

NAPS News

Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship

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



Fall 2018

Volume 27

Issue 4

Welcome to the Fall 2018 Edition of NAPS News

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

Saturday, Feb. 23: NAPS Annual Meeting & Special Solar Program – 10am-12pm, Heathsville

Saturday, Apr. 20: NAPS 5th Annual Earth Day Festival – 9am-1pm, Heathsville

NAPS Launches Flotilla for Creek and Bay Cleanup

With clear skies and calm seas, 50 student and adult volunteers participated in the 2018 NAPS Creek Cleanup on Sunday, September 30.

After a lunch for all participants at Ingram Bay Marina, six skiff captains shoved off with cleanup teams to remove boatloads of trash and recyclables from the shorelines near the mouth of the Great Wicomico River.

The teams tackled nearly 25 miles of shoreline along Ingram Bay, Dameron Marsh, Barnes Creek, Mill Creek, Towles Creek and Harveys Creek. The catch was boated back to the marina to be unloaded and sorted. Hundreds of bottles and cans were removed from the waterways and shoreline, plus furniture, a plastic pool liner, old crab traps and oyster floats, pounds of scrap metal, and various other trash.

NAPS added a new competitive twist this year: Prizes to the team with the largest total haul, largest single item, and most unusual item (see photos, p. 4, and slideshow online). In addition, each registered participant was awarded a t-shirt and a NAPS reusable grocery bag.

As a safety precaution, a 3-man volunteer crew from Smith Point Sea Rescue – Captains Jim Dise, David Haynie, and Don Stone – stood watch aboard the *Rescue II*.



After two returns to the land base, the "Quesamigas" team was awarded the prize for "Largest Total Haul." From left, Captain Monty Deihl, Kelsey Moss, Bay Wiggins, Anna Jett, Caroline Andrews, Alice Sisson, McKensy Smithart, and Becca Baker.

The volunteer trash crew consisted of Caroline Andrews, Becca Baker, Jay Bea, Randy Brooks, Olivia Byrd, Lane Eubank, Kyle Fisher, Brett Foster, Christina Frost, Bill Frost, Cooper Haynie, Anna Jett, Zack Moore, Kelsey Moss, Lesley Newman, Braden Newsome, Sam Parker, Brooks Parker, Martin Pinon, Alice Sisson, Caleb Smith, McKensy Smithart, Dalia Tabulenas, DeJour

Taylor, Jessica Thrift, Christine Wiggins, Bay Wiggins, Karen Williams, Peter Williams, Ava Wilson, and Dana Wilson.

The volunteer skiffs captains were Stephen & Stacey Akers, Monty Deihl, Don Imbur, Gayle Kauffman, Chris Parker, and Billy Pipkin.

A land-based support crew organized the effort, set up lunch, and sorted the trash as boats returned with their

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50 volunteers participated in this year's creek cleanup.

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To keep up with NAPS on a regular basis, visit NAPSVa.org.

Jack Moore Honored with 2018 Distinguished Citizen Award at NAPS Fall Social

NAPS presented the 2018 Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award to Jack Moore during its Annual Fall Social at the Bay Quarter Shores Community Club House in Heathsville on Sunday, November 4. Rescheduled due to power outages caused by Tropical Storm Michael, “the event was well worth the wait,” said NAPS president Mike Ahart.

Moore began his speech on a note of humor: When hearing of the NAPS award, “my son expressed the view that my noted ability to take short snoozes was at last being recognized!” Moore went on to say that he was “humbled” by the award and grateful for the opportunity to talk about his “favorite subject, the Shiloh Schools.” These historic one-room school houses, located at the corner of Balls Neck Road and Shiloh School Road, date back to the late 19th century. Moore explained that the original Shiloh School served students from 1884 - 1905 when the new larger school was completed. Students in the Balls Neck region attended this school for another 23 years, until 1929. In 2012 the original “mother school” was relocated to the current site where both now stand.

Largely due to the efforts of the non-profit Northumberland Preservation Incorporated (NPI), the schools were purchased in the 1980’s, renovated, and became recognized historic sites. Unfortunately, by the mid 2000’s, the structures had fallen into disrepair. “An unused old building inevitably becomes prone to deterioration and decay,” Moore explained. This is when he stepped in with the goal of helping bring new life to the school houses. It was “an opportunity to give back to the community using my modest carpentry skills and long held love of old buildings,” Moore said. Now President of NPI, Moore has provided leadership and attention to detail during the renovations. An entrance porch to the Shiloh school was restored to its original appearance based on a photograph from around 1920, and a local mill contributed by cutting poplar from the region to match the original siding.

