

NAPS News

Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship

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

Fall 2012

Volume 21, Issue 3



Welcome to the fall issue of NAPS News. Here's a rundown of what's inside:

Social, Award and More. The Social, October 13, was a terrific event topped by the presentation of the NAPS 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award to Dr. Gregory T. Haugan.

Dr. Haugan Receives NAPS 2012 Award. Greg's contributions to the county cover a staggering amount of complex work.

NAPS Armada Takes Out the Trash. In all, about 5,100 pounds of trash was taken out of the creeks along the Great Wicomico River.

OP/ED: Sewage Sludge Land Application by Mike Harwood.

Adopt-A-Highway Fall Pick-Up. With a new leader, Janice Mahoney, the NAPS team hit the road October 24.

"Too Good to Throw Away" Shed Debuts. The shed is already in regular use thanks to a NAPS donation of 100 percent of the cost of materials – and some volunteers.

Bluff Point Update. The permit game is in full swing, Ida Hall reports.

Technology: Climate Change Then and Now by Dr. Gregory T. Haugan.

NAPS Board Visits Omega Protein. The Board learned how the Reedville plant is improving efficiency and cutting costs, while becoming environmentally friendly.

Outreach. NAPS exhibited at the Northumberland Library in August.

Memo from Bill. Between the creek clean-up and the Annual Fall Social, it was a busy time for NAPS.

Financial Report. NAPS is in good shape.

Winter Issue Preview. In the next issue, look for a review of 2012 and plans for 2013, including a new Northumberland County environmental initiative.

– Jay Walker, Editor

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.

Nov. 14, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
Dec. 12, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
Jan. 9, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
Feb. 13, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting

OUTREACH

NAPS filled the exhibit space at the Northumberland Library in August with information describing the many projects in education, environment, and technology undertaken by the association.

No NAPS display would be complete without Lynton Land installing a bunch of phragmites (he did not spray them).



MEMBERS

NAPS Social, Award, and More

Over 50 members and friends attended the 2012 NAPS Social, October 13, at Bay Quarter Shores Club to honor the Distinguished Citizen Award recipient, enjoy refreshments with a great view, and have a wonderful chicken dinner with a variety of sides.



Prior to the presentation, President Bill Estell spoke of the important ties NAPS has had with the Northumberland schools as part of our education programs. This recap was a segue to introduce NAPS guest, Dr. Rebecca Gates, the new School Superintendent. Dr. Gates said that as she settles into the job, she looks forward to working with NAPS, adding that she now understands the major impact NAPS has had on the new school campus.

Dr. Haugan said that he has always followed NAPS objectives in the work he has done for the county.

The main feature was the presentation of the 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award (DCA) to Dr. Gregory T. Haugan. Bill stated that this award is not only well deserved, it is long overdue.

In his thank-you comments, Greg said, "I have always followed the NAPS

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

There were other Distinguished Citizen Award winners in attendance, including Porter and Mary Kier, Mike and Adele Harwood, Lynton Land, and last year's recipient Myrtle Phillips. They joined the rest of the audience in a standing ovation for Greg. (See related article - page 3)

New School Superintendent Dr. Gates was a special guest to get to know NAPS.



Saying that the recognition was long overdue, Bill presented the citation plaque to the 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award recipient, Dr. Haugan.

The 2012 Distinguished Citizen's Award Plaque

Here are the words engraved on the plaque presented October 13 at the NAPS Social to Dr. Gregory T. Haugan:

- ON-GOING WORK ON THE COUNTY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
- UP-GRADE OF THE COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN
- ASSISTANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO COUNTY SEWER SYSTEMS
- SERVICE AS TREASURER OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES
- TEACHING RAPPAHANNOCK INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING COURSES
- ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY THAT DEFINE DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

OP/ED

Sewage Sludge Land Application

By Mike Harwood

Since 1994, NAPS has opposed the fertilization of farm fields with "treated" human waste trucked in from numerous Virginia and out-of-state municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Credible research has shown that our County sewage sludge land application ordinance is inadequate to protect human health and the quality of the water in our many waterways. But local jurisdictions are precluded by Virginia's infamous Dillon Rule from adopting regulations more restrictive than state ordinances already in effect.

