

NAPS News

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

Summer 2017

Volume 26 Issue 3



Welcome to the Summer 2017 Edition of NAPS News.

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

Sunday, October 1. NAPS Creek Cleanup at Little Wicomico River 12 noon.

Saturday, October 14. NAPS Annual Fall Social, 4 – 7 p.m. at Bay Quarter Shores Club House.

Monday, October 23. NAPS Highway Pickup, 10 a.m. at Wicomico Church.

NAPS Names Bill Estell Distinguished Citizen. > > >

You're Invited. It's the Fall Social when we will present the Distinguished Citizen Award and enjoy a chicken supper with sides, drinks, and dessert. Look for your invitation.

Meet Our New Board Member. Please welcome Gena McKinley, PhD. She moved to Northumberland County a year ago and is teaching at Rappahannock Community College.

NAPS Calendar.

Trees to Products: A Sustainable Route. Virginia Master Naturalist John Narney reports in this OP-ED article about the sustainable forest management techniques in Wise, Virginia. Nothing is thrown away.

Fall Highway Cleanup October 23. To join the team, contact Janice Mahoney at vervaville@yahoo.com or call 580-3154.

Eclipse Glasses Scooped Up. Lined up outside the Northumberland Library, the crowd poured into the meeting room and took away the 200 safe glasses provided by NAPS in no time. Who knew?

STEM and Virtual Reality at School. Lee Allain describes the VR project that NAPS is working with Capstone Math instructor Anita McEntire to introduce. The project involves the Callao Revitalization program.

NAPS Sponsors "Dolphin Encounter" for Northumberland Schools. TAG students in grades 2 – 8 will enjoy learning about and seeing dolphins in their natural habitat, thanks to a NAPS donation to pay for the boat ride.

Financial and Member Reports. Treasurer Roger Gruben reports the numbers and includes a new feature welcoming new members.

Creek Clean-up Set for October 1. The base for departure and off-loading will be Cockrell's Marine Railroad. We need captains and shore-based volunteers. Northumberland school kids will also be on hand to fill the need for crews.

Memo from Mike. President Mike Ahart discusses additions to the NAPS website.

NAPS Officers and Board Members.

To keep up with NAPS on a regular basis, check out our website: www.napsva.org.

– Jay Walker, Editor

NEWS

NAPS Names Bill Estell Distinguished Citizen

By Jay Walker

Recognizing his contributions to Northumberland organizations and services performed for individuals, Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS) has named Bill Estell its 2017 Distinguished Citizen Award. The formal presentation will be performed at the NAPS Annual Social, Saturday, October 14, at the Bay Quarter Shores Community Club House, 4 to 7 p.m.

Estell's contributions to Northumberland organizations include President of the Northumberland Library Board of Trustees for four years and President of NAPS for six years. In addition, he has been on the board of the Reedville Fishermen's Museum and a

(Continued on page 2...)



NAPS Distinguished Citizen Award honoree Bill Estell.

NEWS

You're Invited

You are invited to the 2017 NAPS Fall Social to be held on Saturday, October 14, at Bay Quarter Shores Clubhouse from 4 to 7 p.m. We will officially present the Northumberland Distinguished Citizen Award to Bill Estell for his contributions to the organizations in the county and his services to individuals. (See separate story for details of Bill's long-time contributions.)

Dinner will follow the presentation. Appetizers, drinks, chicken dinner with home-made sides, and dessert (NAPS signature ice cream sundaes) are all yours for only \$15 per person.

As always in our volunteer-supported organization, we need all the help we can get. While the chicken will be catered, side dishes contributed by YOU would be most appreciated. We also need help in setting up and cleaning up.

To do your part for NAPS, please contact Janice Mahoney at (804) 580-3154 or email to vervaville@yahoo.com.

The venue with water view is perfect for entertaining. Bay Quarter Shores Clubhouse is reached from Rt. 360 in Claraville. There will be NAPS signs at the turns onto Walnut Point Road, Font Hill Road, Bay Quarter Road, Cod Creek Drive, and Bay Quarter Drive. Ample parking is available in front of the clubhouse.

NAPS members will receive a formal invitation with a form to fill out. On the form you can also contribute to the Angel List for an additional contribution to NAPS.

Don't miss this fun event.

BOARD

Meet Our New Board Member

At its August meeting, the NAPS Board of Directors welcomed aboard new member Gena McKinley, PhD. She is Associate Professor, English at Rappahannock Community College, Warsaw.

Gena was born and raised in Wilmington,

NC. She received a master's degree in philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and attended the University of Virginia to earn her doctorate degree in English.

"At that time, about 15 years ago, I said I would love to return to Virginia. I finally did that last year when I took a job teaching at RCC," she recalled.

Most recently, she taught at Cape Fear Community College at her hometown, Wilmington.