Recognizing that lack of use is a building’s worst enemy, the NPI board has fostered a renewed interest in the schools, organized events to be held on the site, and encouraged the public to make use of the space. Over the past few years, it has been a meeting place

for Master Naturalists, a viewing location for an astronomy club, and host to a Veteran’s Day program commemorating the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and honoring local veterans. For the past several years, NPI has also organized several educational lectures at the schools focusing on the region’s history. A native plant garden was added to the grounds recently and has already proven beneficial to the environment. “This summer we were blessed with an abundance of butterflies and fritillaries including the iconic Monarch Butterfly which happily decimated the leaves of our milkweed plants,” Moore said. “Other pollinators are also finding the Shiloh location.” Moore concluded his talk by encouraging members of the community to visit the site and consider participating in its ongoing restoration: “We are always looking for volunteer help ranging from carpentry skills to painting to gardening or working on lecture topics.” The takeaway message of the evening was that viewing the Shiloh school site as a community resource will help preserve it for future generations.

In addition to his work with the Shiloh schools, Jack Moore has served on the founding Board of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy, is a member of the Wicomico Parish Church Vestry, and is a long-standing supporter of the Northumberland YMCA, the Northumberland County Library, and NAPS. In 2016, he and his wife Susan received Rappahannock Community College’s annual Chancellor’s Award. Moore has several degrees from Michigan State University, including a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. His professional career included chemical research at the National Institutes of Health. Appointed by President Ronald Reagan and unanimously confirmed by the Senate, Moore headed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program regulating pesticides and industrial chemicals.

The Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award is presented by NAPS each year to honor an individual, team, organization, or business in the county that advances one or more of the goals of NAPS: Improving the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; fostering and preserving the county’s rural atmosphere; promoting and monitoring land use policies; encouraging economic growth to promote jobs; and cooperating with others through educational programs to target these goals.

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 in the past, 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 president Mike Ahart (left) presents the Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award to Jack Moore.



Jack Moore addressing NAPS Members at the Annual Fall Social.

NAPS Members Mingle at the Fall Social

A few dozen NAPS members enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie at the Fall Social on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, at the Bay Quarter Shores Community Club House. The Fall Social was initially scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, but was postponed due to widespread power outages from Tropical Storm Michael.

After an hour or so of wine, appetizers and great conversation, NAPS president Mike Ahart thanked the crowd for attending. He then extended special thanks to those who helped with the event:

- The NAPS Social Committee – Janice Mahoney (chair), Judy Burgess,

Rita Johnson, Sue Lindsey, Gena McKinley, and Jeanne Stevens

- Members who provided the appetizers, side dishes and dessert
- The Chesapeake Bay Garden Club for the beautiful decorations
- Bay Quarter Shores Community for providing the beautiful venue
- Those who made “Angel List” donations

“This year has been successful for NAPS with a lot of activity,” Ahart said. “We have a number of new members...but, sadly, we lost a few as well...notably Randy Neal who served as NAPS president for several years and was a long-time member.” He thanked members who made a donation to the NAPS Scholarship Endowment in Neal’s name.

Ahart also stated that NAPS had taken a position on Virginia Ballot Question #1 and explained the issue to attendees (see article on pg. 5). He also noted that the NAPS website (NAPSva.org) recently surpassed 15,000 views.

Ahart then awarded the 2018 Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award to Jack Moore, who graciously accepted the award and spoke to the attend-



Earline and Jay Walker pose at the NAPS paper straw dispenser/display.

ees about the Shiloh Schools restorations (see article on pg. 2).

After Moore’s speech, dinner was served – delicious fried chicken from Little River Market and a myriad of side dishes provided by members. At the end of the meal, the bar was set up for serving NAPS’ famous ice cream sundaes! Hope to see you at the Fall Social next year!

(See slideshow at <https://www.napsva.org/single-post/2018/11/19/NAPS-Members-Mingle-at-the-Fall-Social>.)

