

NAPS News

Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship

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

Winter 2013

Volume 22, Issue 1



Welcome to the delayed winter issue of NAPS News.

Here's a rundown of what's inside:

NAPS Program Thinks Global, Acts Local. The program, "Chesapeake Bay Fisheries: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," featured a global environmental perspective and first-hand reports from a panel representing Bay fisheries.

CCL Chapter Launched. With the support of the NAPS Executive Committee, the Northern Neck Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby is now official.

NAPS Year in Review: Busy, Busy, Busy. Impressive.
Check out the activities in words and photos. Yeah, impressive.

OP/ED: Virginia's Water Crisis by ground water geologist Frank Fletcher, PhD.

Annual Meeting: The State of NAPS. After the Bay Fisheries program, President Bill Estell opened the Business Meeting which included a financial report and an overview of the State of NAPS.

NAPS Financial Report – 2012. Treasurer Greg Haugan presented the report at the Annual Meeting.

Thanks Patrons and Sustaining Members. Here's a list of special members and a reminder to everyone to be sure to renew membership.

Adopt-A-Highway Spring Pick-Up. The NAPS team will hit the road April 30.

Memo from Bill. Our Fearless Leader focuses on NAPS school activities.

Look for the NAPS exhibit at the Master Gardeners Annual Seminar, March 23. NAPS will also exhibit at the Tavern Farmers Market in Heathsville.

– Jay Walker, Editor

ACTIVITIES

Here's a recap of NAPS activities in 2012 as reported in the spring, summer and fall issues of NAPS News.

State representatives address NAPS meeting

The long delayed state budget passage finally freed Senator Ryan McDougle and Delegate Margaret Ransone, our elected officials, to speak at the NAPS Annual meeting in the Northumberland School Auditorium on the evening of May 23. In addition, Congressman Rob Wittman attended and spoke from the floor. The purpose of the meeting was to get to know our representatives and make the road to Richmond a two-way street of communication. When the question and answer period got into the health of the Bay, Wittman described bills working their way through Congress.



Solar energy project

When students at Northumberland High School turned on a household fan outdoors, the sun provided the power via a solar panel designed and built by seniors in the Capstone Math Class. The project was the result of a \$500 Solar Grant in support of the school's alternative energy activities provided by NAPS. NAPS provided the stimulus to get the project off the ground, including training handled by Lee Allain. On March 6, the finished array was ready for its day in the sun.



Besides applying their knowledge in math, the solar energy team had to learn how to build the array, including lots of soldering. At the start, most of the students said that they were not really interested. As the project developed, they came around to appreciating that they were making a practical solar energy system.

"Considering how few solar energy systems are installed in Northumberland County, these students are pioneers," said Lee.

Phragmites update

In 2011, 109 sites with Phragmites infestations were visited, 15 of them for the first time, Lynton Land reported. Seventeen sites were skipped either because the marsh was too soggy to traverse or to determine if skipping a year al-
(Continued on page 2...)

NAPS Calendar

NAPS Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 9 a.m. at the Union First Market Bank in Burgess.

- Apr. 10, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Apr. 30, Tue. Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup - Wicomico Church
- May 8, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- May (TBA) NAPS Scholarship Awards - Northumberland High School
- Jun. 12, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Jul. 10, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Aug. 14, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Sep. 11, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Sep. 28, Sat. Annual Creek Clean-up - Cockrell's Marine Railway
- Oct. 9, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Oct. 12, Sat. NAPS Fall Social - Bay Quarter Shores Club

NAPS Program Thinks Global, Acts Local

The program, “Chesapeake Bay Fisheries: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow” at the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS) annual meeting, February 23, featured a global environmental perspective and first-hand reports from a panel representing Bay fisheries. Climate change was a common theme from both global and local perspectives.

In introducing the program, NAPS moderator Dr. Lynton Land noted that with all that has been written and implemented to reverse its decline, the Bay is not getting any better. He used the Blue Fish Derby as a barometer, tracing the drop in number of boats, size of the catch, and the weight of the winning catch. The winning catch declined from 19.2 lbs. in 1989 to 3.1 lb. In 2005, the last year the derby was held.

Keynote speaker Dr. Roger L. Mann, Director of Research and Advisor Services for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), provided an overview of the Bay.

“When talking about the future of the Bay, there are two things you can look at: the things that you can control and the things that you cannot control,” Mann said. He warned that the things that you cannot control make doing the things that you can control really difficult.

