

*Dorchester
Citizens
For
Planned
Growth*



DCPG NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

Letter from the President:

New Year's Greetings to all our members and friends! As 2015 begins we want to reiterate our thanks for all your past support and urge you to join us at our annual general membership meeting on January 25.

As I indicated in our fall newsletter we are currently undertaking an ambitious project to improve the quality of the Choptank River at the Cambridge visitor center. The particulars of this project will be the focus of this year's annual meeting. In an unprecedented show of support for DCPG, both the Dorchester County Council and the Cambridge City Council have voted to appropriate startup funds for this effort. DCPG is also seeking grant money and private donations to fund the installation of native plant "rain gardens" that will act to filter polluted storm water flowing from RT. 50 and the streets and parking lots in the area around Dorchester General Hospital. DCPG's citizen volunteers have been sampling and testing nutrient and bacteria levels at the public beach just west of the visitor center and have found water quality to be poor. The good news is that we can make a difference in this water quality without spending huge amounts of money.

As guest speaker at the January 25th meeting, Diane Miller of the group Environmental Concern will highlight possible scenarios and cost options for implementation of this significant improvement to highly visible public space in Dorchester. Our board of directors has already seen a preview of her presentation and we are certain you will agree with us that we can achieve a more beautiful and at the same time environmentally practical landscape for this area.

We see this effort as an extension of DCPG's mission to safeguard and improve the quality of life in our county. It will not be easy for our small group to coordinate such a project, but it is certainly worth doing. With your assistance, 2015 could see a cooperative project that results in a major improvement for the land and water of our county. Please join us at the January 25th meeting and find out what you can do to help move this effort forward.

Sincerely yours,
Fred C. Pomeroy

Water Monitoring

Water Monitoring Council

DCPG was represented at the annual 2014 Maryland Water Monitoring Council meeting at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD November 21, 2014 by Richard Ball. The conference was a sell out this year with standing room only in the break-out classrooms. Opening remarks were made by Mark Southerland, Chair, MWMC Board; Frank Dawson, Deputy Secretary, MD DNR; and keynote by Kent Mountford, "Monitoring: A Chesapeake Historical Perspective." The annual Carl S. Weber environmental stewardship award was presented to Jim Long (physicist and volunteer creek watcher) of the Mattawoman Watershed Society. Richard attended break-out classes on Status and Trends in the Chesapeake Bay – Tom Parham (MDNR), Impacts from Conowingo Dam (11-13-14 Comprehensive Lower Susquehanna Watershed Report) – Bruce Michael (MDNR); Long Term Trends in Nutrients and Sediments and Corresponding Changes in Habitat Quality – Renee Karrh (MDNR); Restoration and Degradation Trajectories of Benthic Communities, Interdecadal Trends in Benthic Condition – Robert Lianso (Versar); Stream Microbes and Molecular Barcoding – Alyson Santoro (UMCES); Impact of A Major Sewage Spill on Mill Creek, Magothy Watershed – Sally Horner (A.A. Com. College); and Stormwater Management Basins and Loading of Road Salt into Groundwater and Streams – Joel Moore (Towson, Univ.). The project poster and vendor displays approached sensory overload. The food was good and the networking was great.

CreekWatchers' Report

2014 started with a change in monitoring sites in the Choptank watershed out of Cambridge Creek and into the main river body at the Cambridge Sailwinds Visitors' Center. The Sailwinds site was monitored every other Wednesday morning throughout the entire year for salinity, turbidity, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, total nitrogen, total phosphate and fecal coliform. Sailwinds monitoring continues into 2015 with the expectation that completion of the Stormwater Demo Project there may result in slight improvement in the water quality. Interesting to note at the Sailwinds site was a flock of 60 resident Canada geese squatting there for 2 months leaving large amounts of droppings all over the playground and beach, and the usual morning dog-walkers, none of whom had been observed picking up pet waste. Four Little Choptank River sites were monitored for fecal coliform. For the seventh year, the five Fishing Bay headwater sites were monitored every other Monday morning in cooperation with Nanticoke Watershed Alliance Creekwatcher Program. The annual NWA Creekwatcher Training Program in March was completed by Richard Ball, Bob Sellers, and Donald Sellers. The results of the year's water testing will be presented at this year's Annual Meeting.

Nanticoke Watershed Alliance

Shelly Baird, Executive Director and Beth Wasden, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator from the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance will present an overview of current initiatives. Topics will include: Nanticoke Creekwatchers water quality data, homeowner outreach, environmental education, and more. The creation of a Cambridge Water Quality Advisory Committee to assist with moving the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) forward will also be discussed.

DCPG 8th ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Featuring Key Note Speaker

Diane Miller, PWS
Restoration Ecologist
Environmental Concern Inc.

Presentation of 2015 Environmental
Stewardship Award

(This award is given to a Dorchester resident
who has exemplified good stewardship of the
county's resources.)

Caroline Cline
Mayor of East New Market

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
BE SURE TO JOIN US!

Dorchester County Historical Society

Sunday, January 25th from 3-5pm

Dorchester County Historical Society
1003 Greenway Drive, Cambridge
Parking on Greenway Drive and LaGrange Ave
Refreshments

*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

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

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