

NAPS News

Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship

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

Summer 2013

Volume 22, Issue 3



Welcome to the summer issue of NAPS News. Here's a rundown of what's inside:

Jane Towner Honored by NAPS. The 2013 NAPS Distinguished Citizen Award goes to 28-year Northern Neck resident Jane M. Towner. It will be officially presented at the NAPS Social, Saturday, October 12 (see Calendar). If you want to congratulate Jane, she is at janemtowner@aol.com.

NAPS Creek Clean-Up Needs Captains. The date is set: Saturday, September 28. The target is in our sites: Little Wicomico River. Now Lynton Land needs captains to deploy at Cockrell's Railway.

Bluff Point Update. Ida Hall reports on the latest developments – a long delay for submitting a final plan. This is not bad news.

Highway Cleanup Set for October 29. NAPS goes ashore at Wicomico Church. Join Janice Mahoney's team to Adopt-A-Highway.

NEW: Book Review. Dr. Greg Haugan reviews *Storms of My Grandchildren: The truth about the coming climate catastrophe and our last chance to save humanity*. It is a must-read by the pioneer in climate change, James E. Hansen

OP/ED. An aspect of climate change that is not often mentioned is danger to public health. Dr. William R. Nelson explains.

Citizens Climate Lobby in DC and NNK. Greg Haugan joined the CCL delegation in DC to call upon our legislators and their staffs. Meanwhile, CCL remains active here.

Climate and Temperature. Climate change deniers have jumped on the fact that there has been cooling. Not so fast, reports Dr. Haugan.

Memo from Bill. Our fearless leader comments on what's ahead for NAPS and the "dust up" at the library.

Out and About with NAPS. Public appearances included the Farmers Market in Heathsville in July and August. Also, NAPS had the display in the library foyer for August. See Memo from Bill.

Renew, renew, renew. There are good reasons to renew your NAPS membership, summarized by the simple fact that your dues keep NAPS in action. Support the cause. Three cheers for Martha Tallent who signed on as a Patron member. Thank you, Martha.

To keep up with NAPS on a daily basis, check our web site: www.napsva.org.

– Jay Walker, Editor

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD Jane Towner Honored by NAPS



The Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS) has selected Jane M. Towner to receive the 2013 Distinguished Citizen Award. A 28-year resident of the Northern Neck, Towner has a long list of community accomplishments in conservation, environment, and education. NAPS Board Member Ida Hall prepared the information to be used for the formal presentation at the NAPS Fall Social,

October 12, at the Bay Quarter Shores Club. Hall interviewed several people, including Towner's two daughters.

Among her conservation achievements, Towner spearheaded efforts to stabilize, restore and reuse Shiloh School. Her efforts have culminated in using the one-room schoolhouse for educational programming on Northumberland's rural heritage, history and natural assets. She is an officer and a board member, and coordinates communications, fund-raising, and outreach for Northumberland Preservation, Inc. which owns Shiloh School 1906, as well as the smaller Shiloh School 1884.

She is a founding member of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC), its first vice-president and long-

(Continued on page 2...)

Jane Towner Honored by NAPS *(From page 1)*

time member of the Board of Directors. In this capacity Towner developed information about the formation, mission, and long-term sustainability of the NNLC.

As a member and former Board member of the Northumberland County Historical Society, she led the effort to raise community awareness and preservation of the county-owned Old Jail in Heathsville. Restoration work involved developing financial estimates, raising funds, removing lead-based paint, adding a new roof, and building a kiosk to be used as a county information board outside the jail.

Among her environmental achievements, Jane and her husband, Sibley Towner, organized a group of over 50 volunteer stewards to assist the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR) with the oversight and monitoring of Hughlett Point and Dameron Marsh, two of Northumberland's Natural Area Preserves. They helped to organize community walks and guided tours of the preserves.

In 2004, Jane Towner co-founded the Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning (RILL). She served on the umbrella organization, the Rappahannock Community College Educational Foundation's Board of Directors for 10 years. In 2011 she was recognized for her contributions to the college and a RILL scholarship was established in her honor.

Asked what her most satisfying achievement was personally, Tower pointed to RILL. "You know, I went to a lot of those classes, and the instructors were wonderful. I'm a life-long learner myself,"

she said.