We have worked long and hard with other anti-sludge activists to convince the General Assembly to change the Virginia sludge ordinance. We have been opposed at every turn by strong farmer, municipal wastewater treatment plant, and trucking interests. While we helped in getting the state ordinance revised, it did little or nothing to improve on the human and environmental dangers. And enforcement of even these inadequate regulations is practically nonexistent.

Over the years, we have been monitoring sludge reports and newspaper articles from across the commonwealth and the nation, as well as international sources. We are encouraged by recent experiments to use human waste as an alternative energy source. Beyond that, there is only one "positive" use, and its safety is questionable, depending on what quantity was in the toilets that were flushed to produce it. A small percentage of the stuff is given additional treatment and processed into lawn and garden fertilizer sold in bags at garden shops. This is known as Class A bio-solids, while bulk farm fertilizer is Class B. About 50+ percent of all "treated" sewage sludge goes out to the farmers and the rest goes into land fills.

Closer to home, we have been consulting with Delegate Margaret Ransone about HB 186, introduced during the 2012 General Assembly. HB 186 would authorize localities to prohibit land application of sewage sludge. The House continued HB 186 to the 2013 session.

Joining me on this highly talented sludge study group are Lynton Land, Greg Haugan, Lee Allain, Frank Fletcher, Ralph Millar and Sheri Hummell.

We will not give up!

NEWS

Dr. Haugan Receives NAPS 2012 Award

In recognition of his continuing and extraordinary service to Northumberland County, NAPS has chosen Dr. Gregory Haugan to receive the 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award (DCA). The official presentation took place at the NAPS Social, Saturday, October 13, at Bay Quarter Shores.

Greg's contributions to the county cover a staggering amount of complex work. He started his volunteer consultant work with the County Administrator in developing a "Lesson Learned" report following Hurricane Isabel in 2003. This report was presented to the Board of Supervisors and assisted in upgrading the County emergency preparedness plans. He volunteered to update the statistical appendix to the Comprehensive Plan, and then led 11 public hearings to rewrite the Plan. He also maintained a log of all public comments and their disposition to incorporate citizen contributions and worked with staff to perform the complete revision. In addition, he assisted the Administrator in the implementation of the Fleeton and Callao Sewer Systems.

He is now gathering statistical information as the required five-year Comprehensive Plan update looms before the Planning Commission. He has recently been added to Congressman Rob Wittman's Environmental Advisory Council, to represent the county.

"As a county resident, Greg has carried a citizen's viewpoint through all his work," said NAPS Vice President Lee Allain, who prepared the DCA citation for the Board. "The value of his contributions as a volunteer, if provided by an outside consultant, would be measured in hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Along with the contributions to the county, Greg has been active

in other pursuits, leading courses at the Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning, leading the Betz Landing Homeowners Association, and writing six books related to project management. He is a former member and treasurer of the Northumberland Public Library Board of Trustees and currently serves as Treasurer of NAPS.

Going beyond our county, Greg has published a must-read book and reference for decision-makers involved in large, long range projects. *The New Triple Constraints for Sustainable Projects, Programs, and Portfolios* provides guidelines for including major population changes, climate changes and energy constraints into their plans. Greg reviewed this book for the Library's "Books Alive" program on Tuesday, October 23. These activities are all in addition to running his international consulting company, GLH Incorporated. He also has a contract from his publisher to produce a follow-on report addressing Sustainability Activities in Program Management.

Dr. Haugan received his PhD from American University, his MBA from St. Louis University, and his BSME from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He is also certified as a Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute. He hosts a website at www.pmhaugan.com. Greg and his wife Sue have resided in Heathsville for 16 years.



**NAPS Award recipient
Dr. Gregory Haugan**



"Taking out the trash" involved an armada of 10 boats delivering debris to the staging area at the old Mila steamship landing.

On a windy day along the Great Wicomico River an armada of 10 boats collected trash, Saturday, September 15, for the 2012 NAPS Creek Clean-up on waterways from the mouth of Cockrells Creek to the Glebe Point bridge. The staging area was the old Mila steamboat landing on property owned by Pamela Russell. Omega Protein, Inc., represented by Monty Deihl, Director of Fishing Plant Operations and NAPS Board member, was an important contributor to the project. Besides being captain of the

ENVIRONMENT

NAPS Armada Takes Out the Trash

purse boat, Monty provided lunch for all hands, port-a-potties, and the all-important dumpster. NAPS President Bill Estell and Board member Lynton Land planned and directed the clean-up operations.

