wide, crossing a major navigation channel. We grouped our seven boats in a parallel line and set off on a due west compass course, carefully scanning for boat traffic headed up or down the river. During the crossing, large military airlift planes came in low over the river, conducting “touch and go” landing exercises on the airfield at the Quantico Marine Corps Air Facility, looking like apartment buildings floating in the sky.

Fortunately, a September Friday morning is not usually a busy time for boat traffic on the river, and only a handful of boats passed in front or behind us on the crossing. We made our Virginia landfall just a little down river from [Widewater State Park](#), but opted to head into Aquia Creek for a little exploration before landing.

We paddled around Simms Point into Aquia Creek and headed up to Widewater’s kayak launch in the first cove upstream. A large flock of Canada geese were disturbed by our arrival, lifting off noisily as we paddled up. After checking out the launch, we headed back out into the Potomac and upriver to the Widewater State Park paddle-in campsite. This first leg of our trip was an 11.2

mile paddle, taking 6.7 hours.

After landing and checking out the camp, we laboriously unloaded our gear and moved it up the winding paved path to the camp, then moved the boats off the beach to the grass area along the path. Widewater State Park’s new paddle-in sites are among the “poshest” on the river. Large wood-framed camping pads filled with pea gravel, nice picnic tables, fire rings (complete with split firewood) and food storage poles equip each of four campsites. There is a new, well-ventilated and lighted restroom serving both the camp and the adjacent picnic area.

Our group had initiated the campsites back in the Spring of 2019, shortly after they were completed, and we were happy to be using them again. We set up camp and quickly began to work on dinner as sunset was a relatively early 6:59 p.m. After dinner and a little walk down to the landing to check on boats and watch the sunset, we started a campfire and settled in.

In a few minutes, Park Ranger Paul Anderson drove up and welcomed us to the camp. He remembered our group from the previous year and was happy to see us using it again. We thanked him for the good condition of the camp and the park, and gave him our trip plan.

After breakfast on Saturday, we packed up and got an early start on our next leg downriver. We paddled down

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Day one included paddling along the Maryland shore, a stop for fossil hunting and a crossing to the Virginia shore.

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Camping at Caledon State park included beautiful sunsets and a day for hiking or paddling to nearby sights.

the Virginia shoreline, past the mouth of Potomac Creek. Several in our party wanted to explore the creek and Crows Nest Landing park, but I argued that we had a 14 mile paddle to Caledon State Park and needed to stay the course.

There are a lot of large waterfront houses along the shoreline past Potomac Creek. We passed Belvedere Beach, Passapatanzy Creek, and the small town of Fairview. As the noon hour approached, we began looking for a lunch stopping place, finally settling on a disused marina that had a "For Sale" sign on it. After a short break, we were back on the water.

If we had waited about 20 minutes, we could have had lunch on the sandy bar blocking the Caledon Marsh outlet at the upriver end of the park itself. We continued on along the shore, some closer in and some of us farther out, finally arriving at the [Caledon State Park](#) campsite landing at about 5:30 PM, after a 13.5 mile paddle from Widewater State Park.

Caledon is one of the nicest paddle-in sites on the Potomac, with six wood-framed tent pads, all equipped with picnic tables, fire rings and food storage poles. They are separated from each other by screens of trees and brush, so you have some privacy, even with such a large

capacity. There is also a roofed gazebo with tables down by the landing beach, and we set up there for cooking and eating.

There is a porta-potty and firewood for sale, but no running water available (we packed ours in, refilling at Widewater SP). In previous outings, we have had Caledon all to ourselves, but on this night, there was a father and 5-year old son on their first backpacking trip, and three young guys who hiked in with a wheeled cart. "Paddle-in" is accurate, but Caledon is for people-powered travelers of all kinds.

We set up camp, had dinner at the gazebo and watched the sun set over the Potomac. We'd planned a campfire, gathering driftwood from the plentiful supply on the beach, but an early shower sent us all to our beds for a well-earned rest.

Sunday morning, three paddlers set off after breakfast for a paddle up around Jones Pond and into Chotank Creek and its natural area preserve, and then beyond to Mathias Point. Two others put on their hiking shoes and explored the Caledon trail system. I stayed in camp and helped the others do some repairs to rudders and a stuck skeg, which would help speed our return trip the

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next day.

It is easy to get into a ceaseless “go-go” attitude on these trips, but I like to kick back (we all brought folding chairs in our kayaks), read a good book, and catch some rays and few winks when the sun is shining. September can be a great time for river camping: Not too hot, not too cold and with plenty of sunshine.

When the others returned and after dinner, we enjoyed another lovely sunset and finally had our driftwood campfire. The camp was quieter on Sunday night, the other campers and all the boaters on the river having left. We had gentle breezes all night and heard the ghostly calls of barred and Great Horned owls calling as they hunted the deep woods and meadows.

