

The Chesapeake Paddler



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New paddle-in campsites link 35-mile water trail

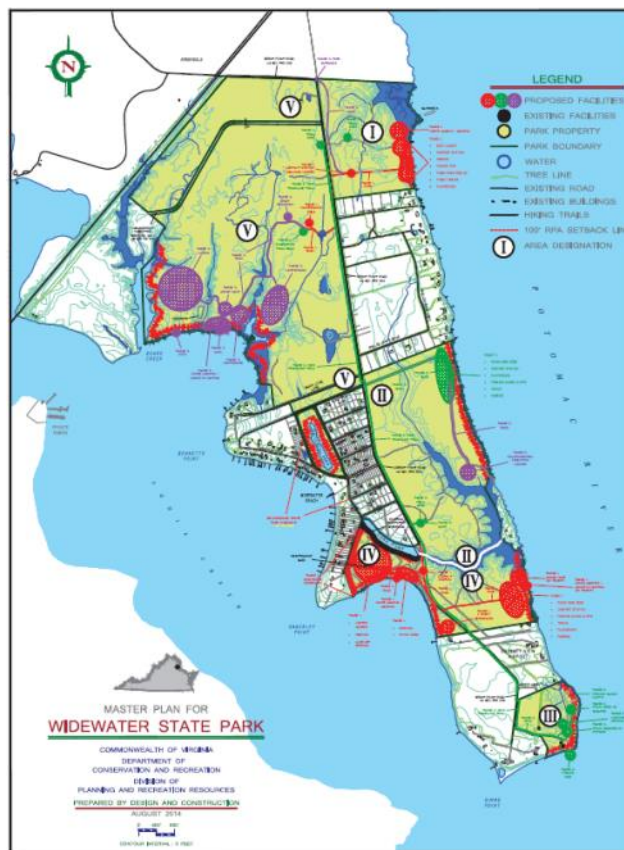
Can you say "kayak touring?" State Park improvements make it a reality on the Potomac

By Ralph Heimlich

Good news for kayakers interested in an odyssey down the Potomac River, as Igor Baras wrote about last month and Ralph Heimlich organized last year/two years ago. Improvements at two state parks on the Potomac River offer new locations for paddle-in camping. Phase I of the development of a new Virginia State Park at Widewater is expected to be complete in September, 2018. Across the river in Maryland, Charles County is set to take over development and management of the existing Maryland State Park at Chapel Point.

Widewater State Park, located at the end of Brent Point Road in Stafford County, will be Virginia's newest state park when it officially opens in September. Comprising 1,089 acres on the Potomac River and Aquia Creek, the park is 16 nautical miles downstream from Leesylvania State Park, and 14 nm upstream from Caledon State Park, both of which also have paddle-in campsites. Phase I in the park's master plan includes

- A full-service visitor's center with a display area
- Two canoe/kayak launches, one on each water body (management areas I and IV)



Widewater State Park is slated to open next month.

- A paddle-in campsite (management area IV) that allows canoes/kayaks to follow the Captain John Smith Trail, providing a link between Leesylvania SP and Caledon SP
- Two picnic shelters (two more to be built later), one on the Potomac side and one on the Aquia
- Two restrooms, one on each water body
- Two playgrounds on each side
- Individual picnic pads that don't need to be reserved

A possible additional paddle-in camp site is included in a later phase of the Master Plan. Phase I is estimated to cost \$11.5million and development of the entire park is budgeted to cost \$43.1 million over 3 years. See <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/document/>

[mp4wwexecsum.pdf](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/document/mp4wwexecsum.pdf)

There are many opportunities to get involved with Widewater's development. Friends of Widewater State Park is looking for volunteers with skills in carpentry, gardening, organizing volunteers, building trails, website design and more. There are opportunities for students to fulfill graduation service requirements as well. Contact

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THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The mission of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association is to provide a way for people to enjoy sea kayaking within the Chesapeake Bay area and to promote safe sea kayaking practices through educating the local sea kayaking community and the interested public.

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size	cost	dimensions (col)
1/8 page	\$20	2.4" x 3.5" (1)
1/4 page	\$32	4.9" x 4.7" (2)
1/2 page	\$50	7.5" x 4.7" (3)
Full page	\$80	7.5" x 9.75" (3)

A 5% discount will be given for ads supplied as electronic files in acceptable formats (i.e., .tif, .gif, .jpeg, bit-map). Email or call for more information and for 10-month discount. See advertising contact in masthead.

