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Creekwatcher Currents: End of Season | November 2015

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November 2015

Very hard to believe, but this is the last edition of the Creekwatcher Currents for 2015. Thanks to all of you for making kit return so smooth--this year has been the easiest/simplest ever in these past five years. THANK YOU!

We've stacked the kits and will begin the process of testing/cleaning/breaking down DO Meters this afternoon. We have tons to do to get the kits inventoried, cleaned, broken down, and winterized before the holidays. I've included information about dates where you can help us below.

I do have one scheduling question (see below) and ask for your input.

Lastly, if you have NOT completed the evaluation yet but intend to do so, I'd prefer that you wrap up that process by November 30 so that I can use the information you provide in our grant reports to the Chesapeake Bay Trust and to DNREC. If not, you'll have some additional time to complete the evaluation; however, I will be closing the form on Monday, December 21.

Thanks, and Happy Holidays to all of you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Beth Wasden'.

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Potluck Photos



Upcoming Events

*December 3: [NWA Holiday Dinner](#)

*December 7, 8, and 11:
Volunteer Kit Days in the
Vienna office



I've uploaded photos taken at this past Friday's [End of Season Potluck to our Facebook page](#). You do NOT have to have a Facebook account to enjoy.

I enjoyed seeing so many of you and had a great time celebrating another awesome year. Thanks to our partners--Envirocorp Labs Inc., DNREC, Town Creek Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Rommel Outdoors, RSVP MD Lower Shore, DE 50+, Salisbury University's Bacterial Source Tracking Lab, and University of MD Center for Environmental Science--for their support of the Nanticoke Creekwatchers Program and to former staff members JoJo Maturana and Lisa Baird for their assistance with the program in 2015.

We hope to see you all in 2016!

NWA Holiday Dinner

Arrrrrrgh and ahoy! We're very excited about this year's [Holiday Dinner](#), which returns to Delaware (at the Baldcypress Nature Center at Trap Pond). Aaron Levinthal, Archaeologist and Lab Director with Maryland State Highway Administration, will share information about this year's mysterious shipwreck discovery in the Nanticoke River near the Route 50 bridge and will also highlight other watershed research.

Tickets are \$40 and include dinner and drinks and the company of great NWA staff and friends! You may purchase tickets via check or by credit card at [EventBrite](#). [Amy](#) is the point person on registration, so contact her if you have questions about the dinner or would like to make arrangements to pay via check.

We hope to see you there!

Kit Days in December

Since we're still understaffed (and because there are so many things to be done), we're asking for some help this year with kit breakdown. We will be working on the following projects (and a few besides) with the goal of having all items cleaned/calibrated/winterized absolutely no later than Monday, December 21. (I'm hoping that we can finish well before then.)

- Testing, cleaning, breaking down DO meters
- Cleaning/drying all bins

- Inventorying all items
- Recalibrating and cleaning Secchi lines, weighted lines, and Van Dorn lines
- Testing all refractometers
- Counting and bagging bottles and Whirl-paks
- Cleaning coolers, tweezers, syringes, filter holders, etc.
- Converting Van Dorns (where possible due to flow at bridge sites) to messenger instead of bridge

Volunteer Days in the office will be **Monday, December 7, Tuesday, December 8, and Friday, December 11.**

You may volunteer all day (9:00AM-4:00PM) or do a split (9:00AM-12:30PM or 12:30-4:00PM). I will bring in goodies of some sort to thank you for your help. If you'd like to pitch in, please [contact me](#) with your date(s) of choice and your preferred time.

Looking Forward--2016

I am asking for one final piece of input--would you prefer to start the season two weeks earlier and risk the wintery weather or keep the schedule roughly as it is and monitor during the dark days of November as we do now?

[Please complete the single question multiple choice poll at Google.](#)

That's it for this month and for this year! We'll send out the first issue of the Creekwatcher Currents in 2016 during the month of February. We hope that you have a beautiful and bright holiday season and New Year. Thanks for your support of the program during the 2015 season!

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