We got an early start Monday morning, packing up and somehow cramming everything back into the kayaks, despite having used up nearly all our food and most of our water. The river was nearly empty as we paddled directly north, striking the Maryland shoreline a little downriver from Halfway Creek. The high banked cliffs sheltered us from the prevailing NW wind, but it was a little unsettled halfway across the Potomac as the flooding tide and wind contested each other, creating small standing waves over the river’s central shoal.

The Maryland shoreline here is much less developed than the Virginia side, but we passed some isolated waterfront houses and the Lions Club Camp Merrick.

Rounding the great bend of the river at Maryland Point, we were coasting along Harrison Cove below thickly-wooded cliffs that looked much as they must have in John Smith’s day, when we were jarred by the anachronistic site of two huge Star Wars radar dishes that could have graced Mos Eisley’s spaceport. The Maryland Point Radio Telescope facility was operated by the Naval Research Laboratory. The first dish (an 84 foot wide telescope) was built in 1958. A slightly larger second telescope was built in 1965.

We rounded Thomas Point and stopped on the beach at Thorne Gut, where a small tributary enters the Potomac, for a leisurely lunch and some fossil hunting. Everyone was able to find a few small shark teeth to add to their collection, or start one. Our final dash took us back around Smith Point, where we had crossed on Friday, and then along the shoreline, back to Mallows Bay and our waiting cars.

We finished 13.8 miles, adding up to a total of 38.5 miles over the three days (not counting the side trip on Saturday some took). It is hard to beat this stretch of the Potomac for kayak touring. We are truly lucky to have two such great facilities as the paddle-in campsites at Widewater and Caledon State Parks in Virginia, and the Mallows Bay Park in Maryland for a launch.

More pictures of the trip online at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/kKufGDkS5FCxnbG9A>



After two nights at Caledon State Park, the final day’s paddle was a trip back to the starting point at Mallows Bay.

Sign Up for AA County Water Access ZOOM Meetings

Development projects at Spriggs Farm and Quiet Waters Parks are flawed

By Lisa Arrasmith

Heads up! There are upcoming design review meetings via Zoom for **Spriggs Farm Park** and a proposed new water access point on **Harness Creek in Quiet Waters Park**. Both designs are deeply flawed and do not serve the paddling community.

It is important for you to attend these virtual meetings and provide critical input and feedback to improve the plans for both Spriggs and Quiet Waters Park.

The Quiet Waters Park Harness Creek Zoom meeting is on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:30 pm

The Quiet Waters Park Harness Creek Zoom meeting announcement: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/development/community-meetings/community-meeting-calendar/> (Look for Harness Creek Paddling Facility at Quiet Waters Park.) Click through for the plans.

The Quiet Waters Harness Creek plan is designated as a "Paddling and Rowing Community" improvement. It well serves the rowers of the Annapolis Rowing Club. **The plan utterly fails to serve the paddling community.** Kayakers and stand up paddleboarders will have a long, steep carry to the water.

Turns in the ramps and existence of railings will make carrying a kayak onto the docks very difficult. Additionally, there are only floating docks, used by the rowing sport, at waterside. Floating docks are too high and cumbersome for cartop boats such as kayaks and canoes.

This is a \$2 million dollar project. **The Harness Creek plan must be redesigned to support and encourage wide multi-sport general public access instead of narrow access for a small rowing club.**



Spriggs Farm Park is one of two parks in Anne Arundel County with proposed water access projects that need input from the paddling community because of flawed designs. (photo: AA County Parks)

The Spriggs Farm Park Zoom meeting is on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

The Spriggs Farm Park meeting announcement: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/development/community-meetings/community-meeting-calendar/> (Look for Spriggs Farm Park Shoreline Protection in the project list.) Click through for the plans.

The Spriggs Farm Park plan, which we believe to be commissioned by a third party, is a C- plan. It has a steep access path with a mulch surface. The path will be immediately hard to use for anything with wheels and will erode in short order. The flawed Spriggs plan also does not accurately document existing conditions. The proposed plan mislabels the existing access road as a "dirt walking path" and does not showing the existing parking, loading, rigging and picnic areas. The final plan tacitly eliminates public access by omitting the basic requirement of public access - an access road, parking, unloading area, rigging area, picnic area - from the final plan. **The county must abandon this C- plan for Spriggs and use the acclaimed A+ Homeport Farm Park as a model to make Spriggs the best park for all.**

Put your dollars to work for public water access

Advocate for public access at Anne Arundel County budget meetings

By Lisa Arrasmith

It's Budget Season in Anne Arundel County. A series of Budget Town Halls gives you the opportunity to tell County Executive Stuart Pittman that you want money for public water access in the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) county budget and where you want it spent (FY22 begins July 1, 2021).

