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Creekwatcher Currents: February 2015

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Happy 2015 and Happy Groundhog Day, Nanticoke Creekwatchers!

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(Okay. I couldn't resist doing that just once. I'll stop now.)

This is the first of your monthly Creekwatcher Currents, which aims to inform, entertain, and energize! We'll share information about what's going on with the program and with the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance and showcase **your** good work throughout the season.

As usual, we've had a busy off-season, which has included grant writing and reporting, recruiting--which includes booking, prepping for, and giving presentations, Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QAQC), data analysis, equipment testing, cleaning, and winterizing, inventorying, ordering new equipment and supplies, and prepping new equipment. We still have much to do to put together kit pieces and to bring everything together the week of training. In the past, we've asked for your help, and this year is no different. See below for some opportunities to help us put together kit elements in February and in March.

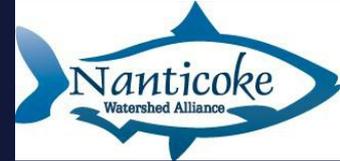
If any of your contact information has changed during the off-season, please let me know so that we can correct that as soon as possible and make sure that you receive all communications.

Lastly, it's time to start thinking about and to register for the [Eighth Annual Nanticoke Creekwatchers Training and Season Kickoff](#), which will be held on Saturday, March 21 at Trap Pond State Park's Baldcypress Nature Center (same location as the Potluck). More about that below.

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Eighth Annual Nanticoke Creekwatchers Training and Season Kickoff

Training is mandatory for new and returning Creekwatchers. The



Upcoming Events:

[*Living Shoreline Workshop at Federalsburg Museum: February 21](#)

[*Creekwatchers Kit Building Volunteer Days: February 24 and March 4](#)

[*Eighth Annual Nanticoke Creekwatchers Training and Season Kick-off: March 21](#)

[*Living Shoreline Workshop at Westside Community Center: March 28](#)

[*Sampling Period 1: March 29/30](#)

[*Project CleanStream: April 11](#)

primary training will be held on Saturday, March 21 at the Baldcypress Nature Center at Trap Pond State Park. The training will start promptly at 10 AM and will conclude no later than 4 PM. You or your partner will pick up your kit on the same day. **If you cannot attend the March 21 training, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can set up an alternate training session prior to the first sampling period on March 29/30.** Note that I have a workshop on March 28, so I cannot offer a training on that date.

Although it is not mandatory for veteran Creekwatchers to stay for the afternoon, hands-on session, **I highly recommend** that you do so in order to **minimize** Sampling Period 1 errors and so that you can help new Creekwatchers. Depth profiles in particular were tricky for returning Creekwatchers last year, and **I would personally advise all Creekwatchers to stay long enough to use the new water samplers and to review depth profiles.**

Instead of contacting me directly this year, please [register for the training through EventBrite](#). If you Creekwatch as a couple or as a family, you can register everyone at the same time. If you have any questions about the training, feel free to contact me directly.

[Eighth Annual Nanticoke Creekwatchers Training and Season Kickoff](#)

Baldcypress Nature Center at Trap Pond State Park
33587 Baldcypress Lane, Laurel, DE 19956
Nature Center Phone: (302) 875-5163**
Saturday, March 21 from 10 AM-4 PM

Please arrive by 9:50 AM to check-in. Make sure you dress for the weather from head to toe and be prepared to take custody of your kit. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided. Please bring a bagged lunch.

****Note that cell phone signal is spotty at the Nature Center. If you have any problems, please call the Nature Center number, as I may not be able to receive your call.**

Creekwatcher Kit Building Volunteer Days



Help JoJo Maturana, our Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer, and other staff members make a dent in kit building on either Tuesday, February 24 or Wednesday, March 4. Volunteers should arrive at 10 AM. All activities

will take place inside, which, regardless of the weather, should be fairly warm by 10. Unlike the Hotel California, you can leave any time that you'd like, although we do ask that you commit to volunteering for two-three hours.

While in the Vienna office, you may undertake exciting projects such as:

- counting, capping, and bagging sampling bottles
- counting and bagging aluminum foil squares
- inserting pages into volunteer manuals
- creating, printing, and affixing labels

- hanging out and having a blast with NWA staff and fellow Creekwatchers!

If you plan on helping out on either of these days, [please let me know](#) so that we can plan appropriately.



Living Shoreline Workshops



Lastly, we have a pair of fantastic Living Shoreline Workshops coming up--one on [February 21 in Federalsburg](#) and one on [March 28 in Bivalve](#). These workshops are free and are funded through the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Speakers will include me, along with reps from MD Sea Grant, the

MD Department of the Environment, and contractors (Environmental Concern and Bryan and Sons).

If you own shoreline or belong to an organization that does, this is a great way to learn about living shorelines, how beneficial they are in terms of water quality, habitat, and flood mitigation, permitting, costs, examples of projects, and services provided by contractors.

We are also developing companion publication and multimedia projects that will be available in the late spring.

Registration is required. Please feel free to share with friends and co-workers.

That's it for this month! Expect to find one Creekwatcher Currents every month in your inbox through November.

*You're receiving this because you are a 2015 Creekwatcher or a program sponsor. If you would like to be removed from this list, please contact me directly. You may unsubscribe from **all** NWA communications by following the link provided below.*

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