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Creekwatchers Currents: August 2013

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Good afternoon, Creekwatchers! There are a couple of special events coming up (or opportunities, as I like to call them) that may be of interest to you. Let me know if you're interested in either opportunity as soon as possible.

While we said goodbye to Tyler last month, our new Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer is now in the office. (Yes, we're very fortunate to have another great CCCer on-board with us!) Once she's trained, Amanda will be dropping off ice in Salisbury and in Vienna and will be picking up your samples on Creekwatcher Mondays through next August. She'll also be helping with end of season breakdown, cleanup, inventorying, and equipment testing, with pre-season work in late winter, and with training next year.

I hope you all have a great "official" end of summer this weekend but enjoy all of the beautiful days we have coming in September and October.

Happy Labor Day, and happy Creekwatching!

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DNS Water Quality Forum

The Delaware Nature Society is holding a water quality forum on Tuesday, September 10 from 5:30-8:30 PM at the Seaford Library. The purpose of the forum is to help the DNS gather info to develop a better strategy for engaging citizens.

Unfortunately, none of the staff is available that evening, but we'd love to send a Creekwatcher (or two) to represent the NWA. Dinner will be included, and Maryland Nonprofit's Brigette Rouson will be leading the session.

If you'd like to attend let me know as soon as possible so that I can get you in touch with the DNS.

Want to Attend the Maryland Water



Upcoming Events:

*Sampling Period 13:
September 8-9

*Woodland Ferry Festival:
September 14

*Coastal Cleanup at Roaring Point (and elsewhere):
September 21

*Sampling Period 14:
September 22-23

Monitoring Conference?

The Maryland Water Monitoring Conference is an annual conference held every year in Lithicum, Maryland. This year, the conference will be held on Thursday, December 5. This year's theme is "Conserving Maryland's High Quality Waters." You can [read more about some of the sessions that will be offered at this year's conference at the MWMC site.](#)



We'd love to bring along a Creekwatcher this year. To that end, we have ONE slot available for the first Creekwatcher who contacts me. Keep in mind that this is an all-day conference, with an early start and a return home in the evening, but it's a great learning and networking

experience. Shelly, Amanda (our brand new CCC Volunteer--[check her out in this news report at WBOC](#) and below), and I will be attending. Carpooling is a recommended option.

If you'd like to join us on December 5, let me know as soon as possible.

End of Season Potluck: November 8

We're only about two months away from the dreaded clock change and the end of the sixth Creekwatchers season! Although the date has been marked on your sampling calendar all year, I want to remind you all to SAVE THE DATE for our End of Season Creekwatchers Potluck on Friday, November 8, where we celebrate YOU and your hard work and take a preliminary look at the data from the season. This is one of the few occasions where most of us are together in one location, so please try to make it if you can!

Meet the New Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer, Amanda Anastasia

Our brand new Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer, Amanda Anastasia, attended orientation in Annapolis on Tuesday and started in the office on Wednesday. She's already helping us with report card distribution and inventorying Creekwatchers items, amongst other things, and will be shadowing Lisa in September so that she can get up to speed with ice drop-offs and sample pick-ups on Creekwatcher Mondays.



I asked Amanda a few questions so that you can begin to get to know her.

What's the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, and what are your goals are this year as a volunteer?

The Chesapeake Conservation Corps is a one year program that provides job training and networking opportunities to young adults interested in environmentally-focused careers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Applicants who are chosen to participate in the program are paired with MD-based host organizations that work to protect and/or improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. As a volunteer with the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, I am hoping to gain experience in water quality monitoring, community outreach, and environmental education. I am also hoping to meet tons of people that care about their local environment and to have the opportunity to chat with each of them about their own stories, cares, and concerns. When I leave the program in just under a year, I am sure I will have some great new friends and (hopefully) a better idea about where I would like to go next.

What drew you to the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance?

The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance really captured my attention during the CCC application process because of the variety of programs and initiatives that they are involved in. From water quality monitoring to spreading awareness to facilitating conversations between different stakeholders in the area, NWA really seems to do a little bit (or, more like a lot!) of everything. I was also very interested in working with a small non-profit, because I want to have the opportunity to be involved with all of their various programs and initiatives. Furthermore, I wanted to work with an organization that has the ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders, because I want to be around as many different perspectives as possible, and it seems like NWA does a pretty good job with that.

Where are you originally from, and do you have any local knowledge about the area?

I am originally from Boston, MA. I attended Washington College from 2009-2013. While in college, I spent most of my time exploring the upper eastern shore. In 2012, a friend invited me to Hurlock's annual Fall Festival, during which I experienced the charm of the lower Eastern Shore for the first time. I don't currently have a great deal of local knowledge, but I am having a great time exploring the area.

What are your preliminary thoughts about the Nanticoke River watershed? Do you have a favorite place yet?

I think that the Nanticoke River watershed is a very beautiful area, and it is home to some of my good friends from college. I haven't been in the area long enough to really have a favorite place, but Marshyhope Creek catches my attention every time that I drive

over a bridge that crosses it. It is just so pretty!

What are some of your favorite activities on the water?

My all-time favorite activity on the water is sailing. In fact, I owe my love for the water and my interest in environmental issues to Courageous Sailing, a sailing school on Boston Harbor that promotes life skills through their youth sailing program, where I first learned about marine debris and the impact that our trash can have on the local environment. Now an avid sailor and racer, I have had the opportunity to race in a number of distance and overnight regattas, sail on the Sea of Cortez with NOLS' Baja Coastal Sailing course, travel the Virgin Islands on the tall ship Spirit of Massachusetts, and spend a long weekend sailing the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, I also enjoy kayaking and swimming. I am terrible at fishing and have never been able to stand on water skis, but I still believe that there is no such thing as a bad day on the water.

Anything else you'd like to share with the Creekwatchers?

Please let me know if you have any questions for me, or think of any places that you think I should explore in the Nanticoke watershed! Since I am still pretty new to the area, I am sure that you all know some great local spots that I haven't found yet. You can email me at amandaanastasia@nanticokeriver.org.

Definitely contact Amanda to share some of your favorite places in the watershed and to say hello. That's it for the August Currents. Talk to you in September!

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