Reflecting on her 28 years in the Northern Neck, Towner pointed out that conservation and environmental concerns have increased as development has increased. "Many groups have gotten together, not because we are trying to keep development out, we just want to see it done right" she explained, adding that it takes vigilance, wisdom and the recognition that "we want our children and grandchildren to experience and enjoy life here as we have."

Towner has a BS degree from Iowa State University in human development, an MA from Yale Divinity School in religion, and a BA from VCU in health care administration. She taught health care administration at VCU, founded the Hospice program at St. Mary's Hospital, was grant writer at Rappahannock Community College, and organized a regional micro-enterprise program. Eighty-one years old, Jane and her husband recently celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.



Congratulations, Jane Towner – NAPS Distinguished Citizen 2013

NEWS

Bluff Point Update

By *Ida Hall*

At the 7 p.m. portion of the August 8, 2013 Board of Supervisors meeting in Heathsville, the Board approved, 4-1, Bluff Point Holdings L.L.C.'s request for "a modification of General Condition 'C' of the Special Exceptions Permit approved for a Planned Unit Development" on Bluff Point in lower Northumberland County. The modification extends the time limit for the developer to submit its final plan to the

County, from December 8, 2013 until April 1, 2015. The Board's decision to extend the deadline was not based on any specific criteria, guidelines, or timelines, but was determined on a "case-by-case" basis. Tommy Tomlin cast the only negative vote.

The developer, Tom Dingledine, requested the extension because of the 16 months it took to get verbal approval of the wetlands redelineation that the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) required in 2012. A wetlands delineation is approved for five years, but is generally, unless there are significant changes "in site conditions," extended for another five years. The policy of the Norfolk District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is "to automatically require a new delineation of the site after ten years has passed from the date of the previous delineation."

The last wetlands delineation was done in 2002. "Wetlands are identified based on the presence of three criteria—wetland soils, wetland hydrology, and wetland vegetation." Written verifica-

tion of the wetlands redelineation usually takes 2-4 weeks depending on the workload. Once the paperwork is completed, the new wetlands delineation will be "public noticed on the Norfolk District's website."

Much of Bluff Point is located in the AE flood zone, which, based on 2007 flood maps, currently requires approximately a 5.2 foot building elevation for flood insurance. The current Northumberland County Flood Plain ordinance requires the first floor to be 2 feet above that. FEMA is in the process of developing new flood maps based on LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) data that "provides information for better elevation accuracy. With this increased accuracy, FEMA can better map the flood plain elevation/areas."

These maps should be completed in about 15 months. County officials met with FEMA on August 15 to discuss these new maps and what if any changes the County might need to make to its Flood Plain Ordinance. According to Assistant County Administrator, Luttrell Tadlock, "the County will need to make some changes to its Flood Plain Ordinance and will work with DCR to determine what changes."

NAPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT AUGUST 2013

We have a total of 224 persons/organizations on our basic mailing list that includes paid-up members plus persons

Member Report	2013
Business	2
Family	64
Individual	35
Patron	5
Sustaining	19
Total	125

that were formerly members. We have sent copies of our new NAPS Stewardship Journal only to paid-up members. We urge you who have not yet responded to our two requests to update your membership.

2013 CREEK CLEAN-UP

NAPS Creek Clean-Up Needs Captains

Having set the date, Saturday, September 28, and the target, the Little Wicomico River, for its annual creek clean-up, NAPS is now looking for captains. The boats will deploy from the Cockrell's Marine Railway, which will also be the place to deliver trash to be sorted for recycling.

"We are looking for 11 captains to take responsibility for specific arms of the river," said Lynton Land, NAPS Board member who is organizing the clean-up along with NAPS President Bill Estell.

The targets are Rock Hole, Slough Creek, Bridge Creek, Back Creek, Cod Creek, Sloop Creek/Willis Creek, Cockrell's Marine Railway to Spring Cove, Spring Cove

to the end of the river, Spencers Creek and shoreline east, Bridgeman's Back Creek, and Ellyson Creek. Boats must meet Coast Guard regulations.

Omega Protein will provide lunch. In addition, high school students will attend to do the actual trash collection, along with some adults. Other NAPS volunteers will be on hand to set up lunch and sort the trash.

Founded in 1929 by Dandridge Cockrell, Sr., Cockrell's Marine Railway, in its fourth generation of family ownership, has expanded the number of electrified boat slips and added new restroom and shower facilities to attract recreational boaters coming to



the Northern Neck to fish and cruise.

