



# NAPS News

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

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## NAPS Awards Scholarships to Four College-Bound NHS Graduates

Four graduating Northumberland High School seniors received college scholarships from the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS). Scholarships of \$1,500 each were awarded to Emma Smith, Claudia Isabel Lopez Martinez, Shelby Smithart, and Savannah Harris.

The NAPS Scholarship Committee received 12 applications and considered financial need, academic accomplishments, community focus, clarity

of vision, probability of success, and alignment with NAPS' environmental sustainability values, according to Martha Tallent, NAPS Scholarship Committee Chair.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the committee did not hold personal interviews

again this year, relying solely on the candidates' applications for selection.

"All of our recipients showed an exceptional commitment to their local community," said Roger Gruben of the NAPS Scholarship Committee. "They have volunteered for local museums, supported environment cleanups, rebuilt



*NAPS Scholarship recipients (from left) Emma Smith, Shelby Smithart, Claudia Isabel Lopez Martinez and Savannah Harris*

storm-damaged homes, and helped younger children improve their academic skills. They show an exceptional maturity and awareness that will

benefit them and their communities for years to come," added Gruben.

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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# Citizens Celebrate Good Stewardship at NAPS Earth Day Festival

After canceling 2020's event due to COVID concerns, the 6th Annual NAPS Earth Day Festival was celebrated on Sat. April 17, 2021, at the Tavern grounds in "downtown" Heathsville, with several exhibits, demonstrations, displays and activities. 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.



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 Chesapeake Bay Garden Club offered a wide variety of plants for sale.



The Northern Neck Master Gardeners highlighted its Shoreline Evaluation Program – a community service initiative informing waterfront property owners about shoreline protection and "living shoreline" stabilization options.

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.



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

money and lower their carbon footprint.



Many of the organizations who usually display at the Earth Day Festival were not able to participate due to their COVID protocols, but we hope next year's festival will be "back to normal" with dozens of displays, exhibits, demonstrations and activities.



grocery bags. Visitors were invited to join NAPS' annual fall creek cleanup and other events. Visitors were offered a NAPS reusable grocery bag, and those who joined NAPS were offered a stainless-steel tumbler with NAPS' "Trash Crab" theme. The tent also featured the "Trash Queen" robe and crown, fashioned from various roadside trash items.

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

Attendees of National Night Out enjoyed food, fun, and community on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the lawn and pavilion adjacent to the Northumberland County Sheriff's Office in Heathsville. The event was open to the public, and food, drink, and activities were free.

## NAPS Meets Public at National Night Out

The NAPS table featured several displays and information on environmental stewardship. Visitors were encouraged to learn more about NAPS and to sign up for the NAPS Creek Cleanup scheduled for Sunday Oct. 3.

Other community organizations, fire and rescue squads, and emergency vehicles were on display.



From Left: Martha Tallent, Mike Ahart and Rita Johnson greet visitors to the NAPS table at National Night Out, Aug. 3rd

## NHS Students Build Solar Labs

Each year, Northumberland High School Physics students study how Net-Zero homes are designed and built as part of their Electricity and Thermodynamics Units. A Net-Zero home



*Trenton Liner and Claudia Lopez measure the charging output of a solar cell*

is one that produces as much energy as it uses over the course of a year and relies on

renewable energy, wind or solar, to do so.

This year, using a grant from NAPS, students were able to learn about solar energy and building electrical circuits first hand, by actually building solar labs. These labs, designed by their Physics teacher Gary Dickens, consisted of a large 25-Watt solar panel, mounted on a wooden A-frame, with associated battery charging components on the front, and space to build LED circuits on the back. The labs are durable and will be used in future classes for solar power and circuit building experiments. The NHS Physics Program thanks NAPS for their gracious donation and support.



*Trenton Liner, Claudia Lopez and Courtney Parrish attach solar panels to the A-frames*

## School Underwater Robotics Program Success

In January, Northumberland Middle School TAG students worked on building underwater Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs). Kits and instructions were provided by Dahlgren Naval Base for the SeaPerch program. The at-home tool kit supplies for virtual learning was sponsored by NAPS. The extra funding from NAPS helped to equip the students and instructors with resources to teach engineering concepts, problem-solving, teamwork, and technical applications at home virtually during the pandemic.

The SeaPerch's ROV kits are made up

of readily available parts and its curriculum covers many aspects of science and

engineering. Building a SeaPerch ROV teaches skills useful for ship and submarine design, and encourages students to become familiar with the basics of both naval architecture and marine and ocean engineering. While informing students about

the many engineering career opportunities, it also teaches technical procedures and instills the principles of tool safety. Students learn to cut and drill pipe, solder, strip wire and other electrical work.



*Students show off their ROV projects during a group video call with instructors*