Public service announcements and personal ads to sell kayaks/ accessories are printed at no charge; non-members pay \$10 for 3 months. Ads dated three months before the date of this issue will be pulled unless a new request is received by the 15th of the month prior to the next issue. And if it has sold...tell us!

THE CHESAPEAKE PADDLER

The Chesapeake Paddler is published 10 times a year, with combination issues in Nov/Dec and Jan/Feb. The deadline for submitting copy is the 15th of the preceding month. Have an idea for an article, or is there information you would like to see in the newsletter? Contact news_editor@cpakayaker.com

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News From the CPA Coordinator - Bill Smith

On June 20th the newly renovated Home Port Farms Park in Edgewater, Maryland was dedicated and reopened to the public after about a six month construction project. Home Port Farms Park, which is dedicated to car-top vessels, is located on Church Creek and is the only public access to the South River. As I stated in previous columns, opening the park was an uphill battle with lots of local resistance, so I would encourage everyone to visit this park. Let's show Anne Arundel County that they made a good choice when they decided to open it to the public and that the car-top boating community appreciates it. To visit the park, you must go on the Anne Arundel County Parks and Rec website and, after you register for Home Port Farms Park, a gate code will appear. Each time you register counts as a vote to keep the park open and for the county to open other soft launch sites.

Another of my favorite Anne Arundel County kayak launches is Spriggs Farm Park in Arnold, Maryland on the Magothy River. This park has been open a few years but is also facing tremendous pressure from the locals to shut it down. The county has proposed installing a boat launch ramp, which may sound detrimental but really isn't because once improvements have been made, the county will commit to keeping it open. The 'save Spriggs Farm Park' campaign has produced a rendering showing a two-lane ramp with the site paved over, which is not what the county is proposing. The real goal of the 'save Spriggs Farm' is the closure of the park so the locals can have it for themselves. I encourage all to utilize this launch; it is a beautiful park and a really nice place to paddle. The way to gain access is the same as Home Port. Register on the AA County website for Spriggs Farm Park; then the gate code will appear.

Another absolute gem of the Chesapeake Bay in danger of closing is Eastern Neck Island located near Rock Hall, Maryland. Eastern Neck

Wildlife Refuge, a 2286-acre island, opened as part of the Chesapeake Marshlands National Wildlife Refuge. I recently read where the park superintendent was moving on and the park was considering not



replacing him/her, which would keep the gate locked to the public. I am not sure what this change would mean for the Bogles Wharf kayak and motor launch. Eastern Neck Island is very popular with paddlers, bird watchers and hikers; it's a great place to view wildlife, so I routinely visit the island year-round. I remember going there a few years ago in the winter after a long cold spell and seeing several bald eagles hanging out near the openings in

the ice, probably trying to catch a fish. You almost always view eagles and ospreys when paddling; on one occasion I saw a golden eagle. On more than one occasion I have paddled through schools of cow-nosed rays, and I once caught a glimpse of a sea turtle. The trip around the island is approximately an 8-mile circumnavigation, with additional miles possible depending on how many creeks you choose to explore. Here is an interesting fact: you can paddle about three miles from Kent Narrows on Kent Island to Eastern Neck Island, but the drive from Kent Narrows is fifty miles by road. Less time in the car and more time on the water - very appealing; just remember that Queen Anne's County requires that you purchase a daily or seasonal launch pass with separate in-state and out-of-state rates. ♦

~ *Bill Smith*

Paddler Profile: Carolyn Sanford

By Bob Browning

Lives in: Chesapeake, VA

Real job: Retired Public Health Nurse, officially over 1 year retired. I was a dedicated state employee for over 36 years. My real job is now to just enjoy life.

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No, but I wish there was one in southern Virginia. I am hoping to start one in my area this year.

Number of years

paddling ? Kayaking 6 years, but I have canoed flat and white water for many years.

How did you get involved in sea kayaking ? I borrowed a friend's kayak and found out I really enjoyed it much more than canoeing. Being in control of your own boat as well as sitting lower in the water appealed to me.