"I co-founded the Sustainability Committee at CFCC and we worked with students, faculty and staff on a

number of environmental initiatives, including campus-wide recycling," Gena reported, adding that she hopes to do the same at RCC.

"In Wilmington, my husband Alex and I had a small organic farm business, that we named Anna's Acre after our daughter, now a 7th grader at Northumberland Middle School. We love the natural beauty of the Northern Neck and have enjoyed our first year here," said Gena.

Distinguished Citizen (from p. 1)

long-time docent at the museum. During the re-building of the Friends of the Northumberland Library, he volunteered to join the board and is currently the Vice-President.

After retiring from the U.S. Navy in 1991, Estell went back to school, earned a Masters Degree in education and taught math at Wakefield High School in Arlington. When he moved full time to Northumberland County, he taught at RCC as Adjunct Professor. He was also a substitute math teacher at Northumberland Middle School.

For services to individuals, Estell has tutored kids in math at the library and helped students in an after-school reading program at Northumberland Elementary School. He has been a regular volunteer at the library desk for 21 years. He has been treasurer of the White Sand Harbour Property Owners' Association for 19 years.

"When I was campaigning for the Northumberland Board of Supervisors some years ago, I spoke of preserving the essence of our community, providing education opportunities for our children, and protecting the environment. And that's what NAPS is all about," he said.

Estell lives with Jinny, his wife of 55 years in Edwardsville.

NAPS Calendar

NAPS Board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at Northumberland Elementary School (NES) starting at 4 p.m., during the school year. Meetings in June, July, and August will be at the Union First Market Bank on Rt. 360 in Burgess, starting at 9 a.m.

- Oct. 1, Sun. NAPS Creek Clean-up at 12 noon
- Oct. 10, Tue. NAPS Board Meeting, NES at 4 p.m.
- Oct. 14, Sat. NAPS Annual Social and Distinguished Citizen Award, 4 p.m.
- Oct. 23, Mon. NAPS Highway Pickup at 10 a.m.
- Nov. 14, Tue. NAPS Board Meeting, NES at 4 p.m.
- Dec. 12, Tue. NAPS Board Meeting, NES at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 9, Tue. NAPS Board Meeting, NES at 4 p.m.
- Feb. 13, Tue. NAPS Board Meeting, NES at 4 p.m.
- Mar. 13, Tue. NAPS Board Meeting, NES at 4 p.m.

OP-ED

Trees to Products: A Sustainable Route

By John Narney

Recently my wife, Pam, and I attended the “Trees to Products Conference” in Wise, Virginia. The conference, sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension in collaboration with the Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, provides educators an opportunity to get an in-the-field tour of sustainable forest-management techniques and observe the steps in wood product production. While

not currently educators, we are Virginia Master Naturalists and thought this would be an excellent opportunity to enhance our understanding of forestry.

The first stop on our forestry tour was a reclaimed mining site. The area around Wise is hilly to say the least, and if you are standing in a flat area there is a good chance that it was a coal mine at one time. When the property owner sells the mining rights he tells the mining company how he wants the land reclaimed. Some of these lands have been developed, some are in pasture, and much of this has been reforested. We then toured federal and privately owned forests to see logging practices first hand. There was an emphasis on leaving trees near stream beds to maintain riparian borders. Timber cutters are required to post bonds to ensure that they protect water quality. In one area we saw a chipper the size of a minivan fill a semi trailer in less than fifteen minutes. Those wood chips went to Dominion’s Virginia City Hybrid Energy center which is designed to use up to 20% biomass for energy production. We saw areas that had recently been clear cut, with the exception of seed trees and a “den” tree, where the forest was starting to regenerate on its own. Leaving seed trees creates new growth through natural succession.

After the forest tour we visited wood product manufacturers including a saw mill, wood flooring company, a chip mill, and a paper plant. The impressive part of these visits was the realization that because profit margins are small there is very little waste in the whole



Wood not suitable for logs is chipped and used for fuel by a hybrid power plant.

process. Wood not suitable for logs is chipped and used for fuel. At the saw mill, saw dust is collected and sold for fuel and scraps go to the chipper. The flooring plant uses its saw dust to power the boilers that it uses to heat its kilns. The chip mill takes hardwood logs that are not suitable for lumber and reduces them to the chips that feed the paper mill. If no one told you there was a paper mill in town you wouldn’t know it was there. They use a closed pressure

cooker type system to create the pulp so there is no paper mill smell.

A pine forest can be harvested in twenty or perhaps fifteen years but hardwoods may only be harvested once in a lifetime. This makes it important for the property owner to take advantage of the Department of Forestry, private consultants or industry foresters in creating a long term plan. Numbers prove the value of managed forestry in Virginia—there are 15.3 million acres of commercial timberland, our hardwood forest acreage today is 155% of what

it was in 1940 and, for 2014, the ratio of the forest’s annual growth compared to harvest volume was more than 2.1:1 for softwood and 2.2:1 for hardwood species. Just like corn and soy beans, timber is a crop to be harvested and in Virginia it is harvested responsibly using environmentally sound practices with a goal of sustainability.