Sixteen Northumberland High School students, organized by Beta Club sponsor Jovita Kelly, and five boy scouts, led by Douglas Schaeffer, made up the boat crews. Some of the students were doing a second tour of duty. In addition,

two LDS Church missionaries and a senior from Longwood University took part.

Thirteen NAPS members were on hand to set up the staging area, sort trash to recycle, serve lunch, and clean up the venue. After lunch, Pamela Russell related the history of Mila from its early settlement, through her family's farm and oyster/crab business, to the present.

"None of this day's success would have worked without the enthusiastic support of the community, especially Omega," com-

mented Bill Estell. "And we're fortunate to have a generous supporter in Pamela."

All the trash that could not be recycled filled the dumpster. In all, about 5,100 pounds of rubbish was collected. Among the debris was an insulated, one-inch-diameter cable about 50 feet long towed in behind Monty's purse boat. Other unusual items included a broken toilet bowl, a Sony TV set, an automotive radiator, a smashed up canoe, and a very rusty trike. Lumber of various sizes was also in the haul.

Besides Monty, the boat captains included Blaine Altaffer, Spud Parker, Trevor Deihl, Frederick Rogers, Bill Crowther, Glenn Lester, Carter Fox, Mike Manyak, and Brian Wood.

According to an informal poll of the student crew members, they all had fun. The veterans from last year were just happy that it did not rain. All the participants went home with a bright green NAPS tee shirt designed by immediate-past-president Mike Ahart. The shirt carries an appropriate message: "Taking out the trash."

NEWS

“Too Good to Throw Away” Shed Debuts*By Sandy Henbest*

Labeled “TOO GOOD TO THROW AWAY, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,” a freshly painted shed at the Horsehead dump is a collection site for county residents to leave good condition, working items, for other residents to take (free) for their own use. Designed to support recycling, lessen the rapid filling of landfills, and provide a means for people to acquire items they need, the shed is the result of local generosity.

When I suggested the project, I got the support of County Administrator Kenny Eades. It became a reality thanks to a NAPS donation of 100 percent of the cost of materials. The shed was constructed by Ken Shepard’s volunteer building crew of Lee Allain, Bill Estell, Ernie Flynn, and Lynton Land, plus John Henbest and myself, with Nan Flynn as architect. County businesses included Allison Hardware (paint), Lillian Lumber (discount on building materials) and Lowery Concrete. Monty Deihl was responsible for the sign.

Rules have been posted. They include: Only items that work. No liquids. No TVs. No clothing. No hazardous material. No mattresses. NO JUNK. More rules may be added as we see how things are going. In addition, local thrift shops and volunteers maintain the shed each week to rearrange items, sweep, and discard undesirable donations. After only one month in operation, most items disappear within 24 hours, a very positive sign of success.

NAPS really knows how to make a difference in Northumberland County.



ENVIRONMENT

Adopt-A-Highway Pick-Up*By Janice Mahoney*

The NAPS Adopt-A-Highway fall trash pick-up took place on Wednesday, October 24, starting at the meeting place in the parking lot behind the Wicomico Episcopal Church on Route 200 in Wicomico Church.

Sixteen volunteers collected 20 bags of trash on a warm and sunny afternoon. Participating were Alice & Don Imbur,

Sandy & John Henbest, Kathey & Walter Brodman, Fran Bacon & Bob Holley, Andy Kauders, Susan Carter Hughes, Bill Estell, Anne & Gerard Bélanger, Jeanne Stevens, Ray Hinch, and Janice Mahoney. About the only item of note picked up was an old tire. The pick-up covered Route 200 (Jesse Ball Dupont Memorial Highway) from the Church to the Glebe Point Bridge.

As a tribute to the organizational skills of Anne Bélanger, Bill Estell commented that the NAPS highway clean-up program is the best organized activity he has participated in. We owe a lot to Anne’s service. And the best way to thank her is to continue the effort.

Believe it or not, the job is fun when there are so many energetic volunteers.