To reach the facility by land, from Route 360 in Burgess, turn onto State Route 644/Hacks Neck Rd., go 4.9 miles and turn right onto State Route 648/Wicomico Point Rd, which runs into Railway Road.

For more information, contact Lynton Land at (804) 453-6605. By email: JandL@nnwifi.com.

OP/ED

The Health Side of Climate Change

by William R. Nelson, MD MPH

The climate is heating up. It happens in bumps and steps, but it is definitely heating up. Aside from global effects on food, energy, sea levels and real estate, there are some serious health consequences to consider. That makes sense. Our environment has always impacted our health.

Severe storms are becoming more frequent. The immediate health risks of hurricanes, floods and tornados are physical and obvious. What's less appreciated is how mega-storms can compromise sewage systems, water wells and food safety, leading to increased risk of disease. Water damaged homes quickly develop mold which is difficult to eradicate.

A warming climate also brings new carriers of viral, bacterial and parasitic illness. This is a problem globally as well as at home. Mosquitoes carrying Dengue Fever and Malaria now survive further north. The range of the insect carrying Chaka's disease continues to move north. Changes in animal life, temperature and foliage promote populations of insects such as ticks carrying Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Here in Virginia, we have seen large increases in the number of Lyme disease cases.

Warming will also affect our health by affecting food sources. Higher temperatures and precipitation changes will dictate what can be grown, as well as harvested from marshes, the Bay and the ocean. Changing water temperatures, pH and salinity will alter ocean currents and damage the ocean food chain from plankton and grasses right up to the top. Increased water temperatures are already encouraging the growth of Vibrio species affecting shellfish and increasing harmful algae blooms.

Severe heat waves, once occurring every 20 years, will increase in frequency and intensity, possibly occurring every 2-4 years. They are not merely an annoyance. They can be deadly to individuals with heart and lung problems, as well as the elderly and people with chronic

diseases. In the ten years prior to 2010, extreme heat exposure caused or contributed to more than 7,800 deaths in the United States. This will surely increase.

The bottom line is that the phenomena of global warming will affect us and our families in ways we did not anticipate. It comes with a set of health risks that will multiply as the climate warms.

William R. Nelson MD, MPH

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NAPS FINANCIAL REPORT - AUGUST 2013

The total NAPS working budget for the year is approximately \$7,000. Of that amount, \$2,000 went to four Northumberland High School scholarships. The other major expense was the Eagle Scout Greenhouse Shed Project. Administrative costs include the newsletter and mailing expenses. At present our Revenues are running about \$1,000 behind last year.

As shown below we currently have \$4,616.19 in the checking account and \$20,411.14 in two CDs for a total of \$25,027.33. We currently have a budget deficit of approximately \$1,700 for the year. Depending upon the generosity of our membership, we hope to break even on the costs of the River Clean-up project scheduled for September 28 and the Fall Social scheduled for October 12.

Starting Balance 1/1/2013	\$6,343.73
REVENUES:	
Dues	\$4,802.50
Donations	\$40.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Revenues	\$4,842.50
EXPENSES:	
Administration	\$1,478.46
Donations & Scholarships	\$2,000.00
Membership & Newsletter	\$267.83
Events	\$187.10
Projects	\$2,636.65
Other	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$6,570.04
Current Year Net	(\$1,727.54)
Cash Balance 6/6/2013	\$4,616.19
Other Assets - Certificates of Deposit	
CD-NNSB#1	\$8,986.52
CD-NNSB#2	\$11,424.62
Total Other Assets:	\$20,411.14
Total Assets	\$25,027.33
<i>Submitted by: Gregory T. Haugan, Treasurer; Aug. 16, 2013</i>	

CCL UPDATE

Citizens Climate Lobby in DC and NNK

Dr. Greg Haugan visited the Congress on June 25 and 26 as a representative of the Northern Neck Citizens Climate Lobby to discuss the need for a price to be set on carbon dioxide emissions and to explain the rationale and urgency to mitigate climate change. A team of five Virginians met with the staffs of Senator Kaine and Warner and of the Congressmen from the first four districts of Virginia: Wittman, Rigell, Forbes and Scott.

They emphasized the common problem of sea level rise in the Norfolk area and specifically the threat to the Naval Base there. All four districts have boundaries and citizens in the Norfolk tidewater area.

