

NAPS News

Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship
"Northumberland is going to grow. Let's help it grow with order and beauty."

Fall 2015

Volume 24, Issue 4



Welcome to the Fall 2015 Issue of NAPS News.

Here's what was happening this season and check out these upcoming events:

Saturday, February 6, 2016: The NAPS Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members.

There will also be a program of interest to members and non-members. Look for an announcement in the local papers for the details when they are available.

Saturday, April 16, 2016: The Second Annual Earth Day Celebration and Exhibition.

Once again the event will be held during the Heathsville Farmers Market at Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern. And there will be the 5K race. The YMCA will have races for the kids. Watch for details in the papers and reminders on the radio stations.

Lee Allain Accepts NAPS Award. Speaking at the NAPS Annual Social, October 17, Lee lauded the "volunteer army that makes Northumberland County unique." > > >

Fall Eco-Tours Engage School Kids. Two Eco-Tours took students to first-hand learning experiences on the waterways and on land.

NHS Students Join Road Clean-up. Six NAPS volunteers were joined by two Northumberland High School seniors and a mom, Janice Mahoney reports.

Where Are We Going? A STEM Projection. This is the short version of Lee Allain's article about STEM trends. To read a more detailed discussion, go to our web site at www.napsva.org.

NAPS Financial Report. Total NAPS annual working budget is approximately \$6,000. See the report and Membership status from Greg Haugan inside.

Citizens Climate Lobby Report. Dr. Greg Haugan discusses the emphasis on climate change education and provides details of CCL's exhibits this fall.

NAPS Calendar.

Memo from Bill. President Estell reviews NAPS activities and looks ahead to 2016.

NAPS is lining up an interesting presentation for the Annual Meeting, February 6. Watch for an announcement in the local papers.

To keep up with NAPS on a regular basis, check out our web site: www.napsva.org. That's where you will find the complete article on STEM trends.

– Jay Walker, Editor

NEWS

Lee Allain Accepts NAPS Award

In accepting the NAPS Distinguished Citizen Award (DCA), Lee Allain lauded the "volunteer army that makes Northumberland unique." Speaking at the NAPS Annual Social, Saturday, October 17, at the Bay Quarter Shores Club House, he pointed out that there is plenty to do in the county and NAPS is an enabler.

"NAPS promotes stewardship of Bay water quality, stewardship of our rural environment, sound land use, smart economic growth and education," he stated. "These areas are primarily roots of community quality of life for ourselves and future generations. Just by being part of NAPS, you in this room have demonstrated that

you give a damn," he said to applause, adding that members "are the lubrication that keeps the county, state, and country sane and on track."

On a personal note, Lee said that NAPS has provided an organizational vehicle to initiate and complete projects that he wanted to do anyway. Some of his first work with NAPS involved winning grants three years in a row for renovating natural marsh areas in local waterways. Today he is heavily committed to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) within the school system with the goal of increasing student science and math participation. That (Continued on page 2...)



Lee Allain (left) accepts NAPS Distinguished Citizen Award from President Bill Estell.

ECOLOGY

Fall Eco-Tours Engage School Kids*By Jay Walker*

Sponsored by NAPS, two Eco-Tours this fall took students to first-hand learning experiences of local waterways and local fish and water operations ashore.

The first tour, September 14th, was conducted by Captain David Rowe out of Lewisetta Marina. This Coan River tour was set up for a home school group and parent chaperones by Northumberland Children's Librarian Jan Bates. The kids (and their parents) gained personal knowledge of oysters, crabs, and local fisheries from a true Chesapeake waterman. They learned how to hold a crab, how to tong, then open oysters, how to trawl for fish, and how to identify sea birds. Plus, it was fun.

The second tour was conducted by Captain Danny Crabbe for seventh and eighth grade students from the Northumberland Middle School. After weather conditions disrupted the schedule three times, the tour finally got underway on October 7. Pam Hagy, Coach, Community Problem Solving, Northumberland County Public Schools, set an ambitious agenda.

It started with a presentation on aquaculture at Purcell's Seafood with Rich Harding, followed by a session on water quality by Dave Geeson of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and a trip to Omega Protein for a presentation on menhaden fishing by Andy Hall. Trips by a pound net and a view of the Smith Point light were on the return agenda.



