

The Chesapeake Paddler



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Shoreline Tour of the Patuxent River and St. Leonard Creek

By Jenny Welker

What a fabulous day for a guided tour of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum's shoreline along the Patuxent River and St. Leonard Creek. The park covers over 500 acres and is owned by the State of Maryland. It is a working farm and the site of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. Kirsti Uunila, our archaeologist tour guide, was joined by Kelly Mackall of the JPPM staff. They welcomed us to the park and explained the park's establishment and historical significance before we launched for the on-water tour. They told us more history as we paddled along the shoreline with them.

This was the second year in a row that the Shoreline Tour included a press boat. Joel Davis, managing editor of *The Calvert Recorder*, his daughter, Melissa Davis, and Darwin Weigel, staff photographer, joined us for the tour. We had 12 kayakers and 2 canoes with 5 people for the morning trip. At Petersons Point, we paused as Kirsti regaled us with battle

stories of St. Leonard Creek during the War of 1812. The press canoe accompanied us as far as Mackall Cove, on the west side the creek,



before paddling back to the launch. The rest of us crossed St. Leonard Creek to Sollers Wharf, a former steamboat wharf. On our return trip we had the opportunity to perform a canoe rescue at Petersons Point where the waves

and boat wakes combined to form a confused sea.

Back at the launch we had lunch.

Several of the kayakers from the morning trip plus two kayakers who arrived late went out for an afternoon trip. We headed up river past several preserved farms and then peered into Island Creek and across to Broomes Island.

The news of the day was that the King's Reach launch site is now open to the public. For several years, the park has allowed the shoreline tour participants to launch from King's Reach. Kelly Mackall explained that paddlers may now use the launch site without special arrangements. Paddlers should check in at the Visitors Center before proceeding to the King's Reach field. Kayaks may be

off loaded near the beach path. Then vehicles must be parked in a designated area on the other side of the park's main road. Contact the park for more information about public access. The opportunity to launch from

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Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum provides easier public access to St. Leonard Creek and this section of the Patuxent River.

The morning trip was approximately 4 miles, and the afternoon trip about 2.5 miles. The paddlers included Sue Bauer, Gail Davidson, John Davidson, Joel Davis, Melissa Davis, Diane Dickey, Richard Fiero, Mitchell Grooms, Margie Kriz, Kelly Mackall, Karen Miller, Dave Mood, Don Mozley, Peggy Mozley, Jenny Plummer-Welker, Kirsti Uunila, Darwin Weigel, Greg Welker, and Dan Wells. More information about Calvert

County's steamboat wharves and landings may be found on the web at www.co.cal.md.us/about/abtcnty.htm. For more information about Jefferson

Patterson Park and Museum, call 410-586-8500, or visit the web site at www.jefpat.org.



Alan Avery's Baaaadass Holiday Party



CPA will hold its annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 4 at 7 p.m. at the home of Alan and Shirley Avery, 352 Derbyshire Lane, Riva, Maryland 21140. Everyone is asked to bring either an entree, salad or dessert to feed 6-8 people. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Bring your own beer, wine or Courvoisier.

RSVP's would be appreciated by Wednesday, December 1 via e-mail at (zaverys@yahoo.com). Please clearly indicate the names of those attending in addition to what you will be bringing. If there are any questions, please call Alan or Shirley at 410-956-3299.



Directions: From Rt. 50 East, exit 16 (Rt. 424) to Davidsonville Road. Go south on Davidsonville Rd 1 mile to a flashing light at the intersection with Governor's Bridge Road. Turn left for 2.5 miles to Riva Road. Turn left and go a half mile to Westbury Drive (Annapolis Landing). Turn right and take the 3rd right onto Stonehenge Drive, then the 3rd right onto Walpole Way. Turn right on Derbyshire. 352 is 2nd house on the left. From 50 West take exit 22 (Rt. 665--Aris T. Allen Blvd.) to Riva Rd. (exit immediately after the I 97 exit). Remain in right lane and turn right at Riva Rd. South. Follow Riva Rd. for 1.5 miles to Westbury Drive. Turn left and follow Annapolis Landing directions above. Heading north on Rt. 2 (south of the Edgewater area and Annapolis) turn left on Rt. 214 (Mayo Rd.). Go 2 miles and turn right onto Riva Rd and turn right on Westbury Drive Follow Annapolis Landing directions above. From Baltimore take I 97 South to Rt. 50. Exit immediately to the right off of Rt. 50 to Aris T. Allen Blvd. (Rt. 665). Keep right and follow signs to Riva Road South. Follow Riva Road South 1.5 miles to Westbury Drive (Annapolis Landing). Turn left and follow Annapolis Landing directions above.