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Creekwatcher Currents 2012: July 20, 2012

Volume V, Issue 6

July 20, 2012

Good afternoon! I have a few notes to kick off this edition of the Creekwatchers Currents.

First, if you're an RSVPer who receives mileage reimbursement, please submit your RSVP mileage forms for July after Creekwatching on Monday.

Next, I will be away during Sampling Period 10 (August 5-6). If you have any problems or questions during that time, please contact Lisa at 410.443.8878 or at lisabaird@nanticokeriver.org. If you are going to be away or unable to Creekwatch during SP10, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can make arrangements.

Lastly, those of you at the annual training back in March probably remember [Quentin Stubbs](#), the Ph.D. candidate who is doing work concerning wetlands migration. He recently contacted us about wanting to ask Creekwatchers questions about the river and the specific subwatersheds and sites that you cover. Please contact Quentin directly if you're interested.

Thanks, and happy Creekwatching!

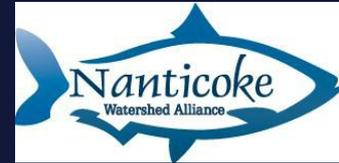
Best,

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Nanticoke Wade In at Cedar Hill

Join us on Monday, July 30 (NOT a Creekwatching day, woohoo!) for the Nanticoke Wade In at Cedar Hill Marina in lovely Bivalve. We'll kick off social hour at 11:00 AM. Lunch follows at 12:00 PM. (Yes, there is such a thing as a free lunch. *cue drums*) After that, we'll get official, launch the 2011 Nanticoke River Report Card, and wet our feet for the sneaker index.

You don't have to RSVP to attend the Wade In, and we encourage you



Upcoming Events:

* July 22-23: Sampling Period 9

* July 28: [Western Sussex Farmers Market](#)

* July 30: Nanticoke Wade In at [Cedar Hill Marina](#) in Bivalve

* August 5-6: Sampling Period 10

* August 11: [AFRAM](#)

to bring friends and family. We hope to see you all there!

Meet the Monitor: Howard Vanderslice



Howard Vanderslice resides in Bethel, a town known for ship-building and its location on Broad Creek. (And for Bethel Market.) A first-year Creekwatcher, Howard monitors two sites--the Woodland Ferry site (across the river in Woodland, natch, although

the ferry has *mostly* been in operation this season) and the old Glenn Sizemore Realty office site.

1 **As a first year Creekwatcher, has anything surprised you about the river or Creekwatching?**

The two sites that I monitor the Nanticoke are at Woodland downstream of Seaford just east of the ferry and the Glen Sizemore property just east of the Route 13 Bridge in Seaford. The pier in Woodland is in an open area with quite a bit of vegetation on the shore line whereas the Sizemore pier is more enclosed, the shore line has bulkheads with little vegetation. There seems to be quite a difference in DO readings at low tide whereas at high tide they are very close. The swiftness of the current with the changing tides seems to be similar at both sites.

I thought the Woodland site would move faster since it is father away from the headwaters. At both sites the water is clearer at low tide with very similar results at high tide. I am looking forward to see the similarities or differences as the season's progress and there is more activity on the river.

2 **How did you find out about the Creekwatchers?**

There was an article in the Laurel Star Newspaper about the Alliance and the monitoring of the watershed by the Creekwatchers. The article also promoted a presentation by Beth at the Laurel Library which I decided to attend.

3 **Where is your favorite place in the Nanticoke watershed and why?**

I have not had a chance to experience many of the areas in the watershed. However, having lived in Bethel near Broad Creek on and off over the last 30 years, I have enjoyed biking the trails in the Nanticoke Wildlife Area on both sides of Broad Creek and canoeing and/or fishing in the ponds and the waterways that flow into Broad Creek when my sons were at home. DNREC has done a good job of maintaining the Wildlife area particularly around Phillips Landing. Several years ago they were forced to block off most of the trails to off-road vehicles because they were destroying the trails and many of the planted meadow areas. There also seems to be a diversity of vegetation due to the diversity of habitats on the opposite sides of the Creek.

4 **What should visitors to the Nanticoke watershed do, and where should they get the most out of their visit?**

As noted, I have not experienced many of the areas in the watershed. However, I think that there is such extensive diversity that most outdoor

(except maybe mountain climbing) activities can be enjoyed throughout the region. Just in the area around Bethel there are many trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding for land lovers. For water enthusiasts there is boating on the creek and river and all the water sports that go with it. There used to be several large fishing tournaments each year out of Phillips Landing. In addition, there are the ponds and lakes for fishing or boating, parks for camping (Trap Pond, etc), cycling, hiking and generally enjoying nature. Also, the cypress swamps at Trussum Pond are a unique feature to enjoy in this area. There has to be crabbing as the river and estuaries become more brackish toward the bay.

5 Is there anything else that you would like to share with your fellow Creekwatchers?

I think the management of waterways and their surrounding areas is extremely important for recreation, maintaining sources of food, wildlife habitat, and diversity of vegetation and as a source of revenue. Understanding the impact of human activity and natural events on the watershed must be part of the management program.



Continuous collection and analysis of data from the various areas in the watershed is the only way to track this. The Creekwatcher program, while providing the means to collect the data, also provides an opportunity for area residents to become involved.

Thanks to Howard for his time, and see you on the water soon!

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