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Creekwatcher Currents: July 2014

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Good afternoon, Creekwatchers!



We've had a very busy July, which included the 2013 Nanticoke River Report Card launch! We released the report card at two events, as we did last year. On July 12, we released the report card at the Seaford Riverfest, and on July 18, we launched the report card at the

Cherry Beach Wade In. You can [view photos](#) from the Wade In at our Facebook page. (No FB account required.) It was great seeing some of you at these events!

We are in the process of getting the tri-folded report card printed at Economy Printing and will be sending out copies to all current Creekwatchers and alums. Please let me know if your mailing address has changed so that I can ensure that you get your copy. After that, we'll start working on getting the report card out to local, state, and federal politicians and to local businesses, town councils, libraries, and other organizations. If you have a suggestion of an awesome local business that might be a good fit for report card distribution, please let me know!

In other Creekwatcher-related news, I recently spoke with the Audubon Naturalist Society in Montgomery County about the work needed to create their own report card (based on local stream data) and to disseminate it. Our friends at IAN also shared/will be sharing the report card with the citizens' group they're working with in the Long Island Sound to demonstrate how they can produce their own report card with some initial backing/training from IAN. Lastly, I shared your good work with teachers from Dorchester and Wicomico Counties (and Baltimore City!) this week and will be doing the same with teachers in Sussex County the first week of August.

Your volunteer service is very appreciated and important to the NWA and to the watershed (and beyond).

Thank you for your service!

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Recycled Boat Regatta on August 9

Although the NWA plans to build and float our own boat, I want to encourage you, as Creekwatchers, to participate in the [Recycled Boat Regatta](#) that will be held on August 9 at the Nanticoke River Marina in Blades. Recycled cardboard must be used to construct your boat; other materials are allowed in limited and specific ways. Full rules and guidelines are available at the linked site.

This is a first-year event and a great, fun way to help people connect with the river.

Please let me know if you'd be interested in participating or if you need additional information.

Help Needed at Outreach Events



Upcoming Events:

*[Sampling Period 10: July 27-28](#)

*[Recycled Boat Regatta: August 9](#)

*[Sampling Period 11: August 10-11](#)

*[Chesapeake Paddlefest: August 16](#)

*[Great Eastern Shore Tomato Fest: August 23](#)

*[Sampling Period 12: August 24-25](#)

Our August and September has filled up with some fantastic Saturday outreach events, but we need help to staff our booth. I'll be attending all events. If you're interested in helping us out at any of the happenings listed below, contact me. Partial shifts are available.

August 16: [Chesapeake Paddlefest](#) at Sailwinds, Cambridge, 8 AM-1 PM This event is sponsored by Rommel Outdoors and Rommel's ACE and will benefit Special Olympics MD.

August 23: [Great Eastern Shore Tomato Fest](#), Vienna, 9 AM-4 PM This is the second year that the fest will be held in Vienna. We had to miss it last year due to lack of staff availability, so we're very excited to be able to attend this year. The Dorchester County Historical Society organizes this tomato-centric fest.

September 13: Woodland Ferry Festival, Woodland, 9 AM-4 PM This was a great event last year, very well-attended and with eclectic vendors. We're looking forward to returning!

Beginnings and Endings: Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteers

Amanda's service term will be coming to a close on Tuesday, August 26. Amanda has really stepped it up this year. In addition to organizing the first Backyard Resource Conservation Fair back in April, hosting a fantastic All-Hands event at Roaring Point in July (with beach clean-up and installation of monofilament recycling stations and a pet waste station), doing an enormous amount of work on the Paddle the Nanticoke site, and loads of other things, Amanda has played a huge role in making Creekwatchers happen this past almost-year.

As you know, we made many changes to our protocol in 2014, and Amanda had to substantially rework the training presentation. Along with volunteers and staff, she helped depth-mark DO meter cables, calibrated Secchi disks, cut



aluminum foil into squares for your chlorophyll-a samples, placed caps on nutrient bottles, counted Whirl-paks, helped update manuals, and helped build kits (and clean up kits last year). During 2014, she's stocked the Salisbury and Vienna drop-off sites with both regular and dry ice. She's collected samples and datasheets and transported your nutrient and bacteria samples to Harrington. Since May, she has been helping to process your bacteria samples at the lab. She has performed data entry on multiple sampling periods, ensuring that we could catch up and stay that way.

We will miss Amanda a LOT and wish her all the best (and hope that she'll be staying local)! If you're in the office sometime during the next month, be sure to tell her thanks for her great work over the past year and to wish her well.

We are VERY grateful that we have once again been placed with a CCC Volunteer for the 2014-15 season. As Amanda rides off into the sunset, we will welcome her replacement, Joanne. Joanne's first sampling period will be 9/7-9/8. As you know, there's a learning curve, but we're sure that Joanne will quickly get into the groove of Creekwatching.

First Notice: Out of Office 9/30-10/15

Lastly, I want to give you all an initial heads up that I will be on vacation from September 30-October 15. I will miss one sampling period (10/5-6), which the rest of the staff will readily handle, I'm sure. If there are any adjustments that have to be made, I'll communicate that to you before I go.

If you know that you're going to need something during the sampling period (more supplies, site coverage, etc.), please let me know as soon as possible so that we can get everything in place well ahead of my departure. Thanks!

That's it for this month! You're receiving this because you are a Creekwatcher in 2014 or are a program supporter. Thanks for your service and support! [Contact me](#) if you have any questions or comments.

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