

Paddler Profile: Rick Leader

By Bob Browning

Lives in : Easton, Maryland

Real job : Executive Director of Scenic Rivers Land Trust in Annapolis. We permanently preserve land along five rivers in Anne Arundel County by using conservation easements and influencing government purchases and management

Do you regularly attend a Piracy? No

Number of years paddling: 20

How did you get involved in sea kayaking? I grew up on the

Elk River and spent a lot of time in small skiffs and canoes. Years later, when I was managing a nature center off the Wye River I bought my first kayak

What boats do you paddle? I have a red and white P&H Cetus HV and a green and black P&H Cetus MV. The HV is about 18' and the MV is 17.5'

Rudder or skeg? Skeg

Type paddle used: Euro

Do you do any other type of paddling besides sea kayaking? I have done a fair amount of canoeing, but I recently sold my canoe due to lack of use.

Do you regularly do any other outdoor activities? I do a lot of hiking and I have a small power boat for fishing. I sailed for a few years on a Neptune 24 I fixed up.

How often on average do you paddle between May and October? I try to get out at least twice a week

Do any winter paddling? I skip the worst weather, but I try to get out throughout the winter months

Favorite local paddling location ? I paddle Kings Creek off the Choptank at least once a month throughout the year. I enjoy seeing the creek change throughout the seasons

Favorite CPA trip you've ever been on and why? The Kent Island Paddle series is a fantastic CPA group and a special opportunity to improve your skills and confidence. I have participated for three years but only completed the final circumnavigation of Kent Island once.



Coollest paddling trip you've ever been on anywhere and why? Key Largo to Key West with the Burnam's was my first extended camping trip and a test of my skills and endurance. It gave me an appreciation

of how scarce camping sites can be, the importance of like-minded paddle partners, and the ability to find "wilderness" in a very developed area. It was a very special experience and inspired a new interest in kayak camping.

Scariest/most dangerous trip/ experience and why? I paddle alone often, so I work hard at not putting myself in dangerous situations. Once on a casual one-hour paddle on the Nanticoke, I skimmed on my safety gear and left my skirt in the car. A quick change in weather made for a

rough trip home and a lesson well learned.

Future bucket list trip? Baja, Costa Rica and Portugal

Three things you like most about paddling? Quiet time on the water in close proximity to nature. Adventures with good friends and very healthy exercise.

What do you like about CPA? Dedication to safety and to having a gentle impact on the environment

One unusual, non-paddling thing other people find interesting about you? For five years, I organized the Bay Bridge Walk festival in Sandy Point. A very public activity for an introvert. ♣

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

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Chesapeake Paddlers Association needs an additional member for the Website Team. This person would be responsible for posting information to the CPA websites (<http://www.cpakayaker.com> and <http://www.cpakayaker.com/forums>) and making any necessary changes to the web content, including updating the WordPress and phpBB® Forum Software installations. Works with other members of the Website Team, the Coordinator, Newsletter Editors, and Steering Committee members. If you have website experience, especially with WordPress and phpBB, please reply to steering_committee@cpakayaker.com. ♣