

*Dorchester  
Citizens  
For  
Planned  
Growth*



# DCPG NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2015

### **Letter from the President**

Spring greetings to all members and friends of DCPG! Your organization has stayed active throughout the long cold winter but like most folks we are looking forward to its end. DCPG will be extremely busy this spring as we once again sponsor the annual horseshoe tournament to be held at the Spocott Windmill on Earth Day, April 18<sup>th</sup> and the annual Project Clean Stream which we are sharing with the East New Market City Government and Volunteer Fire Company on April 11<sup>th</sup>. These are both energizing events so shake off those winter doldrums and come out and participate with us for the betterment of your community.

In addition to planning for the horseshoe tournament and Project Clean Stream, Beth Ann and I have been busy seeking funding for our cooperative storm water demonstration project at the Sailwinds Visitor Center. This project was explained in detail in the last newsletter as well as at our annual meeting at the end of January. Since then, Beth Ann and I have met with the group Environmental Concern and they will provide the engineering and landscape planning expertise to achieve a beautiful and environmentally friendly collection of working

rain gardens in the parking areas adjacent to the visitor center.

We have worked hard to complete grant applications to the Maryland Heritage Tourism Council and to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation for cost share funds to help make this pioneering project a reality in 2015. In all, the project will cost between \$70,000 and \$80,000 and we will need these grant funds as well as member and private donations to cover the expense. You may recall that the Dorchester Council and the Cambridge City Council have already pledged \$5,000 each to the project and the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance has pledged \$7,000. DCPG is working to raise the remainder through the cost share grants and our membership. We are hoping to secure the necessary funding by July, and break ground on the project in early fall with a target completion by the end of November.

Another exciting development for DCPG is our participation in a new working waterfront planning council for development at the Sailwinds Park. Public sentiment against turning Governor's Hall and the surrounding shoreline into just another waterfront housing project has led to a renewed effort to establish a public space

at the mouth of Cambridge Creek which would capitalize on our deep water harbor and our maritime heritage. DCPG has already attended two meetings toward this goal, with another meeting scheduled for April 21. We would like to hear your input about what you think would be the best use of this valuable public property and will keep you posted as more detailed plans emerge.

Once again, we thank all of you for your continued support of DCPG's efforts and look forward to seeing many of you at our organization events this spring.

Yours sincerely, Fred C. Pomeroy

### **Conclusions from CBF on USGS Report:**

The Eastern Shore includes only a small part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but contributes disproportionately large loads of the excess nitrogen and phosphorus that have contributed to ecological and economic degradation of the bay in recent decades. In particular, the Eastern Shore only includes 7 percent of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but receives nearly twice as much nitrogen and phosphorus applications (per area) as the remainder of the watershed and yields greater nitrogen and phosphorus, on average, to the bay.

On the Eastern Shore, nitrogen is common in groundwater and surface waters and phosphorus is common in surface waters at concentrations that are well above natural levels, and are among the highest in the Nation. Nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in Eastern Shore streams commonly exceed concentrations that may adversely affect aquatic ecosystems. And the situation does not appear to be improving.

For example, in the Choptank River, the largest non-tidal Chesapeake Bay tributary on the Eastern Shore, phosphorus concentrations increased significantly between 1985 and 2008.

Applications of phosphorus to Eastern Shore farmland in recent decades have far exceeded the amounts necessary for crop growth, and consequently, phosphorus has increased in the environment. Unlike nitrate, phosphorus is relatively insoluble in water under most natural conditions, and excess phosphorus in the environment generally accumulates in agricultural soils rather than moving into groundwater. Soils can only hold a limited amount of phosphorus, however, and as phosphorus accumulates at higher and higher concentrations, newly applied phosphorus becomes less likely to attach to the soils and more likely to move into shallow groundwater.

Reducing phosphorus applications below crop requirements should reduce phosphorus levels in cropland soils, although such reductions will occur slowly in areas where excessive soil phosphorus from previous applications greatly exceeded the annual uptake requirements of crops. Riparian buffers, conservation tillage, and other land-management practices intended to limit erosion or sediment transport should be similarly effective at limiting the movement of sediment-associated phosphorus to streams. Several years or decades, however, may be required before effects of land-management practices are fully realized in surface water phosphorus concentrations on the Eastern Shore. The longer we wait, the longer it will take. To read full report:

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/cir1406>

## **Creekwatcher Notes**

As the long cold winter of 2014-2015 comes to an end, DCPG Volunteer Creekwatchers continue to maintain the stream of data on Dorchester County's stream water quality without interruption. Bob Sellers and Richard Ball have not missed a single week of field data collection on the Choptank River at Sailwinds Visitor Center and on the five headwater sites of Fishing Bay, November through March. Some challenges presented in the form of snow, freezing rain, icy stream banks and thick surface ice. In February, it became necessary to break holes in ice as much as eight inches thick to lower instruments and water sample collection containers to the desired depths in the water below the ice. Some changes to the 2014 program included the temporary discontinuation of monitoring Little Choptank River sites and fecal coliform analysis at all sites. On March 21, 2015, DCPG volunteers Bob Sellers and Richard Ball were joined by new volunteer creekwatcher, John Lindinger, in Nanticoke Watershed Alliance's annual creekwatchers training at Trap Pond State Park in Delaware. New sophisticated equipment and detailed procedures have been added this year to assure the Chesapeake Bay Program and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will accept the data obtained by the volunteers. The combined NWA/DCPG monitoring season for 2015 kicked off 3/30/15 at the five Fishing Bay headwater sites in Dorchester County with the collection of data on bacteria (fecal enterobacterium), nutrients (total nitrogen, total phosphorus), chlorophyll -a , dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity, and water temperature at depth-specific collection points. DCPG's water monitoring Committee and Board are discussing plans for 2015 monitoring

