



NAPS News

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



Winter/Spring 2020

Volume 29

Issue 1

Welcome to the belated Winter/Spring Issue of NAPS News

In concordance with COVID-19 response guidelines, events have been canceled, but NAPS is still active!

NAPS Awards 4 Scholarships to College-Bound NHS Graduates

Four graduating Northumberland High School seniors received college scholarships from NAPS. Scholarships of \$1,500 each were awarded to Rebecca Baker, Eve Front, Anna Jett, and Kelsey Moss.

"As always, the candidates were strong academically and active in community service," said Martha Tallent, NAPS Scholarship Committee Chairman. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the committee did not hold personal interviews this year, relying solely on its criteria for selection. "I am pleased to say that there was consensus among the scholarship committee, although we lamented not being able to award more," Tallent said.

Scholarships were awarded in memory of Eliot Levinson, Myrtle Phillips, Jinny Estell and Jane Towner. Each were strong NAPS supporters who died during the past year.

The NAPS Scholarship Committee received 16 applications and

considered financial need, academic accomplishments, community focus, clarity of vision, probability of success, and alignment with NAPS' environmental sustainability values. For the Levinson scholarship, criteria focused on interest in environmental or STEM careers, plans to attend a local university or community college, and a desire to stay in the Northern Neck after college graduation.

"Each year, I'm more impressed by the students graduating from NHS," said Roger Gruben of the NAPS Scholarship Committee. "It's not only their academic accomplishments, but

their understanding of the larger world they are entering, and their hopes for improving that world," added Gruben.

To donate to the NAPS Scholarship Endowment Fund, mail a check payable to NAPS to P.O. Box 567, Heathsville, VA 22473. Please write "Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.



NAPS Scholarship recipients Rebecca Baker, Anna Jett, Kelsey Moss, and Eve Front (not pictured).

Climate Change Awareness Discussed at NAPS Annual Meeting



More than sixty people attended a climate change information program hosted by the NAPS on Saturday, February 29, 2020, in the Fellowship Hall at Heathsville United Methodist Church.

The program named "Leap Into a New Decade of Climate Change Awareness and Action" included presentations on how citizens can reduce their carbon footprint, mitigate the effects of climate change, and advocate for clean energy policies.

NAPS members greeted attendees at the door offering reusable NAPS grocery bags along with the event program. A spread of refreshments and snacks was provided by NAPS members.

NAPS president Mike Ahart introduced the program and presented an overview *(See "Climate Change Program/Annual Meeting" on p. 2...)*

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Climate Change Program/Annual Meeting (continued from p. 1)

of the scientific consensus on causes and effects of climate change. Energy generation must continue to swing toward renewable sources, but “we also need to take action on a personal and



local level... it's time to start treating energy like a precious resource and end the era of disposable everything,” Ahart said.



Charlene Talcott, lifelong environmentalist and retired Chief Ranger Interpreter for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, spoke about the local effects of climate change and sea level rise. “As John Muir stated, ‘When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.’ All of our actions affect so much more than that ‘one thing’ we are trying to change. We need to look at the big picture beyond what we think we are doing,” stated Talcott.



Dr. Lynton S. Land shared his experience of having a solar array installed at his residence, lowering his electric bill substantially. The 25-year warranted system “should pay for itself in about ten years,” Land explained.



Marine biologist Dr. Judith Lang explained her work as Scientific Coordinator of the AGRRA (Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment). “Coral reefs all over the world are at high risk of dying” due to ocean acidification and warming temperatures caused by the rise of carbon dioxide levels. Although her organization’s work requires air travel, it now limits it to the minimum necessary and offsets the carbon emissions most recently through a program with COOLEFFECT.org, using the online mileage and carbon emissions calculator at ICAO.org. “This year we donated to their Renewable Energy Wind Turbines project...in Los Santos, one of Costa Rica’s windiest regions, to generate 12.75 MW of energy, provide electricity to 50,000 people and save 11,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year,” Lang said.



Greg Allison, owner of Allison’s Ace Hardware in Lottsburg, showed a brief video outlining ways to save money and make a home more energy efficient and comfortable, including LED lighting, weatherstripping, caulking, insulation and energy



saving appliances.

