



**Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship**

*"Northumberland is going to grow. Let's help it grow with order and beauty."*

# NAPS News

Summer 2008

Volume 17, Issue 2

## NAPS ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

### Get Ready to Party!

By SANDY HENBEST

Saturday, October 4, 2008 is the date for our annual Fall Social. From 4:30 to 7:00 PM we plan to eat, drink, and converse with other NAPS members while we honor the recipient of our annual award. Our location is the same as last year: the Transportation Museum Building at Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern in Heathsville. Invitations were sent in the mail early September. It covers all the pertinent information, including special incentives for guests (potential NAPS

members). We look forward to your positive response!

We are still seeking volunteers to help set-up, take-down, and serve food for this event. If you are willing to help, have questions, or would like to attend, please contact Sandy Henbest at (804) 580-4975 or sahenbest@kaballero.com. \*

### Marsh Grass Planting

By LYNTON LAND

In 2002, NAPS began a spring program of planting marsh grasses in order to encourage the development of "living shorelines" as an alternative to rip-rap or bulkhead. Several years later we also began to use marsh grasses to "jump-start" marshes that we had sprayed with herbicide in the fall to eliminate invasive Phragmites. Since 2002, 94 sites have received grass, some more than once, and for the last 5 years we have averaged 32 sites each year.

This spring, 77 flats of 50 plants each were used at 32 sites. 13 of the sites received grass for the first time, and all except 9 were intended to stabilize the shoreline. The others were intended to re-colonize barren marshes where Phragmites had been sprayed.

Common cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) was the most common grass planted, between mid tide and average high tide. Small amounts of salt meadow or alkali bulrush (*Scirpus robustus*) were also planted along with the cordgrass near high tide at some locations because this species has excellent wildlife value, especially for ducks. Salt marsh hay (*Spartina patens*) was planted above high tide because this species, once established, forms a dense stand of grass that is both attractive and able to resist erosion.

The secret to a healthy marsh is full sunlight. Marshes can be improved by pruning overhanging limbs and other vegetation so as to admit sunlight. A bit of fertilizer like 10-10-10 broadcast on



*A large pod of dolphins visited the upper Great Wicomico River, off of Eagle Point and Glebe Point, just above the Route 200 bridge, in mid-August.*

the marsh as the tide goes out, a couple times during the growing season, and especially where the plants are sparse, is also helpful. Don't worry about the tiny bit of pollution the fertilizer might cause, because it will be more than offset in future years by a healthy stand of grass. A healthy marsh not only provides food and sanctuary for a host of organisms, it intercepts runoff and groundwater discharge and either consumes excess nitrate and phosphate, or, in the case of nitrate, converts it into harmless nitrogen gas.

If you want a "survey" of your marsh, or if you think you (or a neighbor) could use marsh grass in 2009, call Lynton Land at 453-6605 or email JandL@nnwifi.com. \*

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## Adopt-A-Highway

By ANNE BÉLANGER

I am so glad to be here to announce the next NAPS Adopt-A-Highway scheduled trash pick up:

Date: Monday, October 27, 2008  
 Rain Date: Thursday, October 30, 2008  
 Start Time: 8:30 am to get organized; out on the road by 9:00 am or earlier  
 End Time: We're usually finished within two hours.  
 Meeting Place: Parking lot behind Wicomico Episcopal Church on Rte. 200 in Wicomico Church  
 Pick-up Route: Rte. 200 (Jessie Ball Dupont Memorial Highway) between Wicomico Church and the bridge.  
 Special Instructions: Wear sturdy shoes. Gloves and hats recommended. We provide orange safety vests and water. Everyone works with a buddy – bring one or we'll match you up with another volunteer.  
 RSVP: Anne Bélanger: 580-8905 email: blngr@kaballero.com

This is the first announcement. I will reconfirm the week before to make sure we have a quorum. Some of you may have heard that since our last "event," I was on the wrong end of a car crash, so to speak. I'm doing really well, but still limited foot and neck mobility. Neither of these interferes with the planning process or the assignments on the morning of, but I'm still not driving. My assistant, Gérard, will be on hand to handle things "on the road."

I look forward to seeing you on the 27th. Please relay this information to anyone who has expressed an interest in joining us! \*

## New Boat Launch at Dameron

(VA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation news release – 9/9/2008)

A new "hand-carry" boat launch has opened at Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve in Northumberland County, Va. To make one of the most pristine areas of the Chesapeake Bay more accessible to the public, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has built this launch site for canoes, kayaks and other small "car-top" boats. A 75- yard trail leads to the water from the drop-off point that is accessible by vehicles.

Dameron Marsh is one of 54 high priority conservation sites in Virginia's Natural Area Preserve System, which is managed by DCR's Natural Heritage Program. The system provides protection for rare, threatened and endangered species and outstanding examples of natural communities. Dameron Marsh was established in 1998 to protect habitat for the federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle, as well as wetlands that support marsh-bird communities. Rare shore birds also visit the beaches here.

