The Chesapeake Paddler



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Disappearing James Island

By Ralph Heimlich

I've been fascinated by the disappearing islands of the Chesapeake Bay since I first started paddling here in the 1990s. William B. Cronin, in his 2005 book, "The Disappearing Islands of the Chesapeake", lists 39 as "disappearing", but catalogs more than 500 in an appendix that have "disappeared" from modern charts. No wonder there are so many places to run aground in the Bay!

I recently led another trip out to the James Island(s) for a group of CPA paddlers on June 24, my fifth trip out there. There was not even a good place to land this time around, a far cry from my first trip in 2005 (see pictures below). While dramatic change has occurred in just 20 years, the change I've seen is minor compared to the whole history of the island.



Taken at a similar location in a trip I led in 2020 with John Mavris photo by Ralph Heimlich



James Island in 2005 on a paddle organized by Dale Murphy photo by Ralph Heimlich



Paddlers from this year's trip to James Island in front of what remains of the island, 2023 photo by Ralph Heimlich

James Island was attached to larger Taylors Island in historical times, but the "great washout" beginning in (Continued on page 5)

From the CPA Coordinator

Paula Hubbard

Paddling season is in full swing. We have had training events, practice sessions, and now it's time to go out and paddle. Thanks to out trip leaders and piracy captains, the calendar is filling up with paddles for every ability level.

Why and Where We Paddle

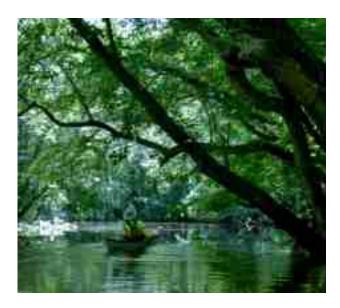
Everyone has different motivations for paddling. Some paddle for exercise, others paddle for the love of nature. Personally, I'm a bit of a training nerd. I'm happiest when I'm teaching, coaching or just practicing skills. Some of us just like messing around in boats.



The Chesapeake Bay has something for everyone. You can access the ocean if you like excitement. Traveling to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay brings many options to paddle open water and surf. Even as we move up the bay, we can experience challenges due to wind and the waves generated. We have all seen the bay transform from flat and calm to wild and exciting in a matter of hours.



Moving up into the rivers that feed into the Chesapeake Bay, there are places where you can paddle marshes, and wet lands. There is even a bald cypress swamp in the headwaters of the Pocomoke River.



Farther up along the Eastern Shore, the Wye River, Chester River, and Sassafras River offer scenic and generally protected waterways. Here it is possible to enjoy solitude, watch for wildlife, and simply enjoy the scenery. We all

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have our reasons for paddling and we all share a love of the water.



Magothy River



Another river that is ideal for paddling is the Magothy River. The Magothy River and its tributaries have approximately 67 miles of shoreline, with

protected areas and marshes that are ideal for paddling. Unfortunately, access is limited with only two public car-top boat launches, one at Spriggs Farm Park and one at Beachwood Park. Both of these launch points present challenges to paddlers carrying kayaks down to the water.

There is an upcoming public meeting on the revised design for the shoreline at Spriggs Park on Wednesday July 12, 2023 at the Broadneck Public Library Community Meeting Room 1275 Green Holly Drive, Annapolis 21409. We need input from kayakers if we want to improve the access to the Magothy. I'm hoping that many of the paddlers in Ann Arundel County will be able to attend.

Trip Leader Training

Coming soon. There will be a one day on water training for Trip Leaders and an associated Zoom session. We already had a session on "How to Post Trips", the next will be on trip planning. The on-water session will be posted on Meetup and will be one day (July 29th 2023). Trip Leader training is not about teaching you personal skills, it is about teaching safety and judgement concepts that are necessary when leading a group of paddlers. The maximum number of paddlers for this session will be 10. Please look on Meetup for additional details.

