

# The Chesapeake Paddler



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## Community mourns loss of iconic Patuxent River advocate Bernie Fowler

By Ralph Heimlich

Former State Senator Clyde Bernard (Bernie) Fowler died on December 12, 2021, at age 97 (see [BayJournal.com](http://BayJournal.com)). Best known for his annual Patuxent River Wade Ins, Fowler combined scientific observation of the river's clarity with public outreach to bring the public and political leaders along with the idea that something big was needed to bring the Patuxent back to the conditions he enjoyed as a boy wading into the river with his white tennis shoes in the 1930s.

He first attacked Patuxent River problems as a Calvert County Commissioner in 1970 when he organized a coalition of Southern Maryland counties to sue counties in the northern watershed and the state to upgrade sewage treatment plants to reduce nutrient pollution to the river.

In 1981, the resulting Patuxent River Commission developed a plan to upgrade wastewater treatment and deal with other pollution issues on a watershed basis. This idea became the basis for a larger agreement between Chesapeake Bay states to tackle Bay-wide pollution on a cooperative basis as well.

Elected as a state Senator in 1982, Bernie worked for legislation that held sewage treatment plants accountable for meeting pollution discharge limits. His iconic "sneaker-index" and the annual wade-ins at



*Bernie Fowler, left, with Tom Wisner at a 1980s Patuxent River Wade In. Fowler credited Wisner for giving him the idea for staging the popular event to advocate for the river. (Photo: David Harp/Chesapeakephotos.com)*

Broomes Island began in 1988 and continued until last year.

In 2009, Bernie signed on to another lawsuit by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation that forced the EPA to hold the Bay states accountable to their plan for 2025 reductions or face the "pollution diet" (Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process under the Clean Water Act).

In recent years, Fowler expressed frustration that clean up efforts have yielded so little as yet. He expressed fear that as older Marylanders pass away, nobody will remember how clean the River and Bay were and hence won't appreciate what has been lost, and what can be regained through reducing pollution from all sources.

## From the CPA Coordinator

# Winter paddling in Florida's Silver River

Happy New Year!

Now that the holidays are over, it is just winter. Some of you will drag out all your winter paddling gear, load the boat and brave the cool weather on the water somewhere.



Bill Smith

Winter paddling is satisfying but also a lot of work and time consuming because you then must stow all the extra gear after drying. It can also be very exhausting, and the recovery is much different than a summertime leisure paddle.

Another option if you have the time and resources is to travel south where you can leave the extra winter gear behind. I paddled in South Carolina a few years ago, it was an improvement over the DC area but still required neoprene since the water temps were a little too low to consider paddling without protection.

### Winter paddling in Florida

I spent four years living in Florida where I really took up sea kayaking and found winter paddling in Florida to be excellent, especially in springs where the water spews out of the ground at a constant 72 degrees.

My favorite Florida paddle is the Silver River in the [Ocala National Forest](#). I always launch from [Ray's Wayside Park](#) located along route 40 east of Ocala, Florida. Another option is from [Silver Springs State Park](#) if you want a shorter paddle but longer carry.

Once you launch from Ray's Park you paddle about ¼ mile down a canal that leads into the Silver River and just above the junction of the Ocklawaha River. Once you reach the river you turn right or west. The Silver River is a beautiful gin-clear waterway which is teeming with wildlife.

The river is also home to wild Rhesus (Rhesus Macaques) and Spider monkeys. I have paddled this river maybe 20 times and have always encountered packs of Rhesus

monkeys, I have yet to see any spider monkeys. It is not unusual to see groups of 30-40 monkeys. If you do encounter the monkeys, it is wise to keep your distance since they can be very dangerous.

I have observed people trying to feed them from their hand; not such a great idea considering they carry the AIDS virus and would likely rip your face off if they had the chance.

The females and babies do not seem aggressive, but the males can be scary as hell. The males are also the ones that will approach humans for a handout while the females and young will avoid contact. I always keep at least a boat's distance of water from the shore. The monkeys are rumored to be escapees from the old Tarzan movies and number somewhere around 300-800 or so depending what source you read.

