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Creekwatcher Currents: September/October 2015

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Alas, we're well and truly descending into the frosty Dark Days, which means that the season will be wrapping up very soon. As I type this, we have only two more sampling periods. Accordingly, this Creekwatchers Current will contain information about End of Season protocol and the End of Season Potluck. We also have information about a volunteer opportunity below.

Please complete the [2015 Creekwatchers Program evaluation](#) so that we know how we're doing and what steps we can take to improve the program for you and for future Creekwatchers.

If you need an evaluation hard copy, please let me know, and I'll be happy to print out one for you.

Thanks, and Happy Creekwatching!

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End of Season: What to Expect

If you're a veteran Creekwatcher, End of Season protocol will largely remain the same as it has been in the past, although I will likely be asking for your help in November and December to help test, recalibrate, clean, break down, and winterize equipment and inventory items. I'll send out those dates in the final Creekwatchers Current of the year.

If you're a new Creekwatcher, don't fret. We keep End of Season simple and easy as possible.

There are three main activities:

1. [Complete the evaluation \(now available as a Google Form\)](#)
2. Return your kit
3. Celebrate another season well-done at the End of Season Potluck on November 13!



Upcoming Events

*October 25-26: Sampling Period 16

DUPES/BLANKS: DECR2 | Mohrman/Julian

*October 28: Oyster Shell Bagging Volunteer Opportunity with Perdue (see below)

*November 8-9: Sampling Period 17 (WE MADE IT!! FINAL SAMPLING PERIOD OF 2015!!)

DUPES/BLANKS: BRCR3 OR JABR1 | Kijewskis

*November 9-13: Kit Return

*November 13: End of Season Potluck (5:30-8:30)

*December 3: NWA Holiday Dinner (Details Forthcoming)

Details about kit return and the potluck follow.

Kit Return

After you complete Creekwatching duties on November 8 or 9, you may return your complete kit to the NWA. **Please plan to return your kit from November 9-13.**

If you **drop off at Vienna**, we encourage you to leave your kits with us after you've dropped off samples and datasheets on Monday, November 9.

For those of you **not** in the Vienna group, we encourage you to drop off kits at the Baldcypress Nature Center at Trap Pond State Park. I will be on-site no later than 3:30 PM, and you can drop off any time after that. While we hope that you can attend the potluck and celebrate another AWESOME year made possible by YOU, you may also drop and run if you are unable to stay.

If you **CANNOT drop off in Vienna on Monday or in Laurel on Friday**, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make alternative arrangements. I can meet you in the evening during the week, if that works best for you.



Please make sure that the kit includes ALL PERMANENT equipment and reusable items, including:

- DO meters and all accessories, Secchi disks, refractometers, and Van Dorns
- Chlorophyll a kit, extra bottles, extra Whirl-paks, extra filters
- Creekwatcher Manuals, DO meter manuals, etc.
- Blue ice, clipboards, laundry bags, and all other permanent accessories

If you have any questions about kit return or need to make special arrangements, please contact me.

End of Season Potluck on November 13



Join your fellow 2015 Nanticoke Creekwatchers, NWA staff, and friends for our spectacular End of Season Potluck on Friday, November 13 at [Trap Pond State Park's Baldcypress Nature Center](#).

This is a potluck, so we'll be providing the proteins and adult beverages. Please bring a side, appetizer, salad, dessert, or drink, and let me know what you're bringing [when you register](#). We invite you to bring significant others, friends, and folks you know who may be interested in joining the program next year. Please let me know the size of your party when you [register](#).

We'll kick off social time at 5:00 PM and get dinner started at 6:00PM. The official part of the program will start at 6:30 PM (or so), with an overview of the year (and a sneak peek of next year), official recognition of YOU, and a presentation by a great guest speaker. We'll conclude with a couple of group photos. The event should conclude no later than 8:30 PM.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Oyster Shell Bagging Volunteer Opportunity!

Shell we bag? (Haw-haw. Yup, you saw that one coming.)

My cheesiness aside, shell bagging is a crucial step in the Oyster Recover Partnership's (ORP) oyster gardening/sanctuary-planting program. The clean shells that you'll help bag will be used to plant spat. The spat then go into cages which volunteer oyster gardeners in the lower part of the Nanticoke River watershed (and other Bay waterways) tie to their docks for a year. The ORP then collects the bivalves and deploys them to a number of oyster sanctuaries in the Bay watershed. Of course, since oysters are the great filter feeders of the brackish Bay, consuming nutrients and reducing turbidity day after day, increasing their numbers in the waterways is a critical step in improving water quality.

Perdue's Martin Stewart invites you to attend their ORP Shell Bagging (look out for those "Shells Angels!") volunteer event on Wednesday, October 28 from 5 to 7PM at Perdue Corporate Headquarters in Salisbury. Food and beverages will be provided, and volunteers are asked to dress for the weather.

If you'd like to participate, please register by contacting Perdue's [Mark Patterson](#). Identify yourself as a Nanticoke Creekwatcher and please let him know that Martin Stewart invited you.

For full details about the volunteer project, click on the image below to view a full-sized version at our website.

Volunteers sought for Oct. 28 shell bagging to support Oyster Recovery Partnership

On Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 5 to 7 p.m., volunteers, including family and friends, are needed to help with a shell-bagging effort on behalf of the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP). The event, now in its fifth year, will take place at the Corporate Office in the corner of the south parking lot.

The Oyster Recovery Partnership will transport several dump truck loads of oyster shells to the parking lot, where volunteers will fill nylon bags with empty shells (no oysters/spats) for future ORP initiatives. The bags weigh approximately 15 to 20 pounds when full, and are then clipped closed and loaded onto a truck.

The bags of shells are used for oyster hatchery production. Young larvae will attach themselves to the clean recycled shells at the hatchery where they are produced.

"This is the kind of project where associates can support our company's commitment to environmental stewardship and have fun doing it with other people who share our passion for preserving our natural resources," said Steve Levitsky, Vice President of Sustainability. "I encourage you to support this worthy project by volunteering your time."

Volunteers will be provided bags, shells, clips and gloves by ORP. Volunteers are encouraged to bring a change of warm weather clothes to work that day. Food and beverages will be provided.

To join the volunteer effort, contact Mark Patterson, Perdue's Oyster Recovery Partnership Coordinator, at 302-258-4953 or mark.patterson@perdue.com. To learn more about the Oyster Recovery Partnership, visit www.oysterrecovery.org.



Join The Effort

- ❑ Oyster Recovery Partnership "Shell Bagging"
- ❑ Wednesday, Oct. 28
- ❑ 5 to 7 p.m.
- ❑ Perdue Corporate Headquarters



That's it for this month! Expect to find one Creekwatcher Currents every month in your inbox through November.

*You're receiving this because you are a 2015 Creekwatcher, a program partner, or a program sponsor. If you would like to be removed from this list, please contact me directly. You may unsubscribe from **all** NWA communications by following the link provided below.*

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