See you all on the water

Paula Hubbard – CPA Coordinator



Meeting Announcement

Spriggs Farm Park Public Meeting 6 pm Wednesday, July 12, 2023

By Lisa Arrasmith

The revised design for Spriggs Farm Park shoreline is set for public review. The meeting is at 6 pm on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at the Broadneck Public Library Community Meeting Room at 1275 Green Holly



Drive, Annapolis, MD 21409. The library is off College Parkway in Cape St. Claire. Unfortunately, the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks is no longer offering virtual attendance. We have to go to the library for an in-person presentation. Spriggs Farm Park is the only public water access site on the south shore of the Magothy River. This meeting is important.

Why is going to this meeting important? Two prior designs for Spriggs effectively eliminated public water access at the park. We pushed back and Rec & Parks did a re-design. This meeting is our only chance to review the revised design and make sure that it protects and improves public water access. Most of the attendees at these meetings are usually people who live near the park, who often oppose public water access in the park. Remember Halloween 2015 just after Spriggs Farm Park opened? A private lock was placed on the park gate and a car with a sign on it saying the park was closed was parked in the middle of the road to block access to Spriggs.

Department of Public Works meeting notice: https://www.aacounty.org/departments/public-works/ engineering/meeting-20230712.pdf

Summary of 2021 meeting: https://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/capital-projects/Projects/spriggs-farm-park-on-the-magothy

Spriggs Farm Park website: https://www.aacounty.org/locations-and-directions/spriggs-farm-park-on-the-magothy

See you there.



Pirates of Sugarloaf launching from Browns Bridge kayak launch May 2023

James Island (Continued from page 1)

the 1800's left a half-mile gap between them. Settled in the early 1660's as St. James Island (not to be confused with Janes Island farther south on the Bay near Crisfield) consisted of 1,350 acres in three land grants. The Pattison family eventually bought all three and owned the island for more than 200 years. In 1877, maps showed two islands of 1,134 acres with more

than a dozen homes, a school, and a store. In 1892 there were 20 families on the island, but by 1910, only 7 persons still resided out there. In 1916, Sitka deer (actually miniature elk standing 2.5 feet at the shoulder) were introduced to the island for hunting, and as many as 547 Sitka stags were taken in the 1998-99 season.

James Island's future is brighter than the history of its

History of Erosion of James Island(s)		
Year	Source	Area (acres)
1660	Original survey	1,350
1847	TC, USGS	250
1849	TC, USGS	272
1877	Lake, et al., Atlas	1,134 in 2 islands
1900	TC, USGS	1,042 in 2 islands
1998	NOAA	85.14 in 3 islands

Sources: cited from Cronin, William B., The Disappearing Islands of the Chesapeake, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005, p. 76; he calculates the rate of erosion at 8 acres/year.

TC, USGS=U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, topographic charts.

Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, Atlas, 1877

NOAA= National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Dept. of Commerce, charts.

Dave Harp, photographer for the *Bay Journal*, has documented the withering of James Island and took these two aerial shots about 20 years apart. It is hard to recognize that they are even the same place.



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erosion over the past centuries. Unlike many other "lost" islands in the Bay, James will become the focus of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredge spoil operations to maintain the Chesapeake Bay navigation channel. Poplar Island, the ongoing ecosystem restoration project by USACE and MDOT MPA, wrapped up construction of an expansion effort in January 2021.

Approved in August 2022, the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration project, often referred to as Mid-Bay, is located adjacent to the islands of James and Barren in western Dorchester County, Maryland. The project is focused on restoring/expanding island habitat to provide hundreds of acres of wetland and terrestrial habitat for fish, shellfish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals through the beneficial use of dredged material.

This will provide direct benefits of improved health, richness, and sustainability to aquatic and wildlife species. In addition, it will provide indirect benefits of navigational safety, education, and passive recreation. The

conceptual plan for the feasibility study proposes 55 percent wetland and 45 percent upland habitats. Habitat may include submerged aquatic habitat, mudflat, low marsh, high marsh, islands, ponds, channels and upland areas.

The Mid-Bay project includes restoration of 2,072 acres of lost remote island habitat on James Island and 72 acres of remote island habitat on Barren Island, using material dredged from the Port of Baltimore approach channels and the Honga River, respectively.