NAPS Fall Social
Angel List
 Special thanks to the following members who contributed additional funds to the NAPS Fall Social:

Sloane & Bob Kane	Mildred Koehler
Martha Tallent	Judy & Gordon Burgess
Jane Towner	Fran Bacon & Robert Holley
Bette & Roger Gruben	Susan & Jack Moore
Sally & Hal White	Ethel & John Frye
Nancy & Ralph Millar	Judy Lang & Lynton Land
Jinny & Bill Estell	Jan & Mike Ahart
Earline & Jay Walker	Mary Lou McFall
Theresa Lambert & Bruce Craig	

Shauna McCranie Named Outstanding Teacher

Congratulations to NAPS Board member and Northumberland County Schools Talented and Gifted Coordinator, Shauna McCranie, for being named Region III Virginia Association for the Gifted Outstanding Teacher for 2018. McCranie works with students in the TAG program at all grade levels in Northumberland County schools.

This is McCranie’s fourth year as TAG coordinator and during that time she has led students in a variety of educational projects, many of them in conjunction with NAPS. Her sixth grade group of problem solvers are currently working on a solar energy project and have presented a proposal to the school board for incorporating solar energy into the elementary school’s roof renovation and perhaps on the high/middle school campus (see article on pg. 6). Other students are preparing to compete in SeaPerch, a national competition of underwater robotics teams. Previous students in this program were finalists at the national level. A 7th grade group is in the process of studying “Northumberland Natural Disasters.” Last year, the middle-school problem solvers group completed a courtyard beautification project with the help of several community businesses and organizations.

Before becoming TAG coordinator at Northumberland schools,

McCranie was an art teacher at several schools in the region. In her three years on the NAPS board, McCranie has partnered with the organization to provide funding for the students’ projects and has served on the NAPS scholarship committee which helps several Northumberland county students each year continue their studies after graduation. McCranie has also helped organize many other NAPS events, including the fall creek clean-up, the annual Earth Day event, Boots and Barbeque, and the NAPS Special Program & Annual Meeting coming up in February.

McCranie said, “I really enjoy the Community Problem Solving groups I coach, it helps students make a difference doing real world applications like beautifying the schools courtyards, participating in shoreline clean-ups, and working with our local animal shelters. The students of today will have many problems to solve in the future and this opportunity gives them the tools and out-of-the box thinking skills to think critically about the world around them.”



NAPS Highway Pickup Cleans Up

The fall NAPS highway pickup was held on Monday, October 29th, 2018. Thanks to the hard work of the pre-Halloween “skeleton” crew, 12 bags of trash and several large items were removed from the sides of NAPS’ Adopt-A-Highway stretch of Route 200 (from Wicomico Church to the Tipers

Bridge). Many dangerous tree limbs downed by Tropical Storm Michael were also removed from the road shoulders, and dozens of cans and bottles were recovered for recycling.

Want to join the crew for the next NAPS Adopt-A-Highway pickup? Contact Janice Mahoney at 580-3154 or vervaville@yahoo.com. Or start your own group by contacting VDOT – find more information at its website or at KeepVirginiaBeautiful.org.



A headless “Angel of the Highway” concrete statue was left on a guard rail to bless travelers, reminding each to “keep their head” and drive safely.



NAPS Highway Crew members (from left): Mike Ahart, Alice Imbur, Don Imbur, Arthur Carver, Bill Estell, Janice Mahoney, and Martha Tallent.



A “very creepy” doll head took the award for “Most Unusual Item,” displayed by McKensey Smithart.

Creek Cleanup (from pg. 1)

“catch” – Mike Ahart, Bill Estell, Alice Imbur, Rita Johnson, Lynton Land, Judy Lang, Eliot Levinson, Shauna McCranie, and Mary Pipkin.

The NAPS Creek Cleanup was funded by a \$750 grant from Keep Virginia Beautiful, a \$250 donation by Omega Protein, and NAPS. Other sponsors include Ingram Bay Marina for providing the base of operations, Smith Point Sea Rescue for providing a safety boat and crew, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for providing no-cost accident insurance for registered participants, and the community of Betz Landing for providing tables and chairs.

“It was a great day on the water and a lot of smiling faces,” said Mike Ahart, NAPS president. “It’s nice to see the community come together to help our beautiful creeks and wildlife...every little bit makes a difference.”

NAPS has held Creek Cleanup events since 1993, covering each of the county’s major creeks and rivers at least once. To participate in the next Creek Cleanup as a volunteer or sponsor, email stewardship@NAPSva.org.

See slideshow of photos at napsva.org/single-post/2018/10/08/NAPS-Launches-Flotilla-for-Creek-and-Bay-Cleanup-wslideshow.

