



NAPS News

Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship
Helping preserve the "Northumberland way of life."



Spring 2019

Volume 28

Issue 2

Welcome to the Spring Issue of NAPS News

Here's what happened this spring – but first, please mark your calendars:

Sunday, October 6: NAPS Creek Cleanup – 12pm-3pm, Location TBD (see Pg. 3)

Saturday, October 26: NAPS Fall Social – 4pm-7pm, Bay Quarter Shores Clubhouse

See **Calendar** on page 8 for more events and meetings

NAPS Awards Scholarships to Four College-Bound NHS Seniors

Four Northumberland High School seniors received college scholarships from NAPS during the Senior Recognition presentation ceremony at the school auditorium, Thursday, May 30, 2019.

Scholarships of \$1,500 each were awarded to Jazmine Conley, Abbagale Perez, Annsley Pugh, and Jerry Turner.

NAPS president Mike Ahart presented the scholarships along with Martha Tallent, chair of the NAPS Scholarship Committee. Ahart praised the students for their achievement and thanked the students for their participation in NAPS projects and events. Although NAPS works with the county, businesses, organizations and homeowners, "we're really having fun when we're working with you all," Ahart said

to the students. NAPS encourages students to volunteer for its creek and shoreline cleanups, and it sponsors STEM, nature and environmental stewardship projects and programs at the schools.



NAPS college scholarship recipients are (from left) Jerry Turner, Abbagale Perez, Jazmine Conley, and Annsley Pugh, presented by NAPS president Mike Ahart and NAPS Scholarship Committee chair Martha Tallent.

"It was such a strong group of students, I wish we could have given out more scholarships," said Tallent, adding that NAPS received 22 applications and interviewed ten students.

Selection was based on a combination of environmental and community service, high school achievement, college interest, and need.

To donate to the NAPS Scholarship Endowment Fund, mail a check payable to NAPS to P.O. Box 567, Heathsville, VA 22473. Please write "Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.



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Submit Your Nomination for the 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award

The NAPS Board of Directors is requesting nominations for the 2018 Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award.

Presented at the annual NAPS Fall Social (Sat., Oct. 26 – mark your calendars!), the award honors an individual, team, organization, or business in Northumberland County that advances the goals of NAPS:

1. Improving the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
2. Fostering and preserving the county's rural atmosphere
3. Promoting and monitoring land use policies
4. Encouraging economic growth to promote jobs
5. Cooperating with others through educational programs to target these goals.

Last year's award was presented to Jack Moore for his environmental and historical preservation efforts, especially his leadership restoring and preserving the Shiloh School buildings on Balls Neck.

Previous awardees include Bill Estell (2017) Bob Parker (2016), Lee Allain (2015), Sue Lindsey (2014), Jane Towner (2013), Dr. Gregory Haugan (2012) and Myrtle Phillips (2011). The award has also been given to groups, including the county's Volunteer Fire Departments, Rescue Squads, and Reedville Fishermen's Museum. A complete list of past awardees can be found at NAPSva.org/awards-and-grants.

NAPS also occasionally presents an Ambassador Award to a non-county resident who has contributed to the preservation of Northumberland County as outlined in the NAPS goals above. The first recipient of this award was Henry Bashore, a resident of Lancaster County, for his efforts in making Bush Mill Stream in Northumberland County a nature preserve in perpetuity with the Nature Conservancy.

If you know of an individual, group, organization, or business that merits either of these awards, email the information to



NAPS president Mike Ahart (left) presenting the 2018 Northumberland Distinguished Citizen award to Jack Moore during last year's Fall Social.

stewardship@NAPSva.org, or by mail to NAPS DCA Nomination, PO Box 567, Heathsville, VA 22473. Please include a brief synopsis on how your nominee fits the criteria, and include your contact information. Please submit your nominations no later than July 31, 2019.

NNEC Conducting Survey to Determine Interest in High-Speed Internet Service

Northern Neck Electric Cooperative (NNEC) is conducting a survey to determine local interest in high-speed internet service. According to its website, "if enough people complete our survey NNEC is considering assisting a third party who wishes to provide fixed wireless internet at speeds of up to 25 megabits per second, with an unlimited data plan, in NNEC territory.

"Fixed wireless uses a network of towers, base stations and receivers to deliver broadband internet service to end users. Fixed

wireless solutions allow fast and affordable broadband internet deployment into rural areas where installing physical cables, like fiber, is prohibitively expensive."

