

What's in Your Water?

Vicki Blazer, PhD, of the U.S. Geological Survey, will be speaking to the public, Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Potomac River Smallmouth Club, Friends of Accotink Creek, and Friends of Holmes and Tripp Run,
Thursday, March 4, 2010, 7:30 PM, Vienna Volunteer Fire Hall, Vienna, Virginia.

As a world-class authority on fish health and quality of the water we are drinking and fishing in, Dr. Blazer will be talking about **male intersex fish** which produce eggs in their testes and **fish kills** in bass in the Potomac River drainage and their possible relationship to **“emerging contaminant”** issues. “Emerging contaminants” only recently have been recognized as a problem and are not routinely monitored for in water. These include pharmaceuticals and chemicals in personal care products which end up in our water bodies after passing through human wastewater treatment facilities; natural and synthetic hormones, antibiotics, and phytoestrogens that may be in runoff from animal manure and litter put on fields; pesticides and herbicides used in agriculture and lawn care.

Besides housing valuable fisheries and contributing to the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River is the main source of drinking water for the Washington Metropolitan area, providing about 75% of the water supply to the 3.6 million residents of Washington, D.C. and the Virginia and Maryland suburbs. There is concern that people, as well as animals, may be effected since human endocrine systems operate in essentially the same manner as fish systems.

Dr. Blazer is the fish pathologist at the National Fish Health Research Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey, Leetown Science Center in Kearneysville, WV, and has been involved in study of numerous fish disease in the Chesapeake drainage as well as national and international fish health issues.

Come learn what is happening to the water in which we fish and know why it is so important for each person to be involved in doing his/her part in protecting the Potomac River watershed, starting in the yard and in our home. To get started, see [Liveable Neighborhoods, Water Stewardship](#) brochure and become a leader in your neighborhood!

Don't let your roof gutter downspouts send hot polluted water to our streams. Be the first to re-route your downspouts to a dry well or a rain garden so it soaks into the ground! See what Chesapeake Bay Foundations says about stormwater:
<http://www.cbf.org/Page.aspx?pid=514>

All are invited. You need not be a member to attend.

For more information contact Andrew
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or visit <http://www.nvatu.org>