Completion of the plan in the 2050s will mean future paddlers may see a land mass even larger than the St. James Island of our pioneering settlers in the 1660s... until the relentless natural processes of erosion and land subsidence reduce it once again to wave-tossed shallows in the far future.



Advocating for the Patuxent

By Fred Tutman

The Patuxent River just like most other waterways in the region is being squeezed by runoff from storm drains, 36 waste water treatment facilities, and poorly planned urban growth. The upstream areas of the 110 mile Patuxent River include some of Maryland's fastest growing populations centers in Bowie, Laurel and Columbia.



The downstream areas include vast estuaries, fragile resources and some of the most productive marine fisheries in the State. Of the seven Maryland counties that define the Patuxent watershed, not one of them seems prepared to say no to virtually any big construction project that is applied for. When you fly over the Patuxent the thousands of open wounds scraped into the earth from excavation, development and construction becomes much more obvious and evident, leaving muddy waters throughout the downstream areas.

As prime wilderness areas near the Patuxent Research Refuge and Patuxent River Park become available as preservation targets--investors throw enormous sums at acquiring these lands for various commercial and residential projects which of course competes with the needs of the entire river system for wetlands, ecosystem recovery areas and other resources necessary to the long range health of the watershed.

Most people regard the 1950's as the last time the Patuxent watershed got affirmative grades for water quality, and conditions have been sliding ever since with no coherent or centralized game plan for the river's recovery, preservation or restoration.

Every year bigger and more invasive building projects are proposed that would condemn the watershed to a



future of subpar water quality.

The Maglev high speed rail project for example, is still flailing its way through various governmental reviews in spite of its plan to blast through the Patuxent and the Research Refuge with high impacts construction, maintenance yards and other cuts. Also the proposed massive Chesapeake Terrace Rubble Landfill, planned to border on the banks of the Patuxent near Odenton, has received preliminary approval from Maryland Department of the Environment, and the presence of various forever chemicals like mercury, PFAS/PFOS and PCBs are commonly found in local waters along with other chemistry that are known to be problematic for human and ecosystem health.

These bleak reports as depressing as they may seem, are not entirely hopeless as the good news is that these waterways tend to be resilient and capable of rebounding to the extent, we limit the pollutants and citizens learn to take a proactive role on activating on behalf of clean water. Citizens can and do win at least some of these battles!

The Patuxent River is the only waterbody in Maryland with its own state empaneled Commission focused on water quality and improvements. The role of the 32 member "Patuxent River Commission" with representation from each of the Counties, key stakeholders and governmental bodies is not regulatory-- but rather it is advisory. It is a good portal to learn what issues, policy problems and fresh threats face Maryland's deepest and longest intrastate waterway. In a bid to raise public inter-

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est and awareness of its work, earlier this year the Commission televised its proceedings on Laurel public access TV for the first time in its 40+ year history. The proceedings are posted on you Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3rbYqlcAcM

Patuxent Riverkeeper is a private non-profit group founded in 2004 that rallies citizen efforts to protect the river. The Patuxent Community has a heritage of strident activism that has fought since he 1950's to get attention paid to the woes of the river's ecosystem. The Riverkeeper organization partners with local community groups throughout the Patuxent Watershed to fend off where possible, projects that are bad for water quality. The group also lobbies for laws and policies that afford deeper protections for the watershed. The Patuxent Riverkeeper has litigated against energy utilities leaking coal waste into the river, as well as environmentally weak or insufficient construction and stormwater permitting. The group also tackles environmental justice problems in fence line communities often facing more than their share of industrial and polluting facilities. The

CPA Paddle Mataponi Creek and Patuxent River from Selby's Landing July 1, 2023 Photos by Lisa



Riverkeeper organization over its 20 year history has garnered over 650 million dollars in fines, penalties, special environmental projected reparations against polluting entities in an effort to making polluting unprofitable and to leverage reparations and preservation.

The Riverkeeper does not accept grants or donation from known polluters, while stressing accountability to citizens in the watershed and is involved in all sorts of on the ground (on the river) programs that uplift stewardship and water activism.

