

# Inletkeeper's Monitor News

ISSUE 4

JULY 2009

## A Busy Summer of Monitoring!

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As a CEMP Monitor, you know summer has hit when sampling goes from once to twice a month. There's always a bit of confusion surrounding *what* Sundays we're talking about— just remember: the second and the last! Things have

been exciting around Inletkeeper, with 2 interns, Liza and Ellie (see their introductions on page 2), joining us for the summer, bug monitoring in June and August, and a slew of fun and exciting events over the next few months. In May, I traveled to Baltimore, MD for the River Network's 2009 Annual Conference—the 2009

River Rally. Over 500 people participated in the long weekend of workshops and various activities. I learned a ton, and was inspired by not only the number of people actively working for clean water and connecting people with the land, but also the passion with which these goals are being pursued around the country. See their website: [www.rivernetwork.org](http://www.rivernetwork.org) for more on the conference and the River Network. Local summer events to look forward to include: SPLASH BASH 2009! Our "thank you" to you all will take place on July 29th—stay tuned for more info! We'll also be doing a Kachemak Bay Clean Harbors Day at the beginning of August, cleaning up and raising awareness to prevent locally-produced marine debris in the harbors of Kachemak Bay (Homer, Seldovia, Port Graham, and Nanwalek).



Get ready for Splash Bash 2009 on July 29th!



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## Watershed Summaries

There are currently 14 CEMP sites being monitored (3 in the Anchor River watershed and 11 feeding into Kachemak Bay). In the past I have used this space to provide you with a narrative overview of your sites and the data you have all spent so much time collecting, and some graphs giving you an at-a-glance summary of the status of our CEMP streams. With so much going on, I am going to be shifting focus on the CEMP data presentation.

(continued on pg. 3)

## Field & Lab Notes



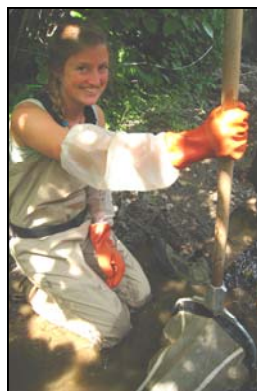
36,000 square miles, or 92%, of the Cook Inlet watershed is public land!

- **Decimal Places!** Record parameter values to the appropriate decimal place. For example, dissolved oxygen is recorded to the nearest tenth (10.3 or 10.0) while both Colorimetric and Hanna pH values are recorded to the nearest hundredth (7.00 or 7.31). Colorimetric pH can only be in .25 increments—not 7.1! For example, either 7.00, 7.25, 7.50, or 8.00!
- Thanks for your June quarterly photos! If you haven't sent them in, please do so soon! We're working on updating our photo database, and you can see pictures of your sites online at: [www.flickr.com/photos/inletkeeper](http://www.flickr.com/photos/inletkeeper)
- Remember to pick up your Hanna meter during the first 2 weeks of July!

## F.Y.I. New Faces at Inletkeeper



**Liza Mitchell** hails from Colorado where she recently completed a degree in Environmental Science from Colorado College. With an interest in watershed conservation issues and community stewardship she is happy to be in Alaska working with Cook Inletkeeper for the summer through the Alaska Conservation Foundation Conservation Internship program. Liza enjoys any adventure and is excited to explore the area and get to know the ocean, the mountains and the people of Homer.



**Elli Matkin** grew up in Homer and has joined us this summer as our Outreach Intern. She is going into her junior year at Whitman College and is majoring in Environmental Studies-Sociology. She qualified for the 2009 Whitman Internship Grant which is sponsoring her work with us. You'll see Elli around in the office, taking BEACH and stream water samples, and helping organize community events.



# Watershed Summaries (cont. from page 1)

I will be starting this summer/fall by getting CEMP data on the web, probably using Google Maps as an interface through Inletkeeper’s web-site. By spending the time upfront to get that project underway, I will be able to provide you all with not only a newsletter that gives you a snapshot of what’s going on in our corner of Cook Inlet, but a map with data (updated quarterly) for all CEMP sites—not constricted to a short newsletter! On the right is a snapshot from Google Earth, with all of the currently monitored CEMP sites labeled (green thumb tacks represent the Anchor River watershed sites, yellow are Kachemak Bay watershed sites). The table below shows the sites with the 2 lowest (Min) and the 2 highest (Max) values for each parameter for the sampling events in April and May. Notable are the high temperatures, conductivity, and turbidity data from Miller Creek and Palmer Creek, both located between miles 2 and 3 on East End Rd.



	April 28 (11 sites)		May 10 (13 sites)		May 31 (9 sites)	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
<b>Temperature (°C)</b>	Bidarka (frozen) Rice/Beaver (0.5)	Woodard@Pratt (4.5) Miller (4.0)	McNeil (1.0) Beaver (2.5)	Miller (11.0) Palmer & Woodard@Pratt (8.5)	Beaver (3.5) 5 Sites (5.0)	Miller (13.0) Palmer (10.5)
<b>Conductivity (µS/cm)</b>	Beaver (30) Ruby (62)	Miller (186) Woodard@Pratt (124)	McNeil (24) Beaver (25)	Miller (212) Bidarka (194)	McNeil (21) Beaver (24)	Miller (242) Palmer (162)
<b>Dissolved Oxygen Saturation (%; amount of maximum DO at a given water temperature)</b>	Beaver (58%) Rice (73%)	Ruby (89%) Lower Diamond (88%)	Beaver (75%) Bidarka (76%)	Palmer (104%) 3 Sites (90%)	Beaver (70%) Upper Diamond (72%)	McNeil (89%) Ruby (88%)
<b>Turbidity (NTU)</b>	Beaver (4.2) Upper Diamond (8.0)	Miller (4205) Palmer (3510)	McNeil (1.4) Lower Diamond (2.6)	Miller (493) Palmer (191)	McNeil (1.0) Upper Diamond (2.5)	Miller (366) Palmer (26.8)



“  
If there is  
magic in this  
world, it is  
contained in  
water.  
”

*Loran Eisely*

## Dates to Remember:

July 12	CEMP Sampling
July 26	CEMP Sampling
July 29	Splash Bash 2009!
August 1	Marine Debris Clean-up Day (Homer/Seldovia/Port Graham/Nanwalek)
August 9	CEMP Sampling
August 9-12	Bioassessment 2009, Part 2
August 30	CEMP Sampling/Issue 5, CEMP Monitor

## Parting Shots



Many thanks to Tamara Jell, Kris Reidt, Will Schlein, Debra Spencer, and Sara Thompson who all came out for Bug Sampling in June.

Bioassessment 2009 (“bug sampling”) is happening again in August on YOUR CEMP stream!

***Join Us!***

**Beaver Creek, Woodard Creek,  
Diamond Creek, Ruby Creek,  
and Two Moose Creek**