What boats do you paddle ? Currently I paddle a Valley Avocet LV 15' 11", but I had an Epic 16x until recently. My first boat was a Tsunami wilderness 135, which I still have.

Rudder or skeg? Skeg

Type paddle used ? I use a Euro paddle but did buy a Greenland and hope to use it some this year.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking ? Canoeing, and I have tried SUP and enjoyed it. I have also done whitewater rafting.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities ? I am an avid cyclist and enjoy hiking as well. Although I love downhill skiing, my fear of falling or being hit outweighs my desire to ski. I do cross country skiing, but my skill level is very low.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? I try to get on the water 1-2 times a week.

Do any winter paddling? Yes, although this past winter I was in recovery mode because of my broken arm.

Favorite local paddling location? My go-to place is the Dismal Swamp because of the easy access and tranquility. There's no getting lost and I can get into zen mood and not think. I really love it.

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? They've all been great and memorable. I especially enjoyed the practice kayak



Photo/Ralph Heimlich

camping trip on the Patuxent River a couple of years ago. The camaraderie and scenery were memorable. Despite a sudden pop-up thunderstorm, we all survived. I think being on an island without the distractions of electronics, etc. made the trip.

Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? I had the opportunity to paddle in Florida the month I retired with a one-way plane ticket and not knowing when I was coming back. In-and- of

itself, that set the stage for a memorable experience. Every day we explored a new area. One of my favorite days was when we were paddling at Sanibel Island and 2 or 3 dolphins started playing chase under and around our kayaks. It was so thrilling to watch them through the crystal clear water.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why ? This question has two answers. The scariest experience was on the same trip to Florida when we left St. George for Little St. George Island to camp. The sun was starting to set and the currents were not in our favor. I saw the destination and was determined I was going to make it before the sharks ate me for supper. Happily, we all made it and I learned a lesson in currents.

Many CPA members may have heard about the tree limb falling on my arm and head and breaking my arm on Nov. 10, 2017. It could have been so much worse. The wind blew as I was searching for a suitable bathroom area. Luckily, the tree limb hit me before I stripped down to my birthday suit. I came running out of the woods, "I need help"! Everyone was wonderful and assisted me. The goose egg on my head was a concern, but I assured everyone I had a very hard head. I found out I had a totally displaced ulna, which is the bone along the outer part of the lower arm. A stranger drove me back to Chickahominy Campground where I was tended to, undressed, cared for and nursed in a very compassionate way. My words can't say enough for what everyone did for me. My tent and car were packed, my boat was towed, and I was driven to the hospital on a Friday afternoon! I survived and I promised I'd be back.

Future bucket list trip(s)? Alaska.

Three things you like most about paddling ? Connecting with nature, fulfilling my need for exercise and activity, and the spiritual mind-body connection.

[Continued on next page](#)

In memoriam David T. Moore

By Sue Stevens and Suzanne Farace

With great sadness, we share the news that David T Moore, CPA Life Member, Pirates of Georgetown Founding Member, and Adirondack Loons Trip organizer and host, passed away July 6, 2018.

For many years David and his wife Elizabeth helped organize the annual week-long CPA Adirondack "Loons" trip in early September. That trip is based out of cabins on Blue Mountain Lake, New York and involves paddling different lakes and rivers each day. David introduced

many kayakers to the joys of the Adirondacks - a welcome escape from Maryland's humidity, heat and jellyfish. David brought new friends together - including paddlers from New York City, Canada and Kenya. He enjoyed rolling practice at the Blue Mountain Lake beach. He provided detailed background on local kayaking spots and on Elizabeth's favorite hiking destinations. He also created an illustrated



map book and a custom printed hoodie for the "Loons" every year. His Loons trip is still going strong!

David was a founding member and former Pirate Captain of the Pirates of Georgetown, now launching out of Columbia Marina in Washington, D.C. He was paddling with the CPA Georgetown Pirates when they were still meeting under the Key Bridge. A CPA life member, David joined in early 1999. In years past, he was also a volunteer rolling instructor at SK102 at Lake Anna. He took up cycling and Tai Chi and had many other interests. He and Elizabeth rescued, raised and dearly

loved their many Abyssinian cats, some of whom would stay with them in the cabins at the Adirondacks. David and Elizabeth are also devoted musicians who organized a dulcimer gathering at Blue Mountain Lake for many years.