Former Delegate Albert Pollard, Jr., updated the audience about energy-related bills in Virginia’s General Assembly session. “If these laws pass, Virginia will



go from near the back of the pack to near the front of the pack” of states with efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop clean energy resources. Pollard also explained several facts and myths about all-electric vehicles. “The battery is warranted for 100,000 miles and I’m at 53,000 miles still going strong,” Pollard said about his Chevy Bolt, adding “the only maintenance so far was refilling the windshield wiper fluid and a set of tires.”



The Northumberland County Middle School “Community Problem Solvers” presented their “Parachutes for the Planet” project, introduced by Talented and Gifted Student Coordinator Shauna McCranie. After two brief videos, the students lifted the three parachutes they had painted, with students taking turns explaining the message they were trying to convey with their section. Sixth-grader Trey Felton’s starfish theme was inspired by a story about a young boy who came upon thousands of stranded starfish on the shore. He was throwing them back one by one when a bystander asked, “What difference can you make? There are thousands of starfish and only one of you.” Throwing one starfish back into the water, the boy replied, “I made a difference to that one!” “If we all just played a small part in conservation and education it can make a huge difference,” Felton said.

Ahart closed the program with a short list of what citizens can do to help save energy and resources, including reducing the use of disposable items, eating locally-grown foods, planting native trees, and combining trips to limit car use.



Immediately following the program, NAPS held its Annual Meeting with members and other interested attendees. Ahart reviewed NAPS’ accomplishments from its 30th year, including achieving its goal of acquiring 30 new memberships. The group also discussed plans for 2020. NAPS Board of Directors



members Tommy Armstrong, Gena McKinley, and Roger Gruben were unanimously elected to a second term.



The “Community Problem Solvers” presented NAPS with a parachute featuring NAPS’ “trash crab” design.

Submit Your Nomination for the 2020 Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award

The NAPS Board of Directors is requesting nominations for the 2020 Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award.

The award honors an individual, team, organization, or business in Northumberland County that advances the goals of NAPS:

1. Improving the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries
2. Fostering and preserving the county's rural atmosphere
3. Promoting and monitoring land use policies
4. Encouraging economic growth to promote jobs
5. Cooperating with others through educational programs to target these goals.

Last year's award was presented to Ida Hall for her environmental education and preservation efforts as a career waterman and advocate of sustainable land use, and for her service on several committees and panels dedicated to

sustainable fisheries.

Previous awardees include Jack Moore (2018), 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, 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 also occasionally presents an Ambassador Award to a non-county resident who has contributed to the preservation of Northumberland County as outlined in the NAPS goals above. The first recipient of this award was Henry Bashore, a resident of Lancaster County, for his efforts in making Bush Mill Stream in Northumberland County a nature preserve in perpetuity with the Nature Conservancy.

If you know of an individual, group, orga-



Ida Hall was presented the 2019 Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award at the NAPS Fall Social, Oct. 26, 2019

nization, or business that merits either of these awards, email the information to stewardship@NAPSva.org, or by mail to NAPS DCA Nomination, PO Box 567, Heathsville, VA 22473. Please include a brief explanation on how your nominee fits the criteria, and include your contact information. Please submit your nominations no later than Sept. 30, 2020.

Solar Update: One Year After Installation

By Lynton Land and Judy Lang

On July 9, 2019, after certification of our solar panels (See the January 2020 NAPS Newsletter - www.napsva.org/single-post/2020/01/21/Solar-Power-in-the-Northern-Neck), a new digital "net" meter was installed by NNEC to monitor our power usage and the amount of power we return to the grid. One year later, on July 9, 2020, we had purchased 4713 kWh and returned 3483 kWh to the grid. Except for summer months when the air conditioner is used, our bill was \$29, or within \$10 of \$29, which is the monthly "line fee." Our highest bill, in August, was \$77 compared to previous years when it averaged about \$300.

According to data supplied by the manufacturer of the micro-inverters, we generated

5406 kWh, which we either used (1923) or returned to the grid (3483). The maximum output of our 5.25 kW ground-mounted array (15 Hyundai 350 watt panels and Enphase micro-inverters) was 4.2 kW. The least amount of power was produced in December when the sun is lowest.

