



## **Nanticoke Watershed Alliance Creekwatcher** Volunteer Position Description

**Background:** The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance mission is to foster partnerships and progress in conserving the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the Nanticoke River watershed through dialogue, collaborative outreach and education. The NWA, formed in 1992, is a consortium of over 40 organizations from Maryland and Delaware, including representatives from agriculture, industry, environmental, business, community, state, local and federal governmental organizations.

The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance's Creekwatchers Citizen Monitoring Program began in July 2007 as a multi-year, bi-state project to monitor the health of the Nanticoke River. Data collected by Creekwatchers allow the Alliance to identify sources of impairment such as nutrient or sediment pollution, to spot occurring trends and to locate any potential health threats. Creekwatchers monitor nearly 40 sites throughout the Nanticoke River watershed.

**Creekwatcher Responsibilities:** Creekwatchers collect samples and monitor the water quality of the Nanticoke River or one of its major tributaries at prearranged and designated sites. Creekwatchers commit to monitoring their site(s) for the full duration of the monitoring season and should be prepared to sample at least 14 out of 17 sampling periods. Responsibilities include:

- Participating in orientation and training and learning how to use water monitoring equipment
- Monitoring one or more sites every other week on Sunday or Monday from late March to early November.
- Dropping off samples at pre-arranged points.
- Maintaining and storing one's own water monitoring kit for the duration of the season and returning it to the NWA in good condition at the end of the season.
- Communicating with NWA staff and with fellow Creekwatchers.

**Training and Benefits:** NWA staff train Creekwatchers to operate high-tech scientific water monitoring equipment and to understand what we measure and why. In addition to hands-on training, Creekwatchers are provided with an in-depth handbook outlining the procedures for water monitoring at each site and how to care for the equipment. The Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator will also perform follow-up training in the field and be available for questions and assistance throughout the season. Benefits include:

- Being involved with the oversight and protection of one's own watershed.
- Having results used by the scientific and academic community and seeing those results in reports such as the NWA's annual *Nanticoke River Report Card*.
- Learning how to use scientific equipment.
- Participating in special events, dinners, and outings that take place a few times during the year.
- Meeting new, like-minded people, getting out on the water and having fun.

**Qualifications:** No education or prior background in water monitoring is required. To become a Creekwatcher, volunteers must have an ability and willingness to learn new equipment, have the time to commit to spending at least an hour every other week (on Sundays or Mondays) monitoring, have a reliable mode of transportation and have the confidence and responsibility to monitor independently without regular onsite supervision.

**Supervisor:** Beth Wasden, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

**To Apply:** Complete an Alliance Volunteer Application (found online at [www.nanticokeriver.org](http://www.nanticokeriver.org)); call Beth Wasden at 443.944.1175 or email at [bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org](mailto:bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org) to be mailed an application.