Severe storms over the past five years have caused the tiger beetle population at Dameron Marsh to drastically decline. During the same time, public visitation in the form of boat landing and recreational beach use has increased. This has forced DCR to close stretches of the preserve shoreline from mid-April through mid-October. Foot traffic and boat landing are not allowed at posted areas. However, extensive sections of preserve shoreline remain open to the public. Tom Smith, director of the Natural Heritage Program, said, "DCR built the boat launch to enhance public access to the area and provide a new opportunity for the local paddling crowd, in addition to protecting the remaining beetle population. This is a good way to accomplish both goals." The boat launch will be available during daylight hours. On weekends through October, DCR staff will be on site to interpret the area for visitors. \*

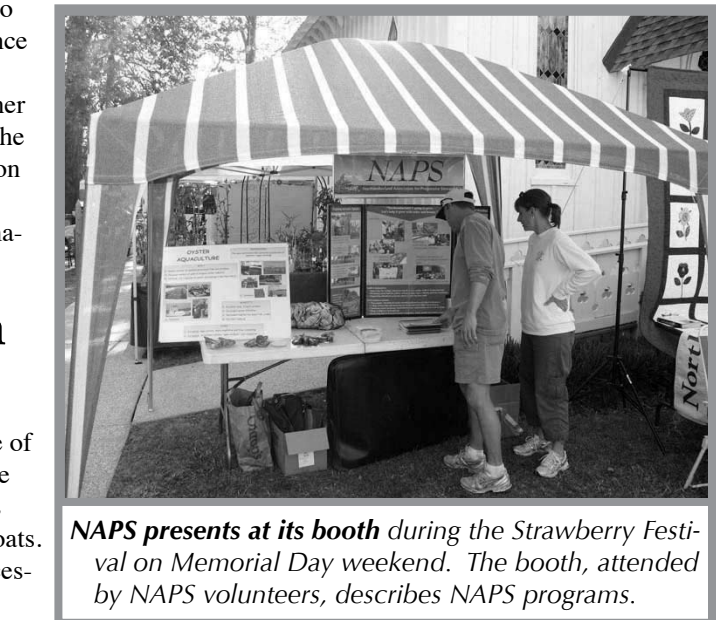
## Zoning Ordinance Ad-Hoc Committee

By NAN FLYNN

An ad hoc committee comprised of interested citizens and representatives from NAPS has completed its preliminary work reviewing the existing zoning ordinance.

In general, the zoning district purposes were reviewed and updated to better coordinate with the revised Comprehensive Plan. Some additional districts were recommended (R-4 Multi-Family Residential, R-5 Planned Unit Development or PUD).

The committee reviewed the existing zoning districts and the uses allowed by right, condition or special exception within each district. The uses were reviewed and re-aligned to better fit the updat-



*NAPS presents at its booth during the Strawberry Festival on Memorial Day weekend. The booth, attended by NAPS volunteers, describes NAPS programs.*

ed Comprehensive Plan. Some usages were considered outdated (Dance Halls) and some were combined (Small Retail Business) for clarification. Some usages were added (Recycling Facility, and Winery) to better address current issues.

Definitions were updated and clarified to better coordinate with the Comprehensive Plan and the Code of Virginia.

Members of the committee met with Kenny Eades and provided him with an overview of the suggested modifications. At this point, the Planning Commission has the recommended revisions in hand and is considering the establishment of a working committee to assist them in the public review process. \*

# Concerts Series Coming to Northumberland

For over a quarter of a century the Rappahannock Concert Association has been promoting live performances of quality music in the Northern Neck and surrounding area by all types of outstanding musicians. Subscription sales support the cost of bringing performers to the area, and the work of organizing and producing the shows is entirely done by volunteers.

In addition to its efforts to build and maintain a permanent concert audience in the Northern Neck area, RCA is also committed to encouraging the teaching of music and music appreciation in our schools. To this end it has obtained grants for artists to spend time working with and performing for students.

RCA has been based in Richmond County for the last 25 years, and Richmond County's elementary school will again be the primary venue for concerts for the 2008-09 season. However, the performances will move in 2009-10 to the new Northumberland County Middle / High School complex currently under construction, where the new state-of-the-art theatre will provide greater audience comfort and enhanced sound and lighting possibilities. What a wonderful opportunity for Northumberland County residents

to have these musical events so close to home!