Questions in the survey include:

- Would you be willing to pay \$55.00 monthly for broadband internet service up to 25 megabits per second with an unlimited plan?
- Would you be willing to pay a \$200.00 installation fee if necessary?

To complete the survey go to: https://broadband.nnec.coop/front_end

Companies that currently provide fixed wireless internet service in parts of the Northern Neck include Virginia Broadband (VABB) and Northern Neck Wireless, but coverage is limited and prices for 25 Mbps plans are \$129.99 to \$159.99 per month, according to their websites.

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

President.....	Mike Ahart	313-0274	mikeahart@kaballero.com
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NAPS Board of Directors

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Look for new Stewardship Tips posted at NAPSva.org!

Or better yet, sign up for email alerts at NAPSva.org or follow @NAPSva on Facebook and Twitter.

NAPS Spring Highway Pickup Clears 25 Bags of Trash

NAPS performed a roadside trash pickup Monday, April 29, 2019 along Route 200 from Wicomico Church to the Tipers Bridge at the Great Wicomico River. The crew of 11 removed enough litter to fill 25 extra-large bags, plus bottles and cans to be recycled.

"There seems to be an increasing amount of whole bags of trash being tossed from vehicles," said Janice Mahoney, NAPS Highway Cleanup Committee chair. "Our crew found over a dozen this time...mostly grocery bag sized."

"I wish everyone had pride in the Northern Neck and would stop throwing trash out of their vehicles," said Mike Ahart, NAPS president. "If we and other concerned citizens and organizations were not regularly cleaning up the roadsides, that trash would wash into the creeks, rivers and Bay harming the wildlife and water

quality, not to mention how it clogs the drainage making flooding and erosion worse. These volunteers can only do so much...a lot of harm is being done to our county by thoughtless people."

According to the Code of Virginia (§33.1-346), littering is a misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$2,500, either or both. When litter is observed being ejected or removed from a motor vehicle, the owner or operator of the motor vehicle is presumed to be the person ejecting or disposing of the litter.

Lancaster County, Kilmarnock City and some other municipalities have additional littering/dumping ordinances. According to Lancaster County code (§54-29), littering is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00 and by imprisonment for not more than 30 days in jail, either or both. If the litter includes articles bearing a person's name and address, it is presumed that the named person is the one who disposed of the litter.



Art Carver retrieves one of many whole bags of trash found on the roadside.



NAPS Highway Cleanup Crew members (from left): Mike Ahart, Janice Mahoney, Ralph Hendrickson, Martha Tallent, Art Carver, Don Imbur, Alice Imbur, Bill Estell, Alice Stieve, Joe Stieve, and Charles Smith.

Join the NAPS Fall Creek Cleanup, Sun. Oct. 6



Join the 2019 NAPS Creek Cleanup! This year's cleanup is scheduled for Sunday Oct. 6. We'll get fueled up with a free lunch for all participants around noon, then we'll clean up the shorelines of the upper Great Wicomico River using a small fleet of skiffs and lots of helping hands, ending around 3 p.m.

The land base of operations is to be determined – visit NAPSva.org for updates.

Each team of "pickers" will be matched with a skiff and "captain" to clean up trash along the Great Wicomico

River from Tipers Bridge to the headwaters, including each of the adjacent creeks.

A free T-shirt will also be provided for each participant who signs up before Sept. 15. Email stewardship@NAPSva.org and we'll put you on the list!

If you own a skiff and would like to "captain" one of the teams, please email stewardship@NAPSva.org or call Mike at 313-0274. We also need volunteers to help with organization, check-in, lunch setup/cleanup, and sorting trash as it comes off the boats.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

So far in 2019, we have added 17 new memberships: ten family, five individual, one sustaining, and one student.

Membership Level	2019 Paid	2018
Business	1	1
Family	38	45
Individual	18	22
Patron	4	2
Sustaining	19	21
Student	1	1
Total	81	92

Welcome New NAPS Members:

- Tom & Marie Armstrong
- Matthew & Leigh Babaian
- Mary Beane
- Kyle & Debbie Langford
- Jason Powers
- Charles Andrew Wilkins
- Janice & David Manyak
- Brittney Kanard & Cory Kocher

30 Memberships for NAPS 30th Challenge!

We *know* you have a neighbor or friend who 'should' be a member of NAPS but isn't. It's time for them to join! Point them to NAPSva.org/join-help to become a member today!