It is not a sin to cut a tree.

ENVIRONMENT

Fall Highway Cleanup October 23

By Janice Mahoney

The Fall Highway cleanup is scheduled for Monday, October 23 starting at 10 a.m. We will de-trash our usual route on Jesse Ball Dupont Highway (Rte. 200) from Wicomico Church to the Tipers Bridge. We meet at the Episcopal Church in Wicomico Church and work in teams of two to cover seven sections of the

highway. We are usually finished no later than 12 noon.

Please put this date on your calendar and volunteer for this important NAPS project that is very visible to the general public. If you want to volunteer, email me at vervaville@yahoo.com or call 580-3154. And you’ll get your picture in NAPS News. Thanks in advance.

NAPS MEMBERSHIP REPORT - 2017

The table presents the current membership status versus 2016 as reflected in the numbers of paid-up members this year to date.

| Membership Level | 2017 Paid | 2016 |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Business | 1 | 4 |
| Family | 48 | 61 |
| Individual | 24 | 29 |
| Patron | 4 | 6 |
| Sustaining | 21 | 23 |
| Student | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 100 | 124 |

Welcome New NAPS Members!

Beth and Bill Novick
 Gena McKinley and Alex Pridgen
 Kitty Creeth
 Edward Kussy
 Destiny Amos
 Lexy Newsome

NEWS

Eclipse Glasses Scooped Up

By Jay Walker

It took just 13 minutes to pass out 200 free eclipse viewing glasses Saturday morning at the Northumberland Library in Heathsville. Over 150 people were lined up outside the library entrance several minutes before the doors opened at 9 a.m.

The glasses were provided by the Northumberland Association for Progressive Stewardship (NAPS) in partnership with the library. NAPS officers and library staff were clearly stunned by the turnout, although the large number of phone enquiries received two days prior to the event was an early indication.

“We knew ahead of time that we had to move the distribution from the main



Trying on the NAPS eclipse glasses were (from left) Mike Ahart, Sam Hooker, library clerk, Cherie Carl, Library Director, and Bill Estell, after the NAPS-library joint venture.

room to the meeting room in order

to handle a big crowd and the procedure worked,” said NAPS President Mike Ahart. “It was also clear that we had to have a limit of one pair per person. People understood that they had to share. We were very happy that so many people donated to cover the cost of the glasses.”

Ahart pointed out that during the two and a half hours a partial eclipse will be visible in the Northern Neck area, August 21, no one would want to watch for more than a few minutes at a time. In fact the glasses manufacturer, Explore Scientific LLC of Springdale, AR, specifically states in its User Instructions to limit viewing to three minutes intermittently during the eclipse. The company also lists all of the safety specifications that the glasses meet.

Some NAPS members collecting their glasses, like Judy Burgess from Reedville and Eve Jordan from Heathsville, said they planned to drive to South Carolina in order to view the full eclipse.

“You only live once for an opportunity like this,” Jordan remarked. “This NAPS project was a great idea.”



NAPS President Mike Ahart was busy handing out the eclipse glasses.

ECOLOGY

NAPS Sponsors Dolphin Encounter for Elementary School, Sept. 19

By Shauna McCranie

In July, NAPS agreed to sponsor the Northumberland TAG student’s dolphin encounter scheduled for Tuesday, September 19. Students in grades 2-8 will enjoy learning about and seeing dolphins in their natural habitat.

This Fall Field Trip to the Virginia Aquarium in Virginia Beach features a boat trip that offers close-up observations of the marine environment and its inhabitants. When resources allow, they use a hydrophone (an underwater microphone) to listen for dolphins and whales. Trained Aquarium educators provide discussions about incredible natural dolphin behaviors, and share what is being done to conserve and protect the species and its habitat. Brown pelicans, bald eagles, and other seabirds are frequently sighted, along with sea turtles.

As leaders in coastal and marine environmental conservation, research, and preservation, the Virginia Aquarium’s Sea Adventures bring the ocean to the visitors. Since 1989, these boat trips

have been staffed by knowledgeable marine educators engaging in responsible viewing practices, research, and conservation.

Their trips feature interpretation of the marine environment and animal behaviors, interactive and hands-on programming for children and adults, and the knowledge that you are helping protect and

conserve these key species. The NAPS Board agreed that these goals are NAPS goals, as well.

Due to the generous donation from NAPS in the amount of \$650 the Northumberland Elementary and Middle School students are able to take an unforgettable 90-minute excursion aboard



the Atlantic Explorer to experience Virginia’s most common and charismatic marine mammal, bottlenose dolphins.

