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# Ocean City Today

April 2, 2010

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## New venture up Ayers Creek but with a paddle

Ayers Creek Adventures opens kayak tour business with an educational focus

**NANCY POWELL**  
Associate Editor



Suzy Taylor and her husband will begin leading eco-tours for kayakers and canoeists on Ayers Creek later this month.

OCEAN CITY TODAY/NANCY POWELL

(April 2, 2010) A new kayaking business is opening in the area to fill a need for people with interest in the growing pastime.

"There's really no land-based access [on Ayers Creek]," said Suzy Taylor, who with her husband, Steve, will soon open Ayers Creek Adventures.

The new business will offer rentals of kayaks and canoes and guided eco-tours. "We hope to run the first tour by the weekend of April 17," Suzy Taylor said Friday.

"We're really into the educational aspect of it," she said. "We want people to take away an appreciation of the coastal bays and be more conscientious of their lifestyle and the

very waste they generate."

The Taylors will offer a child-friendly forested wetlands exploration tour for families and school groups to explore the headwaters of Ayers Creek and to learn about the ecology, history and wildlife of the area. It also includes seining and water quality testing. The Ayers and Trappe saltwater marsh paddle passes beneath the Ayers Creek bridge to explore the calm waters and diverse salt marshes of the creeks and to view bald eagles and other wildlife.

On the adventure tour, paddlers will kayak from Ayers Creek through Newport Bay to Chincoteague Bay to view the undeveloped area and explore the tidal marshes and wildlife. The full moon paddle with wine tasting departs at sunset for a onehour tour of Ayers Creek. That paddle concludes with a wine tasting back at the launch site off 8628 Grey Fox Lane. The Taylors will also offer a tour that includes lunch catered by Shark on the Harbor.

Custom tours are also available or people may rent kayaks and canoes by the hour and paddle on their own. Rates for either the single kayaks or canoes are \$15 per hour or \$45 per day. Four-hour rentals for the single kayaks are \$30 and four-hour rentals for canoes are \$40.

The Taylors will also offer tours as part of Delmarva Birding Weekend, April 22-25. Sunrise and sunset paddles are on the itinerary.

The tours are led by the Taylors, who have been kayakers for more than 20 years, and other experienced paddlers with extensive knowledge of the waterways, wildlife and history of the coastal bays. Steve Taylor was the first executive director of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program. After living for a few years in New Jersey, the Taylors have

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returned to this area to live and work. In addition to working in the new kayak business, Steve Taylor works as an environmental consultant. Their new house is under construction on Grey Fox Lane, off Assateague Road (Route 376), and the kayak and canoe launch site is on their private property.

The launch site will have a yak-launcher, a device with rollers for the kayak and a metal overhead bar to assist people getting in and out of the kayak. It is especially useful for people with knee or leg problems.

The Taylors have purchased 25 new kayaks, including approximately 10 tandem kayaks, and five new canoes. All are by Wilderness Systems.

Because of a limited parking area, the site is not for use by people who want to launch their own kayaks or canoes. A public launch site is scheduled to be opened on the opposite side of Ayers Creek in the fall by the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

The popularity of kayaking seems to run in cycles, Suzy Taylor said.

"It's popular again now because the baby boomers are looking for recreational opportunities," she said.

People also have an environmental awareness now and are interested in exploring kayaking, canoeing and other low-impact events.

"This gives people a chance to observe wildlife, salt marshes and wetlands from a whole different perspective," Taylor said. "The quietness helps you appreciate the beauty around you and we hope to share it with others."

To book tours or for more information, call Ayers Creek Adventures at 888-60C-NATURE.

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