

Paddler Profile: Béla Máriássy

By Bob Browning

Lives in: Annapolis

Real job: Retirement

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? Yes, Pirates of Arundell based in Annapolis

Number of years paddling?
13

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I went to a local kayaking demo day at Sandy Point. CPA had a booth that was manned by Alan Avery. I had never kayaked before and asked Alan to tell me about kayaking. He went on for 45 minutes about how he enjoyed it. I HAD to try it out and have paddled ever since.

What boats do you paddle? Wilderness Tempest 170, 17 ft, yellow

Rudder or skeg? Skeg

Type paddle used? Euro with beautiful wood strip paddle faces

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? Canoe with my wife since she can't paddle a kayak.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? During the winter, I cross country ski and snowshoe (lower body exercise to balance out summer upper body exercise)

How often on average do you paddle between May and October?
Typically once a week

Do any winter paddling? Too busy cross-country skiing

Favorite local paddling location? South River - which was our piracy base at Pier 7 for many years

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? Bow River in the Adirondacks. The scenery in the ADK in September is beautiful, and my CPA colleagues are the best people to share the experience with.

Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? A trip to the Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence River. We camped on a number of the islands and circumnavigated many others. Seeing the Boldt Castle and its boathouse. Attending the pirate festival in Alexandria Bay. Paddling the Admiralty Islands on the Canadian side of the river. Sharing experiences with a friend who is now gone.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? One of my first trips after I had moved here from Arizona. Ralph lead a trip on the



Photo/Suzanne Farace

Tuckahoe in August. It was hot and humid at the put-in, so everyone was in shorts and t-shirts. In the afternoon, the heat of the day brought thunderstorms crashing over us. Ralph got us off the water, and we took safety positions away from the water. The rain dropped the temperature dramatically, and I was still wearing cotton clothes that I brought from Arizona. I was drenched, seriously chilled, and learned the meaning of the warning "cotton kills." The only relief was chuckling at a couple who

sat in their tandem kayak in the clearing to stay warm.

Future bucket list trip(s)? Paddling in Cobscook Bay in Maine and among calving glaciers in Alaska.

Three things you like most about paddling? Discovering isolated beauty. The zen of steady paddle dipping in the water. The thrill of being comfortable while being at the whim of Mother Nature.

What do you like about CPA? The ease of being with people who are happy to share their knowledge and enjoyment of paddling with you.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? That I am not an Italian woman named Bella, but rather a Hungarian man whose name is pronounced "Bayla." ♠

Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile?

Contact Bob Browning at:

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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. ♠