The Riverkeeper organization runs a paddling oriented web site at: www.patuxentwatertrail.org that provides the public with up to date information about public access and overnight camping opportunism on the river, it organizes volunteer work crews that maintain the Patuxent water trail and also operates a visitor's center and clubhouse on the river that provides trip support, water access, boat rentals and river focused public events that celebrate the river and the sustaining community that has evolved around the Patuxent.





Photo by Barbara Southworth

SCIENCE - - - FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

2023 may be the worst tick season ever. Here's how to protect yourself.

Here are some tips to keep them away, what to do if you find a tick on you, how to identify a tick bite, and more.

If you find an engorged tick on your body, like this one of the Ixodes genus, you're at higher risk for a disease.

BY TARA HAELLE

PUBLISHED JUNE 20, 2023

As people enjoy the outdoors this summer, they should remember they're not the only ones taking advantage of the warm weather. Warmer springs and longer summers means a longer tick season. Several states' health officials are already warning of a particularly bad year for ticks, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported earlier this year that cases of the tick-borne disease babesiosis have been rising.

"This is this is the time of year where, in lots of parts of the United States, a lot of people are getting exposed to ticks," Lyric Bartholomay, an entomologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, says. They might be worse this year because it warmed up sooner than it has in previous years. "Tick activity will ramp up as the temperatures rise, and if we have an early spring, then it's going to seem bad because suddenly we're seeing ticks at a time of year where we haven't seen them before."

The best way to avoid a tick-borne disease is, obviously, not to get bitten by a tick. "When you're out in the wild and you see those signs that say 'Don't feed the animals,' they mean don't feed the bear and rodents, but I think that should apply to the invertebrates too," Bartholomay says. "We should just really try not to feed the bloodsuckers either."

Here's what to know to protect yourself from ticks and what to do if you're bit.

How can you protect yourself from ticks?

The two keys are wearing the right clothes and using repellent when in areas with ticks.

"If you're walking through grassy or forested areas, wear long pants and long sleeve shirts, and then you check your clothes and skin for ticks when you come



Tucking your pants into your socks is an effective way of preventing ticks from reaching the skin on your legs.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX TREADWAY, NAT GEO IMAGE

back," Timothy Brewer, an infectious disease physician and epidemiologist at the University of California Los Angeles says.

Bartholomay also recommends wearing light-colored clothing so it's easier to see ticks, and tucking your pants into your socks so they can't crawl up your pant leg.

"I think there's a little bit of a fear that ticks are going to drop out of the trees, and that's not really how ticks work most of the time," says Michael Reiskind, an entomologist at North Carolina State University. Since they're usually looking for smaller animals, they're of-

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ten latching on somewhere from the waist down and then crawling up.

Use a repellent that says it repels ticks, which includes those containing DEET. The percentage of DEET determines how long it lasts, so if you'll only be in ticks' home for an hour or so, a lower percentage is fine, Reiskind says. If you'll be out longer, up to 25 percent is wise, or re-apply the repellent. The insecticide permethrin on your clothes can also repel ticks.

When checking yourself for ticks, look around your ankles or legs if you've been out a short time, Reiskind said. But if you've been out for several hours or few days, they could have migrated anywhere, so have a friend or family member check your back and hairline as well.

What do you do if you find a tick on yourself?

You should remove the tick, but be sure to remove the whole organism, including the mouthparts. Use tweezers to get a firm grip where it's attached and firmly but steadily pull upward without jerking. Never crush a tick, and don't grab the tick by the midsection or you risk squeezing its contents back into your body, Bartholomay said. She also said never to use Vaseline or a match or any item mentioned in other old wives' tales to remove a tick.

The CDC offers step-by-step instructions, including a Tick Bite Bot that walks you through removing a tick and seeking care. Afterward, clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water, the CDC recommends.

How do you know you've been bitten by a tick?

There's unfortunately no way to easily tell a tick bite from another critter's bite, such as a spider or mosquito bite, Reiskind says. "The only way you really know if you've been bitten by a tick is if you find the tick embedded in you, in the act of biting you," he says.