I also read that the tourist attraction placed some on an island thinking they could not swim but they were gone from the island in a few short hours. I often wondered how they could be on both sides of the river but the mystery was solved when a few paddling companions

[See Silver River on page three](#)



*The Silver River is home to a wild population of Rhesus monkeys, but beware they harbor several diseases.  
(Photo: Bill Smith)*

## [Silver River, from page two](#)



*Rescue practice, anyone? Alligators are a common sight in the area. (Photo: Bill Smith)*

were paddling the river. They watched several monkeys climb near the top of a tree and launch themselves as far out in the river as possible and then swim the remainder to the opposite shore.

Besides the monkeys there are also other fascinating wildlife including an abundant population of alligators. I frequently spot night herons and an occasional black bear. The Ocala National Forest seems to have a very large bear population.

Once you reach the head spring, the water is about forty feet deep which is also at the Silver Springs tourist attraction and just upstream of the Silver River State Park. There is a resident alligator that is about 14 feet long that hangs out at the spring.

That may sound scary but an alligator that big is too old and slow to bother you. I paddled up to it once when it was sunning itself on the shore and was amazed at how wide an alligator that big really is considering if you laid on top of it, your arms would barely reach the sides.

Just downstream of the head spring is the remains of an old houseboat sunk in about 15 feet of water that was sunk during the filming of the movie "Sharkey's Machine" starring Burt Reynolds. It seems like the spring was

popular with movie production. There are a few places to stop and rest along the way, but the best is the small sand ramp at the state park which has an observation deck and bathrooms a short jaunt up the path. If you are looking for a close place to stay, camping at the state park is excellent. The National Forest also has plenty of camping sites throughout with some rustic and some improved.



*No drysuit needed, winter paddling in Florida is a welcome getaway. (Photo: Bill Smith)*



# Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman not reappointed to Patuxent River Commission

By Ralph Heimlich

One of the most prominent voices for the Patuxent River since 2004 has been Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper.

Fred has also served on the Patuxent River Commission, a 34-member body cutting across political jurisdictions to oversee river cleanup plans and “review and comment on plans and reports related to the Patuxent River and its watershed.”

Created in 1984, the Commission’s members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. However, Tutman, Barbara Sollner-Webb, professor emerita of biological chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University; Al Tucker, a physicist and farmer; Andrew Der, an environmental consultant; and John McCoy, watershed manager for the Columbia Association were not reappointed to the Commission. Members serve staggered four-year terms and are not paid for their work. See:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/riverkeepers-dismissal-heightens-state-conflict/2021/12/27/8231f760-673a-11ec-b0a7-13dd3af4f70f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/riverkeepers-dismissal-heightens-state-conflict/2021/12/27/8231f760-673a-11ec-b0a7-13dd3af4f70f_story.html)

Controversy arose in 2018 when Commission members became involved in land use change issues in local jurisdictions that have an impact on nonpoint source pollution from development, one of the major sources



*Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman was not reappointed to the Patuxent River Commission in a move critics say was aimed to silence strong river advocates. (Photo: Tim Prudente, Capital Gazette)*

of runoff to the River and Bay. Despite legal confirmation that the concerns were within the Commission’s purview, the dismissals seem to be reprisal for involvement in planning and zoning that is seen by some as infringing on local government prerogatives.

New members from the subject areas previously covered by the dismissed commissioners were appointed.

There has been a response in the Maryland General Assembly. Senate legislation (called the “[Bernie Fowler Water Protection Act of 2022](#)” [SB0367](#)) drafted by Senator Paul Pinsky and cross-filed in the House of Delegates by Mary Lehman seeks to update the charter of the Commission to fulfill its original purpose as a watchdog.

The legislation could return the Patuxent River Commission to being the best forum in the State for raising and exploring solutions to the problems Maryland’s wholly-contained river that now consistently gets a D-minus in water quality.

Paddlers concerned about a weakened Commission should encourage State legislators to vote for the Fowler Act and can also write to Governor Hogan and express their concerns about the Commission: The Honorable Larry Hogan, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD, 21401.