The Eco-Tour for home school students and parents was led by Captain David Rowe out of Lewisetta Marina.



In a thank-you note to all the "eco teachers," Pam Hagy said, "Parents have been sending texts and emails saying their kids came home with great stories and a desire to do it all again. You are such an important part of our community and I am so glad students were able to see and experience why, first-hand."

NAPS Vice-President Lee Allain, who arranged the tours, said, "We hope that our Eco-Tours have been successful in 'infecting' at least some local students with a love of our waterway environment. NAPS believes that improving the environment of the Bay and local rivers is crucial to sustaining the Northern Neck way of life."

The Eco-Tour for Middle School students had an ambitious agenda on the water, passing Smith Point light, and on land.

Distinguished Citizen Award *(from page 1)*

participation has included constructing a solar array that powers a cell phone charging system at Northumberland High School, and LEGO building projects at the elementary and middle schools funded by grants that he won from River Counties Community Foundation. In addition, he

has arranged Eco-Tours of area waterways with local certified watermen/captains for a number of Northumberland students and Boy Scouts.

Presenting the NAPS DCA plaque, President Bill Estell remarked that the list of Allain's community accomplishments,

including those outside of NAPS, would fill two plaques.

In his speech, Lee concluded, "For each of us there is a simple test for if your work on earth is complete: Are you still alive? Thanks to you, NAPS is very much alive. Again, thanks for your support."

ENVIRONMENT

NHS Students Join Road Clean-up

NAPS volunteers collected litter on Route 200 between Wicomico Church and Tipers Bridge on Saturday, October 24th. The six NAPSters were joined by two Northumberland High School seniors, Kory Swift and Jessica Thomas, plus Jessica’s mom, Stacy. Kory and Jessica are amassing community service hours prior to graduation. All three said they had a good time.

We appreciated their participation which allowed us to pick up five sections of the highway. Sometime we have enough people to do all seven sections.

The contents of the 14 bags of litter contained the usual signs of un-civilization: beer bottles and cans, cardboard, cigarette butts, plastics, fast food wrappers, diapers, and several unmentionables. The only sour note for the morning was when someone threw out fast food lunch wrappers just after we had completed the pick up.

Well, as they say, “You can’t fix stupid.”



Road workers included: Sue Lindsey, Kory Swift, Stacy Thomas, Jessica Thomas, John Henbest, Sandy Henbest, and Charles Smith. Not shown are Lynton Land and Janice Mahoney.

NAPS Calendar

NAPS Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, starting at 9 a.m. at the Union First Market Bank on Rt. 360 in Burgess, unless otherwise changed.

- Jan. 13, Wed. ... NAPS Board Meeting
- Feb. 6, Sat. NAPS Annual Meeting & Election of New Board Members
- Feb. 10, Wed. ... NAPS Board Meeting
- Mar. 9, Wed. NAPS Creek Clean-up
- Apr. 6, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Apr. 16, Sat. Earth Day Celebration at Heathsville Farmers Market
- May 11, Wed. ... NAPS Board Meeting

NAPS FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 1, 2015

The total NAPS annual working budget is approximately \$6,000.00 based on the annual dues. There is also an additional approximately \$1,000.00 received from “Angels” including Omega Seafood for support of special projects. Of that amount, \$2,000 was budgeted and subsequently provided for four \$500 scholarships for deserving Northumberland High School graduating seniors. The remainder of the budget goes to other worthwhile activities such as eco-tours, creek clean-up; supporting STEM activities at the public schools, our Earth Day festival and our mailings. To the right is a simple table of where we currently stand regarding the 2015 financial activities. Much of the deficit was due to our Earth Day Festival expenses which were higher than anticipated. We will budget for the 2016 Earth Day Festival and accept donations specifically for that event. As we can see from the Revenue line, we are running behind our expenses. We also are running slightly behind on our membership renewals which impact our revenues, of course. We have been fortunate in past years that Omega Protein has supported many of our activities, and responsible financial management has enabled us to have a positive financial carryover as shown in the starting balance.

We have transferred the funds set aside for matching endowment donations to the Endowment Fund. We were not receiving the donations we expected and the money was sitting idle. The value of the Endowment is approximately \$15,000 which includes the starting amount of donations and matching amounts and the net changes in value of the investment account with Wells Fargo. We also have a CD worth about \$9,200.00 in reserve.

