



**Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship**

*“Northumberland is going to grow. Let’s help it grow with order and beauty.”*

# NAPS News

Summer 2011

Volume 20, Issue 2

## Join NAPS Creek Clean-up & Picnic – Sat. Sept.17

By LYNTON LAND

NAPS is once again organizing and leading a creek clean-up. This year it is Cockrell’s Creek along Reedville, Fairport and Fleeton. The clean-up will take place on Saturday, September 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. Activities for the day include volunteers going along the shoreline to remove debris, ferrying the debris to various “collection vessels” stationed in the creek, and volunteers on shore at Pleasant Point (site of “The Stack” at the end of Morris-Fisher Stack Lane) to collect the trash and help serve lunch to the volunteers participating in the event. How can you help? We still need volunteers in the following areas:

- Those with small boats willing to take a few volunteers to/along the shoreline to collect trash
- Volunteers willing to go in another’s boat and, when necessary, wade along the shoreline to pick up trash
- Individuals on shore to help collect/handle trash
- Lead organizer for the picnic effort as well as volunteers to help prepare and serve lunch for the event participants

This is a signature event for NAPS, and

directly supports our mission and generates much interest in other NAPS activities. We encourage all members to come out and support this worthwhile event. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Monty Deihl at 453-4493 or e-mail [mdeihl@omegaproteininc.com](mailto:mdeihl@omegaproteininc.com); Lynton Land at 453-6605 or [jandl@nnwifi.com](mailto:jandl@nnwifi.com); or NAPS President Mike Ahart at 580-9289 or [mikeahart@kballero.com](mailto:mikeahart@kballero.com). \*



*The new NAPS booth at the Heathsville Farmers Market, July 16. NAPS will also have a booth set up at the Aug. 20 market...please stop by and say “hi.” We need members to help with tending the booth, setting up and breaking down – please contact any board member (see p.4)*

## Citizens Sign Petition Against Bluff Point PUD

By IDA HALL

In response to Supervisor Jim Long’s request to “get him some names” of people opposed to the proposed Bluff Point Planned Unit Development (PUD), Citizens to Protect Bluff Point provided Northumberland County residents and landowners in June with a petition requesting the Board of Supervisors to deny a Special Exceptions Permit that would locate a PUD on Bluff Point’s conservation-zoned land. (The petition supports development of the property “by-right” in “accordance with current county zoning and the comprehensive plan.”)

The response was overwhelming. The citizens group presented

Mr. Long and the other supervisors with 620 names at the July 14th Board of Supervisors meeting. Half of the signatures came from citizens living in parts of the county not adjacent to Bluff Point. The citizens throughout the county seem to agree that Bluff Point is the wrong location for a PUD. More names were added at the NAPS booth at the July Heathsville Farmers Market.

Petition signing will continue through August 8th. Petitions are located at the library in Heathsville; Hang-Ups and GGCWeb, 74A&B Main St., Kilmarnock; or call Dave Mower at 435-6909 or Ida Hall at 804-761-2342. Read NAPS’ Position Paper at [napsva.org/whatsnew](http://napsva.org/whatsnew) or [northernneck.com/bluffpoint.asp](http://northernneck.com/bluffpoint.asp). \*

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## Massive Coal-Fired Power Plant Proposed

By MIKE AHART

As we look forward to a clean energy future, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) is apparently looking backwards: It has proposed a massive new \$6 billion, 1500 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Dendron, VA, located near Williamsburg. Northern Neck Electric Cooperative is a member of ODEC, and NNEC's members will be saddled with its share of this fool-hardy project if it materializes. This is the most expensive coal plant proposal in the history of the United States.

The local and global impact of this power plant will trace the same paths of the past: Toxic air and water pollutants with adverse environmental and health impacts that will affect local and Chesapeake Bay waters; increased health care burdens;

hundreds of tons of greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global warming; and increased demand for coal produced using the devastating mountaintop removal mining process used in the Appalachians.

Evidence of a need for the capacity of this plant is scarce. If Virginia will get back on the path of clean energy, using a combination of cleaner technologies and renewable sources, we will not only have cleaner air, a cleaner Chesapeake Bay, and lower health care costs, but we may also have the type of economic engine that can lead the nation.

