

NAPS News

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

Fall 2017

Volume 26 Issue 4



Welcome to the Fall 2017 Edition of NAPS News.

Here's what happened this season, but first, please mark your calendars for this important event:

Saturday, February 10, 2018. NAPS Annual Program and Meeting at United Methodist Church in Heathsville from 10 a.m. to noon. The Program is "Earth Day in February" and the Board Meeting will include election of new Board members, plus plans for the year. See Page 2 for more info.

Bill Estell Accepts NAPS Award. > > >

Angel List. We thank these NAPS members who contributed additional funds for the Fall Social.

NAPS Launches Flotilla for Creek Cleanup. Sporting bright yellow "Love Our Planet" T-shirts, some 40 participants hauled out trash from along the Little Wicomico River. See the pictures.

NAPS Supports Dolphin Discovery Tour. Shauna McCranie describes the tour for Northumberland school kids to see bottlenose dolphins up close.

Artesian Water: An Update. Dr. Lynton Land sorts out the present and future condition of our ground water. Essentially, when it's gone, it's gone.

Busy Month Ends with Highway Pickup. Janice Mahoney led a team of volunteers along Route 200.

Financial and Membership Reports. NAPS Treasurer Roger Gruben crunches the numbers.

NAPS Calendar. NAPS Board meetings are now scheduled for the 2nd Friday of each month, 10 a.m.

NAPS Officers & Board Members.

Memo from Mike. President Mike Ahart outlines how shopping on Amazon.com can help NAPS – plus an update on new website features and our upcoming Annual Meeting.

NAPS Officers and Board Members.

To keep up with NAPS on a regular basis, check out our website:
www.napsva.org.

– Jay Walker, Editor

NEWS

Bill Estell Accepts NAPS Award.

By Jay Walker

In accepting the 2017 NAPS Distinguished Citizen Award on Saturday, October 14, Bill Estell remarked, "In my tenure as NAPS President I presented six of these awards to very special people and never in my wildest dreams thought about receiving one." The event was the NAPS Annual Fall Social at the Bay Quarter Shores Community Club House.

He went on to say that the award had special meaning because it came from "my NAPS family." He pointed out that contributions by NAPS in environment, community outreach, and especially educational opportunities are the core values of what NAPS represents.

Estell listed a number of these activities, in effect turning himself from the award winner to an award giver. He mentioned environmental initiatives from the early sea grass plantings and phragmites eradication to the creek cleanups, such as the work

on the Little Wicomico, October 1, and highway pick-up teams, taking place October 23.

The educational programs got the most attention. He pointed out that NAPS provided the foundation for developing STEM education in the Northumberland County schools that included Lego STEM, a 120-Watt solar panel construction, and a quadcop-

(Continued on page 2...)



Bill Estell, Distinguished Citizen Award winner, (left) accepts a plaque from NAPS President Mike Ahart.

NAPS Award (from p. 1)

ter drone demonstration. In addition, NAPS scholarships are awarded to outstanding graduating students every year.

Finally, Estell lauded the number of school projects that NAPS has helped finance, including the student Eco-Tours by local watermen on the Chesapeake.

"I am very proud of NAPS and all of you who have worked so hard to make these programs possible," he concluded.

But before leaving he introduced "some important ladies in my life." "First is Jinny, my wife, life partner and best friend of 63 years – married for nearly 56 of those years," he said, adding, "In the

Northern Neck I am known a Jinny Estell's husband!"

The second woman in his life is daughter Marti, who was visiting for the weekend from her job in the State Department. For the third woman, Estell introduced, "Cherie Carl, Director of our wonderful library, because the library is another passion of mine."

He pointed out that Carl will unveil the library's Tech Mobile at the Heathsville Farmers Market, Saturday, October 21. He also recalled the



Estell introduced three "important ladies in my life" (from left): Northumberland Library Director Cherie Carl, daughter Marti, and wife Jinny.

joint project between NAPS and the library when 200 eclipse-viewing glasses were dispensed in just 13 minutes.