*The “Largest Item” prize ended in a tie:
A garden pond liner was reeled in by Christina & Bill Frost,*

*Lesley Newman,
Captain Billy
Pipkin, and
Christine
Wiggins.*



Large foam blocks were hauled in by Dana Wilson, Brayden Newsome, Olivia Byrd, Ava Wilson, Captain Don Imbur, and Cooper Haynie.



NAPS Takes a Stand Against Virginia Ballot Measure

The Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPSva.org) board of directors took a position on one of the statewide initiatives placed on the Nov. 6 Virginia election ballot. Question #1 asked: “Should a county, city, or town be authorized to provide a partial tax exemption for real property that is subject to recurrent flooding, if flooding resiliency improvements have been made on the property?”

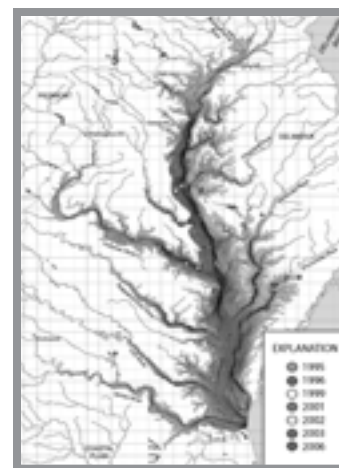
NAPSva.org urged Virginians to vote “no” on this question because it could create incentives that are unwise, unfair to citizens, and detrimental to the environment.

The ballot measure passed easily in every municipality (but by the least margin in Northumberland County). The issue received little discussion in the press and other media. Municipalities can now enact local laws reducing property taxes for owners who make flooding resiliency improvements.

The reasons that NAPS was against this amendment:

1. It is fundamentally unwise for any incentives to be given for building or rebuilding on land with recurrent flooding, especially in a tidal region where relative sea levels are expected to continue rising*. It would be much wiser to expand incentives not to build or rebuild on this land, such as currently provided in Article X, Section 6 (a)(7) of the Constitution of Virginia: “Land subject to a perpetual easement permitting inundation by water as may be exempted (from taxation) in whole or in part by general law.”
2. An ordinance that offers tax relief for the installation of rip-rap, bulkheads or other types of hardened shorelines would be unfair to owners of neighboring properties, particularly those who cannot afford to install their own flooding resiliency improvements. Not only will their taxes subsidize the neighbor’s improvements, their property will experience increased flooding and erosion from the inflow reflected by the protected neighboring property**.
3. Where municipalities offer tax relief, waterfront developers would gain an additional incentive to purchase and build up low-lying “improved” properties, further exacerbating flooding of neighboring residents and working waterfronts. Due to hydric soils, heroic engineering solutions are required to protect such developments resulting in high maintenance costs and a drastic altering of the character of the landscape, according to Bryan D. Watts, Director, and Mitchell A. Byrd,

Director Emeritus, of the Center for Conservation Biology in Williamsburg. In a letter opposing a proposed waterfront development in Northumberland County, they stated: “If we want to maintain the natural systems that form the basis of the Bay’s appeal, we need to move away from siting this type of high impact development within sensitive habitats.”



4. NAPS is very concerned with ecological damage caused by further hardening of the shoreline and inability for environmentally critical wetlands to absorb the additional inflows, even when done one lot at a time. According to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), an estimated 1,700 miles of tidal shoreline in Maryland and Virginia have been hardened (about 18% of the total shoreline), with many miles added each year***. Hardened shorelines cause turbulence that scours sediment and deepens the water so it no longer supports underwater grasses or protects small-bodied fish and shellfish from larger predators. They also offer much less support for communities of water birds, according to VIMS. Marshes are the nurseries of the Chesapeake Bay, and the ecology and economy of Virginia’s tidal region relies on the Bay’s health and recovery.

Proponents of this amendment discounted these concerns, often saying that municipalities would not allow “hardscaping” as a resiliency effort that would qualify for a tax break, and that the phrase “improved properties” would somehow disallow any new building on a parcel. In radio interviews, the sponsoring state senator (Lynwood Lewis) repeatedly used “living shorelines” as the prime example for efforts that would likely be used. The amendment does not disallow either of these. NAPS expects that most local ordinances proposed will include “hardscaping” as a qualified resiliency effort and will not prohibit additional building on parcels receiving a tax break.