One of the uncontrollable weather factors is the jet stream and it has been gradually moving over the last 50 years, he observed.

“If you ask what’s going on in the Bay, you really have to think about the larger systems, because they are the ones that determine to a large extent what is going on in the Chesapeake water shed. And the watershed extends all the way to New York, through many jurisdictions. Another way to say it, is we sit at the southern end of 15 million flushing toilets. So when you look to the future of the Bay, you need to ask, how many things can we control,” Mann said.

He pointed out that as sea temperature has been rising, distribution of species has changed. In addition migratory patterns have changed. The future of the wetlands is another issue raised by Mann.

“Let me give you the worst case scenario. The sea level is rising and to make things worse in Tidewater, the land is sinking. If you look at the relative rate of sea level change – the land going down the water going up – in Norfolk the situation is serious,” he said, adding that the U.S. insurance industry is keeping a close eye on sea level change.

Finally, Mann stated that controlling fishing is the easy way out, but restrictions only alienate every business sector that is involved and starts controversy.

He pointed out that well managed fisheries such as clams and scallops, involve all business sectors from the watermen to the consumer. For example, rotation of crops works for common profits.

“How do we get there? You get there not by pointing fingers.

You get there by sitting down and saying how do we have a conversation to solve a problem. If you look at the problems of the Bay, you don’t micromanage. You do it through groups like this to target what can change and what cannot change,” he concluded.

Panel Members Respond

The program shifted to local viewpoints with the introduction of a panel representing a range of fisheries. Dudley Biddlecomb, representing oyster harvesting, said that water quality is everybody’s concern, watermen, farmers, businesses, and home owners. For every bucket of refuse dumped into the Bay, there’s something that happens to mollusks, he added. Biddlecomb later said that most of his time today is spent dealing with oyster disease.

Representing finfish, Cathy Davenport focused on the impact of land development on the Bay, rivers and creeks. Loss of habitat, she said, has been a disaster, adding



Keynote speaker Dr. Roger Mann provided an overview of the Bay from a global perspective.

ACTIVITIES (...from page 1)

lows the plants to recover a bit, making the herbicide more effective the following year.

“The most frustrating aspect of Phragmites control is the difficulty in achieving the ‘final solution.’ I’ve tried switching herbicides, changing the herbicide concentration and skipping a year. So far skipping a year works best.” Lynton wrote.

Adopt-A-Highway changes leaders

Highway clean-up coordinator Anne Belanger announced that Janice Mahoney and Charles Smith were taking over as coordinators. Anne and husband Gerard have returned to Canada. Also, NAPS received a Certificate of Appreciation from VDOT for participation in the Virginia Adopt-A-Highway program.



NAPS awards six scholarships

Last year NAPS gave scholarships to six Northumberland High School seniors. Myrtle Phillips, Education Chair, reported that all demonstrated an interest in the projects NAPS presented during the school year and they all said that they plan to attend colleges in Virginia. The recipients were Brenda Sanchez, Karla Pinkard, Ryan

Parker, Ryshan Conoway, Elizabeth Best and Khadijah Elmore.

NAPS delegation meets delegate

On June 15, Mike Harwood, Lynton Land, Greg Haugan, and Lee Allain met with Del. Margaret Ransone to discuss the sewage sludge land application issue and its importance to the quality of the Chesapeake Bay. According to Harwood, it was a very fruitful meeting. “Delegate Ransone was very receptive to our presentation, asked lots of questions, and took copious notes,” he said at the time. The meeting was a direct result of Del. Ransone’s participation. *(Continued on page 3...)*

that a primary cause is runoff from developments. Davenport is co-chair of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and a member of the Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC).

Wade Self, the youngest member of the panel, spoke for pound fishing. About three weeks ago, while working the water, a TV reporter asked him about his kids – will they work the waters? That stopped him.

“It was the first time I thought about the future. Will the Bay be here for them,” he said. “The state brings up new problems before solving the old problems – knowing what’s wrong and not doing what’s right is the problem.”

Third generation captain, Danny Crabbe recalled his observations in the charter business for almost 40 years. He has seen quite a few changes. For one, the bluefish landed in the 1970’s were averaging 10 to 14 pounds. After virtually disappearing in 1989, the blues are coming back. Moreover, he has caught species in the Bay that he did not recognize. Looking them up on the internet, they turned out to be native to the Gulf of Mexico.