Angel List

We thank the NAPS members who contributed additional funds for the Fall Social, including those whose names had not been listed in the program*:

Sloane & Bob Kane*	Millie & Bill Koehler
Judith McBride*	Janice Mahoney
Jan & Mike Ahart	Shauna McCranie
Fran Bacon & Robert Holley	Mary Lou McFall
Judy & Gordon Burgess	Nancy & Ralph Millar
Cherie Carl	Martha Tallent
Bruce Craig	Jane & Sibley Towner
Jinny & Bill Estell	Earline & Jay Walker
	Sally & Hal White

ANNUAL PROGRAM AND MEETING NAPS Program Celebrates "Earth Day in February"

An "Earth Day in February" program will be featured at the NAPS Annual Meeting, Saturday, February 10, 2018, at the United Methodist Church at the corner of Route 360 and Route 201 in Heathsville from 10 a.m. to noon. As part of the NAPS commitment to the environment, Northern Neck groups will be invited to describe their upcoming plans for environmental programs. They will also display their literature.

Each representative will have about five minutes to introduce their organization and programs. It is also a time when getting volunteers and new members has become a challenge. It's time to start working together.

Look for complete details, including participants, in the local papers and on local bulletin boards, and please urge your friends and neighbors to attend.

The program will be followed by the NAPS Annual Meeting, where members can suggest and discuss NAPS initiatives and events for 2018. Members will also vote on four board member seats (in addition to one vacancy, three board members will have served the limit of 2 consecutive terms).

Nominations for board members will be accepted up until before the vote on February 10. Please email your nominations to stewardship@napsva.org or by mail to NAPS, P.O. Box 567, Heathsville, VA 22473.

ENVIRONMENT

NAPS Launches Flotilla for Creek Cleanup

By Jay Walker

Sporting bright yellow “Love Our Planet” t-shirts some 40 participants, including Northumberland school kids, boat captains, Smith Point Sea Rescue crew, and on-shore volunteers, hauled in hundreds of pounds of trash from creeks along the Little Wicomico River on Sunday, October 1. The event was the 2017 NAPS Creek Cleanup.

Cockrell’s Marine Railway was the base of operations. Lynton Land coordinated the captains, including Monty Deihl, Andy Cockrell, Myles Cockrell, Bill Anderson, Wayne Corey, Bob Yinger, and Adam Wood. Land said that NAPS President Mike Ahart did a great job of organizing the entire event.

After lunch sponsored by Omega Protein, boats set out with crews of students and



As a safety precaution, the crew on the Smith Point Sea Rescue boat stood by.



Crews rolled in tires at the NAPS 2017 Creek Cleanup.

adults, including many fifth grade TAG (Talented and Gifted) students and Beta Club members. Each boat had creeks assigned from special charts provided by NAPS. Two of the boats made second passes at the debris dumped in the creeks. As a safety precaution, a four-man crew from Smith Point Sea Rescue stood by on its 42-foot Provincial Rescue I.

As the boats off-loaded the trash, the on-shore volunteers sorted the recycle items such as bottles and cans. The heavy items, rusty crab traps, plastic furniture, old tires, and most of a TV

receiver, went directly into a large dumpster. By 3 p.m. all of the workers were now sporting mud-splattered t-shirts and shorts. A few students found items they saved from disposal.

Student volunteers included Namiyah Andrews, Chloe Brann, Olivia Byrd, Victoria Douglas, Izaak Hagy, Reagan Harding, Cooper Haynie, Anna Jett, Kelsey Moss, Olivia Newsome, Kimberly Palka, Anna Pridgen, Ashley Roberts, Joey Rockson, Hallie Shackelford, and Ava Wilson.

“NAPS holds these cleanups to help save the Bay and to call attention to the harm trash can cause to the ecology of our beautiful creeks,” said Ahart. “Also, I think the students learned something while having a great time – and the weather was perfect.”

NAPS Board member Shauna McCranie, who teaches the TAG students noted, “These children

are very motivated and beach cleanup is this year’s goal. You could see the satisfaction they felt.”

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On-shore volunteers sorted the garbage for recycling.

See a slideshow of full-color photos of the creek cleanup event at www.napsva.org/news





Some of the students on the tour included Sadie Blake, Garic Reger, Christopher Nava, Luis Cisneros, Tucker Webb, Paris Chinn, Trey Vanlandingham, Harrison Williams, and Ryan Livesay.

ECOLOGY

NAPS Supports Dolphin Discovery Tour

By Shauna McCranie

This fall, with a generous donation from NAPS, Northumberland Elementary School and Middle School Talented and Gifted students took an unforgettable 90-minute excursion aboard the Atlantic Explorer in an exploration of Virginia's most common and charismatic marine mammal – bottlenose dolphins.

The trip offered close-up observations of the marine environment and its inhabitants. Trained aquarium educators provided discussion about the behavior of dolphins, and shared what is being done to conserve and protect the species. In addition, brown pelicans, bald eagles, and other seabirds were frequently sighted.

