



Wicomico Environmental Trust – Wicomico River Creekwatcher

Volunteer Position Description

Background: The Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET) is a volunteer led organization founded in 1989 whose members and volunteers are citizens or friends of Wicomico County and committed to protection and improvement of our local natural resources. In 2017 WET took over the lead position of volunteer coordination, outreach, and funding of Wicomico Creekwatchers which is in its 16th year. Salisbury University Department of Biological Sciences continues to serve as the scientific analysis coordinator and program partner.

The mission of WET is to conserve and protect nature in our county and the Chesapeake Bay region and to keep our water, forests and farmland beautiful and healthy for future generations to enjoy.

The mission of the Creekwatchers Program is to collect and develop objective, scientifically credible water quality data by recruiting and mobilizing a grassroots volunteer force that monitors the waters of the Wicomico River and its tributaries on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore. Through its work, Creekwatchers seek to advance efforts of citizens, businesses, and public officials to ensure that public policies and other management tools adequately protect and preserve Wicomico River water quality. Wicomico Creekwatchers monitor 22 sites throughout the Wicomico River watershed.

Wicomico Creekwatchers Responsibilities: Water samples are collected by citizen volunteers known as “Creekwatchers” who simultaneously collect environmental data, including Secchi depth, wind speed estimates, water temperature, etc. Sampling begins the second Tuesday of March and continues through the first week of November on an annual basis. This amounts to 18 days of sampling. Additional Responsibilities:

- Participate in orientation and training opportunities
- Learn how to use water monitoring equipment
- Site team members monitor at least one site every other Tuesday from mid-March through early November
- Provide a cooler to keep samples chilled or deliver samples within 10 minutes of collection time
- Drop off completed sample bottle(s) and data sheet(s) to Salisbury University Environmental Studies House (Note: During bacterial collection season, some sites will drop off all bottles at SU Biology Lab Room)
- Maintain and store assigned water monitoring kit and return kit in good condition when terminating Creekwatchers volunteer position
- Communicate with site team members, volunteer coordinator, committee chair, and with other Creekwatchers

Wicomico Creekwatchers Benefits: (No prior background needed to become a Wicomico Creekwatcher!)

- Learn more about their local waterways and water resources
- Contribute to protecting our own watershed
- Become citizen scientist through classroom and hands on training, and field monitoring
- Provide data for annual report that conveys story of river's condition to citizens and policy makers
- Opportunities to participate in special WET and Creekwatchers events throughout the year
- Meet and serve with like-minded people through a rewarding and enjoyable program

Wicomico Creekwatchers Program Leaders:

- Program Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator: Deborah Finkbeiner
- Committee Chair: Keota Silaphone, WET Board Member and Salisbury University Lecturer
- Salisbury University Biology Department: Christina Bradley, PhD

To Apply: Complete a WET volunteer application at www.wicomicoenvironment.org, or call Deborah Finkbeiner at 443-880-3182 or email at Creekwatchers@gmail.com