Our sincerest condolences to Elizabeth and to their family. David will be sorely missed. ♣

[Sanford, continued from previous page](#)

What do you like about CPA ? The support, education and safety as well as the chance to meet wonderful, fun and like-minded people who enjoy being on the water.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? I am a Master Gardener and had the opportunity to start a garden where I used to work. It was designed to educate the public and increase awareness about the value of vegetable gardens. Since I retired, the garden has continued to flourish and provide a visible reminder to the public of what is possible in a small space. ♣

Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?
Contact Bob Browning at:
BBBrowning43@verizon.net

Do you enjoy reading of the paddling adventures, local and distant, of other members? Do you like getting new ideas for paddling trips? Are you advocating for paddling access or amenities in your area? Have you pondered questions relating to kayak gear? Variety is the spice of life, and of newsletters. Please write an article reflecting your thoughts, experiences, and discoveries to share with our paddling community. We all become a bit wiser and excited to be on the water again. We need your input to make *The Chesapeake Paddler* the best it can be. We look forward to your help with content for these issues of 2018. ♣

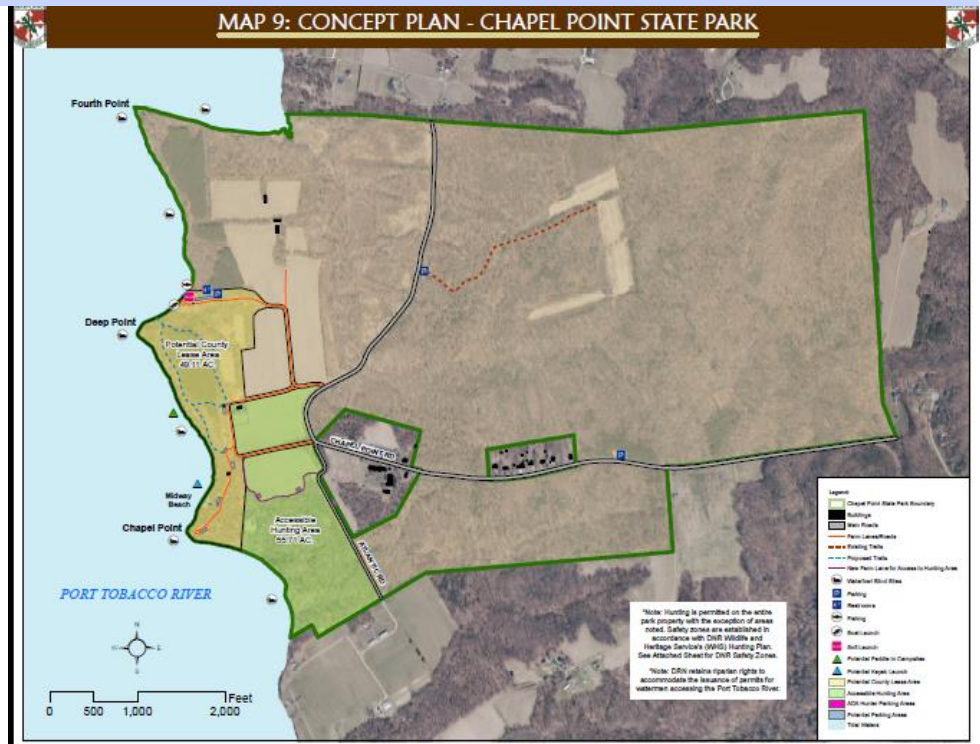
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FOWSP through their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Widewaterstatepark/> or via email at widewater.friends@gmail.com. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at Widewater Fire and Rescue, 749 Widewater Road, Stafford, VA.

Chapel Point State Park in Maryland is located at the confluence of the Port Tobacco and Potomac Rivers, about 11 nm downriver from Virginia's Caledon SP and 19 nm downriver from the new Widewater SP. Chapel Point SP is also adjacent to the new Upper Cedar Point Wildlife Management Area (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/publiclands/southern/cedarpoint.aspx>) on the west bank of the Port Tobacco River. Chapel Point has been a Maryland state park since 1972 and has an existing soft launch and a paddle-in campsite.