NAPS Earth Day Festival Celebrates Nature and Good Stewardship



The 5th annual Earth Day Festival in Heathsville welcomed hundreds of visitors to enjoy dozens of exhibits, demonstrations, displays and activities Saturday, April 20, 2019. The event was free and open to the public.

Hosted by NAPS in conjunction with the first Heathsville Farmer's Market of the season, the eco-friendly event celebrated the Northern Neck's natural beauty and showcased the area's environmental stewardship resources.

The festival kicked off with the Earth Day 5K Run and School Challenge. Congratulations to overall winners John Baker of

Lynchburg and Tahi Wiggins of Heathsville. Chesapeake Academy took 1st Place (\$1,000) in the School Challenge, with Northumberland High/Middle School taking 2nd Place (\$500).

At the entrance to the festival area, attendees were invited to add a "leaf" to the "Earth Day Pledge Tree" by writing down their individual pledges to help the environment this year. Each person who made a pledge was offered a complimentary NAPS reusable grocery bag.

The "Spirit of 1608" – an impressive full-size replica of a sailing barge Capt. John Smith used in his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay – was "moored" just inside the entrance. Interpreters in period dress from Reedville Fishermen's Museum informed visitors about the vessel's features, construction and use, adding insights from the Captain's notes about the pristine waters over 400 years ago.

NAPS volunteers worked with the museum to add a "trashy" twist to the vessel display – off the starboard bow was a pile of discarded bags, cans, bottles and other refuse littering the simulated seabed, with signs asking "What would John Smith say?" and "Would John Smith start a colony here if he saw this?"

The museum also displayed exhibits in its tent next to the barge, including a diorama depicting how trash, fertilizer



and other pollutants wash into the creeks, bay and oceans.

NAPS' Julie Hendrickson reinforced the anti-litter theme donning her "Duchess of Ditches" costume covered with discarded bottles, cans and bags and topped with a trash-laden crown. Attendees posed for pictures with the "Duchess."

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners promoted their Shoreline Evaluation Program – a community service initiative informing waterfront property owners about shoreline protection and stabilization options. The program recommends installing and maintaining "living shorelines" whenever possible due to the environmental

benefits. The George Washington Birthplace National Monument is a favorite environmental venue for master naturalists and bird watchers. This year the focus was on preservation of natural resources on Federal Lands.



Visitors to the tent were shown educational displays with fossilized objects including shark's teeth and bones which were illegally possessed inside the George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Pelts were also on display this year, including a skunk, raccoon, and mink, to help individuals correctly identify animals found in the local area.



The Northern Neck Master Naturalists promoted their program of training volunteers as educators, citizen scientists, and stewards helping Virginia conserve and manage natural resources and public lands.

For more information about the courses and other outreach efforts, visit its website.

TOGA (Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association) featured its familiar tank demonstrating how oysters filter the water. Visitors to the exhibit also learned about classes on oyster gardening in Virginia and how to purchase spat, growing cages and other materials.



they tend to be hardy, low-maintenance, and require less water and pesticides.

The display of the Northern Neck Chapter of the National Audubon Society echoed the theme of nature as a unified system. Visitors to their booth leafed through nature books and viewed beautiful illustrations of birds native to the Northern Neck.



A crew from the Northern Neck Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society showcased a variety of plants recommended for area gardens and landscapes. The use of native plants not only protects beneficial pollinators and other plant and animal species native to the Northern Neck, but can save considerable time and money, as



The Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends' impressive display of wildlife promoted their annual "Go Wild" event, coming up on May 5th. The organization's mission is to raise awareness of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge through education and support. Its wildlife display, including stuffed and mounted birds and prey animals, were a hit with children – and startled a few visiting dogs. New this year was an actual eagle's nest – large enough for kids to sit in.



Keep Virginia Beautiful returned this year promoting the VDOT Adopt-a-Highway program and other anti-litter efforts. An offshoot of Keep America Beautiful, the Virginia organization also offers grants to support environmental and beautification programs and projects in the Commonwealth.



Northumberland Middle School TAG instructor Shauna McCranie represented the Community Problem Solvers student group, which has proposed that the county schools add solar panels for energy production. The students have made several field trips and presentations since starting the project last fall.

The NAPS tent displayed several recent initiatives, including its campaign to reduce pollution from disposable plastic straws and grocery bags.