With the passage of the amendment, NAPS will continue to work with Northumberland County and its residents to assure that any ordinances proposed here do not include tax reduction for “hardscaping” and that qualifying properties cannot have any development other than the relocation of an existing structure to higher land on the property. NAPS will also monitor other Virginia municipalities to alert environmental organizations when harmful incentives are included in proposed ordinances.

References:

- *USGS - <https://chesapeake.usgs.gov/sciencesummary-sealevelrise.html>
- **FEMA - https://www.fema.gov/txt/about/regions/regionx/Engineering_With_Nature_Web.txt
- ***Chesapeake Bay Program - https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/by_the_numbers_1700

TREASURER’S REPORT

Since our Summer report, revenues have increased by \$3,729. Major sources of income were Fall Social payments, donations to the endowment in memory of Randy Neal, and a donation from Omega Protein. YTD, the endowment has lost \$889 due to changes in value (no withdrawals).

Submitted by Roger Gruben, Treasurer; 1-5-19

REVENUES:	
Dues	\$4,710.00
Endowment	\$1,005.00
Other	\$2,997.95
Total Revenues	\$8,712.94
EXPENSES:	
Administration	\$1,686.63
Donations & Scholarships	\$4,100.00
Membership & Newsletter	\$358.35
Events	\$3,485.70
Projects	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$9,632.68
CURRENT YEAR NET	-\$919.74
Current Cash Balance	\$10,405.61
Other Assets:	
Scholarship Endowment:	\$19,743.37
Total Assets	\$30,148.98

Sixth-Grade Problem Solvers Propose Solar For County Schools



The off-grid guest house is powered by solar panels and a wind turbine.

Baker, Tre Booth, Olivia Byrd, Leon Zarraga Dominquez, Charlie Hapgood, Jesus Lopez, Brayden Newsome, Olivia Newsome, Lily Padgett, Jesus Ramirez, Itzel Santamaria, Sanaa Thomas and Ava Wilson. Joining them were NES ESL teacher Amy Jones, NES science teacher Brittany Kanard, NAPS board member Gena McKinley, McCranie, Ahart, and the Grubens.

Roger Gruben first gave the students a tour of the systems supporting the “off-grid” guest house/workshop, which is powered by a 1kW wind turbine and 5.6kW solar panel array. In the control shed, the two power sources charge an array of large batteries which store power for the guest house. A propane generator is tied into the system as a backup.

Next, the students took a tour of the grounds of the Gruben’s main residence, where Roger and Bette demonstrated the solar powered water pump and showed off their arrays of solar panels on the roofs and grounds. Roger demonstrated that the grid-tied electric meter turns “backward” when the solar arrays produce more energy than the residence is using. A separate meter measures total power generation to calculate Solar Renewable Energy



Bette Gruben shows how they monitor the output of the solar panels on their computer or TV.

Credits – several states and the District of Columbia require their electric utilities to source some of their power from renewable energy sources or pay a penalty; however, they are allowed to make up the shortfall by buying credits from renewable energy producers, including homeowners.

Roger then escorted the students into the garage and showed them how his all-electric Tesla Model 3 car plugs into the home electric system to be charged by the solar arrays. With a range of 310 miles on a full charge, “we never need to stop anywhere to recharge when we’re driving in the area,” Roger told the students. “If we go on a long trip, there are plenty of fast-charging stations along the way and at many hotels,” he added.

The students were then invited into the house for cocoa and treats.

Northumberland schools will soon be going solar, if a group of ambitious sixth-graders can convince the county to “go green.”

The Talented and Gifted “Community Problem Solvers” group enlisted the NAPS board and membership to mentor it in preparation for presentations to the school board and other county decision-makers. After a preliminary meeting with NAPS board members Rita Johnson, Mike Ahart, and Shauna McCranie (TAG student instructor), a field trip was scheduled to visit the solar/wind-powered residence and guest house of NAPS members Roger & Bette Gruben on Monday Dec. 17, 2018, followed by a presentation to the school board Jan. 16.

Attending the field trip to the Grubens were students Kayla

Bette Gruben, whose background includes green-energy solutions for commercial construction projects, demonstrated how the power production of their home can be monitored on their 65” TV or any other computer device. “The panels produced 45.8 kWhs today, and are still producing some power this late in the day,” said Bette. It was nearly 5 p.m. just days before the winter solstice.