## Final 2021 Report

# CPA in good financial shape for 2022

By Rich Stevens, Treasurer

The figures in [the final report](#) are from 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2021. CPA is on a calendar year fiscal basis as set by the Club bylaws and by our federal and state corporate charters. This report is designed to provide an overview for planning purposes. *(This is an update to the report given at the Annual Meeting to reflect the end-of-year figures. Click [here](#) for the full report. –Ed)*

The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc. continues to be in good financial shape in spite of the pandemic. Our funds on hand from the previous year are almost unchanged. Our cash on hand increased by \$225.88 or approximately 1.00%, from \$24,652.65 to \$24,878.53. The closing balance includes \$24,704.88 in the CPA bank account, and \$170.65 in the PayPal account.

In 2021 everything was again pretty much upended by the corona virus. We were still able to sponsor a very successful Cold-Water Workshop and two Kayak Hazards and Safety virtual workshops via Zoom, sponsored by CPA and led by Moulton Avery. These attracted hundreds of viewers worldwide. SK101 and SK102 were cancelled as was the KIPP Series.

Through the hard work of some of our volunteer members we did hold a CPA Potluck and Skills Day at Truxton Park as well as holding a virtual trip planning meeting by Zoom.

Ralph Heimlich led a Patuxent River Cleanup and Paula Hubbard led a Basic Skills Weekend at Truxton Park. The Piracies hobbled back to life as did a somewhat reduced number of day trips and campers. The

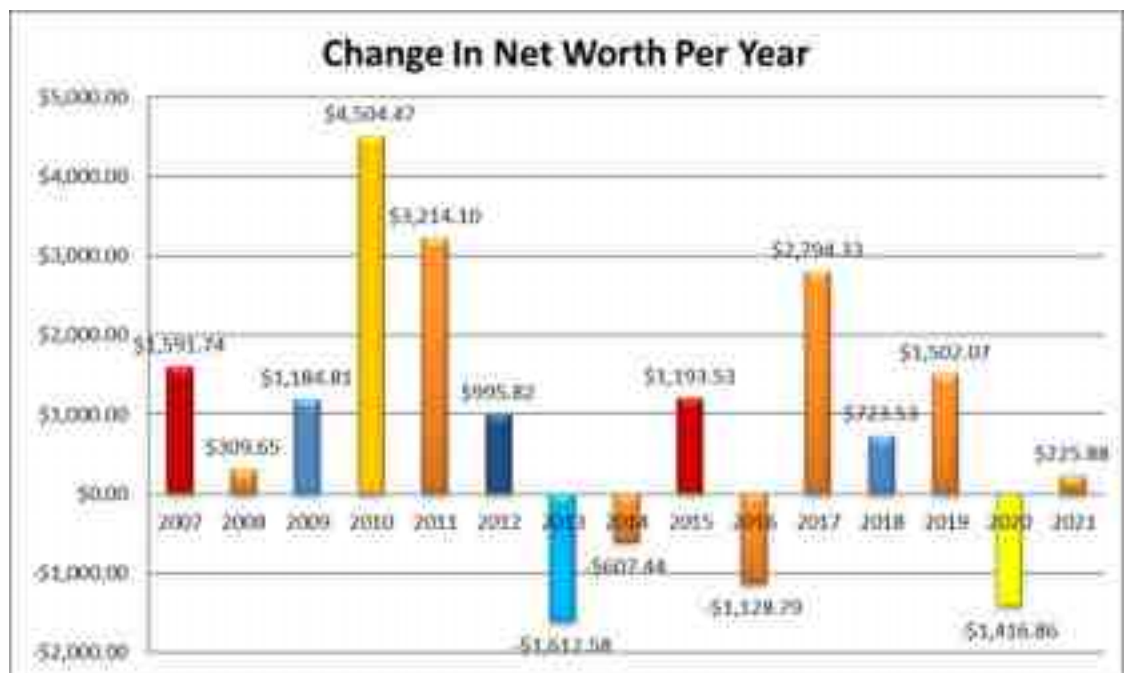
Annual Meeting was live again hosted by Bill Smith and Cult Classic Brewery, and the annual Holiday party returned hosted by Ralph Heimlich.