We heat with propane and wood, not with an electric heat pump. Our electric bill was \$1177/ the year before the solar panels were installed. Last year, after the solar panels were operating, it was \$535. Dividing the difference into the cost of the array, after taking the 2019 30% tax credit, yields 17.6 years to pay it back. The warranty is 25 years on the panels and micro-inverters. We do not know the cost of electricity over the next decade or the amount of inflation, so that

number is not precise. It is important to remember that the tax credit drops to 26% this year, to 22% in 2021 and zero thereafter, unless changed by a new administration.

The array would have produced more power if it could have been roof-mounted rather than ground-mounted because shading by trees would have been greatly reduced. But even given a less-than-ideal location for the panels,

we are satisfied with the performance of the system and have no regrets about installing it.



NAPS Members Lynton Land & Judy Lang installed a ground-mounted solar array at their residence in Ophelia a year ago.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total assets have decreased by just \$276 since our last newsletter. Our net so far this year is -\$416. Membership renewals for 2020 are down, with dues income lower by \$2,957. Expenses are also down, with no events due to COVID 19, so we are doing OK for now.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Starting Balance (1-Jan-2020) | \$7,024.60 |
| REVENUES: | |
| Dues | \$3,480.00 |
| Endowment | \$885.00 |
| Other | \$801.88 |
| Total Revenues | \$5,166.88 |
| EXPENSES: | |
| Administration | \$583.13 |
| Donations & Scholarships | \$4,500.00 |
| Membership & Newsletter | \$0.00 |
| Events | \$0.00 |
| Projects | \$500.00 |
| Other | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$5,583.13 |
| CURRENT YEAR NET | -\$416.25 |
| Current Cash Balance | \$6,608.35 |
| Other Assets: | |
| Scholarship Endowment: | \$22,054.15 |
| Total Assets | \$28,662.50 |

Submitted by: Roger Gruben, Treasurer; 7-31-2020

NAPS Sponsors RCC STEM Camp Student



Rappahannock Community College held a week-long STEM camp for 32 local rising 6th-9th grade students. NAPS sponsored a Northumberland County student participating with the STEM camp. For the past 5 years the camp was held on the RCC campus but was converted to an online class this year due to COVID-19 concerns.

This year's camp covered coding basics and health. Each student worked with an Arduino basic starter kit, heart

rate monitor, and a robotic hand kit – all at no cost to students or parents. Students were instructed how to use the heart rate monitor and Arduino program to code for and read their own body's heart rhythm and electrical pulses. The daily lessons lead students to learn how to control LEDs, buzzers, servos, and even the motion of the robotic hand using their body's own motion and electrical signals.

"Camp was very successful," said instructor Greg Dorsey, adding that both the student and student's mother were very happy with the program.

Each student worked with a coding kit, heart rate monitor, robotic hand kit and other materials for the online STEM Camp.

In Memoriam: Jane Towner

NAPS has lost a dear friend and patron, and a true pillar of the community, Jane Towner, who passed away Feb. 24, 2020 at her home in Kilmarnock. She and her late husband, Sibley, have been NAPS members and supporters since 1999.

NAPS presented the Northumberland Distinguished Citizen award to Jane in 2013 for her many conservation achievements, including:

- Spearheading efforts to stabilize, restore and reuse Shiloh School, culminating in using the one-room schoolhouse for educational programming on Northumberland's rural heritage, history and natural assets.
- Serving as an officer and a board member, and coordinating communications, fund-raising, and outreach for Northumberland Preservation, Inc. which owns Shiloh School 1906, as well as the smaller Shiloh School 1884.
- Being a founding member of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC); its first vice-president and long-time member of the Board of Directors. In this capacity Towner developed information about the formation, mission, and long-term sustainability of the NNLC.
- Serving as a member and 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.
- With her husband, Sibley, organizing 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. Co-founding 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 in 2013 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 lifelong learner myself," she said.

Reflecting on her 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."

A "Celebration of Life and Faith" was scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.