The students researched other county schools that have gone solar, including ones in nearby Middlesex and Westmoreland Counties. Middlesex County Public Schools recently entered a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for a 1.01MW energy system to provide 100% of the power to a middle and elementary school, with expected savings of over \$2.6 million in energy costs over 25 years. The system is now up and running. The PPA requires no investment by the school system or county – the system is owned and maintained by a Virginia-based solar energy company. A similar agreement was recently enacted by Westmoreland County for Cople Elementary School, where solar array construction should be completed soon.

The Community Problem Solvers made a presentation to the Northumberland County School Board Wed., Jan. 16 outlining the benefits and options for the schools to “go solar.” When the students noted that the solar farm at Middlesex schools required no investment by the county, the board members’ interest piqued. The students were thanked heartily for their presentation.

The Community Problem Solvers are also researching the learning opportunities afforded by having a solar power plant on campus. Organizations have developed curriculum and teacher training that coordinates with Virginia’s Standards Of Learning and Common Core specifications. The students also envision extracurricular opportunities for projects and conservation programs.

Other solar benefits include providing power during outages – the buildings can function as full-powered shelters for the community after a hurricane or tropical storm. The solar plant will also reduce pollution and the use of fossil fuels, and as the students note in their presentation: “It’s cool to have a solar school!”

Next step: The Community Problem Solvers is planning a field trip to tour the solar array at the Middlesex schools, and have invited the school board, superintendent Dr. Holly Wargo, and county personnel

to join them (tentatively scheduled for Feb. 6). During the field trip they plan to meet with Middlesex school administrators, teachers and students, and the Education Market Manager for Sun Tribe Solar, the company contracted for the PPA in Middlesex County and in Westmoreland County’s Cople Elementary School.



Roger Gruben demonstrates how the solar-powered garden pump works.

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Roger Gruben shows students the power controls for the off-grid guest house.

Remembering Don Gould: Angel of the Too-Good-to-Throw-Away Shed

Donald Lee “Don” Gould, Jr., 72, of Reedville, Virginia passed away suddenly October 21, 2018. Among his list of good deeds for the Northumberland community, Don was instrumental in the 6-year success of the NAPS “Too-Good-to-Throw-Away” shed located at the Horsehead transfer site.

Don visited the shed often – sometimes several times a day – to find items he could sell locally and online. As a favor to NAPS and to the success of the project, he also regularly removed trash and prohibited items. When “trash” items were too large for him to throw in the dumpster, he would enlist the bobcat operator from the adjacent yard-waste site to lift the items into the dumpster.

Don is survived by his wife, Tammy Gould; daughter, Donna Lee Gould-Adams; son, Donald Lee Gould, III; step son, Jerry Ray Brock; two grandchildren, Taylor M. Schafer and Sara E. Adams of Michigan; two step grandchildren, Tristen Brock and Hunter Brock of Michigan; a special uncle, Edwin Allison and an aunt, Curtis Mahoney. He was preceded in death by his mothers, Gladys Allison and Ruby Hall.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at Currie Funeral Home, Kilmarnock followed by interment at Roseland Cemetery.

This is from his grandson, Taylor: “I look up to my grandfather as the pinnacle of what a man could be in my family. My grandpa Don taught me that true strength is not only skin deep but it also comes

from the heart. A man not only needs to provide and protect but also love and teach. He showed me these things and I will always cherish the memories of those hot summer Virginia days. My ‘Papa’ was a huge part in the man I have become and I am forever thankful and truly blessed to have had him in my life. I will miss him dearly.”

The NAPS “Too-Good-to-Throw-Away” shed project, spearheaded by Sandy Henbest, allows citizens to leave items that others can make use of, rather than serviceable items going into the landfill. With an OK from the county, funding from NAPS, help from some area businesses and a lot of elbow grease from NAPS members, by early August 2012 the shed was in operation and has been ever since. The hours of operation are 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM daily, except Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

If you know someone – or a group of people – interested and able to visit the shed regularly to remove prohibited items, please contact Mike at mikeahart@napsva.org or 313-0274.



Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act Introduced

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act Tuesday (Dec. 18, 2018), the Senate version of bipartisan legislation introduced in the U.S.

House on Nov. 27.

Like the House bill, the Senate bill is a climate solution that goes further than any national policy to date, creating over 2 million new jobs, lowering health care costs, promoting energy innovation, and encouraging consumer spending, according to the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on US policies to address climate change.