Visitors were invited to join its annual fall creek cleanup and other highway and shoreline cleanup events. Visitors were offered a NAPS reusable grocery bag, and those who joined NAPS were offered an LED light bulb.



The Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) booth highlighted the bipartisan legislation introduced into congress and the need for action to stem the effects of climate change, especially in coastal Virginia where land subsidence is augmenting the effects of sea level rise.



NAPS member Lee Allain displayed and demonstrated a working solar energy array. He answered questions about requirements, installation, rebates, and how homeowners and businesses can incorporate the technology to save money and lower their carbon footprint.



The Northern Neck Electric Cooperative returned this year with its display showing how little energy LED light bulbs use compared to incandescent bulbs of the same brightness. It also showcased its Cooperative Sunshare program, allowing members to purchase blocks of

solar-generated energy.

Again this year, the centerpiece of the festival was an All-Electric Vehicle exhibit, featuring a Tesla Model S and a Tesla Model 3.

Paul Fairbrother and Bette Gruben explained the features and benefits and invited festival goers to sit behind the wheel. Each of the vehicles can travel over 300 miles on a single charge, and the fast-charging network has expanded considerably making long-distance travel easily manageable. For local travel, they plug in at home. Both Fairbrother and Gruben have solar powered residences, so their cars are normally powered by electricity generated by the sun. Other benefits of an electric vehicle are instant acceleration and lower maintenance costs (no radiator, oil changes, hoses, belts, water pump, fuel filters, clutch, starter motor, thermostat, spark plugs/wires, fuel injectors, fuel pump, etc...).



"It was windy, but a really gorgeous day," said Mike Ahart, NAPS president. "A big thank you to all the exhibitors that did such a great job and to the Tavern...and to everyone who attended the festival. A really fun day in Heathsville."

See full-color slideshow at NAPSva.org/Earth-Day-Fest-2019



"Duchess/Duke of Ditches" Outfit a Hit at the Strawberry Festival

The NAPS tent was a hot spot at this year's Strawberry Festival, Saturday, May 25, at St. Stephen's Church in Heathsville.



As part of NAPS' new anti-litter initiative, member Julie Hendrickson created some royal garb covered with garbage, including a crown topped with a rhinestone encrusted Grand Marnier single (the bottle broke off early in the day – it will be repaired for the next event). The "Duchess (or Duke) of the Ditches" outfit was a hit at the Earth Day Festival in April and is helping demonstrate NAPS' anti-litter motto "Don't Throw it Out...Throw it IN!"

Dozens of attendees donned the robe and crown and posed for pictures (see full slideshow at NAPSva.org/Strawberry-Fest-2019).

The NAPS tent featured signage at a trash and recycling can explaining the harm done by roadside trash – it's not only unsightly,



but harms wildlife and clogs drainage, making flooding much worse. Other anti-litter messages included a poster of the NAPS 2018 Creek Cleanup, a paper straw dispenser/display, and a "use reusable grocery bags" display. Many visitors to the tent were given a complimentary NAPS reusable grocery bag. The latest NAPS newsletter, Paddler's Guide, Stewardship Guide for Homeowners, Recycling Guide and other items were offered as well.



NAPS is working on several new anti-litter efforts this year as well as its annual Creek Cleanup (Sunday, Oct. 6) and spring and fall highway cleanups. If you would like to participate in or help plan these efforts, please email stewardship@NAPSva.org.



NAPS-Sponsored Nature Trail Bridge Project Update

Students now have a new bridge on the nature trail behind Northumberland Elementary School, thanks to the hard work and planning of Teagan Mullins, member of Boy Scout Troop #250. With a crew of helpers, Teagan rebuilt the bridge for his Eagle Scout project. A grant from NAPS helped pay for the materials to replace the old bridge which had broken down and become unsafe to cross.



NAPS has sponsored several school nature trail projects including the outdoor classroom, tree identification markers, and construction of other bridges.

NAPS News will post a full interview and photos of the completed bridge in its next issue. Look for updates at NAPSva.org.

Teagan Mullins (center) planned and supervised the rebuild.



Crew hard at work on the nature trail bridge replacement.

NAPS Supports STEM at NHS By Helping Fund Solar Energy Labs

As part of its support for environmental and STEM education, NAPS recently donated \$500 toward material for Northumberland High School science students to build ten small-scale 12-volt solar electrical systems, one DC/AC inverter for guided experiments, wire, switches and assorted hardware.