UPDATE

Bluff Point Permits Raise Alerts*By Ida Hall*

On August 2, 2012, Allison C. Dunaway, DEQ’s Virginia Water Protection (VWP) permit manager, approved Bluff Point Holdings, LLC’s VWP 1 application request for culvert and road improvements “as a VWP General Permit Number WP4.” The project will permanently impact 198 square feet of non-tidal wetlands.

Numerous citizens familiar with the property and PUD, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation opposed the application request because “the work is part of the larger PUD and not a separate and complete project.” They also believe that Bluff Point Holdings, LLC should “seek approval of the entire set of wetlands impacts created by the PUD and not segment approval of wetlands permits.”

On August 28th, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) granted Bluff Point Holdings, LLC, 150 acres of the 250 acres of oyster ground they had requested in Barnes Creek. After many citizens and some watermen who live in the area voiced concerns about the size of the requested 250 acre oyster lease, the hazards cages would impose to navigation because the mouth of the creek is very shallow, only 12” deep at high tide, risks to other boats and properties in the area, the strong southerly fetch, shifting

sands and unsuitability of the hard sand bottom for oyster cultivation, the VMRC requested Bluff Point Holdings, LLC to reduce the acreage. One commissioner even remarked that the requested 250 acres was, “preposterous.” “The applicant hasn’t even worked the 62 acres of oyster ground he acquired in 2009!”

After meeting with Ben Stagg, VMRC chief habitat engineer, the compromise was reached. The VMRC also denied Bluff Point Holdings, LLC any cages on the shallowest portion of the creek near and outside of the mouth of the creek towards Fleets Bay. (An audio version of the hearing is on the VMRC website.)

The 150 acre approved lease is located in the exact area where Bluff Point Holdings, LLC plans to dredge a channel 1.3 miles long, 10 feet deep, and 100 feet wide for boats up to 100 feet long to access the planned inland marina on Barnes Creek. (Is this really about oyster cultivation?)

Bluff Point Holdings, LLC is in the process of submitting a Joint Permit Application sometime in the next 12-14 months. This will include: shoreline stabilization plans, stormwater plans, grading plans, road plans, erosion and sedimentation control plans, well and wastewater plans, and environmental documentation for review.

NEWS

NAPS Board Visits Omega Protein

At the invitation of Board member Monty Deihl, Director of Fishing Plant Operations for Omega Protein, the NAPS Board and spouses visited the Omega facility in Reedville after the August 15 regular meeting. Monty opened the visit with an overview of the company, including facilities elsewhere in the USA. He pointed out that Omega not only provides jobs in Northumberland County, but spends millions of dollars doing business in the Northern Neck. He also said that the Reedville plant has launched programs to improve efficiency, cut costs and also be environmentally friendly.

Bill Purcell, Environmental Manager, described programs that do just that. The highlight this year was converting to Renewable Diesel Oil (RDO), a process that turns industrial fats into RDO. It is carbon neutral, no sulfur, and cheaper than standard diesel. Another program is waste water treatment to cut pollution from the menhaden processing procedures. A third program initiated by Purcell has been fishing vessel upgrades, including no discharge compliance and this year introducing bio-diesel fuel.

Jane Crowther, chief scientist for the OmegaPure Health and Science Center, described the three market segments for Omega Protein – human nutrition, animal nutrition, and plant cultivation. The OmegaPure facility was designed in 2004 as an innovative food-grade fish oil refinery. The entire process is computer controlled and monitored for safety and security. Crowther said that the facility is inspected by the FDA frequently and exceeds all requirements.

The visit ended with a tour of the plant and refinery.



Bill Purcell, left, showed the NAPS Board and spouses around the outside of the Omega Protein plant.

TECHNOLOGY

Climate Change Then and Now

By Dr. Gregory T. Haugan

Regardless of what politicians are claiming, the earth is warming and as a result the climate is changing. This change is not a new phenomenon nor 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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ in the atmosphere, the global average temperature would increase by approximately 3.52 degrees C. At that time the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere was about 290 ppm (parts per million).

Today the CO₂ level is 390 ppm and increasing at a rate of about 2 ppm per year due to continuing and increasing massive amounts of CO₂ being emitted worldwide. The danger level established by science and agreed to by all the nations of the world is a temperature increase of 2 degrees C or 3.6 degrees F (less than doubling). This corresponds approximately to a CO₂ 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 CO₂ 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.