But ticks don't just bite and run. They settle in to get their fill of blood, and adults stay on for a day or two before becoming fully engorged, so many people find the tick before it drops off. Nymphs are much smaller—the size of a poppyseed—so they're harder to see and may drop off before you ever see them.

A tick bite is usually a red raised bump like a nasty mosquito bite. If a rash is present, you've developed an infection, though it's not possible to tell what kind by the rash alone. The distinctive <u>bull's eye rash</u> many people associate with Lyme disease can be caused by

other tick-borne pathogens, Reiskind says, and it's still possible you've contracted a disease if the rash looks different or if there's no rash at all.

What should you do if you've been bitten by a tick, or suspect a tick-borne disease?

Symptoms of a tick-borne disease include fever, headaches, joint aches and pains, and a rash, Timothy Flanigan, an infectious disease physician at Brown University, says. If you develop a fever, malaise, or a rash after being in an area where ticks are active, Flanigan and Brewer recommend getting evaluated at your primary care doctor or an urgent care clinic.

"As long as you're not critically ill, you probably don't have to go to a hospital emergency room," Brewer said. Although you can be tested for tick-borne diseases, the tests detect antibodies, which can take a few weeks to show up in your blood, he says. "If we have a reasonable suspicion for tick-borne infection, we would just go ahead and treat it. We wouldn't wait for the test to come back."

If you find an engorged tick on your body that's clearly been there a while, you're at higher risk for a disease. If it's a blacklegged tick, you can see a doctor for doxycycline, an antibiotic which can help prevent Lyme disease from developing or treat it after it develops, Brewer and Flanigan say. Many other tick-borne diseases caused by bacteria are treated with doxycycline as well, but parasitic diseases, such as babesiosis, may require a different remedy, and viral disease, such as the Heartland virus or Colorado tick fever, don't have any treatments other than supportive care.

If you keep the tick after removing it, Flanigan noted that several companies will test it for pathogens. Though, the CDC doesn't recommend these testing services since evidence of a pathogen doesn't guarantee you were infected. But some people want to know what their risk is, and if symptoms do develop, you can tell your doctor what the results are.

Where in the U.S. are hotspots for ticks and tickborne diseases?

Ticks are found everywhere across the U.S., though "different geographic parts of the country have a different geographic pattern of disease," Flanigan says. He recommends the CDC's website on ticks to identify types of ticks, diseases they carry, and where they're

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found.

The blacklegged tick, which transmits Lyme disease, has historically been a problem mostly in the northeastern U.S., but it's been spreading south and west and now lives throughout the whole eastern half of the country, with increasing cases in the upper Midwest and the mid-Atlantic states.

But plenty of other types of ticks carry different diseases. Ehrlichiosis is found throughout the southeastern and south-central U.S. as far west as Texas, and the Rocky Mountain wood tick— which can transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Colorado tick fever, and tularemia—is found throughout the West and Pacific Northwest. Babesiosis occurs most frequently in the Northeast and upper Midwest, but cases have occurred throughout other U.S. regions, including the West

Coast.

So, no matter where you are this summer, be vigilant: check your body for ticks, use a repellant, and wear appropriate clothing. And, if you are bitten, don't panic.

CPA Pirates of the Patuxent (Jun 22, 2023)

Patuxent River and Caney Creek

Launching from Hallowing Point Waterfront Park

Photos by Daniel Wells





Wanted: More Paddler Profiles

Paddler Profiles are a newsletter feature designed to feature...YOU! We'd like to know more about CPA members and this is your chance to tell us more about your paddling experience, what draws you to the water and what else is going on in your life.

Just fill out the few simple questions <u>here</u> and <u>send us</u> a recent photo of you in paddling mode. We'll do the rest, and soon all your CPA paddling buddles will know more about you.

For a complete roster of past Paddler Profiles, see the CPA Website here.