Once again, we covered our expenses for printing, Post Office box rental, and other office expenses. Our insurance liability policy is paid and up-to-date. We are current in filing the necessary state and federal tax returns.

Hopefully, although it looks somewhat questionable at the time this report was written, next year will be better in terms of Covid and things will get back to something like the before times. Members are encouraged to look for more ways that CPA can continue to give back to its members and the general public in line with CPA's mission statement and are encouraged to contact the Steering Committee with ideas.

The upcoming Trip Planning Meeting is a good place to do this. Keep in mind as Ralph Heimlich often says, "CPA doesn't do anything by itself. We rely on our members and volunteers to initiate, organize, and run trips and events."

Click [here](#) for the full report. Any questions please e-mail me at [Treasurer@cpakayaker.com](mailto:Treasurer@cpakayaker.com).



## Membership holding steady through uncertain times

By Sue Stevens, Membership Secretary

Our January good news for our CPA membership started back in June 2020, when CPA extended 12-months FREE for all members, due to the extended Covid-19 shutdown; well .... now it's been a long, long, extended Covid pause for all kayakers. Hang in there!

The 12-month membership extensions kept CPA members involved during 2021. More trips and weekend camping dates reappeared and no memberships lapsed through May 2021. Looking back, many kayakers also renewed on their own.

Total CPA membership now stands at 615, PLUS there are another 70 valuable kayaking family members, spouses & partners in the club at the start of 2022.

Many members renewed or joined immediately after the four popular Zoomed Cold-Water Workshops, Water Safety Training, and Basic Kayak Camping workshops during January through March, 2021. Thanks to our volunteer instructors, Moulton Avery, Rich Stevens and Suzanne Farace.

Through 2020-2021, CPA gained new paddling members, even though normal CPA training opportunities at SK101, SK102 and many trips were delayed. Six new members joined during the last of the paddling months, including Art, Peggy, Alison, Susan, Eric and Dan – thanks! More new folks are enjoying kayaking and want

to learn more, come help in club activities!

In 2021 CPA had 55 Twenty-Year-Continuous-Life Members (8% of membership) many who are the most active in the club. CPA fondly remembered Life Member Dave Mood, from the Pirates of Arundell, Dan McQueen of the Gunk Holers, and longtime KIPP leader Marshall Woodruff, who died last year.

Hope you are looking forward to more kayaking trips and training events returning by summer 2022, generating wider participation and many potential new members. Got ideas? Contact Coordinator Bill Smith: [coordinator@cpakayaker.com](mailto:coordinator@cpakayaker.com).

Start planning for more good times kayaking and look for more activities late April - May! Our Trip Planning date – maybe by ZOOM – is planned for late March.

NOW is the time to renew your own CPA Membership during 2022!

Look for reminders to renew (every other month) your membership coming to your email queue. You will see at least three reminders around your anniversary date. It's easy to renew online via Pay Pal: <https://www.cpakayaker.com/membership/>

If you want your membership info or to update it anytime, please contact Sue Stevens, Secretary: [membership@cpakayaker.com](mailto:membership@cpakayaker.com).



## Paddler Profile

# Meet Lola Arjona

**Name:** Lola Arjona

**Lives in:** Silver Spring, Maryland.

**Real job:** Scientific Review Officer for Translational Oncology at National Institutes of Health.

**Do you regularly attend a CPA Piracy?** Pirates of Sugarloaf.

**Number of years paddling?** Two.

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** I used to do kayaking with my Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops but never had my own gear. I finally bought a kayak this spring, something I could handle the loading by myself. I met Laurie Collins a few years ago, so I contacted her and joined CPA. I have started in local lakes and rivers, and am looking forward to moving up to sea kayaking next summer, though I need a larger yak for that 😊!