The Consequences:

There are many climate change effects of increasing temperatures such as increasing amounts of moisture in the atmosphere resulting in heavier precipitation and stronger storms, more severe droughts and floods, shifting gardening zones, etc. Here in the Northern Neck one of the potential impacts is rising sea level caused by melting of ice in Greenland and West Antarctica, as well as glaciers in general, accompanied by thermal expansion of warming oceans. It includes changes in local sea levels along the East Coast caused by changes in the Gulf Stream.

September 2008 forecasts of sea level rise from the Science and Technology Advisory Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program are for the Bay to rise from between 27 and 63 inches by the end of the century – about four feet. At Lewisetta, the NOAA monitors currently document a sea level rise of 5 mm per year or 0.2 inches per year, which includes subsidence.

The current rate of change is equivalent of 1.63 feet increase in 100 years, so a linear projection would have 2050 sea level 8 inches higher than today. Recent studies of the amount of melting in Greenland and Antarctica indicate that there is now expected to be an additional increase in sea level of at least 6 inches by 2050 on top of previous estimates. So, if you have waterfront property, you should expect at least a 14-inch sea level rise by 2050. You can go to the NOAA Tides and Currents web page and select Lewisetta – Mean Sea Level Trend to see what is happening.

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Memo from Bill

The NAPS Creek Clean-Up this past 15 September was a huge success as detailed in the Rappahannock Record article on 27 September and the feedback received from the participants. A success like this results when the Northumberland community

comes together to support programs vital to the health of our environment. Stewards of the water from Omega Protein – Monty Deihl and his fleet of boat captains – provided the vessels. Our happy crew of “pickers” included many Northumberland High School Beta Club students guided by Jovita Kelly, the Boy Scout troop of Doug Schaeffer, two LDS Church Missionaries, and a Longwood University student. Two and a half tons of debris was dragged out of the Great Wicomico River. The enthusiasm of these young people was truly remarkable.

The work of setting up the staging area next to the old oyster house at Mila on Pamela Russell’s family home and sorting recyclables from trash was directed by Lynton Land and Judy Lang and many helping hands. A delicious lunch was provided for all the “worker bees” by Omega followed by a fascinating history of Mila and the role it played in Northumberland’s history provided by our host Pamela Russell.

The NAPS Fall Social was held at the Bay Quarter Shores Clubhouse on 13 October and as usual a wonderful turnout enjoyed an evening of tasty food and adult beverages. The Social was planned and carried out in expert fashion by Jinny Estell and Earline Walker, as well as the usual host of volunteers. The Chesapeake Garden Club provided the elegant flower arrangements for each table, the flower sculptures for the serving and hors d’oeuvre tables as well as the outside decorations. They provided a spirit of Fall for everyone’s enjoyment. If you missed it this year be sure and look for next year’s extravaganza.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Northumberland’s Distinguished Citizen Award to our own Dr. Gregory T. Haugan. Greg’s contributions to the County and Community are legend and we are delighted to finally afford him the recognition he so richly deserves. His accomplishments are detailed in this newsletter by our veteran reporter and news hound Jay “Scoop” Walker. It was an excellent choice this year and many members commented on how pleased they were that Greg was selected.

NAPS will continue to work on and bring to you the kind of programs and educational information that reflect your interest in the stewardship of our beloved Northumberland County. We cannot do it alone, however, we need your help and support. The membership of NAPS needs to be expanded; talk to your neighbors and if they are not members ask them to call any of the Directors listed in this newsletter. Best to you and yours,

Sincerely, Bill Estell, President

NAPS Officers & Board Members

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Treasurer’s Report - October 2012

Gregory T. Haugan – Treasurer

Our finances are very healthy. We have \$19,897.10 in two CDs plus \$6,500 in our checking account. For this calendar year we are running only an approximate \$700.00 deficit even after providing \$3,000.00 in scholarship monies to six high school seniors plus \$1,300 in materials for the “Too good to throw away shed” at the Horsehead Trash Disposal site. We have broken even on the weed spraying chemicals due to generous donations from some of the owners of affected properties. In addition, due to support from Omega Protein in the form of paying for the food, we came close to breaking even on the recent Creek Cleanup at Mila.