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Creekwatchers Currents: May 2013

Volume VI, Issue 3

May 31, 2013

Good morning, Creekwatchers! I hope you all had a wonderful Memorial Day holiday and are geared up for the summer, because it's arrived rather suddenly and in full force.

I'm bundling your Sampling Period 6 reminder with the Currents today, so there won't be a separate email for that. This Sunday and Monday, June 2-3 will be the next sampling period.

We have a lot of updates for the May Creekwatcher Currents and some important program notes and opportunities at the Alliance. Lastly, we have a new Meet the Monitor with Nan and Rick Zamorski.



As always, thanks for all of your hard work and service!

Happy Creekwatching!

Best,

Beth Wasden
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Third Annual Creekwatcher Summer BBQ

We'll be hosting our third (can you believe it?!) annual Creekwatcher BBQ on Saturday, June 15 from 12:00-2:00 PM outside our office in Vienna. As always, we'll provide the meat (or veggie) product for the grill but ask that you bring an awesome side, dessert, or drink to share.

Please [let me know](#) if you'll be attending by June 13, along with the number of guests and what you'll be bringing. We hope to see you there!

Poplar Island Trip

On Friday, August 23, the NWA staff will be heading to Tilghman



Upcoming Events:

- *Bethel Homeowners' Workshop (Rain Barrels): June 1
- *Sampling Period 6: June 2-3
- *Hebron Homeowners' Workshop (Rain Barrels): June 8
- *Lower Shore Stewardship Institute Begins: June 13
- *Creekwatchers BBQ: June 15
- *Sampling Period 7: June 16-17

Island for a guided tour of [Poplar Island](#). You are invited to join us! I need to know if you plan to attend, along with the number of guests, NO LATER THAN JUNE 22. Poplar Island requires full trips, so I have to let them know our final count in plenty of time so that they can fill any unused seats. Because of this, I will not be able to free up any spaces after June 22.

If you have never been to Poplar Island (or even if you have), this is a great experience and unique opportunity to check out a wonderful restoration project in person. And to go on a cool boat ride. There is no fee for the trip.

Lower Shore Stewardship Institute Now Accepting Applications

If you're a Creekwatcher, you're already learning a lot about water quality and your local watershed and volunteering regularly. If you'd like to learn more about water quality, habitats, fisheries, agriculture, sea level rise, and conservation landscaping while committing to serve at least 40 hours over the next year, the Lower Shore Stewardship Institute may be a great way to spend a couple of Saturdays and an occasional Thursday evening this summer.

For more information about the program (including the application), please [visit our LSSI page](#). Please feel free to share this info with anyone you may know who's interested in learning and earning!

Meet the Monitor: Nan & Rick Zamorski

Third-timers Nan and Rick Zamorski cover a pair of sites in the Delaware Headwaters. One of them is on Deep Creek and the other on the upper Nanticoke, where the river is just barely navigable but north of Seaford.



How long have you been Creekwatching, and why did you decide to volunteer with the program?

Rick and I are starting our third year Creekwatching. I grew up on the Nanticoke River, always

enjoyed canoeing, rowing and sculling and have spent a lifetime swimming and observing the river. When the opportunity arose to gather scientific data for awareness and preservation about the river through Creekwatchers, we wanted to be a part of that.

Which sites do you monitor? What's an interesting thing about one of your sites (or both)?

We monitor two sites on the Headwaters of the Nanticoke. One is just upriver from our home named Middleford Road and the other is just downriver from our home on Nanticoke's Deep Creek Branch named Concord Road. Both are tidal sites but the diameter is very different and the Concord site is downriver from Concord Pond Dam. The Concord site has an occupied Osprey nest so I favor that site for enjoying wildlife.

What's the most important thing you've learned while Creekwatching?

The most important thing we've learned is that most people do care for the Nanticoke River by keeping it relatively free of trash. The most surprising fact is that the Nanticoke is the cleanest tributary of the Chesapeake Bay.

Where's your favorite place in the Nanticoke watershed, and why?

Our favorite place in the Nanticoke Watershed is on the Headwaters of the Nanticoke, starting a mile upriver from the Seaford Ice Plant and heading upriver till one can't paddle any further. The Headwaters are full of forested swamp land that is accented with a large variety of native plants, flowers, shrubs and trees. Most land lining this section of the river is not developed so the natural beauty of the Nanticoke is evident.

Is there a particular place that you recommend that visitors check out, and why?



I would recommend for everyone to grab a paddle, a life vest and a lunch and quietly explore this section for themselves. Quiet paddling will allow the observer to sneak up on all sorts of animal and bird life including turtles, ducks, geese, herons, kingfishers, osprey, eagles, muskrats and more.

Is there anything else you'd like to share with your fellow Creekwatchers?

I encourage fellow Creekwatchers to explore the Nanticoke by water (maybe we can have a group explore) and to set examples of good stewardship. I find most negligence on the river is not intentional but more a result of lack of awareness.

Thanks to Nan and Rick for their service and for playing along for this month's Meet the Monitor! Look forward to a new Meet the Monitor and more news from the NWA in June.

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