Plan to subscribe for the 2008-09 season, to get a taste of the wonderful musical performances available. The season opened Friday, September 12, with the amazing finger-picking guitarist Doyle Dykes, whose mastery and musicality attract record audiences throughout the world. On Sunday, October 26, Anita Burroughs-Price, harpist, and Brian Reagin, violinist, will present a varied program of Celtic and folk melodies, Broadway tunes, hymns, and classical selections. On Friday, January 9, 2009, the amazing Pianafiddle duo will offer toe-tapping renditions of every kind of music. Clipper Erickson offers a night of piano music on Friday, March 13, with a tour of 200 years of American composers. And finally, on Saturday, April 25, drummer Brooks Tegler and his 14-piece orchestra will re-create the historic and electrifying 1938 Benny Goodman Carnegie Hall concert, which

featured Goodman on clarinet and Gene Krupa on drums.

All concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. Five incredible performances for the subscription price of only \$60 (or an amazing \$10 for students)! RCA's season subscription also includes free admission to the five

## NAPS Calendar

**NAPS Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 9 AM at the Northern Neck State Bank in Burgess. NAPS members and prospective members are always welcome.**

**October 4, Sat. .... NAPS Fall Social**  
**October 14, Tue. .... NAPS Board Meeting**  
**November 11, Tue. .... NAPS Board Meeting**  
**December 9, Tue. .... NAPS Board Meeting**  
**January 13, Tue. .... NAPS Board Meeting**

performances sponsored by Concerts by the Bay in Mathews. Individual concert tickets and group tickets are also available.

Learn about RCA by visiting its web site at [www.rappahannockconcerts.org](http://www.rappahannockconcerts.org). (Note that this is a new address.) Or call for information at 804-493-9522. \*

## NAPS Welcomes New Members

We thank all our members for supporting NAPS. Continued support from members is essential for the success of NAPS programs and initiatives. Please let your neighbors and friends know

about NAPS, and encourage them to join. Please pass on the application below, and/or invite them to join us at our Fall Social (see p. 1 story for contacts). \*

## NAPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Please fill out application, cut page at dotted lines, place into No. 10 envelope with a check made out to "NAPS," and mail to:

NAPS  
P.O. Box 567  
Heathsville, VA 22473

(Please pass this application along to interested parties.)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category\* (check one):

- Individual \$15     Sustaining \$100  
 Family \$25       Patron \$250  
 Student \$1         Business \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (min. \$50)

\* The Internal Revenue Service has determined that NAPS qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the code. As such, dues and contributions to NAPS may be deductible by donor for tax purposes.

**I would like to participate in:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Adopt-A-Highway
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Finance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grass Planting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Monitoring County Boards
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ NAPS Exhibits
- \_\_\_\_\_ Phragmites Problems
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity and Newsletter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events Coordination
- \_\_\_\_\_ Any Project Assignments
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## NAPS Seeks New Membership Chairperson

Karen Culp has retired from her long-standing position of Membership Chair of NAPS. We thank Karen sincerely for her great work communicating with and keeping track of our members.

NAPS is searching for a new Membership Chair. This volunteer position is one of the most important functions in the organization, yet requires only a few hours per month. A qualified candidate will:

- have a computer, email, and experience with Microsoft Excel,
- have a few hours per month to spare at home,
- enjoy communicating with the NAPS membership, and
- is convenient to Heathsville (must pick up NAPS mail once every couple weeks).

Please contact Mike Ahart at [mikeahart@kaballero.com](mailto:mikeahart@kaballero.com) or 580-9289 if you are interested. \*

## NAPS Awards Five Scholarships

By MYRTLE PHILLIPS

We had an excellent group of students who applied for the NAPS scholarships this year. Eighteen Northumberland High School students applied – the largest number ever. We interviewed eight students, and awarded scholarships to the following five students:

Chelsey Krupski  
Charles Andrew Wilkens  
Jessica Vaneck  
Kimberly Dobyns  
Kelsi Jewell

All five are excellent students who are involved in our community. They have picked up trash and helped in our schools and their churches. One serves with our emergency services and participates as an Eagle Scout with a Boy Scout Troop. Most have held jobs while attending school. Many have attended Rappahannock Community College and the Governors School. They each have a can-do attitude and will be an asset to our community. NAPS congratulates each of you, and wishes you the best of fortune in your future college education and career. \*

### Officers & Board Members

#### NAPS Officers

President ..... Steve Tallent ..... 453-6832.... [tallent@crosslink.net](mailto:tallent@crosslink.net)  
Vice President ... Myrtle Phillips ..... 580-4137.... [myrloo@kaballero.com](mailto:myrloo@kaballero.com)  
Secretary ..... Shirley Smith ..... 580-8011.... [sss@haloisp.net](mailto:sss@haloisp.net)  
Treasurer ..... Susan Carter Hughes ... 453-7802.... [flowers@kaballero.com](mailto:flowers@kaballero.com)

#### NAPS Board of Directors

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#### NAPS Membership Chair

Vacant (contact Mike Ahart) ..... 580-9289.... [mikeahart@kaballero.com](mailto:mikeahart@kaballero.com)



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