

What can each of us do?

NEVER throw anything in the water!

Grass clippings, leaves, fish carcasses, food scraps, etc. decompose and release NO₃ and PO₄ which fertilize the growth of suspended algae.

CONSERVE energy and water.

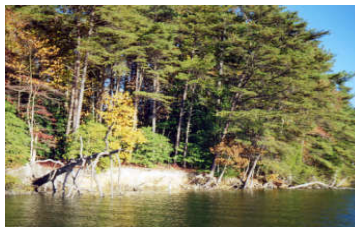
Conserving water reduces the amount of nutrients entering our groundwater, which discharges into our waterways. Conserving water will also extend the lifetime of our deep aquifer, which is being lowered 1.5 feet each year by unsustainable withdrawal. Conserving energy slows global warming and rising sea level.

REDUCE the amount of water and solid material that enters your septic tank, and never add strong chemicals. Don't use a garbage grinder/disposal. Have the tank pumped and the septic system inspected every five years.

USE "Bayscaping" or "Xeriscaping" to minimize the use of lawn fertilizer and chemicals. Plant deep-rooted trees and shrubs between (never over!) a drainfield and the nearest waterway so the plants can remove nutrients from the groundwater.

REMOVE trash and excess branches, leaves, etc. from waterways. Prune overhanging limbs so sunlight can penetrate and promote the growth of grasses on the creek bank and in the water.

PREVENT shoreline erosion by installing riprap, bulkhead or coconut logs, or by planting marsh grasses in the intertidal zone.



PROCEED at "No Wake" speed when boating to minimize shoreline erosion. Do not make waves larger than Nature makes. Churned up sediment also smothers oyster beds.

GROW oysters in floats. Oysters filter the water, making it clearer so SAV can grow. Contact Don Beard at 438-6563.



NEED more information?

Coan River Watershed Initiative
P. O. Box 850, Heathsville 22473

Northumberland Association for
Progressive Stewardship (NAPS)
P. O. Box 567, Heathsville 22473

Visit the NAPS web site:
www.geocities.com/northumberlandnaps
for stewardship tips and links.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDERS

PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

"...in the large sounds near the sea are multitudes of fish, banks of oysters (I have seen some 13 inches long), and many great crabs...."



"The soil is more fertile than can be well expressed; it is altogether aromatical...."



"...at the mouth of every brook and in every creek exceeding good fish of divers kinds...."

Observations by Gabriel Archer and William Strachy from the early 1600's