The appropriate representative for menhaden fishing was Monty Deihl, Director of Fishing Operations for Omega Protein. He said that the media in the region give the impression that all that has to be done is shut down menhaden fishing and the Bay will recover.

“It frustrates me that so many people believe that commercial menhaden fishing is one of the leading causes of the declining health of the Bay. There has been study after study that say that menhaden fishing has no appreciable impact on the Bay, but that doesn’t stop anyone from saying it and getting headlines in the papers,” he said. He added that both his grandfather and father advised not to get into menhaden fishing, not because of lack of fish, but because they won’t let you do it.

Deihl pointed out that it is now generally agreed that the control of menhaden fishing is based on poor science and a new model is needed. But until that time, a 20-percent limit was imposed which is causing serious impact on Omega Protein. The real problem, he stated, is not over fishing, but “recruitment”—bringing eggs to maturity. And that depends on environmental conditions.

Comments during the open discussion were lively and ranged from dealing with strict regulations, the conflicts between local, state, and federal interests,

and the impact globally of the Green Revolution.

Taking a cue from Dr. Mann, audience member Jerry Pulliam said people should stop pointing fingers. “We have to stop going after the fishermen and farmers,” he said, adding that the way homes are built, yards are landscaped, and trees are cleared to make way for water views should be addressed.

Wade Self summarized much of the thinking by saying, “Elect the right people.”

ACTIVITIES (...from page 2)

tion in the NAPS Annual Meeting in May.

NAPS armada takes out the trash

On a windy day along the Great Wicomico River an armada of 10 boats collected over five tons of trash in September for the 2012 NAPS Creek Clean-up on waterways from the mouth of Cockrells Creek to the Glebe Point bridge. The staging area was the old Mila steamboat landing on property owned by Pamela Russell. Omega Protein was a major contributor, thanks to Monty Deihl. Besides being captain of the purse boat, Monty provided lunch for all hands, port-a-potties, and the dumpster.



Bill Estell and Lynton Land directed the clean-up. Sixteen Northumberland High School students, five boy scouts, two LDS Church missionaries, and a senior from Longwood University took part. Thirteen NAPS members got the job done, including lunch.

NAPS Social, award, and more

Over 50 members and friends attended the 2012 NAPS Social, October 13, at Bay Quarter Shores Club to honor the Distinguished Citizen Award recipient, enjoy refreshments with a great view, and sit down to a tasty chicken dinner. Prior to the presentation, Bill Estell introduced special guest Dr. Rebecca Gates, the new School Superintendent. The main feature was the presentation of the 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award to Dr. Gregory T. Haugan. Bill stated that this award is not only well deserved, it is long overdue.



The DCA plaque carried the following citation:

- On-going work on the county’s Comprehensive Plan
- Upgrade of the county Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Assistance in the implementation of two county sewer systems
- Service as Treasurer of the Northumberland Public Library Trustees
- Teaching Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning courses
- Actions for the future of Northumberland County that define Distinguished Citizen

“Too Good to Throw Away” shed

Labeled “TOO GOOD TO THROW AWAY. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,” a shed at the Horsehead dump is now a collection site for county residents to leave good condition, working items for other residents to take (free) for their own use, Sandy Henbest reported. It became a reality thanks to a NAPS donation of 100 percent of the cost of materials. NAPS members also worked on the shed construction.



Fall Adopt-A-Highway

The NAPS Adopt-A-Highway fall trash pick-up took place on October 24 on a warm and sunny afternoon. Sixteen volunteers collected 20 bags of trash on the chosen area along Route 200 starting at Wicomico Episcopal Church, Janice Mahoney, the new coordinator reported. It was also the last pick-up for former coordinator, Anne Belanger. “We own a lot to Anne’s service. And the best way to thank her is to continue the effort,” said Janice.

Omega Protein visit

At the invitation of Monty Deihl, the NAPS Board and spouses visited the Omega Protein facility in Reedville after the August 15 regular meeting. Monty explained that the

(Continued on page 6...)

NEWS

Citizens Climate Lobby Chapter Launched

With the full support of the NAPS Executive Committee, the Northern Neck Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby is now official. Spearheaded by NAPS Treasurer Greg Haugan, the CCL Chapter had its first organizational meeting on Saturday, March 2. This was also the day, the first Saturday of the month, that CCL holds its national conference call meeting and lecture.

President Bill Estell explained that the NAPS Executive Committee is the center in the organization of the chapter; however, the larger view is to be the Northern Neck Chapter.

