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Creekwatcher Currents 2012: June 15, 2012

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Happy Friday, everyone! I hope you're out enjoying the beautiful weather or have plans to do so. Could it be more gorgeous in mid-June?



Summer is here, and so is our new Executive Director, Shelly

Baird (not related to Lisa). Shelly comes to us from North Carolina, where she worked for the state, but is a native Marylander. I know some of you met her the earlier this week at the Meet & Greet; I'm sure the rest of you will meet her soon. We're very excited to have her on-hoard

We have some big outreach events coming up in June and July, including the Nanticoke River Jamboree on June 23 and Riverfest on July 14. We could use help on both of these dates, so if any of you would like to help out at our booth, let me know. Staff will be present throughout the day, so you won't be flying solo!

Thanks, and happy Creekwatching!

Best



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Red, White, and BlueBQ Scheduled for Sunday, July 15 from 2-7 PM

Join Alliance staff and fellow Creekwatchers for a spectacularly social Red, White, and BlueBQ event on Sunday, July 15. We'll set up the tent, fill up the cooler, and fire up the grill in the early afternoon, then hoof it to Emperor's Landing a few blocks away to enjoy the second concert in the Vienna Concert Series. The US Air Force Band (not the Eagles) will be playing from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, so unlike Hotel California, you can leave whenever you'd like.

Please bring a potluck item (side or dessert) and be sure to RSVP your



Upcoming Events:

*June 23: Nanticoke River Jamboree at Handsell House

*June 24-25: Sampling Period 7; submit RSVP mileage form

*July 4: Happy Independence Day!

*July 8-9: Sampling Period 8 and DO meter maintenance

*July 14: Seaford Riverfest

*July 15: Creekwatchers Red, White, and BlueBQ attendance by July 13 so that we can provide plenty of grilled goodness and chilled bevvies. We will provide veggie burgers as well as carnivorous delights, but do let us know if you'd prefer the veggie selection when RSVPing so that we can have enough on-hand.

RSVP by contacting me via email or by calling 443.944.1175.

Meet the Monitor: Ron Maher and Cy Marter



"Mr. Secchi Disk" Cy Marter and Ron "I think I have a golf towel in the back" Maher of Nanticoke cover four sites in the lower Wicomico section of the watershed--Nanticoke, Bivalve Harbor, the bridge at the Wetipquin Boat Ramp, and the Wetipquin bridge on Nanticoke Rd. Ron has been Creekwatching since the beginning of

the program, while Cy came on board last year. Cy's had property in Nanticoke for 25 years, while Ron's been a Nanticoker for a little over a decade.

Hang out with Cy and Ron long enough and you'll hear the stories about the old Kennerly oyster empire at the Nanticoke Harbor and how the nannies and children from the Soviet Embassy would summer down at the old Nanticoke Hotel. Like the Soviet Union, the Nanticoke Hotel no longer exists but the river, of course, remains.

What's an interesting thing about your Creekwatcher sites?

Ron and Cy: The Wetipquin Boat Ramp is such an isolated area. The new bridge (a couple of years old) looks just like the old one and matches the old one's footprint. There used to be a marina there, and there's lots of history in the area. A hand-pulled ferry would carry cars from one bank to the other.

Some of the local watermen that owned farms nearby wanted a high bridge for large boats and at one point were winning the bridge battle. The high bridge proposal was turned down because of economic reasons, and the "new" bridge was grandfathered in and didn't require permits.

What's your favorite place in the Nanticoke watershed, and why?

Cy: Nanticoke. My dream was to live by salt water and have a farm. I'm able to get out on the bay and farm close by.

Ron: The Wildlife Management Area across the river. I fish from the boat on that side of the river and catch sea trout, croaker, and white perch.



Where do you recommend out-of-towners to visit in the watershed?

Ron: Roaring Point. My wife likes to take the grandkids out on the sandbar.

The Hebron Carnival. Lots of rides, funnel cakes, crab cakes, oyster fritters.

(Even though it's outside of the watershed), the Blessing of the Combines in Snow Hill in March.

Cy: Go up the Nanticoke past Vienna and Sharptown is an annual ride. Gas can be an issue due to the lack of marinas.

I also go up the Wicomico to Salisbury and Green Hill Church, Wicomico's first Episcopalian church.

What's your favorite thing about Creekwatching?

Ron: Knowing what's going on with the health of the river first-hand and seeing changes from climate conditions.

Cy: Learning something new. Reading so much about it and having a farming background, learning how fertilizers and farming affects the river.

People are interested in what we do. Fishermen ask when we're out testing.

Thanks to Cy and Ron for their time!

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