If you are a member of NNEC and are concerned with this issue, please contact them via email [info@nneccoop.org](mailto:info@nneccoop.org)

[nneccoop.org](http://nneccoop.org) or at (804) 333-3621 (Greg White, President). You may also attend the NNEC Annual Meeting and voice your opinion there: Thursday, August 4, 7 PM, at the Northumberland High School. It's free for members and includes a free dinner. (Our apologies if this newsletter is delivered too late for due notice.)

For more information on this proposed coal-fired power plant, or the true direct and indirect costs of dirty coal power, visit [beyondcoal.org](http://beyondcoal.org), [sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org), [chesapeakeclimate.org](http://chesapeakeclimate.org), or search for any of the many articles published on the subject. \*

## Greenhouse Effect and Climate Change

By GREG HAUGAN

Regardless of what politicians might say, the earth is warming and as a result the climate is changing. This is not a new phenomenon or physical concept.

In 1824 Joseph Fourier identified the "greenhouse effect" as the process whereby Earth's atmosphere controls the surface temperature. Physicists of that time also recognized that the sun's radiation is absorbed and re-radiated as heat (infrared radiation). The atmosphere prevents some of the re-radiated heat from escaping to space. In about 1859, Joseph Tyndall discovered that carbon dioxide and other trace gases provided the mechanism that reduced heat loss into space. He explained the ability of the very small proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> to have a large effect using the analogy of how a piece of paper will block more light than a pool of clear water. He also explained that it is possible for changes in gases in the atmosphere to cause climate change.

Then in 1896 Svante Arrhenius and the Swedish Academy of Sciences published a paper showing that for a doubling of the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, the global average temperature would increase by approximately 3.52°C (6.34°F). At that time the level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere was about 290 ppm. (Parts per million)

Today the CO<sub>2</sub> level is 390 ppm and increasing at a rate of about 2 ppm per year due to continuing and increasingly massive amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> being emitted worldwide. The danger level established by science and agreed to by all the nations of the world is temperature increase of 2°C or 3.6°F (less than doubling). This corresponds approximately to a CO<sub>2</sub> level of 450 ppm. (Some scientists believe we have already passed the danger point at 350 ppm.) So basic physics tells us that because of the steady increase of the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> entering the atmosphere, more heat is being retained and the earth is out of heat balance. The global average temperature will continue to rise until it is back in balance. Balance will not occur for many years even if the current emissions were stopped completely. You can do the arithmetic and see when we will reach the danger point of 450 ppm for CO<sub>2</sub>. \*



NAPS' Myrtle Phillips and Mike Ahart award scholarships to Northumberland High School Seniors

## NAPS Awards Six Scholarships

By MIKE AHART

Six \$500 scholarships were presented by Myrtle Phillips and Mike Ahart during the Northumberland High School Senior Chapel Awards Ceremony on May 19.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following six recipients: Jordan Baughan, Morgan Lewis, Stacie Rest, Rebecca Tallent, Kathryn Taylor, and Jessica Weicht.

As part of its educational programs, NAPS awards scholarships each year to deserving and talented, college-bound seniors from Northumberland High School to help defray their academic expenses. Although these scholarships are awarded primarily on the basis of academic achievement and extra-curricular activities, our one-on-one preparation and interview process plays an important role in our selection. \*

# Fighting Invasive Plants on Kohl's Island



English Ivy vines are cut then treated with herbicide. (Photo taken by Virginia Outdoors Foundation)

By LYNTON LAND

On May 24, Lynton Land (representing NAPS), two Master Naturalists and the President of the local Native Plant Society, along with staff from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), visited Kohl's Island and began to reduce the invasive English Ivy on the property. We cut out about a foot of the vines and applied 50% Glyphosate (the active ingredient in "Roundup") along with a small amount of red dye to the lower cuts. Deprived of water and nutrients, the plants in the canopy of the trees will die back and the herbicide should retard re-growth. We will certainly return this fall to continue treatment and assess the effectiveness of our efforts. As documented at the VOF facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/virginiaoutdoorsfoundation>) we also identified a new stand of Phragmites that will be treated this September. VOF is in the process of deciding if the 2-acre stand of huge bamboo should also be attacked. \*

book.com/virginiaoutdoorsfoundation) we also identified a new stand of Phragmites that will be treated this September. VOF is in the process of deciding if the 2-acre stand of huge bamboo should also be attacked. \*

## NAPS Calendar

NAPS Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 9 a.m. at the Union First Market Bank in Burgess. NAPS members and prospective members are always welcome.