"We presented the results of recent studies by VIMS and the DoD emphasizing the serious risk to the Naval Base from sea level rise and storm surge. We met personally with Congressman Wittman and discussed these concerns. All the Congressional offices were aware of the problem and the threat to national defense, but had not focused on solutions," Greg reported. He added that the CCL team suggested that all six offices work together on adaptation plans to protect the Naval facility and the thousands of jobs involved and the offices agreed to explore this further as a joint effort.

At the August 6th Northern Neck CCL meeting, the group met to discuss the Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation being proposed in Congress and the pro's and con's of the concept and its variations. The concept is a market-based alternative to the President's planned use of EPA regulations. At his presentation, Dr. Haugan pointed out

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

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that the concept was discussed with Virginia Congressmen Cantor and Wittman in June and is favored by several conservative economists.

In addition, a brief audio conference was heard featuring Lynne Twist of the Pachamama Alliance, an environmental group working with Amazon Rain Forest tribes.

In addition there were seven letters to the editor from CCL members published in the local papers during June and July. One of the goals of CCL is to continually provide information to educate the citizens of our area on various aspects of climate change, its impacts, adaptation and mitigation.

OUTREACH

Bill Estell, Lee Allain and Greg Haugan tend the NAPS booth and greet shoppers at the July Heathsville Farmers Market. NAPS also had a stand at the August 17 Farmers Market. Both were deemed worth the effort.



ENVIRONMENT

Climate and Temperature

by Gregory Haugan, PhD

Over the last few years, there has been a slowing down of the rate of increase of the global average temperature of the earth. This is primarily believed to be caused by the excessive heat from the sun that is being trapped by the atmosphere is warming the deep oceans more than the upper ocean or atmosphere. The temperatures are still well above the decadal average and not evidence of a cessation of global warming. The World Meteorological Organization's new 2013 report indicated the Earth experienced unprecedented record-climate extremes during the decade 2001-2010. The decade was the warmest for both hemispheres and for both land and ocean surface temperatures. The record warmth was accompanied by a rapid decline in Arctic sea ice, and accelerating loss of mass from the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets and from glaciers. Although the rate of overall temperature rise has slowed down since the 1990s, the WMO says temperatures are still rising because of greenhouse gases from human society.

Long Term View

The WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud said: "Natural climate variability, caused in part by interactions between our atmosphere and oceans, means that some years are cooler than others. On a long-term basis the underlying trend is clearly in an upward direction, more so in recent times."

The WMO report documented that nearly 94% of reporting countries had their warmest decade in 2001-2010. No country reported a nationwide average decadal temperature cooler than the long-term average. Greenland recorded the largest decadal temperature anomaly, +3.08F above the long-term average and with a temperature in 2010 of +5.6F above average. Africa experienced warmer than normal conditions in every year of the decade.

It is clear these trends will have major impacts on us, our children, and future generations. Doing nothing to mitigate these impacts is not a reasonable option for a responsible society. One logical action to mitigate this constant increase is to put a price on carbon such as we are advocating.

BOOK REVIEW

Climate Change Must-Reading

Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity by James E. Hansen. New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2009. \$16.00

Review by Dr. Gregory T. Haugan

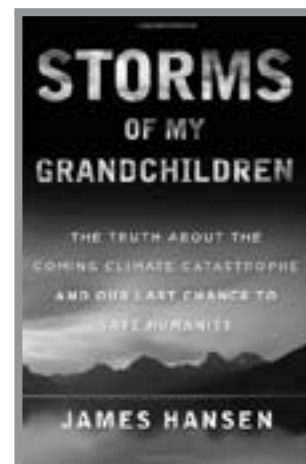
I met Dr. Hansen on June 24 of this year and heard him speak on the topic of his book. It was one day after the 25th anniversary of his first testimony to Congress about the scientific concerns of the current and anticipated climate change and the role of humans and CO2 emissions. The book is relatively easy to read although some short sections are technical and take some concentration. These technical sections can be skipped or returned-to later to be read.

Dr. Hansen takes us through his history and experiences in becoming a climate hero including the scientific and political experiences at NASA and with contact with the White House and governments around the

world. He does talk about his grandchildren and why this book is important to them. His approach in the book as stated in the preface is to "describe my experiences as a scientist interacting with policy makers" between 2001 and 2009, the publication date of the book. Each chapter discusses a facet of climate science that he hopes "a non-scientist will find easy to understand." I need to warn you his first chapter is one of the most challenging. Do not give up on him but just skip parts that are too technical. This book is a classic and I recommend each of you have it in your personal library as a reference and source

of inspiration.

