



October 15, 2011: Creekwatchers Currents, Volume 4, Issue VIII

End of Season Super Issue Extravaganza!

Hello, Creekwatchers! It's hard to believe that autumn is upon us and that we're almost at the end of the season. This edition of the Currents will cover all you need to know about End of Season festivities and procedures, along with another Meet the Monitor. If you have any photos or stories of awesome, awe-inspiring, or just plain fun stories you'd like to share about this season of Creekwatching, please send them to me as soon as possible.

On to the mundane first: Sampling Period 15 is coming up this Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18-19. Please remember to change your DO meter's membrane and to log your maintenance on the back of a datasheet. This is the last scheduled DO membrane change of the season. (However, if you have any problems with your DO meter, please change the membrane.)

Next, I will be on vacation from October 27 through November 8, so I will not be available during Sampling Period 16. If you have any problems or need any assistance at that time, please contact either Programs Assistant, Lisa Baird, at 410-443-8878 | lisabaird@nanticokeriver.org or the Interim Director formerly known as Programs Manager, Megan Ward, at 410-873-3045 | meganward@nanticokeriver.org.

Lastly, this will be the final **in-season** Creekwatchers Currents in 2011. I hope you've found these issues helpful and fun and have learned something about your fellow Creekwatchers. (I will be sending out a post-season Currents at the end of November and will continue to send reminder emails, as well.)

Thanks for your hard work, and Happy Creekwatching!

Beth Wasden

Dates to Remember:

October 14-15: [Apple-Scrapple Fest](#) in Bridgeville, DE

October 18-19: Sampling Period 15 + DO Membrane Change

October 22: [Scrap Tire Drop-off Day in Delaware](#)

October 29: [National Prescription Drug Take Back Day](#)

November 1-2: Sampling Period 16

November 4-6: [World Championship Punkin Chunkin](#)

November 15-16: Sampling Period 17

November 15-17: Kit return at the Vienna office from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

November 18: Annual Creekwatcher Potluck from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

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End of Season

Kit Return: If you're planning to attend the annual potluck (more about that after we talk kits), please bring your kit with you to the event. If you can't make the potluck, you'll need to drop off your kit at the Vienna office after you complete sampling on November 15 or 16. You can drop off your kit anytime from November 15- November 17 during office hours (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM). (Please contact me if you need to make alternative arrangements for kit return.)

The kit should include all materials and equipment issued to you in March, excepting disposables such as old membranes. Please do not perform any special cleaning to the kit before returning it to us; I'll be thoroughly cleaning and testing equipment prior to stowing it over the winter.

Potluck: This year, we'll be holding our Potluck at the Vienna United Methodist Church hall (same location as last year), which is a few blocks from the office (like pretty much everything else in Vienna). We'll open the doors at 5:30 PM for mingling and mixing, and plan to get started by 6:00 PM. The event should end around 8:00 PM.

Please let me know if you will be attending, if you'll be bringing any guests, and what dish you'll be bringing. The Alliance will provide beverages, entrees, and paper products, so we ask that you bring sides and desserts.

2011 Creekwatchers Evaluation

In the past, we've handed off evaluations when Creekwatchers returned kits. Since kit return coincides with the potluck this year, we need to get evaluations to you now so that you can return them to us prior to the potluck.

The first and best option is to fill out the [evaluation online](#). You will be prompted to enter a password once you reach our site. The password is simple: REMOVED. (Please contact me if you are a Creekwatcher and need the password.) Once you fill out the evaluation, simply click on "Submit," and Google Docs will do the rest and compile the answers.

NANTICOKE WATERSHED
Alliance
Nanticoke Inn
P.O. Box 111
Vienna, MD 21869

Note that the evaluation is confidential, and you need not list your name or site specifics in any of the comments (unless you'd like to identify yourself). Please be as forthright as possible, as we depend on your feedback to make improvements and to keep doing all of the things that work best for you and the program.

If you normally read the Creekwatcher Currents online but would prefer a paper evaluation, please let me know, and I'll mail one to you.

Meet the Monitor: Dan Houghtaling and Alan Kamauff

Dan Houghtaling and Alan Kamauff are first-year volunteers and the first first-years to be featured on Meet the Monitor. Prior to Creekwatchers training back in March, they had never met.

Thankfully, they work brilliantly together and Creekwatch at the two sites nearest our Vienna office--the Vienna Docks and Lewis Wharf.



As first-year Creekwatchers, has anything surprised you about either the river or about Creekwatching or each other?

Alan: The variations in salinity. The variations do not seem to vary with the tide as I expected. Also surprised at how well Dan and I get along given the difference in our ages and interests.

Dan: How deep it can be near the shore line... (Beth: There's a story here, folks.)

What's a cool or interesting thing about one of your sites?

Alan: The wildlife we see as we get close to Lewis Wharf. So far, deer, fawns, fox, dozens of turkeys, an eagle and possibly a river otter.

Dan: That would have to be the Lewis Wharf. I've been amazed at the abundance of wildlife in one spot. From seeing an eagle soaring above, turkeys, deer and their fawns, to a fox dashing across the road.

Alan and I always start our testing at Lewis Wharf. Always a great way to start the day.

Where's your favorite place in the Nanticoke watershed?

Alan: Lewis Wharf because it seems so secluded every time I am there. Also Roaring Point for the same reason, plus at low tide there is a nice long stretch of beach to walk on.



Dan: Again, I will have to go with Lewis Wharf for the quiet and beauty.

What's your favorite Nanticoke-related activity?

Alan: My favorite water activity is kayaking, although I have never kayaked on the Nanticoke.

Dan: At this time, my only activity with the Nanticoke has been Creekwatching.

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

Alan: Kayak of course and launching from some of the more secluded spots to enjoy the beauty and solitude of the river.

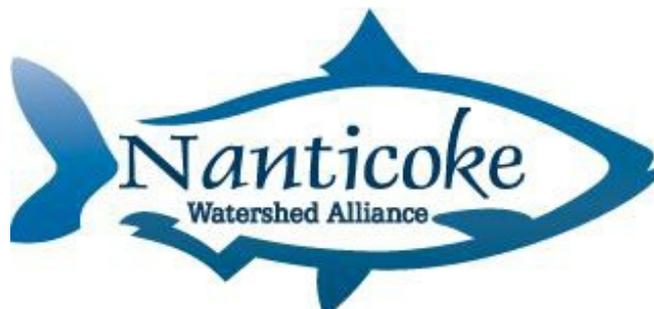
Dan: Boating would be great, some fishing, but above all else, bring your camera.

Anything else you'd like to share with your fellow Creekwatchers?

Alan: This experience was even more fun than I expected and I look forward to next year.

Dan: I've had a blast learning about something that before this I had no

idea about. And Alan, my fellow Creekwatcher, it's been a pleasure.
Looking forward to next year. Thanks.



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