Memorial gifts may be sent to: a nonprofit of choice; the RCC/EFI at P.O. Box 923, Warsaw, VA, 22572; Northumberland Preservation, Inc. (Shiloh School) P.O. Box 65, Wicomico Church, VA 22579; RWC Foundation, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington, VA 22480.

Other suggestions include the Hospice Program of Virginia; the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for the ongoing conservation and maintenance of Hughlett Point; the Northern Neck Land Conservancy; and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock.



Epic EV Roadtrip Awarded Guinness World Record for Longest Journey by Electric Car

If you attended the 4th Annual NAPS Earth Day Festival in Heathsville in 2018, you may have met Steve Ahart, the owner of the red Tesla Model 3 all-electric car that was part of the festival’s Electric Vehicle (EV) Display. He and his brother, Dave, were getting ready to set off for a long road trip to raise awareness of EVs and raise money for Boys & Girls Clubs of America. They also broke the Guinness World Record for Longest Journey By Electric Vehicle (non-solar) by traveling over 30,000 km. (18,644 mi.).

They set out from Northern Virginia on May 6, 2018, to also break both this record, and another: Attend a full game in every Major

League Baseball stadium in less than 30 days. They missed that world record by a week due to several rained-out games.

They also raised almost \$10,000 for Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Congratulations to Steve and Dave for proving that all-electric cars aren’t just for commuting – it’s a quiet, fun, comfortable, and less-expensive way to travel long-distances. The trip’s website and social media is still active: EpicEVRoadtrip.com and @EpicEVRoadtrip on Facebook or Twitter.

Steve and Dave are brothers with NAPS president Mike Ahart, who helped manage their website and media during the trip.



Steve and Dave Ahart show their world record certificate.

Three Ways To Vote in Northumberland County

With concerns about COVID-19, a potential shortage of poll workers, recent cutbacks at the USPS and disinformation campaigns flooding social media, providing accurate voter information to our friends and neighbors has never been more important. Please share!

Registration

Voters must be registered before Tuesday, October 13, in order to vote. Online, visit www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal, scroll to the bottom and click “GO”. Enter the requested information – name, date of birth, last 4 digits of the social security number and location. Check the certification box and you should see your voter record. You can also activate a vote-by-mail option with a check box. If there is a problem, contact the local registrar, Katherine Davenport, at 45 Back St. in Heathsville (the old vet’s office) PO Box 84, Heathsville VA 22473 or 580-4655.

Voting Options

1) Early In-Person Voting

You can vote at the local registrar’s office at 45 Back St. in Heathsville (the old veterinarian’s office), Monday to Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, beginning on September 18, 45 days before Election Day, until Saturday October 31 at 5:00 PM. It’s just like voting at a polling place. You will be asked to provide your name and physical address and show an acceptable ID, usually a driver’s license or passport, exactly as is done at polling places on election day. Other acceptable identification options

are listed at www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/in-person-voting. You will be handed a ballot that you can mark and insert in the machine to finish recording your vote, just as is practiced at polling places.

2) Vote By Mail (Absentee)

Anyone can use this option. Download a “vote by mail” application form: www.elections.virginia.gov/media/castyourballot/SBE-701-703.1.pdf.

Return the completed and signed form to the local registrar’s office by mail, fax, or scanned attachment to an email before October 23, 2020 at 5 PM (kdavenport@co.northumberland.va.us). Be sure to use your physical (“911”) address, not a P.O. Box! USPS delivery standards changed last year so that First Class delivery went from 1-3 days to 2-5 days and Standard delivery is now 2-9 days. If you intend to use the mail, don’t leave it until the last minute!

You can check to see if your absentee application or ballot was received by going to www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal, or by checking with the registrar.

3) Vote in-Person on November 3

Polls are open 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The locations of polling places will be published in local newspapers or you can find yours online at elections.virginia.gov.