The 80-plus students and chaperones explored one of the best aquariums and animal habitats in the country at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. They experienced hands-on exhibits, a nature path, and a marsh land exhibit.

They also watched a National Geographic movie in 3D entitled "The Galapagos." The film showed a wonderland of nature in the Pacific Ocean with a remarkable collection of plants and animals that have adapted to this unique environment. Narrated by Jeff Corwin, the movie was a story of discovery all brought to life in stunning 3D.

It was clear that the students had a great time on this field trip to Virginia Beach.

TECHNOLOGY

Artesian Water: An Update

By Dr. Lynton S. Land

By now, most people are aware that the artesian water used by about three-quarters of Northern Neck citizens is being withdrawn at an unsustainable rate. There exists a finite amount of potable water, and when it's gone, it's gone. Water levels are declining about one foot per year. Water quality in the Windmill Point area is marginal and saline intrusion from water deeper in the aquifer is eventually inevitable everywhere as potable water is removed. Unsustainable groundwater withdrawal is a global problem that many people choose to ignore despite the fact that the science is certain (like global warming).

In our case, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission concluded in 2010 that total ground water withdrawal in the Northern Neck, 4.4 Million Gallons per Day (MGD), is small compared to withdrawals from the Middle Peninsula (27 MGD – mostly because of the paper mill) and Southern Maryland (43 MGD – because it is much more highly developed).

A decade ago the Virginia Coastal Plain Groundwater Management Area extended from North Carolina only as far north as the York River. When the GMA was enlarged and the entire coastal plain included, the Department of Environmental Quality was forced to address the fact that the West Point paper mill uses 18 MGD, four times the amount of artesian water used by the entire Northern Neck. DEQ recently sought to phase in a withdrawal reduction as the mill's permit, for 23 MGD, came up for renewal (it actually expired on 06/22/2012!). The threat of loss of profits and

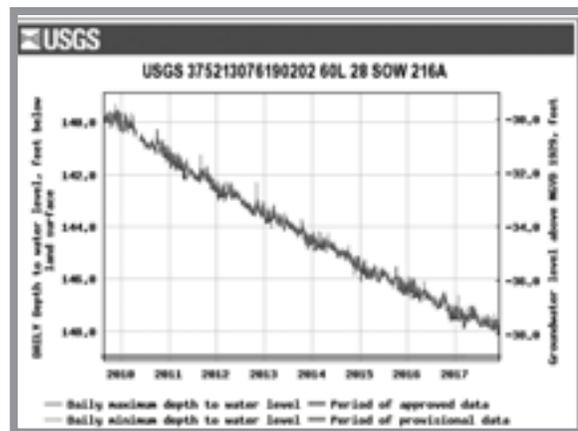
jobs by limiting water withdrawal raised the ire of the "Merchants of Doubt."

At the behest of a local politician, the 2015 General Assembly passed two bills (SB1341 & HB1924) that required postponement of proposed withdrawal reductions until advisory panels could report their findings to the State Water Commission and DEQ. A report is now available, and of course it changes nothing because

the science is sound. It was merely a delaying tactic, one of the strategies in the playbook of the "Merchants" who seek to ensure that profits today trump all other considerations, such as running out of water in the future.

I responded to a request for public input from the DEQ Office of Water Supply that the new ten-year permit "should begin at the current average withdrawal rate of 18 MGD, and should be lowered at least 1 MGD every two years." That suggestion was not acceptable to DEQ. They propose that the withdrawal be 20 MGD for 3 years (the mill never uses that much), reduced to 17 MGD for years 4 through 9, and to 16 MGD during year

10, the last year of the new permit. The mill only used 15.7 MGD and 15.8 MGD in 2001 and 2002, so if the new permit is granted as DEQ has proposed, there will be no meaningful impact on the mill's use of water. But a message is being sent that future reductions are possible. Whether DEQ's current proposal is adopted, or whether future reductions in permitted withdrawal actually materialize is anybody's guess. If the "Capitalist Way" continues to prevail, mining a finite resource to protect today's profits and jobs will be at the expense of potable water for future generations of Virginia's coastal plain citizens.



The aquifer level at Surprise Hill has dropped eight feet since 2010.

