NPS Chesapeake Bay
The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay connects people to experiences of the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers.

We help to conserve special places important to visitors, residents, and the nation, for this and future generations.
People
→
Places
→
Experiences
Otsego Lake NY
Pennsylvania Wilds

Nicholas A. Tonelli
Lancaster County PA

Nicholas A. Tonelli
Antietam Battlefield
National Mall, Washington DC
Chesapeake Bay Wetlands
Visit our Featured Site

SMALLWOOD STATE PARK

LEARN MORE
Find an amazing Chesapeake experience below or visit our Trip Ideas section for a larger selection.

Top Places for Photographing Nature and Wildlife

Top Places for Watching Bald Eagles in the Wild

Off the Beaten Path: Little-Known Savage Neck Dunes Has Pines, Ponds & Privacy

Celebrate National Park Week
This Week's Events

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017

AUDUBON'S BALTIMORE BIRDING WEEKEND

An urban birding festival for Baltimore residents and visitors, which will consist of an exciting itinerary of bird watching field trips entirely within the city limits.

DREWRY'S BLUFF ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Enjoy Battle of Drewry's Bluff re-enactments and drills of the, with activities for children and USS Monitor program at Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Select a Date

May 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
30 1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31 1 2 3
**ITINERARIES**

Paddle one of our packaged trips along the Potomac.

### Dyke Marsh, The Belle of the Potomac

Belle Marsh is a 450-acre park located on the protected side of the point five mile north of Dyke Marsh, one of the few remaining freshwater tidal wetlands on the Potomac.

### “Round the Bend Loop”

The “Round the Bend Loop” is a 16-mile paddle on the Virginia side of the Potomac in Fairfax County, the relatively gentle moving water of the Potomac at River bend Park below the torrent of Fall Creek State Park.

### Old Anglers Wayside

Old Anglers Wayside is perhaps the most popular put-in for intermediate whitewater kayakers and canoers in the Washington DC area. From position to lockkeepers in Upper Potomac, this area is steeped in history and legend.

### CURRENT CONDITIONS

- **Air Temperature**: 62.6°F
- **Water Temperature**: 68.2°F
- **Wind Speed**: 8.4 knots
- **Wind Direction**: NNE
Belle Haven Marina and Dyke Marsh are both rare treasures of their own accord. For many locals, Belle Haven Marina has been an institution for generations, where parents watch as their kids learn to kayak and sail in the same place where they had learned themselves. Don’t let the sailing activities signal any sort of pretense – the staff and regulars at Belle Haven Marina are relaxed and as welcoming as they come. Belle Haven Marina is situated on a peninsula of land just south of historic Old Town Alexandria with views of the Wilson Bridge, Hunting Creek, Jones Point Lighthouse, and Dyke Marsh. It’s hard to imagine that a place so quiet and peaceful as Belle Haven Marina exists within a stone’s throw of the Beltway.

Just as rare is Dyke Marsh Preserve, one of the few remaining freshwater tidal wetlands on the Potomac. Best explored by kayak or canoe, Belle Haven Marina’s kayak launch is perfectly located on the protected side of the point for easy access to paddle Dyke Marsh. Referred to as “Old Friend” in the 19th century for its wildness and mosquitoes, it might be more aptly nicknamed “Heavenly Preserve” in contemporary times.

Quick Look

- **Skill Level:** Beginner
- **Length:** 3 miles / 1.5 day
- **Cost:** If bringing your own boat, there is a $3 launch fee for canoes and kayaks. Rental: $25 – $50 single, $45 – $75 tandem, daily rates: $35 – $65 / 4 hours, $150 – $210 / all day or $25 / 3 hours, $15 / 2 hours, $10 / 1 hour
- **Launch Point:** Belle Haven Marina kayak launch
- **Launch:** 38°42’ 31.17”N, 77°34’39.7”W

**Type of Paddling:** Canoe or kayak

Paddling Notes

- Canoes, single kayaks, tandem kayaks, as well as standup paddleboards are seasonally available for rental. Make rental arrangements at the marina office before heading down to the kayak launch area.
Browse through the events below to find a fun paddling event to attend.

**RiverPalooza! Shenandoah River Birdwatching Float**
05 Jun
Join your Shenandoah Riverkeeper for a gentle and beautiful float down the Shenandoah River accompanied by two Potomac Valley Audubon birders.

**Paddle the Potomac: An Alternative Happy Hour**
07 Jun
Join the National Parks Conservation Assoc. and Potomac Conservancy at Key Bridge Boathouse in Georgetown for an evening of food and twilight paddling.

**RiverPalooza! American Indian Interpretation Paddle**
17 Jun
Leaders of the Piscateaway Conoy tribe provide a pre-paddle natural history presentation, then guide and provide interpretation along the three-mile paddle from Piscataway Park to Farmington Landing.

**Sunset Kayaking on the Potomac at Stratford Hall**
17 Jun
See and experience historic Stratford cliffs from the Potomac River, and possibly glimpse a variety of birds and wildlife.

**RiverPalooza Summer Solstice Paddle – Washington Canoe Club**
21 Jun
Join your Potomac Riverkeeper for a Monuments paddle which is part of Potomac Riverkeeper Network's RiverPalooza 2017.
PROGRAMS
Every Kid in a Park
Kids in Kayaks
Roving Ranger
YOUTH CORPS
ACCESS