**What boat(s) do you paddle?** I have an Eddyline Skylark (12 ft).

**Rudder or skeg?** None yet.

**Type of paddle used?** Werner Camano.

**Do you do any other paddling than sea kayaking?** Not yet.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities?** I am an avid hiker and backpacker. I am section hiking the Appalachian Trail with some ladies in my hiking group (Trail Dames). I also got into running the last couple of years, both road and trail.

**How often do you paddle between May and October?** Once a week.

**Do any winter paddling?** Not yet.

**Favorite local paddling location?** Black Hills Parks and Patuxent River.



**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why?** Under the moon kayaking with Pirates of the Sugarloaf. It was something I had never done before. The weather was perfect and I enjoyed the experience.

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** Trap Pond State Park in Delaware. We had an early morning paddle in the Terrapin Branch Water Trail. It is only a couple of miles but it is just perfect, quiet and really beautiful.

**Scariest/most dangerous paddling trip/incident and why?** Nothing to report yet.

**Bucket list trips?** Costa Rica and Alaska.

**Three things you like most about paddling?** I love the silence in the water. You interact with others but you still can have your own space and keep your own pace. I also love watching the wildlife in their own environment.

**What do you like about CPA?** The wonderful community. Everyone is willing to help and to share whatever they know.

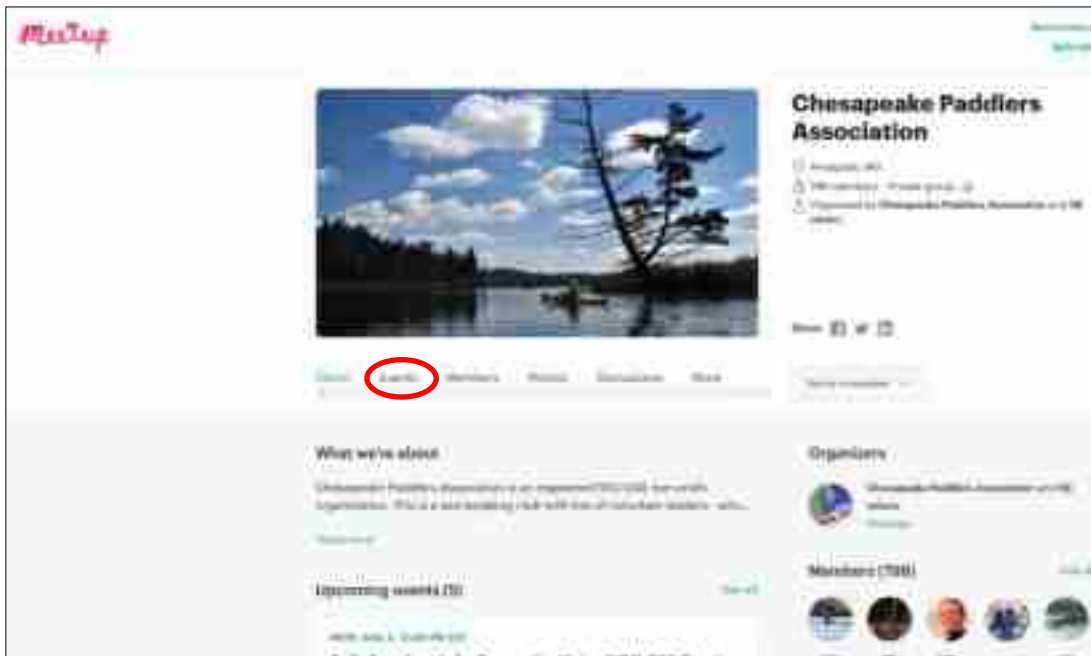
**What other paddling clubs/groups do you belong to?** None.

**One unusual non-paddling thing we'd be surprised to know about you?** I organized one of the STEM areas for the World Scout Jamboree in 2019. We had over 45,000 scouts and volunteer staff from 165 countries. Not bad for an introvert.

*(Ralph Heimlich coordinates the Paddler Profile series.)*



# Upcoming CPA events



Winter CPA events are being scheduled, stay up-to-date by visiting the [CPA Meetup page](#).

Check back often, events are subject to change because of COVID-19.