The County Executive asks for your input via you speaking up at Budget Town Halls and written input. There are seven Budget Town Halls, one for each County Council District. **You can speak at any Budget Town Hall. You are not limited to your home District.**

Unfortunately, the District 4 Budget Town Hall was last week. There are six more Budget Town Halls, beginning Monday, January 25, 2021. **All Budget Town Halls are virtual this year because of the pandemic.** There is a Budget Town Hall list and registration link at the end of this page. **Please register to speak!**

Suggested budget requests:

- 1) A kayak launch in South River Farm Park, giving kayakers and standup paddleboarders easy access to sheltered Selby Bay and Ramsey Lake.
- 2) A kayak launch in Weinberg Park, giving kayakers and standup paddleboarders easy access to the more sheltered Rock Creek.
- 3) Mayo Beach Park open every day of the week all year round like the rest of the county parks. It's the nicest county swimming beach.
- 4) More public boat ramps. Anne Arundel County has 9,000 registered trailered boats and only two county public boat ramps.
- 5) More public swimming beaches.
- 6) More small county fishing piers.
- 7) A kayak and standup paddleboard launch and fishing pier at Riverwalk on the Patuxent.
- 8) A multisport public water access facility on Harness Creek in Quiet Waters Park instead of a restricted access



CPA members can advocate for public water access in Anne Arundel County, such as Beverly Triton Park, by attending upcoming virtual county budget meetings.

point only for a private rowing club.

9) A parking lot and trail at Valentine Creek Park.

AGAIN, PLEASE PREREGISTER TO SPEAK! Page ALL the way down on this website for preregistration links for each Budget Town Hall: <https://www.aacounty.org/yourbudget/>

District 5: Monday, January 25, 2021, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
County Executive Pittman and County Councilwoman Amanda Fiedler.

District 7: Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 6 - 7:30 pm
County Executive Pittman and County Councilwoman Jessica Haire.

District 1: Thursday, January 28, 2021, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
County Executive Pittman and County Councilwoman Sarah Lacey.

District 2: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 6 - 7:30 pm
County Executive Pittman and County Councilwoman Allison Pickard.

District 3: Thursday, February 4, 2021, 6 - 7:30 pm
County Executive Pittman and County Councilman Nathan Volke.

District 6: Monday, February 8, 2021, 6 - 7:30 County Executive Pittman and County Councilwoman Lisa Rodvien.

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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ATTENTION CPA MEMBERS!

EFFECTIVE January 2021, all Paddler newsletters will be sent via email with a link to the current monthly issue and no printed copies will be mailed to members.

Please be sure to keep your email address current to keep receiving the Paddler newsletter and for reminders of when your membership is up for renewal by contacting the CPA Secretary at membership@cpakayaker.com.

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 or use the [Online Membership](#) option to use PayPal.

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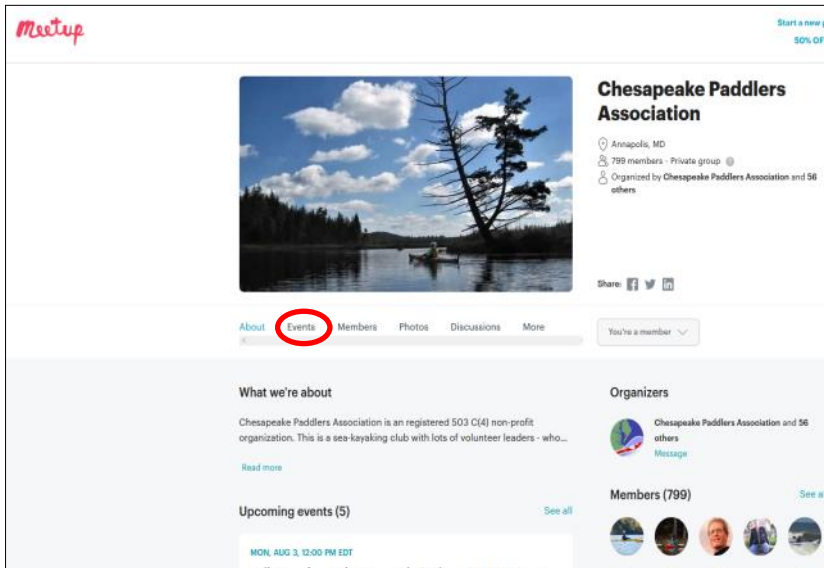
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THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

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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Upcoming CPA events — Workshops on Zoom



With 2021 still uncertain because of the pandemic, CPA is using Zoom for workshops and other training that used to be done in-person.

In January, there are two workshops, one on Jan. 21 on Cold Water Safety (which will be repeated on March 18) and one on Avoiding Paddling Hazards on January 28.

Go to the [CPA Meetup page](#) for the latest event and registration information.

Also, all participants should read the [CPA COVID-19 event guidelines](#) before participating in any in-person Club activity.

Farewell to Robert Farley



From left, Linda Farley, Dick Rock and Bob Farley

Bob Farley passed away on January 2, 2021 due to respiratory issues not COVID related. Bob and wife Linda formerly lived in Vienna, VA, prior to relocating to Naples, FL, in 2006. Both Bob and Linda paddled with the Pirates of the Potomac and Pier 7 for many years and participated in numerous CPA events. Former Potomac Pirate King Dick Rock and others visited with the Farley's in Florida and paddled with them there.

Bob has many friends in the kayaking communities in both the Chesapeake Bay and Naples areas. We will miss him.

Click [here](#) for more about Bob.

- Ralph Heimlich