Local Non-CPA Events:

The Delmarva Paddlers Retreat

October 5-8, 2023

www.delmarvapaddlersretreat.org

First held in 1988, since 2001 the Delmarva Paddlers Re-



treat has evolved to focus on Greenland style kayaking. Whether you're looking to refine your forward stroke, learn your first kayak roll, or develop an understanding of advanced traditional paddling and kayak building techniques, the Delmarva Paddlers Retreat is the place to do it. While a Greenlandstyle kayak is helpful, it is not at all required. As a Qajaq USA-sanctioned event, we'll have their fleet of replica skin-on-frame kayaks, Greenland paddles, and neoprene gear available for Retreat

participants to use during the weekend. There'll be something interesting and re-warding for every kayaker, from the new beginner to seasoned expedition paddlers.

Special Guests

Every year, we reach out to distinguished members of the worldwide kayaking community and invite them to Delmarva Paddlers Retreat as our special guests. As part of the event, we'll ask them to share their unique perspective and achievements in kayaking, whether it be promoting and



teaching Greenland style kayaking in their home country, mounting a self supported kayak expedition, surveying and building skin-on-frame kayaks, or participating in the annual competitions in Greenland. Our guests are full participants in the Retreat, following in the mentoring tradition of sharing what they know and learning from others. Count on interesting and entertaining evening presentations and fascinating conversations throughout the weekend about all things kayaking.

This year's scheduled guests will be posted on the web site in July when registration opens. It's not unusual for a surprise guest or two to be added closer to the event date!

Demonstrations

As part of the Delmarva Paddlers Retreat, hands-on demonstrations are held throughout the weekend so you can learn more about the intricacies of skin-on-frame kayak building & repair by working with experienced builders. These often include but are not limited to steam bending

wooden ribs and coamings, skinning a kayak frame,



selecting and caring for tools, and kayak outfitting and repair.

Build a Skin-on-Frame Kayak

This year, a kayak build class is offered in conjunction with the Delmarva Paddlers Retreat. Beginning a week in advance of the Retreat, participants will stay on site at Camp Arrowhead and work with a master kayak builder to create their own custom built skin-on-frame kayak. By the end of the Retreat, several beautiful new gajags will be on the water for



their maiden voyages. Preregistration for the Kayak Build is required. Please check our web site for more details and dates of this years build sessions.

Workshops & Classes

Have you always wanted to make your own Greenland paddle or harpoon and just not known where to start? You're in luck! Here's your chance to spend a day working with a skilled instructor to make your own Greenland paddle or harpoon during the Retreat. We provide the tools and expert guidance, you bring the desire and elbow grease. Preregistration is required and materials are included in the class fee.

Historically, Inuit communities made everything that they used and to honor this tradition, each year we offer a variety of 'makers workshops', led by mentors skilled in the materials, techniques, and tools needed to make kayaking accessories, including neoprene mittens and akuilisaqs,

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canvas float bags and sea socks, and fleece changing robes. Workshops vary from year to year so please check our



website for this year's offerings and to preregister. If there's a kayak-related project you'd like to make, let us know. You're probably not alone and we might be able to add a workshop for that, too!

The Venue

The Delmarva Paddlers Retreat is held at Camp Arrowhead, located on the western shore of Rehoboth Bay near Lewes, Delaware. Lodging options include bunk style cabins, raised A-frame platforms, or you can bring your own tent and camp under the pines. Two centrally located bathhouses have toilet and shower facilities. Camp Arrowhead kitchen staff provide



hot, delicious meals, including vegetarian options, all served buffet-style in the dining hall from Thursday breakfast through Sunday lunch.

The Delmarva Paddlers Retreat registration fee includes lodging and meals. Most classes are included in the registration fee.

Registration deadline is September 15th.

This is not a CPA sponsored event.

For registration and more information, please visit www.delmarvapaddlersretreat.org

The Delmarva Paddlers Retreat



Did You Know....?

Past issues of *The Chesapeake Paddler*, the newsletter of the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc., are located on our website at https://www.cpakayaker.com/about-cpa/community-newsletter/

Here you can also find:

- Paddler Profiles
- Skills Articles
- Trip Reports of places to paddle

Check it out!

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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The Chesapeake Paddler

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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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