All participants should download the [updated CPA Waiver](#) and read the [CPA COVID-19 event guidelines](#) before participating in any in-person Club activity.

## CPA Website tips

### Want to learn a new kayaking skill?

Did you know that you can read archived skills articles at <https://www.cpakayaker.com/about-cpa/community-newsletter/community-newsletter-skills-and-safety/>.

Everything from the forward stroke to What's in Your PFD? Everything from Online Navigation Charts to the Butterfly Roll.

If you've written up a How-to and want to get it published, just contact Ralph Heimlich ([heimlichfamily@comcast.net](mailto:heimlichfamily@comcast.net)) and ask!

The [CPA Website](#), it's more than just a calendar!





# 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.*

Websites: [www.cpakayaker.com](http://www.cpakayaker.com), [CPA Facebook page](#); [CPA Meetup page](#)

## Officers

**Coordinator** [coordinator@cpakayaker.com](mailto:coordinator@cpakayaker.com)  
Bill Smith 407-489-7191

**Secretary/Membership** [membership@cpakayaker.com](mailto:membership@cpakayaker.com)  
Sue Stevens 410-531-5641  
c/o CPA, P.O. Box 341, Greenbelt, MD 20768

**Treasurer** — Rich Stevens [treasurer@cpakayaker.com](mailto:treasurer@cpakayaker.com)

**Steering Committee** [steering\\_committee@cpakayaker.com](mailto:steering_committee@cpakayaker.com)  
Lisa Arrasmith  
Beth Boyd  
Marilyn Cooper  
Paula Hubbard 407-619-2896  
Katherine Neale  
Gary Trotter

**Librarian** — John Gibbs 703-922-7686 [Library](#)

**Gear Volunteer** — Marla Aron [Gear Page](#)

## Webmaster/E-Mail List Administrators

[webmaster@cpakayaker.com](mailto:webmaster@cpakayaker.com)  
Paula Hubbard  
Ralph Heimlich  
Rich Stevens

## Newsletter Team [news\\_editor@cpakayaker.com](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

Bill Upton, Ralph Heimlich — Co-Editors  
Sue Stevens — Digital Distribution

## Pirate Groups

**Pirates of Algonkian** [pirates\\_algonkian@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_algonkian@cpakayaker.com)  
James Higgins 571-659-3319

**Pirates of Arundell** [pirates\\_pier7@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_pier7@cpakayaker.com)  
Rich Stevens  
Béla Máriássy 410-507-4972  
Greg Welker 301-249-4895  
Sue Stevens 410-531-5641

**Pirates of Baltimore** [pirates\\_baltimore@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_baltimore@cpakayaker.com)  
Jean Wunder 410-949-4416  
Bob Shakeshaft 410-939-0269  
Ed Cogswell, Suzanne Farace

**Pirates of Eastern Shore** [pirates\\_easternshore@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_easternshore@cpakayaker.com)  
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**Pirates of Georgetown** [pirates\\_georgetown@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_georgetown@cpakayaker.com)  
Jesse Aronson 571-969-1539  
Tom Heneghan 571-969-1866  
Rob Pearlman 240-688-6340  
Larry Ichter 703-915-7446

**Pirates of the North** [pirates\\_north@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_north@cpakayaker.com)  
Bob Shakeshaft 410-939-0269  
Joan Sweet, Jerry Sweet

**Pirates of Occoquan** [pirates\\_occoquan@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_occoquan@cpakayaker.com)  
Jim Zawlocki 703-378-7536

**Pirates of Patuxent** [pirates\\_patuxent@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_patuxent@cpakayaker.com)  
Jenny Plummer-Welker 301-249-4895  
Don Polakovics 301-247-8133

**Pirates of Potomac** [pirates\\_potomac@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_potomac@cpakayaker.com)  
John Gibbs 703-922-7686  
Bob Maynes 703-527-5299

**Pirates of Sugarloaf** [pirates\\_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com](mailto:pirates_sugarloaf@cpakayaker.com)  
Laurie Collins, Marilyn Cooper

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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 or find more information about membership.

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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](mailto:news_editor@cpakayaker.com)

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