Rich Pleasants from Lancaster County emphasized the importance of social networking to attract younger volunteers. He has set up a Northern Neck Citizens Climate Lobby on a closed Facebook site. He pointed out that CCL has two main thrusts – lobbying and education/out-reach. A partial list of actions include fresh water and aquifer problems, sea level rise, Chesapeake Bay health, renewable energy source encouragement, and coal power plant problems.

Greg stated that a primary goal is to promote carbon tax and dividend legislation proposed by CCL. There is a Senate bill that comes close to this proposal. The Climate Protection Act (S. 332), sponsored by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) would place a steadily increasing tax on carbon-based fuels and return revenue to consumers. The difference between the CCL version and the senate bill is CCL wants all of the tax revenue returned to consumers, while the senate version would retain 40 percent of the revenue in the government coffers. The bill would send 25 percent of revenues to the general treasury for deficit reduction and 10 – 15 percent to fund clean energy proposals and low-income weatherization.

CCL is working to amend the Climate Protection Act in two ways: Make it revenue-neutral by returning all of the proceeds back to the American people and ramp up the tax. Increasing the tax by \$10 per ton per year to \$30 will reduce CO2 emissions 30 percent below 2005 levels over the next 10 years, according to CCL estimates.

Action involves a combination of direct contact with elected officials, person-to-person or mail, letters to the editor, op-ed pieces, and seminars. CCL's Annual Conference will be held June 23 to 25 in Washington, D.C. Every senator and representative will be identified and targeted for meetings on the last day.

At the close of the meeting, action items were identified and assignments made to prepare by the next monthly meeting, April 6 at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church in Heathsville, starting at 11:30. For more information about the CCL Chapter, please contact Greg Haugan at 804-580-2166 or email at greghaugan@gmail.com.

In closing Greg advised, "Always remember that the action we are taking is for our grandchildren and great grandchildren. We don't want to leave them a mess."

Guest Speaker

For the national conference call, climate scientist with the National Wildlife Federation Amanda Staudt presented "Overview of draft National Climate Assessment." The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) published the draft of the Third National Climate Assessment Report in January, 2013.

Staudt reported that among the key conclusions, "Human activities are now the dominant agents of change."

The report contains several warnings calling for action to reduce emissions and warming.

"There have been observed trends in some types of extreme weather events, and these are consistent with rising temperatures," she said. "There are signs that the message is getting attention across the country and people are looking for the cause. That is why CCL is important."

Orientation session

A orientation meeting February 10 set the groundwork for the organization. At that meeting, Steve Valk, CCL Regional Manager and Director of Communications, ran a three-hour seminar that included role-playing practice.

Participants learned some of the details of a carbon tax and why it is consumer friendly. The session also included instruction on how to get letters and op-ed articles published and how to hold group meetings with elected officials.

ANNUAL MEETING The State of NAPS

After the Bay Fisheries program, President Bill Estell opened the NAPS Annual Business Meeting. Treasurer Greg Haugan presented the financial report, which was approved (see page 5). Greg also described the Citizens Climate Lobby Chapter that NAPS is supporting (see separate story on this page).

Bill presented what he called "The State of NAPS" address. He reviewed the many projects of the year and thanked the many NAPS volunteers who made it all work (see "Activities" article, page 1). One of the successes was the opening program, "Chesapeake Bay Fisheries: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (see separate story, page 2). Some 70 members and non-members attended at the new Fellowship Hall of the Heathsville United Methodist Church.

Special guest Janet Pawlukiewicz informed members about a new program, "Go Native – Grow Native," to encourage awareness of Virginia's native plants. The program will include gardeners and nurseries. She read a list of the organizations and businesses that are supporting the effort and invited NAPS to join.

The final item on the business agenda was the election of three board members. Bill Estell and Monty Deihl were elected for another three-year term. John Lunsford of Heathsville was introduced and elected for a first three-year term. John is active in the Master Gardeners and works on the garden at the Farm Museum.

Bill thanked Lee Allain and Lynton Land for their work in organizing a successful program. And the meeting was adjourned.

ENVIRONMENT

Join the Adopt-A-Highway Pick-Up: April 30

The Spring 2013 Roadside Pick-Up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30. We'll meet at 1pm to get organized, and on the road by about 1:15pm. Meet at the parking lot behind Wicomico Episcopal Church on Rte. 200 in Wicomico Church.