Each of the systems will be comprised of:

- One 25-watt solar panel
- Battery charging regulator
- 12-volt battery
- Built-in meter to show power, voltage, and current produced by the solar panel
- Built-in meter to show charge/voltage of the battery
- Items to provide demonstration electrical loads (LED lights, fans, etc.)
- Plywood A-frame to mount components to take outdoors for experiments

The school district funded the remaining \$1,300 requested for the program, according to Gary Dickens, NHS chemistry and physics teacher, who also assists with the Rappahannock Community College/Northern Neck Technical Center engineering Courses taught at the high school.

Physics students would build the systems and conduct experiments. Once the unit was complete, students would take the assemblies apart to be rebuilt by students in the next physics class for their own experiments.

Next year, Dickens hopes to add additional test load components and constant streaming energy sensors which will stream voltage and current data into a laptop. These sensors would also be used in other labs studying electric circuits. This year the students will collect and chart the data by hand, according to Dickens.

"When you include NHS students taking chemistry, physics and engineering at the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School and NNTC, over 27% of our student body are enrolled in higher level science and engineering courses," said Dickens, adding that the school is focused on offering more project-based learning opportunities.

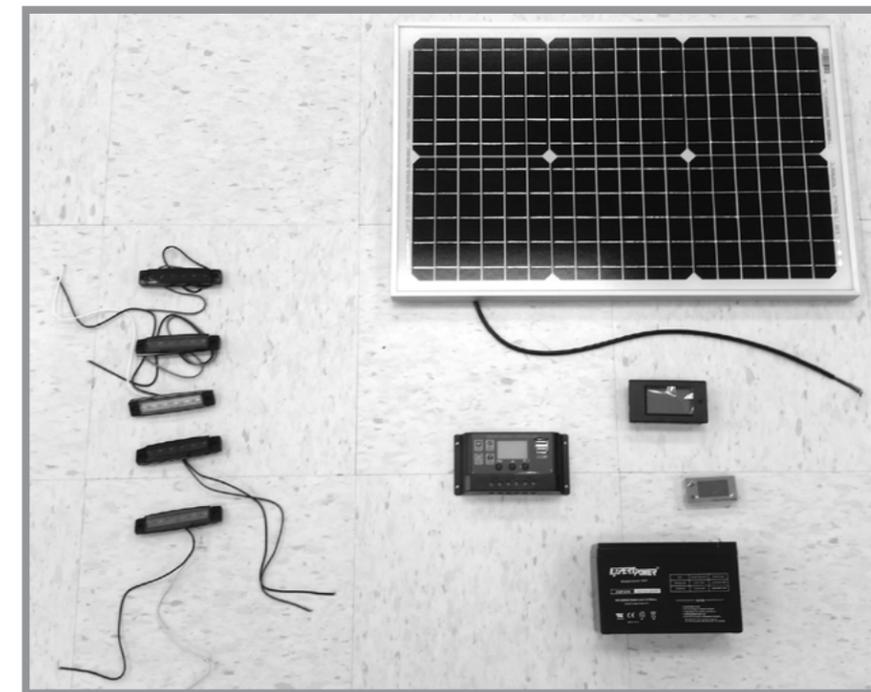
"Our students are taught a set of formulas, given a set of materials and a lab for several days. They then test their projects and present their findings to the class. Our students are very strong in this thinking/building/testing/presenting approach," said Dickens, who



wanted to include a strong unit centered on renewable energy sources, eventually including wind and fuel cell technologies. "The first logical piece of the unit is solar energy, becoming so prevalent in our region," he added.

"Thanks for NAPS' interest in STEM at NHS. I continue to be amazed at the quality of students we have here and want to do everything I can to introduce them to the world of STEM and the lucrative career opportunities it holds. These solar labs are going to make the concepts very tangible for our students," Dickens wrote.

Students will mount each solar kit to a "sandwich board" style frame to facilitate outdoor experiments.



Each of the ten lab systems consist of one 25-watt solar panel, battery charging regulator, 12-volt battery, multi-meter for solar panel output, battery meter and other components.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total assets on 7/2/19 were \$25,073, which is \$4,273 lower than 2018 year-end. YTD revenues are \$4,638 and expenses are \$9,098. We significantly boosted our scholarship and donation spending this year, mostly by increasing scholarship awards from \$500 each to \$1500 each. We still hope to meet our aggressive goal of 30 new memberships to commemorate NAPS's 30th anniversary, which should improve our finances.

