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## Creekwatcher Currents: February 2014

Volume VII, Issue 0

February 11, 2014



Happy 2014, Creekwatchers! I enjoyed seeing all of you who were able to attend the Chlorophyll a training on January 27 at Horn Point. Thanks to new Creekwatchers Kathy (with a K!) and Galen for attending on short-notice.

This is the first Creekwatcher Currents of the year and includes information about next month's training, which is going to be jam-packed-like-a-tiny-overflowing-jar-filled-with-overdone-jam. We have a number of changes in protocol that will keep us in line with the EPA's needs.

Before we get into general Creekwatcher business, we also want you to know about all of the other projects we're working on. The NWA has several programs and events scheduled for the late winter and throughout the spring, including a [February 25 Partner Meeting that will focus on "The Value of Clean Water."](#) This workshop is free and open to the public (and includes lunch!), and we invite you to attend.

In addition, we'll be hosting a ["Living Shorelines" workshop](#) (in conjunction with DNREC) on March 1 in Seaford as part of the "Reclaim Our River: Nanticoke Series." Lisa is hard at work on organizing a ["Sharptown Community Planting"](#) at Cherry Beach (part of the Maryland Stream Challenge) that'll take place at the end of March, and Amanda is organizing a Backyard Conservation Resource Fair (her "capstone" project as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer) that'll bring consumers and Nanticoke-friendly vendors and exhibitors together on April 26. We'll provide Environmental Education field trips on May 13-14 to Horn Point Lab for North Dorchester 7th Graders, which will include a water quality component. We will also be conducting Homeowner Workshops in Sharptown and Federalsburg from April-June, and we're planning our Second Annual Toast to the Nanticoke fundraiser for June 13.

WHEW!

We hope you can join us for some of these events and happenings, and we thank you for your service and love of the river. YOU make this program happen, and we're so grateful to have you on-board!



### **Upcoming Events:**

\*[Partner Meeting: "The Value of Clean Water" on February 25](#)

\*[Living Shorelines Workshop](#) in Seaford: March 1

\*2014 Nanticoke Creekwatchers Training and Season Kick-off: March 15

\*Sampling Period 1: March 23-24

\*[Sharptown Community Planting](#): March 28-29 (Rain dates: April 4-5)

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## Chlorophyll a Training



One of the big changes in 2014 is that we'll be collecting chlorophyll a samples again! We were glad so many Creekwatchers were able to attend Chlorophyll a Training at Horn Point Lab on a Monday afternoon. Horn Point Lab's Meg Maddox, who'll be analyzing your samples during the season, did a great job of showing how to properly collect, filter, and secure the sample for drop-off. Thanks to Meg for being so helpful and with sending us on our way with shipping boxes and coolers.

We'll be incorporating photos and info collected that day in our training presentations and supplements.

You can [check out more photos](#) from the training in our Facebook album. (A Facebook account IS NOT required to view this album.)

## Equipment Days

Want to help the staff get ready for the big season kick-off? We're holding "Equipment Days" at the NWA office in Vienna (we're across from Millie's Roadhouse and share a parking lot with Jeanne Cakes) on **February 18, 19, and 27**.

During EDs, you may help staff:

- Count/cap bottles
- Position zip ties on pre-marked 10-m DO meter cables
- Test equipment
- Put together kits
- Put together manuals

If you'd like to help us out, [please let me know](#) and include your availability so that we can plan appropriately. Thanks!



### **2014 Annual Training and Season Kick-off**

We will be holding our 2014 Annual Training and Season Kick Off on Saturday, March 15 at the Vienna United Methodist Church Hall in Vienna, MD. (This is the same location where we held last year's training and the past couple of End of Season Potlucks.)

I HIGHLY recommend that everyone attend this training (even if you have a partner who will be there), as there are several changes in the protocol and it will make it easier if the entire team is prepped. Major changes are:

1. Measuring DO directly in the water and performing a "depth profile,"
2. Obtaining field duplicates and field blanks every other sampling period for the lab, and
3. Obtaining chlorophyll a samples,

Please bring a bagged lunch and be prepared for the weather conditions, as we will move outdoors in the afternoon to role-play a sampling period and to get hands-on with the equipment.



### **2014 Annual Training and Season Kick-off**

**Saturday, March 15 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Vienna United Methodist Church Hall**

**206 S. Church St., Vienna, MD**

**Lat/Long: 38.483054, -75.827237**

**For directions and/or a**

**map: <http://goo.gl/maps/ymfzM>**

**RSVP by [emailing](#) or calling Beth at 443.944.1175.**

**Please include whether you are okay with sharing your contact info with other Creekwatchers when you register.**

*You're receiving this because you signed up as a Creekwatcher in 2014 or are a program supporter. Thanks for your service and support! This is the first Creekwatcher Currents of the year; monthly newsletters will follow. [Contact me](#) if you have any questions or comments.*

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