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## Creekwatcher Currents: May 2015

Volume VIII, Issue 3

May 31, 2015

I'm cutting it close, but here's the May 2015 Creekwatcher Currents!

This season is continuing to run smoothly, in spite of the wonky Memorial Day sampling period. That will be the only odd-ball sampling period this year, so thanks for bearing with us.

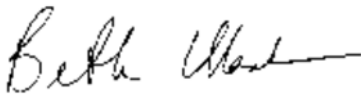
With the start of summer on the Delmarva Peninsula, we've kicked off the Bacterial Source Tracking Project. Thanks to Galen Brosius, Amy and Hope Jones, and John and Mary Lynn Huberty for logging some extra volunteer time to make sure that this project is a success. Along with providing data regarding the presence of human DNA in water samples (which would imply septic leeching), Dr. Mark Frana at Salisbury University BST Lab will also provide fecal enterococcus data. This will allow us to compare his measurements with Envirocorp's analysis.

We've posted some Creekwatching albums on Facebook since the April Currents. Here's what you've missed if you're not on Facebook (no account required to view albums):

- [Creekwatching 2015: Deep Creek](#)
- [Creekwatching 2015: Cherry Beach](#)
- [Creekwatching 2015: Broad Creek](#)

We have a number of events coming up, including the June 27 EcoPaddle at Phillips Landing. Please see below for more details.

Here's hoping for a great summer, and Happy Creekwatching!



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### Cambridge Homeowner Workshops



#### **Upcoming Events:**

[\\*Stormwater 101 Homeowner Workshop in Cambridge: June 6](#)

\*Sampling Period 6: June 7-8

**Blanks/Dupes:**  
**Zamorskis--DEHE3 or DECR3**

[\\*TOAST TO THE NANTICOKE](#)  
(to benefit the NWA and its programs and initiatives): June 12

\*ROR: SmartYard Workshop at Soroptimist Park in Seaford: June 13

\*Spade and Trowel Club Native Plant Sale at Nanticoke River Yacht Club and Community Garden Tour: June 13

\*Bike and Brew (Western Sussex County): June 13

\*Sampling Period 7: June 21-22

**Blanks/Dupes:**  
**Joneses--QUCR1**

\*EcoPaddle at Phillips Landing: June 27

## Cambridge Homeowner Workshops

### Improving Water Quality in Your Community

Saturdays from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | Christ Episcopal Church Hall, 601 S. Church St., Cambridge, MD 21613

<p><b>Stormwater 101: June 6</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">You will learn about urban conservation practices and how their actions impact water quality. Attendees will also get hands-on with an interactive pollution model. The workshop will also include a short trip and tour of the stormwater reuse project on Maryland Avenue that includes rain gardens elements. Up to 20 participants will receive backyard conservation packets.</p>	<p><b>Lawn and Garden: July 18</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">In October 2013, Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law came into effect. Participants will learn how to protect local waterways while also caring for lawns. The workshop will also cover native plants, composting, and other practices that you can undertake to enjoy a beautiful, sustainable landscape that benefits water quality and your senses. Up to 20 participants will receive soil test kits.</p>	<p><b>Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens: August 1</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Rain barrels are a popular means of conserving water. They are easy to install and highly customizable to match your landscape. Up to 20 participants will receive 45-gallon EarthKind® rain barrels, along with full details on how to install, use, and maintain barrels. You will also learn about rain gardens, their role in beautifying yards and improving water quality, and how to undertake a project at home.</p>
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Workshops are free, but space is limited. Register at [www.nanticoke.org/outreach/cambridge](http://www.nanticoke.org/outreach/cambridge) or by calling or emailing Beth Wasden at 443.944.1175 or [bethwasden@nanticoke.org](mailto:bethwasden@nanticoke.org).

We will be hosting a series of Homeowner Workshops (with assists from MD Sea Grant Extension) in Cambridge from June-August. (If you're Delaware-based, we'll be opening registration for workshops in Blades very soon.) Topics are Stormwater 101 (June 6), Lawn and Garden (July 18), and Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens (August 1). Up to 20 participants per workshop will receive free goodies to help them improve water quality at home.

[Check out the Cambridge Homeowner Workshop page](#) to read workshop descriptions and to register, and please feel free to share with friends.

## EcoPaddle on June 27



I'll be sending out postcards for the EcoPaddle soon, but this is a reminder to please let me know if you'll be attending and if you'll need to rent a canoe or kayak (along with your level of paddling experience). The NWA will pay for you and a guest to attend.

The EcoPaddle is part of the "Reclaim Our River" series and is a multi-partner event. (Please see the DE Watersheds site for a "[Save the Date](#)" and [Program Guide](#) for ROR 2015.) This event is made possible by the NWA, the National Parks Conservation Association, DNREC, Delaware Nature Society, Trap Pond State Park, Rommel Outdoors, Adrenaline High, the Seaford-based Power Squadron, and others. The event will include a paddle with a number of interpreters and demonstration stations.

After lunch, we'll meet for lunch under the trees at Phillips Landing.

EcoPaddle at Phillips Landing (near Bethel, DE)

Saturday, June 27

9:00AM-1:00PM

**Please RSVP directly to me by Thursday, June 25.**

The NWA will cover your \$5 fee, along with a guest's fee. Please feel free to share the [EventBrite registration page](#) with anyone who may be interested in attending.

## **Toast to the Nanticoke on June 12**

Toast to the Nanticoke is the NWA's major fundraising event each year and provides much-needed unrestricted funding. Toast is also a great opportunity to hang out with other Creekwatchers and NWA supporters in a gorgeous, rural setting (Layton's Chance Winery).

Enjoy an open wine bar, tasty hors d'oeuvres from Abbott's Grill at Broad Creek, live music, an eclectic mix of silent auction items (pre-season football tickets to art), guided vineyard tours, and hayrides.

[Tickets are available at EventBrite](#). For more information, please see our [Events page](#).

*Toast to the Nanticoke*

*Celebrating the Wonders of the Watershed*

**Friday, June 12**  
**6:30—10 PM**

Layton's Chance Winery  
4225 New Bridge Rd  
Vienna, MD



**Join us for a night of food,  
fun and friendship as we  
celebrate the Nanticoke  
Watershed Community**



Tickets are \$50  
and include: food, live music,  
open wine bar, vineyard tours,  
silent auction & more!

Visit [NANTICOKERIVER.ORG/  
EVENTS](http://NANTICOKERIVER.ORG/EVENTS) for more information  
and sponsorship  
opportunities

Purchase tickets online at  
[NANTICOKERIVER.ORG/EVENTS](http://NANTICOKERIVER.ORG/EVENTS)  
or mail payment to NWA  
PO Box 111, Vienna, MD 21869

For sponsor opportunities:  
[shellybaird@nanticokriver.org](mailto:shellybaird@nanticokriver.org)

## Pro Tip--Comments/Photos Tell a More Complete Story

Some of you have been sharing some lovely comments with us this year. We really enjoy reading about your adventures in the field (although as always, we would appreciate more photos from you! HINTHINT!).

With the summer now upon us, your comments can be very helpful in giving us a more complete story about the condition of the water when you visit. Algae in particular is going to be more of a visible issue if the dry, warm weather persists.

Please feel to take and share photos and to give us more detail in the comments if you see something that looks abnormal or just take the opportunity to share non-standard data. As always, we appreciate you taking the time to act as the eyes (and occasionally noses!) of your adopted waterways.

*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, a program partner, 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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