

Paddler Profile: Jen Bine

Interview by Bob Browning

Lives in: Indian Lake, New York

Real job: Adirondack Experience / Director of Interpretation (a.k.a. exhibits, education, and public programs)

Member of a piracy? I was a long-time Pirate of Georgetown until moving to the Adirondacks in 2013

Number of years paddling? 17

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? A friend of my father's talked him into taking a sea kayaking class. He had a blast and a couple years later he, my sister, and I tried it during a trip to Seattle. After 10 awkward dips of the paddle, I remember thinking, "Oh, yeah!" I was hooked.

What boats do you paddle? Seaward Silhouette, 17', red. Necky Eliza, 16', blue.

Rudder or skeg? I'm ecumenical on this topic. I have one of each.

Type paddle used: Greenland in the kayaks.

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? I bought a Hornbeck New Tricks canoe upon moving to the ADK. They're made locally and at 17 pounds, they're ideal when you have to do a long portage or several of them.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I have a pair of Nordic skates and am slowly learning how to use them.

How often on average do you paddle in summer between May and October?: At least a couple times a week. This business of having a day job gets in the way sometimes.

Do any winter paddling? That would be a bit difficult in the Adirondacks. Our ice regularly gets thick enough to drive a truck on.

Favorite local paddling location? Way too many to count. I've always loved paddling on lakes and we have an abundance of them. But some of my favorites are Forked and Lows Lakes and Middle and Lower Saranac Lake.



Photo/Catrina Miller

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why?: I always loved paddling the Pocomoke. Great campsites and the paddling was always interesting, particularly the abundance of wildlife. The company was not too shabby, either.

Best paddling trip/experience ever and why? Kayaks have carried me on many trips, and my "paddling family" has been an important part of every one of those trips. But a pair of trips to the Adirondacks not only cemented my love of this activity, but it also introduced me to the place I am now lucky to call home.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why? I had a couple of experiences that were really only scary in hindsight. The most frightened I've been was when a fellow paddler landed to rest and wait for the group to pick him up upon our return. When we got back he was gone. It was not until we returned to our cars that we found that his vehicle was gone and that he had left without leaving a message of any sort.

Bucket list trip(s): There are a dozen lakes in the Adirondacks that I still haven't explored, but beyond that, I'd love to paddle in the Everglades and the Florida Keys, Alaska, the San Juans. New Zealand....

Three things you like most about paddling? I love where kayaking has taken me, who it has introduced me to, and the peace of being on the water.

What do you like about CPA? CPA is all about the people. It started by providing me with great teachers and today I know it has brought me friends that I'll treasure for the rest of my life.

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? I grew up on a farm in the almost lake-free state of Iowa. For some reason, folks assume I know about all things agricultural but my expertise is limited to hogs, corn, and soybeans. ♠

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