The legislation would apply a nationwide price on carbon emissions and return the revenue to citizens monthly. This approach is a climate change solution long advocated by both economists and climate scientists as the simplest, most effective approach to solving climate change, according to CCL. This bill seeks to lower carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% in 12 years and 90% by 2050.

“Just a few weeks after the bill’s bipartisan introduction in the House, a bipartisan pair in the Senate has now introduced it in their chamber,” said CCL Executive Director Mark Reynolds. “While it will be up to the next Congress to reintroduce the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, this is a promising sign: Ambitious carbon pricing that benefits our economy and benefits people is amenable to both Republicans and Democrats, and it is gaining momentum.”

Reynolds said the new policy will create

2.1 million new jobs over the next 10 years, based on estimates from a 2014 Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) study on the effect of a revenue-neutral carbon price on the American economy.

With the next Congress divided between a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democratic-controlled House, any climate solution hoping to get traction will need to be bipartisan.

“Senators Coons and Flake have a longstanding friendship and have partnered together on important issues in the Senate. Both believe that a bipartisan approach is the best way to solve an urgent issue like climate change,” said Andres Jimenez, Senior Director of Government Affairs at Citizens’ Climate Lobby. “In the new Congress, Senator Coons intends to continue working across the aisle to build support for this policy, and we hope to see him re-introduce in the new Congress with additional cosponsors from both parties.”

In a statement issued for the release of the House bill, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship said, “This commonsense legislation will address climate change and promote economic growth at the same time. It is the kind of smart, bipartisan problem solving that is long overdue and that Congress needs to do more of.”

This article appeared first at citizensclimatelobby.org.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have added one family membership since the Summer report.

Membership Level	2018 Paid	2017
Business	1	2
Family	43	49
Individual	22	24
Patron	2	2
Sustaining	22	21
Student	1	6
Total	91	104

New NAPS Members in 2018:

- Alice & Joe Stieve
- John & Sharon Hodges
- Emily Roderer & Alan Moore
- Willis Robertson
- Bonnie Reif & Carolyn Plummer
- Lesley Newman & Casey Boettcher
- Arthur Carver
- Hap Duffey
- Pete Donner



Memo from Mike

Hope you had a happy holiday season and are having a great start to the new year. This year is special for NAPS – **it’s our 30th!**

Have you made your New Year’s Resolutions? Here are some ideas:

Refuse & Reduce • Recycle • Use reusable grocery bags • Use reusable water bottles • Compost your waste • Use the “too-good-to-throw-away shed” • Use LED lighting • Drive slower • Adjust your thermostats • Turn off water while you brush • Install rain barrels • Fix leaky toilets • Install solar • Install a wind turbine • Buy an electric car • Plant native plants and trees • Maintain a living shoreline • Maintain your septic system • Install a bird box, feeder or bath • Reduce lawn area and don’t overfertilize • Join or volunteer for an environmental organization • Join an adopt-a-highway crew • Join a creek cleanup • Teach and demonstrate good environmental stewardship to your friends, children, and other citizens • Advocate or march for environmental awareness • Donate to environmental organizations • Urge your friends and neighbors to join NAPS – **we’re hoping for 30 new memberships our 30th year!**

NAPS expects another busy year and, with your support and effort, we can do even more for our community. We hope to hear from you at the NAPS Special Program and Annual Meeting on Feb. 23, where we’ll learn about solar energy in Northumberland, and discuss NAPS’ plans for 2019 and beyond.

Please extend your NAPS membership as soon as you can (if you haven’t already). Use remittance envelope enclosed, or you can do it all online at NAPSva.org/join-help.

Also, If you’re on Facebook or Twitter, please like and follow [@NAPSva](https://www.facebook.com/NAPSva).

Best to you and yours...

Sincerely, Mike Ahart, President

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

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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 10 a.m., unless rescheduled – see updates at napsva.org/naps-calendar

Feb. 8, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10 a.m.

Feb. 23, Sat. NAPS Annual Meeting & Special Program, 10 a.m., Heathsville

Mar. 8 Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10 a.m.

Mar. 23, Sat. NAPS Booth at Gardening in the NNK Seminars, White Stone

Apr. 12, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, Union Bank at 10 a.m.

Apr. 13, Sat. NAPS Booth at Farm & Field Day, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., NHS.

Apr. 20, Sat. 5th Annual NAPS Earth Day Festival, 9 a.m - 1 p.m., Heathsville.