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Creekwatchers Currents: April 2013

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May 5, 2013

Good afternoon, Creekwatchers! The NWA has been enjoying a busy (if a bit too cool) spring. Since it still feels like April, let's just pretend that I'm not a couple of days late getting the April Currents out to you. This is going to be a short Currents, as I don't have a Meet the Monitor to go with the issue but aim to have one for the May Currents.

A couple of notes: I will be out of the office from May 19 through May 25, so I'll miss the next sampling period (May 19-20). Lisa will be delivering ice to the Delaware drop-off sites, and she and Tyler will be your go-to contacts in case of any problems. Their contact information is in the manual and at our website. If you need anything before that, please let me know.



Upcoming Events:

*Sampling Period 4: May 5-6

*Toast to the Nanticoke: May 10

*Westside Heritage Festival in Mardela Springs: May 11

Lastly, we've made the final round for the FACES grant that would pay for Chlorophyll a testing at Sussex County sites. We'll know by the end of the month if we've made the cut.

Happy Creekwatching!

Best,

Beth Wasden
Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator
443.944.1175
bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org

ESRI Explorer Online 2013 Data Map

The extra days have allowed me to put together an [ESRI Explorer Online map](#) that contains the first two sampling periods' data. I do need to make some tweaks, including making sure that a text guide to understanding data is present.

As of right now, the map is not public, but I'd love your input on usability. I'm not going to give you any instructions on what to do once you reach the map for this reason.

Questions to ask as you check out the map:

1. Did you have any problems using the map?
2. Is there anything that doesn't feel intuitive that needs additional explanation (besides understanding data)?
3. Are any of the field headers unclear?

I have a few additional questions for you:

1. Would you mind if your name is also included in the data layers? As of now, I have not included that information.
2. What are your thoughts on incorporating photos of you and/or your sites?
3. Is there anything else you'd like to see added to the map?

Let me know your thoughts!

Behavior Change Survey Beta Test

The Mid-Atlantic Tributary Assessment Coalition (MTAC--of which we're a member) is developing a [Behavioral Change survey tool](#) that member organizations can use to help implement projects and improve water quality in our watersheds. The survey developers are seeking five folks who are "are not water protection professionals or key volunteers already involved in implementing these behaviors. (The behaviors are cover crops, buffer vegetation, rain barrels, rain gardens, reducing hard surfaces, and pet waste.)

The survey would need to be completed by May 13. Please feel free to share this link and info with friends, spouses/partners, or neighbors. OpinionWorks' Steve Raabe included the following information with the email:

"We are looking for testers' comments on how well the survey tool works, with particular attention to:

1. Clarity of question wording, including how well each question is understood, and individual words that are unclear.
2. Missing response options, if any.
3. Any concerns about the ordering of questions.
4. Problems with the operability of the survey tool itself.

We are not looking for a rewrite or redesign of the questionnaire, but do want to identify any specific problems or concerns that testers may identify.

On most pages within the survey is a special text box for the beta testers to indicate their comments, while their impressions are fresh,

or while they are looking at the questions. I would also welcome an email or a call from a tester if they feel inclined. My contact info is below."

[The survey is now available](#). You can contact Steve via email or by calling (410) 271-3795 (cell) or (410) 280-2000 (office).

Beth Wasden

Tel: (443) 944-1175

Email: bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org

Website: www.nanticokeriver.org

