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# Creekwatcher Currents: August/September 2014

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Good morning, Creekwatchers!

Great news for the program--the NWA's Town Creek grant for the 2015 season has been approved as submitted, which means that we will have funding to perform limited DNA source tracking on bacteria samples (to either verify human-based fecal matter or to verify the lack thereof) at a couple of sites in the watershed. We will be working with Salisbury University, and the sampling will occur during the

Memorial Day to Labor Day time period in 2015. The sites chosen for the project will be on the mainstem of the river.

The project will provide a starting point to examining why bacteria counts are so high in the river. The tracking will not be able to tell us if the bacteria comes from wildlife, dogs, or other sources, as separate tests would be required for each species type, and as you may imagine, this would be cost-prohibitive.

You'll hear more about this project next year and some of you may have the opportunity to participate in sample collection, if interested.

Thank you for your service!

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## Nathan of Dorchester Sail

Although the 1:30-3:00 sail is full, there remain seats on the 12:00-1:30 sail on Sunday, September 14. If you have not RSVPed, please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and the number of



### Upcoming Events:

\*Sampling Period 13:  
September 7-8

\*Woodland Ferry Festival:  
September 13

\*Nathan of Dorchester Sails:  
September 14

\*ROR: Guided Walk and  
Celebration: September 20

\*Sampling Period 14:  
September 21-22

\*Coastal Cleanup at Roaring  
Point: September 27

guests you plan to bring. To help cover the costs of the sails, we are asking for a \$5 per passenger contribution.

Coolers are welcome, although beverages must be poured into plastic containers. The crew recommends that you wear hats, layers and clothing suited for the water, and closed-toe, soft-soled shoes (please no shoes that scuff, and if you plan to wear sandals, you need to have keen spatial awareness so that you don't impale your foot on something sharp and pointy). The forecast as of now is calling for plenty of sunshine and 74 degrees--in other words, just about perfect weather on land that will probably be a bit chilly on the water.

I will be sending out an email at the end of the week with full details, including directions, GPS coordinates, etc. I hope to see you there!

## September Outreach Events

We have a loaded outreach schedule for September and hope to see you at some of these events! We also have volunteer opportunities.

### 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! We will be near our Creekwatchers sampling site, a private dock owned by Jack Knowles. We could use one volunteer for this event. Please contact me if interested in helping us at the booth for a partial shift or all-day.

### September 20: [Reclaim Our River: Guided Nature Walk and Celebration at Chapel Branch](#), 10AM-1PM

Five bucks (plus a small processing fee at Event Brite) gets you music, food, beer from Dogfish Head, a guided nature walk, water quality demos (I'd love for you to join me mid-stream!), rain barrel kit put-together, and more.

We also need an experienced griller to flip some burgers. Please contact me if you are available that day!

### September 27: Coastal Cleanup at [Roaring Point](#), Nanticoke, 9-11 AM

If you don't get down to the lower Nanticoke very often, Coastal Cleanup provides a great excuse! Come on down, help the Friends of the Nanticoke and the NWA pick up trash, then enjoy the beach the rest of the day. Roaring Point is a perfect place for a picnic, fishing, kayaking, and swimming. A limited number of t-shirts are available.

## Penultimate Notice: Out of Office 9/30-10/15

I will be on vacation from September 30-October 15. I will miss one sampling period (10/5-6), but no worries, JoJo and Lisa will be getting it done!

If you know that you're going to need something during that 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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