Wear sturdy shoes. Gloves and hats recommended. We provide orange safety vests and water. Everyone works with a "buddy" – bring one or we'll match you up with another volunteer.

Please call or email Janice Mahoney to volunteer or get more details: 580-3154 or vervaville@yahoo.com.

OP/ED

The Price of Negligence

by Frank Fletcher, PhD

The Virginia coastal plain is headed for a water crisis. The once plentiful supply of water is steadily and relentlessly shrinking. Unless decisive action is taken to safeguard this resource, the consequences will be rising costs of extraction, treatment, and distribution, increasing water shortages, and escalating jurisdictional water conflicts.

A Long History of Groundwater Use

Because the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries consist chiefly of brackish water too salty for most household, agricultural, and industrial purposes, the inhabitants of the Tidewater region have been digging, boring, and drilling into the earth for their water since as long ago as the founding of Jamestown.

Today, groundwater is the principal source of water for more than two million persons on the Virginia coastal plain. They withdraw more than 125 million gallons of water from the underground reservoirs every day – that's approximately 46 billion gallons a year, or enough to fill more than 70,000 Olympic-size swimming pools. Every home, every restaurant, every retail shop, and most industrial establishments of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula are dependent on groundwater. In the counties of Lancaster, Richmond, and Mathews, all public and private water comes out of the ground.

A Threatened Groundwater Supply

The groundwater supply is finite, bounded, and, for all practical purposes, nonrenewable. While 46 billion gallons of groundwater are pumped out of the earth each year in this region, only a negligible amount replenishes (recharges) the loss to pumping. Thus, the stock of groundwater is being mined and is not being replaced.

Bad things happen when the demand for water approaches the limits of the supply. Already, artesian water levels, which gauge the magnitude of the groundwater supply, have fallen so low at localities along the western boundary of the coastal plain (the Fall Line) and at centers of high groundwater usage (West Point and Franklin) that further withdrawals threaten irreversible damage to the aquifers. During the next few decades, as withdrawals continue and water levels decline, the peril to aquifers will spread across the rest of the coastal plain, endangering the groundwater supply of virtually every community.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks, Patrons & Sustaining Members

Here's a list of special members and a reminder to everyone to be sure to renew membership.

Patron Members:

John B. Cousar & Leslie L. Reed
Harry Williams & Joan Gregory

Business Members:

Union First Market Bank

Sustaining Members:

Hal & Sally White
David & Susan-Carter Hughes
Gordon & Judy Burgess
Michael & Adele Harwood
Robert & Ruth Kramer
Kenneth Brooks & Tisha Hauser
Richard & Karen Culp
Gregory & Susan Haugan
Donald & Alice Imbur
David & Carolyn Scarbrough
David & Aileen Synder
Bill & Jinny Estell
Jack Blakeslee
Cora Simpson
Michael & Jan Ahart

NAPS FINANCIAL REPORT - 2012

The total NAPS working budget is approximately \$7,000. Of that amount, approximately half goes to Northumberland High School scholarships. The other major expense went to the "Too Good to Throw Away" shed at the Horsehead trash site. A small expense went to the Solar Panel project at the High School that NAPS supported. Another major project, spraying for Phragmites turned out to be a revenue earner due to contributions from appreciative property owners.

The Stream Cleanup was close to breakeven due to a donation from Omega Protein. Similarly the Annual Social was close to breakeven.

At the end of the year we had \$6,343.73 in the checking account and \$19,897.10 in two CDs for a total of \$26,240.83. We had a net deficit of \$858.80.

Starting Balance 1/1/2012	\$7,202.53
REVENUES:	
Dues	\$5,155.00
Donations	\$471.00
Other	\$1,735.00
Total Revenues	\$7,361.00
EXPENSES:	
Administration	\$588.83
Donations & Scholarships	\$3,260.00
Membership & Newsletter	\$701.38
Events (Social)	\$1,298.28
Projects	\$2,121.31
Other	\$250.00
Total Expenses	\$8,219.80
NET	(\$858.80)
End of Year Balance 12/31/2012	\$6,343.73
Other Assets - Certificates of Deposit	
CD-NNSB#1	\$8,934.35
CD-NNSB#2	\$10,962.75
Total Other Assets:	\$19,897.10
Total Assets	\$26,240.83
<i>Submitted by: Gregory T. Haugan, Treasurer; Feb. 23, 2013</i>	