11/17/2015	
Starting Balance	\$5,944.06
Revenues	\$7,926.70
Expenses	\$8,738.61
Current Year Net	-\$811.91
Operating Funds	\$5,132.15
(Endowment not included)	
<i>Submitted by: Gregory T. Haugan, Treasurer; November 17, 2015</i>	

EDUCATION

Where Are We Going? A STEM Projection

By Lee Allain

When my class and I graduated from high school in 1954, we certainly had **no idea** what was in store for us. Buck Rogers, who first introduced the concept of space exploration in the movies and comics, was as close as our generation got to projecting the future. In 1954, could we have prepared to live and work in a world like the one we live in today? In '54, the concepts of computers in every household and internet communications certainly never dawned on any of us graduates. Facebook ? Twitter ? Huh?

Oh, and here we are – telling our current high school students how to prepare for the future?

With the launch of Sputnik by Russia in October of 1957, my peers and I launched a wave of technological development that boosted us from the 1960s through the 1990's. In May of 1961 President Kennedy challenged the nation with “landing on the moon before the end of the century.” With the moon landing in July of 1969, we were at the top of our game. Personal computers and the introduction of the internet as a commercial entity in the mid-nineties launched us into what is termed the “Information Age.” The confluent development of cellular smart phones has added the advantages of mobility and unbelievable connectivity to our personal communications. Where to go from here?

Unfortunately, our national sense of urgency is lagging. In complacency, we have drifted from leader to 36th out of 65 world countries when comparing math, reading, and science skills. It is time to re-assess our situation and step again toward the future. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) initiatives across the country are designed to inspire student interest in assisting in the very evolution of mankind. The only good news is that there is overwhelming opportunity.

That is, we are in crisis! There is plenty to do.

With the experience of the last 60 years, it is appropriate to think about today's students' possible futures, if only to stretch all of our minds a little. What will be commonplace in 2034, 2054, and 2074 as our students progress through their lives? Whatever we project now will definitely be wrong. Still, what follows is my bravely-offered version of what today's students may encounter in their futures. I have highlighted a dozen major development **trends** that have potential to significantly alter future human life. There is plenty of work (jobs) for the next millennia.



Stem Trends

- Self-driving vehicles
- Personal robots, Siri with a body
- Human/machine connectivity
- Manufactured food – meat, potatoes, etc.
- Most disease conquered: cancer, diabetes, etc.... Age 100 common
- Electronic/digital money
- Abundant energy from fusion reactors (w/o CO₂)
- DNA based crops, healthcare, organ replacement, species reconstruction...
- Transparent security – but loss of privacy
- Increased planet stewardship regarding pollution/resource depletion
- Sustainability mandates – “Growth” no longer an attribute
- Renewed space exploration – Mars, asteroid avoidance...
- Your thoughts?

This Newsletter article only serves to introduce and list possible development areas. For those with an interest, an unabridged version with more detailed discussion of each trend area and possible implications is provided on our website at <www.napsva.org>

At the bottom line, students can only prepare for the future by building a foundation of science augmented by math, computer and communications skills. Applied science, through engineering, builds our various technologies in transportation, robotics, communications, food growth and manufacture, healthcare, electronic money and, yes, even space travel. A clear emerging trend is that technology must go hand-in-hand with sociology and environmental stewardship into the future.

Member Report	2015
Business	4
Family	61
Individual	39
Patron	5
Sustaining	28
Student	1
Total	138

NAPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT NOVEMBER 17, 2015

The table presents the current paid-up membership status. We have heard from 95% of our 2014 membership. We need the other 5% and more to enable us to continue our work to support Northumberland County in “growing in order and beauty” without running a deficit for the year.

We especially thank our Patrons and Sustaining Members for their contributions; the numbers have increased over last year.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY

Citizens Climate Education Report

By Greg Haugan, PhD

The primary goal of the CCL/CCE is to achieve a stable climate for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Earth Is Warming

The earth has already warmed 1° C (1.8° F) from fossil fuel and other greenhouse gas emissions, and the fingerprints of this warming are all around us. Fortunately, here in Northumberland County we have not been the recipients of the more violent activities. We are hitting a trifecta this year: (1) the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere reached an annual average of 400 ppm (350 ppm is considered the safe level); (2) September has been the warmest September since records began; and (3) the entire 2015 is on track to be the warmest year since records began, and by a wide margin. 2014 has the current record.

