

## Paddler Profile: Joan Ellis

**By Bob Browning**

**Lives in:** Eastern Shore Maryland/Ft Lauderdale Florida

**Real job:** Property Manager

**Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No**

**Number of years paddling? 22 years**

**How did you get involved in sea kayaking?** How did I end up with a wooden boat? About 22 years ago, my son wanted a kayak. He did the research and found the Chesapeake Light Craft kits on the web. We decided to make it a family winter event. We cleaned out the living room, put tarps down, set up saw horses and went to work. By spring we had a fleet of finished wooden boats. I was never in a kayak before we launched the boats, so I had an interesting learning curve. Most places I go, I get the same questions – “Is it wood?”, “Did you make it?” and “How heavy is it?”

**What boats do you paddle?** Yes, I paddle a CLC 16LT. Yes, it is a wooden boat and yes, I made it. Just for the record, I do own two other non-wooden boats, but I always gravitate back to my CLC when I need to get where I want to go in comfort and with confidence. It fits me; what more can I say.

**Rudder or skeg? Neither**

**Type paddle used:** Warner Camano

**How often on average do you paddle between May and October?** Paddle year round because I go south in the winter - in my youth I could not wait to paddle in the first snow storm. Now I head south!

**Do any winter paddling?** No, I try not to paddle in the cold. 38 years in Connecticut proved that I could, and I no longer feel I need to!

**Favorite local paddling location?** Any place I have not paddled.

**Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why:** All paddles are great - CPA's included

**Cooler paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why?** My “Yacht” travels with me up and down the East Coast. My favorite trips have been a week in the Everglades, Maine and Connecticut. Last year my goal was to paddle every canal in Fort Lauderdale. With a street map on the deck, I manage to do all, unless climate change has



formed more. A non-wooden trip was a week on the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia.

**Scariest/most dangerous trip/experience and why?** That would have been last winter when I was crossing the inlet at Port Everglades, intercoastal side. The International Airport runways end on the intercoastal waterway and when the airport closed due to shootings, every available Coast Guard, Marine Police and military vessel was

sweeping the water, guns showing. I was descended upon by a Coast Guard boat informing me to evacuate the area “NOW.” It wasn't till I got back to the ramp that I knew why I was being escorted by an armed vessel.

**What do you like about CPA?** I found CPA on line and decided to give it a try. When deciding to join a CPA paddle, I weigh the time and distance to travel vs time on the water. Living and working on the Eastern Shore forces you to make those

choices. What I have discovered is that sometimes just getting to the site is as interesting and informative as the paddles. I've driven through areas I would never have gone if it were not for the CPA paddles. ♦

*Do you know a paddler who would make an interesting profile? Contact Bob Browning at:*

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### Paddlers!

## The Potomac River Swim Needs You!

The 2018 Potomac River Swim (7.5 miles) needs support kayakers to accompany individual swimmers on **Saturday June 2, 2018**. You can really make a difference!

Kayakers accompany individual swimmers on their crossing and get: - pre-swim supper/briefing on Friday, June 1. - camping at Pt. Lookout State Park on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. - post-swim picnic at Pt. Lookout State Park on Saturday, June 2. - commemorative t-shirt. More info: <http://www.potomacriver-swim.com>  
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