The Approaching Crisis

Absent profound changes in demographic and economic trends, the Virginia coastal plain is headed for a historic water crisis. Current Virginia groundwater policies are too feeble to avert it. First, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's groundwater management regulations apply only to approximately half of the counties on the coastal plain, leaving the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula unprotected. Second, while the groundwater withdrawal regulations foster water conservation and the utilization of alternative water sources and abate the amount of groundwater withdrawal by individual water users, they have not halted the persistent growth of groundwater withdrawals from entire Virginia coastal plain aquifer system. Third, a review of early efforts to craft a comprehensive State Water Supply Plan has not inspired a confidence that a water supply crisis can be prevented. The slowly evolving plan is exceptionally technical and encyclopedic; but it fails to focus laser-like on the central problem, the relentless loss of groundwater supply.

Heading Off a Crisis

Effective solutions to the problems must take into account several important factors. First, the era of cheap and abundant water is ending and will not return. Second, the demand for groundwater will increase as population grows and the economy expands, putting more and more stress on the supply. Third, the groundwater supply is limited and non-renewable, and any consequential quantity of withdrawals reduces the supply. Simply slowing the growth rate of groundwater withdrawals will not preserve the supply.

Ensuring a safe and reliable water supply in the future requires a dramatic shift from an unstable reliance on groundwater mining to the creation of a diversified and sustainable supply accomplished by expanding water conservation measures (including new "no-water" cleaning and waste disposal processes) and utilizing alternative water sources (including water recycling and reuse, energy-efficient desalination, interbasin transfer, and aquifer storage and recovery). Sustainability is the practical solution not a romantic dream of environmental idealists. Because the path to a sustainable water supply will require both innovation and guidance, it will be best accomplished by a private-public partnership, not by government action alone.

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Memo from Bill

NAPS regrettably bid farewell to Stan and Diane Cichowitz who are leaving the Northern Neck. Stan, as a Board member and Diane as an ardent supporter of all NAPS activities, will be greatly missed and we wish them well in their new adventures.

The educational side of NAPS has been in full active mode with our effort to assist Dr. Rebecca Gates, Superintendent of Schools, with several projects. Included are the NAPS Scholarship program for five graduating seniors, the introduction of Dominion's Community Solar Power possible grant for solar panels on the roof of the high/middle schools, the support of an Eagle Scout project of Adam Parker to build a shelter in connection with the high school's green house for special-need students, and the placement of identifying name markers on the trees of the school's nature trail.

NAPS has additionally provided an educational booklet on Climate Change from the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to the membership and school environmental science classes to answer common questions about the science of climate change.

A delegation from NAPS met in the county with representative of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to call for a public hearing on the land application of sludge (biosolids) on land in Northumberland County. Letters were sent to the local papers to raise awareness of the potential damage to our ground water and contamination runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

Plans are underway for our annual Creek Cleanup, booths at the Master Gardener Seminar "Gardening on the Northern Neck" and the Heathsville Farmer's Market.

The Annual Meeting on 23 February at the Fellowship Hall of the Heathsville Methodist Church was a huge success with nearly 70 folks attending to hear about "Chesapeake Fisheries: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (see article on page 2). The business meeting included the election of three directors, Monty Diehl and myself for a second three year term and our new member John Lundsford for his first three year term. John is active in the Master Gardeners and heads the group who maintains the "farm" in front of the Farm Museum, which provides the fresh produce to local food banks. A presentation from the Native Plant Society introduced their new program "Go Native – Grow Native."

The State of the NAPS is strong and we will continue our efforts to bring items of interest regarding the environment to our community in Northumberland County. Best to you and yours,

Sincerely, Bill Estell, President

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

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 Vice President.....Lee Allain..... 529-5491.....lrallain@kaballero.com
 Secretary.....Ida Hall 804-761-2342.....ida@northernneck.com
 Treasurer.....Greg Haugan..... 580-2166.....greghaugan@gmail.com

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ACTIVITIES (...from page 2)

Reedville plant has launched programs to improve efficiency, cut costs and also be environmentally friendly. For example, Omega now uses Renewable Diesel Oil (RDO), a process that turns industrial fats into RDO. It is carbon neutral, sulfur-free, and cheaper than standard diesel.



NAPS on display

During the year NAPS mounted exhibitions at the annual Master Gardeners seminar (March), the Tavern Farmers Market in Heathsville (August), and all of August at the Northumberland Public Library.