It is not a "feel good" book – in fact is very depressing when you think about what has changed since 1988 and how far we need to go to mitigate the "storms of our grandchildren." Read it.



LOCAL

Highway Clean-up Set for October 29

NAPS Adopt-A-Highway project is set for Tuesday, October 29, from 1 to 3 p.m., starting at the Wicomico Church parking lot. Clean-up program chair Janice Mahoney needs volunteers for seven teams to do seven pick-up locations.

The pick-up takes place along Route 200. At the last Adopt-A-Highway, April 30, nine stalwart members braved the cold and rain and filled 16 bags of trash.

"Let's hope that the weather cooperates in October," Mahoney said, adding that with enough volunteers, the job goes quickly.

To volunteer, please send an email to Janice Mahoney at: vervaville@me.com.

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, unless otherwise noted.

Sep. 11, Wed.... NAPS Board Meeting

Sep. 28, Sat. Annual Creek Cleanup, Cockrell's Marine Railway

Oct. 9, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting

Oct. 12, Sat. NAPS Fall Social, Bay Quarter Shores Club

Oct. 29, Sat. NAPS Adopt-A-Highway, Wicomico Church

Nov. 13, Wed.... NAPS Board Meeting

Dec. 11, Wed.... NAPS Board Meeting

Jan. 8, Wed..... NAPS Board Meeting

Feb. 12, Wed.... NAPS Board Meeting

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Memo from Bill

The summer is passing too quickly but we are looking forward to the activities ahead,

NAPS is gearing up for our Annual Creek Clean-up. This year will be staged from Cockrell's Marine Railway and concentrate on the creeks off the Little Wicomico. We need

volunteers from boat captains to trash recyclers and lunch setup volunteers. The Beta Club at Northumberland High School will provide the main picker-uppers of trash but everyone is encouraged to come and volunteer for this important project. Lunch will be provided and, of course, the annual NAPS T-Shirt for all helpers. Newspaper articles and flyers will be out soon to spread the word. Contact any of the NAPS members listed in the Newsletter to offer your help.

On the heels of the Creek Clean-Up comes the NAPS Fall Social on Saturday, 12 October 2013. We will once again be able to utilize the wonderful facilities at the Bay Quarter Shores Clubhouse from 4 to 7 p.m. "Save The Date" and prepare to spend a delightful evening with the NAPS family and friends. An invitation will be mailed out in mid-September with the details and the usual request for help in providing your delicious side dishes. Volunteers are needed for set-up and cleaning up as well. We will also honor the NAPS Distinguished Citizen of 2013 (see the article in this Newsletter). Plan on attending this signature event and spread the word to prospective NAPS members, they are always welcome.

The NAPS Board has undertaken a telephone and mailing effort to encourage NAPS members who have yet to renew their membership to do so. There are more and more organizations who are clamoring for your most precious assets...your time and financial support. NAPS is one among them but our support and concern for the issues that affect Northumberland are unwavering and we NEED your help.

The Northumberland Farmer's Markets in July and August provided NAPS the opportunity to meet and explain our mission with the citizens of Northumberland County. We had many of you stop by to reinforce your commitment to NAPS, thank you.

NAPS display in the foyer of the Northumberland Public Library in August, as we do each year, was well received with one excep-



Bill Estell and Greg Haugan with the "controversial" NAPS display at the Northumberland County Public Library

tion. A disgruntled citizen took exception to the portion of the display dealing with climate change through the Citizens Climate Lobby which NAPS has been associated with since March 2nd of this year. In a very public and written tantrum and pique to the Library Board of Trustees, the Northumberland County School Board, the Northumberland County Board of Supervisors and the local papers, he demanded that the portion of the display dealing with climate change be removed from the library. The Board of Trustees of the Northumberland Public Library steadfastly refused to allow this individual to trample on the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" and his demand was rejected. The Bill of Rights assures the integrity of our library and the freedom of expression through Article IV "Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas."

Hope to see you at the Creek Clean-Up and the Fall Social. Best to you and yours,

*Sincerely,
- Bill Estell, President*