It Is Bad

There have been changes in major weather patterns; rains come in downpours and storm surges like the floods in the South Carolina coast and down in Texas and in China; the rare typhoon that hit Yemen and the multiple typhoons that hit the Philippines; and the drought in California, Syria and New Guinea. The glaciers are melting in Greenland and Antarctica, the ocean is warming and gets more acidic, and sea levels are rising. All are due to global warming from human fossil fuel emissions. Think of it this way: for each 1° C increase in temperature there is a 7% increase in the amount of moisture the atmosphere can hold; this is the reason for the downpours and the heavy snows. We are now on our way to a 3° C rise if we keep business as usual.

It Is Caused By Us

The amount of emissions from fossil fuels continues to increase worldwide with China, India and the US at the top of the list. China and the US talk about the problem and have programs in place for reductions but India mostly just worries about the population supporting itself. Warming from CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions disturbs the normal meteorological cycles and phenomena and results in weather extremes.

We Can Do Something About It

Starting on November 30, the nations of the world has been meeting in Paris to try to work out a formula so that emissions of greenhouse gases can be significantly reduced in time to avert an increase in the earth's temperature to 3° C. The goal had been 2° C, and that is still believed to be the real danger level, but the international conference in Copenhagen in 2009 failed and now the higher temperatures are most likely.

Your local CCL chapter has been doing its small piece. We have met with Congressman Wittman and discussed issues and our wishes for appropriate action from Congress. This is the carbon fee and



Bob Lindsey and Maureen Fairbrother "work" the CCL exhibit at the Urbanna Oyster Festival.



dividend solution. We had a booth at the Boots and Barbeque event and also at the Urbanna Oyster Festival. The latter was special since we were part of the Education Day that preceded the public days. We had designed a special Climate Timeline Post and an Interactive Urbanna Climate Quiz exhibit and had 16 groups of 4th and 7th graders at 15 minute intervals between 9:00 am and 2:15 pm. Our main message was that climate change was real, it was caused by

us and that we could do something about it. Dr. Maureen Fairbrother designed and painted a 10 foot high post and used it to explain climate change prior to the schoolkids taking our quiz and marking their answers with orange dots as shown in the picture (left). The questions were: How much higher is the river at Urbanna expected to be in 2050; how many days above 90 degrees are expected in 2050; and what year do you calculate the earth will pass the danger point of 2° C? The teachers were given the answers in their packets that also contained other reference materials.





Northumberland
Association for
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Stewardship

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Memo from Bill

Fall ushers in our annual NAPS Fall Social and this year was no exception. Bay Quarter Shores Clubhouse provided the venue once again and the Chesapeake Garden Club worked their magic for beautiful decorations on dining and serving tables.

Our own Lee Allain received a long overdue Distinguished Citizen Award. The Social Committee and many volunteers provided a memorable evening.

Unfortunately our clean-up effort for Cockrell's Creek had to be cancelled this year due to high winds, rough seas and unsafe boating conditions for our kids and boat captains. We'll look for better weather next year.

The NAPS Highway Clean-Up was held on a Saturday this year to allow youngsters to participate to accumulate Community Service hours. The attendance and result were less than hoped for and all the sections were not covered because many of the adults had other obligations on Saturdays. Our Clean-Up Guru Janice Mahoney is planning to return to the normal Tuesday in the spring.

NAPS STEM efforts are continuing with the STEM Boost 2 Program in the middle school as a follow on from the effort in the past two years at the elementary school. Javornda Ashton, Math Department Head at the high school and Administrative Intern with the middle school, and Shauna McCranie, Gifted and Talented Coordinator at the high school are combining forces of LEGOs and the SeaPerch Robotics Project to improve and enhance the STEM educational environment in our schools.

It is not too early to "Save the Date" for the second annual NAPS Earth Day Festival which will include a 5K Race and activities for

NAPS Officers & Board Members

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kids sponsored by our YMCA. The Earth Day activities will mirror last year's activity from environmental groups and vendors. The date is 16 April 2016 in conjunction with the Heathsville Farmers Market at the Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern.

Thank you for your continued support. Don't forget your dues (just a reminder).

Best to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Bill Estell,
President