Bottom Line: Once you have made up your mind, VOTE!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We ended 2019 with 122 members, 30 more than we had at the end of 2018. Our current membership count is 53 below where we were at the end of 2019, even though we added nine new members in 2020: 1 business, 5 families, 2 individuals, and 1 sustaining member. If you have been thinking about renewing, please do so now. We need you.

| Membership Level | 2020 Paid | 2019 |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Business | 1 | 1 |
| Family | 33 | 60 |
| Individual | 14 | 31 |
| Patron | 5 | 4 |
| Sustaining | 16 | 25 |
| Student | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 69 | 122 |

Welcome New NAPS Members since our last newsletter:

- Awesome Oysters LLC
- Mr. & Ms. Daniel & Katharine Beckhard
- Mr. Gary Dickens
- Dave & Terrie Dustin
- Ms. Janet Little
- Carrie Mullins & Family
- Mr. & Mrs. David Williams
- Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Wright
- Bob & Denez Yancey



Memo from Mike

I hope everyone has stayed safe and sane during this crazy year. Seems like the day after NAPS’ successful Leap Day Climate Change Program/Annual Meeting, the whole world stopped.

Like most other organizations, all NAPS events since the beginning of March were canceled, and we don’t expect to participate

in any group events for the rest of 2020. However, NAPS has kept up with several programs and initiatives, including our scholarship program.

At the beginning of last year, NAPS’ 30th, we challenged ourselves to get 30 new memberships – and we made it! By stepping up our outreach, we met our goal. Unfortunately, opportunities for outreach are few and far between this year. We need **your** help to keep our membership levels up by renewing your membership (if you haven’t already) and spreading the word

about NAPS’ programs and projects.

We know that **you** have a neighbor or friend who cares about the environment and “should” be a member of NAPS, but isn’t. It’s time for them to join! Point them to NAPSva.org/join-help to become a member today. Membership does not require participation – and there’s not much to participate in this year! Any financial support will be fostering good stewardship in the Northern Neck...and with NAPS, a little goes a **long** way.

Please visit NAPSva.org for updates, and follow @NAPSva on Facebook and Twitter. And if you have any questions, ideas, comments, complaints, or just want to say “hi,” please feel free to email me at mikeahart@NAPSva.org or call me at 313-0274.

Wishing the best to you and yours...

*Sincerely,
 Mike Ahart, NAPS president*

NAPS Calendar

NAPS Board meetings will be held on the second Friday of the month at 10am using email and/or tele- or video-conferencing until further notice. All members are welcome to participate – please submit agenda items to Stewardship@NAPSva.org.

Currently, NAPS does not plan to hold a Fall Social this year. If NAPS decides to hold a large cleanup event, like the annual creek cleanup, it will not include a group get-together.

- Sep. 11, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, email/online at 10am
- Oct. 9, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, email/online at 10am
- Nov. 13, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, email/online at 10am
- Dec. 11, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, email/online at 10am
- Jan. 8, Fri. NAPS Board Meeting, email/online at 10am

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|--|
| President..... | Mike Ahart | 313-0274 | michaelrahart@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Janice Mahoney | 580-3154 | vervaville@yahoo.com |
| Secretary | Shauna McCranie | 580-8032 | smccranie@nucps.net |
| Treasurer | Roger Gruben | 435-1863 | rogergruben@gmail.com |

NAPS Board of Directors

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Rita Johnson | (Term Expires 2/2021) | 724-4409 | rita@kaballero.com |
| Julie Hendrickson ... | (Term Expires 2/2021) ... | 703-346-2284 | freshfaux@gmail.com |
| Martha Tallent | (Term Expires 2/2021) | 453-6832 | tallent@va.metrocast.net |
| Janice Mahoney..... | (Term Expires 2/2022) | 580-3154 | vervaville@yahoo.com |
| Shauna McCranie.... | (Term Expires 2/2022) | 580-8032 | smccranie@nucps.net |
| Mike Ahart | (Term Expires 2/2022) | 313-0274 | mikeahart@kaballero.com |
| Roger Gruben | (Term Expires 2/2023) | 435-1863 | rogergruben@gmail.com |
| Gena McKinley..... | (Term Expires 2/2023) ... | 910-617-9491 | gmckinley2016@gmail.com |
| Tommy Armstrong .. | (Term Expires 2/2023)..... | 453-4254 | tommarie870@gmail.com |

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|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|
| News Editor | Gena McKinley | 910-617-9491 | gmckinley2016@gmail.com |
| Production | Mike Ahart | 313-0274 | michaelrahart@gmail.com |