activities in the Choptank and Little Choptank Rivers. By Richard Ball

## **Phosphorus Update**

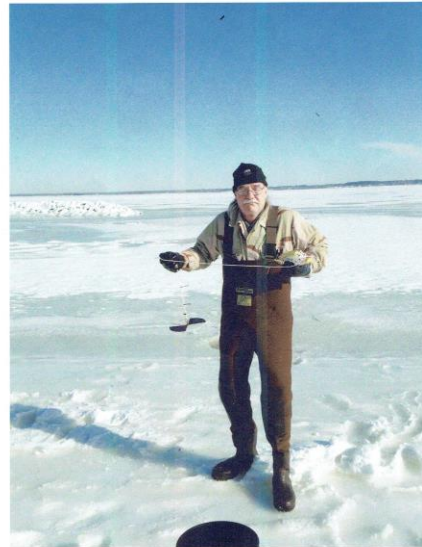
On January 30, 2015, the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and The University of Maryland Extension joined resources to present, "The State of the Science of Phosphorus," at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills from 8:00A.M. to 5:00P.M. DCPG Board member Richard Ball attended the Forum where eight agri-science experts from across the U.S. presented topics in legacy phosphorus management: "The Role of Phosphorus Management in the Green Pastures and Blue Waters Paradox," (Dr. Andrew Sharply); "Impact of Phosphorus on Water Quality" (Dr. Walter Boynton); "Soil and Source Dynamics" (Dr. Peter Kleinman); "The Role of Hydrology in Connecting Agricultural Phosphorus Sources to Surface Water" (Dr. Anthony Buda); "The Use of Models and Indexes for Agricultural Phosphorus Management" (Dr. Peter Vadas); "Balance and Legacy Phosphorus" (Dr. Douglas Smith); "Agricultural B.M.P.'s to Address Phosphorus" (Josh McGrath); and "History of Implementation and Policy in Maryland" (Dr. Frank Coale) were subjects directed at examining water transported phosphorus in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay and similar problems in other parts of the country such as the toxic algae blooms appearing in Lake Erie which shut down the Toledo, Ohio water supply last year. This forum was not intended to relate to the proposed Maryland Phosphorus Management Tool, but to present an overview of the recent findings of problems identified with legacy phosphorus in our soils and waters.

By Richard Ball

## Sea Level Rise Update

On February 21, 2015, The League of Women Voters of Maryland and Chesapeake College, Center for Leadership in Environmental Education presented, “The Future is Now: Dealing with Rising Seas on Maryland’s Shores,” an educational forum at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. DCPG was represented by Board member Richard Ball at this forum. Keynote speaker, Dr. Donald Boesch, President of U.M.C.E.S. was followed by breakout session speakers Drew Koslow (“ Building Resiliency and Adaptiveness into Shore Communities”); Mark Konapelsky (“Planning, Preparedness, Response, and Renewal”); Zoe P. Johnson (“After the Storm-Before the Next: What Do We Do?”), and Endnote Speaker Wayne Gilchrest (“Looking to the Future”). In breakout session 2, which Richard attended, Mark Konapelsky, Critical Area Commissioner, Somerset County Code Enforcement Officer and Crisfield City Councilman described the havoc and destruction in and around Crisfield as a result of tropical storm Sandy and the efforts made to clean up, rebuild, and prepare for more frequent storm surge events. This forum effectively presented the message that sea level rise is occurring now on Delmarva and what we must do to understand and adapt.

By Richard Ball



DCPG dedicated water monitors. Thanks Richard and Bob!!

Are you ready for spring?

DCPG has two events for you!

## Two Special Events in April

April 11<sup>th</sup> 9-12

### Project Clean Stream

Where: East New Market Town Hall 9am

Register by calling Fred Pomeroy 410-228-8643

April 18<sup>th</sup> 10-2

### DCPG Horseshoe Tournament

To honor Dorchester Volunteers

Where: Spocott Windmill Earth Day

Sign up now!

Register by calling Fred Pomeroy 410-228-8643

*The following DCPG members joined or renewed  
their membership at or above the \$50 level:*

*Thank You!*

Willem Zijp and Miriam Zijp-Koedijk

Jeanne and Bruce Bernard

Peter C Paul

Richard Balling

Odin Knudsen

Patti and Porter Hopkins

Donna and Wayne Towers

Charles Bethel

Michele and Matt Whitbeck

Bill and Beth Giese

Diane Stoecker

Kathy Gordon and Bill Farver

Patricia and John Comella

Brenda and Laurie Keegan

Kathy and Brian Manicke

Carolyn and Mike German

Hubert H. Wright IV

Judd Vickers and Greg Bartoo

Margaret and George Anzalone

Jon and Midge Ingersoll

Libby Handley Nagel

Eleanor Beath

Wolf and Charlotte Hehn

Bruce Robson

Lexine Lowe and Fred Pomeroy

Beth Ann and Jim Lynch

Donna Stotts

Mark and Linda Wilson

Margaret and Douglas Worrall

Richard Ball

Kalla Kvalnes and Tom Fisher

Donna Stotts

Debby and Gordon Hill

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