

## Paddler Profile: Edwin Cogswell

*Interview by Bob Browning*

**Lives in :** Catonsville, Md.

**Real job:** Retired from federal government and currently a historian.

**Do you regularly attend a Piracy?** I have been paddling with the Pirates of Baltimore and now am co-captain with Marla.

**Number of years paddling?** About five years on a frequent basis.

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** It's a long romantic story, but through a very good friend and the brighter part of my life. Kathy explained her exploits in kayaking and I was totally amazed. She invited me along on a kayaking adventure and drew me into a grand sport.

**What boats do you paddle?** Wilderness, Tsunami, 160, red.

**Rudder or skeg?** Rudder, which I do not use as much anymore, after having taken some instruction.

**Type paddle used?** Euro, though working on creating a Greenland paddle.

**Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking ?** No.

**Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities ?** Other activities I enjoy are camping, cycling, hiking, and growing exotic plants.

**How often on average do you paddle between May and October?** Not often enough but trying to make it at least once a week now.

**Do any winter paddling?** Only when it is in a pool.

**Favorite local paddling location ?** I certainly enjoy Broad Creek and Bush River.

**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why?** A geocaching paddle in Curtis Bay with the Pirates of Baltimore where we saw various old wrecks. It was an adventure that all enjoyed and were drawn into while paddling among these wrecks.

**Coolest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** The Great Dismal Swamp. This is an adventure that is seared in my mind for the beauty of the area, its grand Cypress Trees and the mystical atmosphere, including the Lady of the Lake. Paddling up the feeder ditch at night guided by stars was wonderful, and seeing the sun set across Lake Drummond was truly an amazing experience, the colors



so brightly reflected on the lake. Paddling back to camp one night, a funnel of mist rose ahead of me in the feeder ditch, and I do believe this was the Lady of the Lake - marvelous.

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why?** Well I would say the adventure I put in this category is well known in CPA. It is the Baltimore adventure in the summer of 2014 on our Pirates paddle when a fast moving storm hit us a tenth of a mile from the put-in. We checked weather prior to the paddle and listened to the radio. However, the storm moved faster than predicted, hitting us are just as we caught sight of the put-in. It was amazing that I remembered much of the training I have had and was able to beach. All the kayakers on this paddle made it home safely.

<http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=8341>

**Bucket list trip(s):** Rome and Assisi; Italy; New Zealand; Iceland to see the Northern Lights; paddle the Everglades; and, hike the AT.

**Three things you like most about paddling?** First, the people you meet. Second, the grandeur of the area we live in. And third, the enjoyment of being on the water.

**What do you like about CPA?** Great people, good instruction, and the variety of paddles and programs offered. It welcomes new paddlers, encourages more experienced paddlers, and provides opportunities for working on skills. ♡

*Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile? Contact Bob Browning at: [BBBrowning43@verizon.net](mailto:BBBrowning43@verizon.net)*