



NAPS News

Fall 2024 Volume 33 Issue 1

NAPS 2024 Creek Cleanup: 65 Volunteers Clear Trash From the Great Wicomico River



NAPS launched a flotilla of skiffs and kayaks to clean up the Upper Great Wicomico River, Sunday, Sept. 27. Captains, crews, and land-based volunteers assembled at the Mal-

lard Bay Community Clubhouse for a free lunch, then shoved off in search of shoreline trash. The unusually high water lightened the haul of bottles, bags and cans, but the crews

cleared the waterway of many floating deck boards causing potential hazards to boaters! Look for full article and slideshow soon at NAPSva.org.



NAPS Awards \$6,000 in Scholarships

In recognition of their academic achievement and service to the community, NAPS awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to Caroline Neale, and \$1,000 scholarships to Nathalie Biddlecomb and Nash Withers during the Senior Recognition ceremony at the Northumberland High School auditorium, April 29.

NAPS Sponsors 25-Student Tangier Island Tour

Northumberland County 5th and 6th grade gifted (TAG) students embarked on an exciting educational field trip aboard the *Chesapeake Breeze* to Tangier Is., VA Fri., Sept. 20, sponsored by NAPS. Prior to the trip, the students researched the challenges faced by residents of the remote island, particularly the environmental threats of erosion and rising sea levels. Students also learned about the island's rich history and significance in Virginia's colonial and post-colonial development.



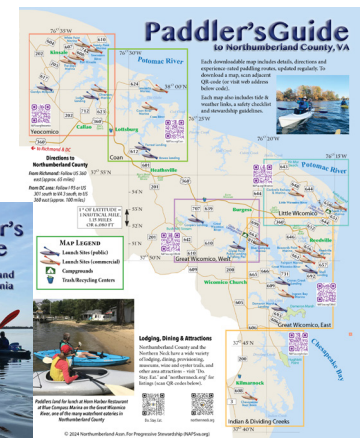
Another Successful NAPS Highway Cleanup

A crew of 12 volunteers cleared the roadsides and gullies during the Spring 2024 NAPS Highway Cleanup, Sunday, April 7th. Fifteen large bags of trash plus several oversized items were removed from Route 200 between Wicomico Church and Tipers Bridge to be disposed of or recycled.



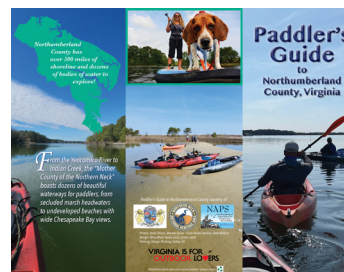
NAPS Sponsors "Teaching With Small Boats" STEM Program

The "Teaching with Small Boats" June/July program was hosted by Reedville Fishermen's Museum (RFM), engaging middle school students in hands-on learning, including maritime concepts, boat-building techniques, and nautical skills. Participants built and launched their own small boats, guided by RFM's expert instructor, David Clark. NAPS donated \$1,000 to provide each student with a toolbox and materials for the project, and several NAPS members donated their time and effort.



NAPS Produces New Updated & Upgraded Paddler's Guide

NAPS' new, improved and completely updated Paddler's Guide tri-fold is available in information kiosks and displays all over the region! The six downloadable detail maps add lots of additional content, including experience-rated paddling routes – and they will be updated regularly with new routes and info. See NAPSva.org/paddlers-guide



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

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NAPS News (continued)

New NAPS Initiative: Ghost Crab Pot Roundup

Did you know approximately 20% of commercial crab pots become unbuoyed or abandoned each year? They trap countless crabs, turtles, fish, otters, muskrats and other wildlife, constantly “re-baiting” the trap until it deteriorates – often many years later! NAPS is exploring ways to remove these killers, within the strict guidelines provided by Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Want to help this winter? Email Stewardship@NAPSva.org



NAPS' Too-Good-to-Throw-Away Shed Reopens

Closed in 2020 due to COVID concerns, the county recently allowed the reopening of the Too-Good-to-Throw-Away Shed at the Horsehead trash/recycling center. NAPS built the shed in 2012 to help keep usable items from going to the landfill. Unfortunately, some people break the rules and leave large trash items in or around the shed, and we need help to keep it usable. If you notice problems, please let us know ASAP - email Stewardship@NAPSva.org or message 804-313-0274 – and let us know if you pass by frequently and would like to be one of our “Too-Good” angels!



NAPS 9th Annual Earth Day Festival

NAPS hosted its 9th. Annual Earth Day Festival in “downtown” Heathsville, Sat., April 20, with dozens of environmental exhibits and activities set up by NAPS and other local organizations. The “All-Electric Vehicle” exhibit was the largest yet, thanks to the Drive Electric RVA EV club providing several of the vehicles.

Thanks to all the wonderful organizations that participated: Bartlett Tree Experts, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Northern Neck Land Conservancy, Northern Neck Master Gardeners, Northern Neck Master Naturalists, Northern Neck Native Plant Society, Northumberland County Anti-Litter Committee, Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends, Reedville Fishermen’s Museum, & Tidewater Oyster Growers Assn. (TOGA).



New Board Members & Officers

Congratulations to Andy “Sit” Sitison who was elected unanimously to the NAPS Board of Directors during its annual meeting, July 21st. The membership also voted unanimously to leave a vacant seat open for a student board member to be appointed during the school year.

At the first regular board meeting after the Annual Meeting, Mike Ahart was elected to fill a board vacancy. Ahart was elected president, Sitison was elected vice president, Ian Brownlee was elected treasurer, and Katie Wilkins was re-elected secretary.

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

President.....	Mike Ahart	313-0274	michaelrahart@gmail.com
Vice President	Andy Sitison.....	677-7717	jasitison@gmail.com
Secretary	Katie Wilkins.....	840-1187	kwilkins@nucps.net
Treasurer	Ian Brownlee.....	301-767-7025	lgbrownlee@yahoo.com

NAPS Board of Directors

Kevin Howe	(Term Expires 2/2025)	435-1863	juniper@erols.com
Alice Imbur	(Term Expires 2/2025)	580-4922	donandally@gmail.com
Katie Wilkins	(Term Expires 2/2025)	840-1187	kwilkins@nucps.net
Ian Brownlee	(Term Expires 2/2026)	301-767-7025	lgbrownlee@yahoo.com
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Jen Sagan	(Term Expires 2/2026)	908-619-2471	jennifer.sagan@riverfriends.org
LaVar Rich	(Term Expires 2/2027)	445-6888	lavarich72@gmail.com
Andy Sitison	(Term Expires 2/2027)	677-7717	jasitison@gmail.com
Mike Ahart	(Term Expires 2/2027)	313-0274	michaelrahart@gmail.com

