



Lee DeCola, Robert Golden, Jim Allen and Lucy Mitchell on the Tuckahoe River *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

If You've Never Paddled the Tuckahoe...

It's a very nice little river (creek?) on Maryland's Eastern Shore that runs down into the much better known Choptank just below Denton. You've probably crossed it as you took MD 404 to the Delaware beaches and never noticed. A group of CPA paddlers joined me for a delightful May car camping trip at Tuckahoe State Park (also home of the beautiful Adkins Arboretum). We paddled the wider tidal Tuckahoe on Saturday from Covey's Landing out to the Choptank and across to Ganey's Wharf, a round trip of 16 miles. If 16 miles sounds like a stiff challenge to long-unused paddling muscles, consider the "kick" you get out of catching the receding tide (about 1.5 kts) down river, and the equal kick a long lunch gives you in coming back upriver.

On Sunday, a slightly smaller crowd launched at the little lake formed by damming the river at Tuckahoe State Park (which isn't even ON Lee DeCola's up-to-date USGS Topo map!) and upstream into a green jungle of overflowed wooded swampland. Saki led the charge on our aquatic bushwhack, but we ran out of clear space to push our kayaks before we ran out of water.

All in all, a delightful Spring weekend, with wild azalea and other wildflowers blooming, and, like Camelot, it only rained after we were sound asleep!



Waiting for a tide at Ganey's Wharf *photo by Ralph Heimlich*



Upper Tuckahoe Creek *photo by Ralph Heimlich*

Pictures at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ralph.heimlich/TuckahoeCarCamper2009#>

Or [Saki's](#) or [Jim Allen's](#)

Point Lookout Car Camper

Every year since the Calvert's established their colony on the shores of the Potomac River, Bill Dodge has led a camping trip from Maryland's Point Lookout. This year is no exception. On June 5-7, Bill will be occupying the primo waterfront site at the Park and invites you to join him. If life IS like a box of chocolates, Point Lookout is like a whole box of paddling trips. Because the weather can be unruly, you never know what water you will get to paddle—it could be a mild June day and we can paddle out of the Potomac and around Point Lookout to the Bay. It may be blowing a gale, and we'll stay in the protected waters of Lake Conoy, Point Lookout Creek and into the mouth of Smith Creek (Yes, THAT Smith, who arrived in the Bay just behind Bill). Whatever the weather brings us, the company will be congenial and the paddling will be great.

If you've never made Point Lookout's acquaintance (or Bill Dodge's) call Bill on his cell at 703-201-8636 (cell). Pictures of last year's trip at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/ralph.heimlich/PointLookoutCarCamper#>



Bill and Jack Van Horn at the Camp Launch *photo by Ralph Heimlich*