- August 10, Wed. .... NAPS Board Meeting
- August 20, Sat..... Heathsville Farmers Mkt.
- September 14, Wed. .... NAPS Board Meeting
- September 17, Sat..... Cockrell's Creek Cleanup
- October 12, Wed. .... NAPS Board Meeting
- October 15, Sat. .... NAPS Annual Fall Social
- November 9, Wed..... NAPS Board Meeting

## Google Your Flood Zone

By LEE ALLAIN

Do you live in a Flood Zone? Have you looked at the FEMA Flood Zone maps? If you have a PC or Mac, you don't have to painstakingly define where you live and then purchase maps from FEMA. It's free! Just "Google it." Huh?

If you haven't already done so, go to [www.google.com/earth](http://www.google.com/earth) and download Google Earth. By itself, this is a fantastic application that allows you "fly" to any place around the globe. Heathsville or Singapore – it makes no difference. After agreeing to typical software "Terms of

Service," you can download the Google Earth 75 MB application to PC, Mac or even Linux. After installation, just click and "fly."

Now you are ready to go to FEMA for its "Stay Dry" software overlay for Google Earth. Just go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) and search for "stay dry". You will end up at a download for "stay\_dry\_v2.0.kmz" or you can go directly to <http://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/wps/portal/NFHLWMSk-mzdownload>. Download and installation are brief. Now, every time you click on Stay Dry, Google earth will automatically

come up with the FEMA flood information overlay.

To use, click on Stay Dry to open. Just "fly" to your home town and click on "Stay Dry overview." View your home's elevation and where you stand relative to local flood zones. For instance, I discovered that, although my home will be high and dry, there is a flood zone that could cut off my entry road. Whoops!

Oh, and while you are flying, go to Bluff Point or Lewisetta and see what the situations are there. They are definitely NOT good places to ride out a storm. \*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## It's *Phragmites* Season Again

By LYNTON LAND

September rapidly approaches, and that means it's time to apply herbicide to *Phragmites*. There are 110 sites on the list this year. Some sites are new and will be attacked with the power sprayer, but many of them are nearly cured and the invasive grass will be sprayed selectively with a backpack sprayer. I am still experimenting with various strategies to completely eliminate the pest, including switching to a different herbicide, adjusting herbicide concentration and simply skipping a year to allow the plants to recover a bit so the herbicide has more effect the next year. New sites are still being accepted for treatment, so if you know of one that is accessible, have the property owner contact me at JandL@nnwifi.com or 453-6605. \*

### NAPS FALL SOCIAL – OCT. 15

## Save the Date...to Celebrate!

By SUE HAUGAN

NAPS cordially invites you to...**celebrate!** We will gather for our annual Fall Social on Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM; drinks 4:40-5:30, dinner to follow. Please note that we will be congregating at a new venue this fall: Mallard Bay's Clubhouse located in its subdivision off of Rt. 642 near Bush Mill Stream Nature Preserve. Our Socials always feature great food and drink and this year will be no exception. During our program, we are proud to be honoring a long-time Northumberland County resident, school board member, experienced educator, community leader, military wife and mother, and a mean knitter, Myrtle Phillips.

Invitations will be sent to NAPS members by mail in September. Please plan to join us...it's a great way to connect with your community in a really positive way. If there are any willing hands that can help – bring a dish to share, help set-up or clean-up – please contact Sue Haugan at 580-2166. But most importantly...**save the date!** \*

## NAPS Officers & Board Members

### NAPS Officers

President ..... Mike Ahart..... 580-9289.... mikeahart@kaballero.com  
 Vice President ... Monty Deihl ..... 453-4493.... mdeihl@omegaproteininc.com  
 Secretary ..... Lee Allain ..... 529-5491.... lrallain@kaballero.com  
 Treasurer ..... Susan Carter Hughes ... 453-7802.... flowers@kaballero.com

### NAPS Board of Directors

Mike Ahart ..... (Term Expires 2/2012) ..... 580-9289.... mikeahart@kaballero.com  
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