ENVIRONMENT

Busy Month Ends with Highway Pickup

By Janice Mahoney

The fall highway trash pickup took place on Monday, October 23. Eight stalwart NAPS volunteers de-trashed four sections of Route 200 from Wicomico Church to the Tippers Bridge. They filled 16 bags of the usual roadway stuff – cans, paper products, bottles, diapers, foil, plastic bags, etc. – to be taken away by VDOT.

Susan Christopher, who lives in Wicomico Church, provided us with coffee and cookies prior to the start. On another day, Alice and Don Imbur cleaned up the entrance road to the public pier at the bridge.

Many thanks to all the regulars who perform this volunteer task with good cheer. We all felt ecologized afterward.



Ready to go highway volunteers were Charles Smith, Roger Gruben, Jeanne Stephens, Martha Talent, Bill Estell, Andy Kauders, and Janice Mahoney. Not pictured is Mike Ahart, Alice Imbur and Don Imbur.

NAPS Calendar

NAPS Board meetings will be held on the second Friday of the month at the Union First Market Bank (UFMB) on Route 360 in Burgess starting at 10 a.m.

- Dec. 8, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, UFMB at 10 a.m.
- Jan. 12, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, UFMB at 10 a.m.
- Feb. 10, Sat. NAPS Annual Meeting and Program, United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.
- Mar. 9, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, UFMB at 10 a.m.
- Apr. 13, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, UFMB at 10 a.m.
- Apr. 21, Sat..... Earth Day Celebration, Heathsville Farmers Mkt., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- May 11, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, UFMB at 10 a.m.
- June 8, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, UFMB at 10 a.m.
- July 13, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, UFMB at 10 a.m.

NAPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT - 2017

The table presents the current membership status versus 2016 as reflected in the numbers of paid-up members this year to date.

Membership Level	2017 Paid	2016
Business	2	4
Family	48	61
Individual	23	29
Patron	4	6
Sustaining	23	23
Student	7	1
Total	107	124

NAPS FINANCIAL REPORT

Major expenses since the last report include the Little Wicomico shoreline clean-up and the sponsorship of additional students for the Dolphin Discoveries outing. We thank all the folks who recently renewed their memberships and attended the Fall Social, contributed to the Fall Social “Angel List,” and otherwise helped NAPS move ahead.

Starting Balance 1/1/2017	\$4,290.28
REVENUES:	
Dues	\$5,525.93
Endowment	\$385.00
Other	\$10,906.97
Total Revenues	\$16,817.90
EXPENSES:	
Administration	\$1,627.43
Donations & Scholarships	\$2,985.00
Membership & Newsletter	\$377.12
Events	\$354.95
Projects	\$4,349.97
Other	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$9,694.47
CURRENT YEAR NET	\$7,123.43
Current Cash Balance	\$11,413.71
Other Assets	
Certificate of Deposit	\$0.00
Endowment	\$20,455.96
Total Other Assets:	\$20,455.96
Total Assets	\$31,516.59

Submitted by: Roger Gruben, Treasurer; Nov. 29, 2017



Memo from Mike

This autumn started out with a bang – lots of NAPS activities! We’re ready for a lighter schedule as we all get prepared for the holiday season.

Although we’ll try to shop as local as we can, modern life in a rural community means that most of us will be doing part of our shopping online. Did you know that you can help your favorite non-profit when you shop on Amazon.com without costing you a dime?

Amazon.com has set up an identical shopping experience at **smile.amazon.com** which allows you to select a non-profit – like NAPS for example (hint, hint) – and Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases! We hope that you’ll choose NAPS, but don’t waste the opportunity to help a favorite non-profit – always start at smile.amazon.com!

Now that we’re all in the giving mood, the **NAPS website** has been set up to take secure payments online, whether for donations or dues (credit cards, debit cards, or PayPal). We’ll also set it up for events when the time comes – such as for the 2018 Fall Social and Angel List. Visit www.napsva.org to check it out.

The date for the **NAPS Annual Meeting and Program** has been set – Saturday, February 10, 2018! We’re planning an informative symposium of area organizations dedicated to local environmental stewardship, followed by the NAPS Annual Meeting and election of new Board Members. We hope to see you all there – and please urge your friends and neighbors to attend – as usual the event is open to the public.

Please email your **nominations of Board Members** to stewardship@napsva.org or by mail to P.O. Box 567, Heathsville, VA 22473 as soon as possible.

We hope you each enjoy the holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2018 – NAPS has another busy year planned!

Best to you and yours,
Sincerely, Mike Ahart, President

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

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Treasurer.....	Roger Gruben.....	435-1863	rogergruben@gmail.com

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