Starting Balance (1-Jan-2019)	\$9,494.17
REVENUES:	
Dues	\$4,050.78
Endowment	\$250.00
Other	\$337.00
Total Revenues	\$4,637.78
EXPENSES:	
Administration	\$1,232.34
Donations & Scholarships	\$6,346.01
Membership & Newsletter	\$140.19
Events	\$925.29
Projects	\$453.95
Other	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$9,097.78
CURRENT YEAR NET	-\$4,460.00
Current Cash Balance	\$5,034.17
Other Assets:	
Scholarship Endowment:	\$20,039.30
Total Assets	\$25,073.47

Submitted by: Roger Gruben, Treasurer; 7-2-2019



Memo from Mike

Happy summer! NAPS events and activities tend to cool off a little as the weather heats up, but we're busy planning an eventful fall season, including our "30 Years of Stewardship" anti-litter campaigns, our annual Creek Cleanup (Sun. Oct. 6), and our Fall Social where we will award this year's Northumberland Distinguished Citizen (Sat. Oct. 26). We also have several outreach events planned, so mark your calendars for those (see calendar on the right).

Speaking of planning – if you have not submitted your membership dues for 2019, please do it **right now** – there should be a remittance envelope enclosed, or you can securely pay online at NAPSva.org/join-help. Every kind of support is appreciated and very important for our mission, whether or not you can contribute your time.

We also need help from **you** to help meet our "30 New Memberships for NAPS 30th Year" challenge! We're more than halfway there already, but we know that **you** have a neighbor or friend who cares about the environment and "should" be a member of NAPS, but isn't. It's time for them to join! Point them to NAPSva.org/join-help to become a member today. We know they're busy and might have a lot of irons in the fire, but membership does not require participation – they will be fostering good stewardship in the Northern Neck even with just their financial support...and with

need. As a reminder, please do NOT leave any of the following items at the shed: Paint, Liquids, TVs, Clothing, Hazardous materials, Mattresses, Toilets, Tires, or Junk. All items must fit **INSIDE** the shed.

'Too-Good-To-Throw-Away' Shed to Reopen

Repaving at the Horsehead waste and recycling center required the NAPS-funded "Too-Good-To-Throw-Away" Shed to be unavailable for use. According to County Administrator Luttrell Tadlock, the paving project should be completed and the shed re-opened by the time this newsletter is published.

Since 2012, the "Shed" has been serving the community by supporting recycling, lessening the filling of landfills, and providing a means for people to acquire items they

NAPS Calendar

NAPS Board meetings will be held on the second Friday of the month at the Union Bank on Route 360 in Burgess starting at 10am, unless rescheduled – see updates at NAPSva.org/naps-calendar.

- Aug. 6, Thu. NAPS Tent at National Night Out, Sheriff's Office, 5pm-8pm
- Aug. 9, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10am
- Sept. 13, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10am
- Sept. 21, Sat. NAPS Tent at Heathsville Farmers Market, 9am-1pm
- Sept. 28, Sat. NAPS Tent at Boots & BBQ, Ditchley, 1pm-4pm
- Oct. 6, Sun. NAPS Creek Cleanup, Location TBD, 12pm-3pm
- Oct. 11, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10am
- Oct. 26, Sat. NAPS Fall Social, Bay Quarter Shores, 4pm-7pm
- Nov. 8, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10am
- Dec. 13, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10am

NAPS, a little goes a **long** way.

Please visit NAPSva.org for updates and stewardship tips, and follow @NAPSva on Facebook and Twitter. And if you have any questions, ideas, comments, complaints, or just want to say "hi," please feel free to email me at mikeahart@NAPSva.org or call me at 804-313-0274.

Best to you and yours...

*Sincerely,
Mike Ahart, president*

Save
the
Date!

NAPS Creek Cleanup, Sunday, Oct. 6

Join the 2019 NAPS Creek Cleanup! We'll get fueled up with a lunch for all participants, then we'll clean up the shorelines of the creeks using a small fleet of skiffs and lots of helping hands. Free T-shirt for each participant. Email stewardship@NAPSva.org and we'll put you on the list! Check NAPSva.org for updates, including the location (TBD).