



August 19, 2011: Creekwatchers Currents, Volume 4, Issue VI

Membranes, Photo Reminder, and Meet the Monitor

Hello, Creekwatchers! Sampling Period 11 is coming up this Tuesday and Wednesday, August 23 and 24. Please remember that this is also a **DO maintenance period**, so please change your DO membranes and record that you have done so in the comments section of the data sheet so that I can log your maintenance.

A few other notes of interest: I've completed QAQC on the data through sampling period 8. I'm hoping to put together an interactive Google Earth KML in a timely manner that shows off your data in an attractive, easy-to-understand interface and to update it as we go along. (Google Earth is free to download, if you don't currently have it.) I'm viewing this as a long-term project, but my current plan is to provide monthly data updates so that you (and everyone else) can track your sites over the year starting in 2012.

I'm also in the early stages of working with a volunteer programming team to develop a more efficient means of performing QAQC, running criteria against the data, and outputting the data in the report card letter grade style. I'm hoping this will be in place by the time the 2012 season begins.

Obviously, this will help not only in producing the report card but in being able to update data on a regular basis.

Lastly, everyone should have a Creekwatchers cap now. If you do not have a cap, please let me know!

Thanks, and Happy Creekwatching!

Dates to Remember:

August 23-24: Sampling
Period 11 + DO
Membrane Change

September 6-7: Sampling
Period 12

September 17: Coastal
Cleanup at Roaring Point

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Send Me Your Photographs!

I haven't received many photographs recently, so I'd like to remind you--particularly if you have a partner--please photograph your sites and your partners while Creekwatching and send me the photos. Catch your partner doing the "WhirlPak flip" or taking a Secchi disc measurement. Photos of your sites are also welcome and requested! I can never have too many of these types of photos, and they may be used in future projects--such as the Google Earth KML.

Membranes Gone Bad!

It is not uncommon for DO meter membranes to go bad. (It's not a failing on your part, and the DO meter is not snickering behind your back.) Rips, tears, and grit between the membrane and the sensor can cause problems, and not all tears are easy to see. If you're having problems with your DO meter, always change the membrane first and add fresh tap water to the storage chamber sponge. It doesn't matter if you just changed your membrane the last sampling period or if it's been a month; DO membranes can and will go bad.

A reminder: PLEASE do not access the DO meter menu. Doing so can cause wrong choices to be selected on critical items, which can ruin the DO meter (and void the warranty). There is absolutely nothing in the menu that will fix problems you experience in the field. If you have problems in the field, PLEASE contact me.

Some common things you may see on your screen if your membrane's gone bad:

1. "UNDER" or "OVER" shows on the screen or the DO meter only reads "0.1 Mg/L."
2. You are unable to calibrate your meter.
3. The calibrated saturation percentage (%) does not meet the expected calibration percentage (Barometric Pressure/7.6).

Please note that it can take some time after installing a new membrane for the meter to function properly. This is why we ask that you change the membrane and check your meter the night before Creekwatching, if possible.

Short on membranes? Let me know so that I can give you extras.

Meet the Monitor: Susan Good



Susan Good tests two sites on the beautiful Marshyhope Creek. (If you follow local news, you may have recently seen the reports about northern snakeheads being found in the creek back in July. Susan has not reported seeing any of them swimming or slithering.) Both of her sites are in Maryland (the Federalsburg Marina and Camp ESPA) and contrast well. While the marina is an urban site, Camp ESPA is located on a very rural and undeveloped stretch of the Marshyhope.

How long have you been a Creekwatcher?

This is my second year.

What's an interesting thing about your sites?

Camp ESPA is very quiet. There's a lot of wildlife. I've seen birds at Camp ESPA I've never seen before, and there are often ospreys, bald eagles, and pileated woodpeckers at the site when I test.

Where's your favorite place in the Nanticoke watershed?

I grew up in Vienna, and it's changed a lot. We used to crab on Elliott's Island when I was younger. I have good memories of going there, although that runs into Fishing Bay.

What's your favorite Nanticoke-related activity?

Just looking at the water and wildlife. I love birdwatching.



What should visitors to the Nanticoke watershed do, and where should they go to get the most out of their visit?

Go fishing on the Marshyhope. Tubing with a boat looks like fun, too.



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