In July, Maryland DNR and Charles County announced that the Board of Public Works had approved a lease agreement whereby Charles County would develop and manage 49.4 waterfront acres of the park's 821 acres. Objectives of interest to paddlers are:

- Improvement of the road and parking area at Deep Point, providing an improved launch ramp (limited to 14 foot boats) and doubling parking to 15 car and 5 car/trailer spaces
- Relocation of the existing paddle-in campsite to a more secluded location, freeing up Midway Beach for more general use
- Developing a new soft launch for kayaks near Chapel Point, with dedicated gravel parking area (10 spaces) and unloading zone



Concept Plan for Chapel Point State Park.

All planned improvements would be completed between 2018 and 2022 (see <http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/southern/chapelpoint.aspx>).

Both of these changes provide increased water access in the Great Bend section of the Potomac and also increase our ability to do kayak touring along nearly 35 miles of the river, from Leesylvania to Chapel Point. Contact your friends and begin planning your own excursion to check them out! ♠

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

T 7/31, WTh 8/1-2	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sat, Aug 4	non-CPA event: Circumnavigate Manhattan	6:45 am - 7:30 pm, 2 launch locations w 2 groups each
T W Th, 8/7-9	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sat, Aug 11	KIPP # 6	sixth mtg to help improve skills & build endurance
Sun, Aug 12	Explore Anacostia River	9:00-1:00 Beg; 9:00-4:00 Adv Beg, Beg - circumnavigate Kingman Is; Adv Beg - continue downriver past redeveloped Navy Yard waterfront inclu Nats Park and War College
T W Th, 8/14-16	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sun, Aug 19	Thomas Point Lighthouse (new date)	9:00-3:00, Adv Beg, visit most photographed lighthouse in the bay; expect wind, waves, fetch, & following seas
T W Th, 8/21-23	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sat, 8/25 - 8/26	Full Moon Overnight Paddle & Breakfast, Southern MD	8/25 7:00 pm - 8/26 2:00 pm, Int; leisurely 20 mi; open water w strong currents, wind,waves; potluck breakfast
T W Th, 8/28-30	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
T W Th, 9/4-6	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sat, Sept 8	KIPP #7	seventh mtg to build endurance for circumnavigation
T W Th, 9/11-13	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sun, Sept 16	non-CPA event: Triathlon for Chesapeake at Smithsonian Environ Res Cen	8:00-9:00, safety support for swimmers on the Rhode River (one hr); kayakers may paddle after the swim portion
T W Th, 9/18-20	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
F 9/21-23	non-CPA event: 8th Annual Kiptopeke Sea Kayaking Symposium	8:00 am 9/21-4:00 pm 9/23, Kiptopeke SP, VA Eastern Shore, \$, paddlers fr 10 states, classes for new and experienced paddlers, shelter in 6-br lodges
Sat, Sept 22	Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet	10:00-3:00, Beg, paddle the graveyard of the WWI wooden ships, bag lunch
Sat, Sept 22	KIPP Circumnavigation	culmination of season of building endurance
T W Th 9/25-27	area piracies	check CPA website for more info
Sa 9/29-Su 9/30	Practice Kayak Camper, Patuxent River	9:00 9/29 - 5:00 9/30, Beg, practice one night kayak camping with support & advice fr experienced campers
Sat, Sept 29	Around Wye Island	9:00-4:00, Adv Beg, 12+ mi, bag lunch, dinner out after
Sun, Nov 4	Annual Membership Mtg	11:45-3:00, potluck lunch & business mtg; 9:00-11:00 am area paddle

Launch of the Month: Edward's Ferry



Lat: 39.10304774 Long: -77.47363644

Address 15213-15243 Edwards Ferry Rd
Poolesville, MD 20837

Type: ramp

Parking: Moderate

Restroom: No

Ownership: National Park Service

County: Montgomery

State: Maryland

Water Body: Potomac River

Comments: At Lockhouse 25

This launch is a good end point for an overnight on the Potomac starting at Brunswick and camping at Meadow Island. Also, a good upstream launch for a run downstream to Sycamore Landing, Seneca Creek, Pennyfield Lock or Swains Lock above Great Falls.

<http://www.cpakayaker.com/chesapeake-bay-access-and-paddle-in-campsite-map/>

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.