In addition to the boat trip, the students will get to explore over 800,000 gallons of one of the best aquariums and animal habitats in the country. They will experience hands-on exhibits, a nature path, and marshland exhibit. They will also see a National Geographic movie in 3D entitled *The Galapagos*.

TECHNOLOGY

STEM and Virtual Realty at School*By Lee Allain*

NAPS has, over the years, encouraged students at all levels in our school system to think about science and math as interesting areas to build a life around. Our nation is lagging in terms of student interest in what is referred to as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Even in our local schools, few students are, for some reason, inspired to get involved with science and math, the educational forerunners to engineering and technology.

Since an understanding of science provides the bedrock for all environmental issues, NAPS has worked to generate interest through involvement with technology in the schools. We have introduced a LEGO STEM program at the elementary school to stimulate interest in 3D thinking – encouraging students to construct villages with buildings and roads. We have extended the LEGO program into the middle school, along with participation in the US Navy SeaPerch underwater robot project. In SeaPerch our students have performed with distinction in national competition. With senior students, NAPS has provided a quadcopter drone that the ROTC and Capstone Math students flew.

Senior students were also assisted as they constructed a 120-watt solar array and later converted it to a cell phone charging station. Rudimentary programming has also been introduced using mini-programmable robots. Exposure to contemporary technologies does stimulate student interest in science and math.

This year NAPS, working with Capstone Math instructor Anita McEntire, introduced a new topic area to the Capstone Math students – Virtual Reality. This year's project for the Capstone Math students was to couple VR/AR technology with a local application. As many of you know, there is a funded and ongoing "Callao Revitalization" project underway under the auspices of our County Economic Development Commission. Our somewhat ambitious project goal was to generate Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) before-and-after versions of the Callao village. NAPS is working to provide students with both an understanding of the science and math involved and actual immersion in Virtual Reality 3-D digital environments. Of course the "real" goal was to infect students with interest in a rapidly growing new technology area.

Tim Cook, CEO of Apple has said that Virtual Reality, and its close relative, Augmented Reality, are as big an idea as the smartphone. Expect the next iPhone to incorporate some version of VR and AR. Even during VR/AR early development, free sample VR visual material is already available on the web at sources like YouTube and Google Maps. For those with strong interest, a good description of VR/AR technology can be viewed on line at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4Zt3JZeJbg>

Callao village renovation plans have now been submitted to the state with hopes of project funding. The Capstone Math students were briefed on the project by Economic Development Director, Theresa Lambert, and have visited the existing VR version available on Google Map Street View. Their task was to use the "augmentations" suggested by project contractor Hill Studio. These are currently available in 2D front-view drawings of the various Callao buildings. Merging these 2D drawings into 3D augmentations of the existing Google

street views is a major effort. It would involve augmentation of a group assembly amphitheater area, new front renovations of stores, murals on appropriate walls, new and attractive signage, new faux brick crosswalks, arches and road reconstruction, all merged with pleasing landscaping. This is a wonderful opportunity for demonstration of a tangible and important use of the technology above and beyond entertainment.

With the Callao reality base provided by Google and the augmentation suggestions provided by contract with Hill Studio, the task at hand was to provide 3D reality base augmentation. To this end, students downloaded and practiced using the 3D drawing tool "SketchUp Make." Google has linked SketchUp with Google Map Street View in such a way that augmentation of buildings can be made to convert building views to the "revitalized" versions. However, the practical limits of time and software maturity did not allow full completion of this very ambitious project. Still, the seeds of understanding were planted and contemporary tools were established with students. All student work was done on a non-interference basis with the Callao Project.

SketchUp Make is a free version for non-commercial use, and is great for getting familiar with most features of the software. The commercial version "SketchUp Pro" is over \$500, but has a "warehouse" full of already drawn goodies. Download and try the free version – you'll love it.

To provide the "immersion" hands-on experience for students, NAPS purchased ten Virtual Reality headsets. These headsets were used by the students, with their smartphones, to view various VR sample videos on the web. Some students even reported a sense of nausea while viewing high dynamic VR scenes like riding on a roller coaster. Riding in a jet fighter, or being in a virtual world surrounded by great white sharks, can also provide a thrill. You can join them in your own virtual world through installation of your smartphone in a fairly inexpensive headset (\$10 - \$30).

Feedback from course participants has indicated that the seeds of VR/AR were successfully planted. Even though full augmentation of the Callao village was not achieved, student participation regarding AR/VR visual concepts did tweak their interest in the application of this new technology.

NAPS FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 29 August 2017, we had \$11,545.95 in the checking account. The current year net of \$7,255.67 is somewhat misleading in that it reflects the transfer of \$9,576.97 (listed as "Other" in the revenues column) from a maturing CD to the checking account. The total assets amount gives a more accurate picture of our finances, showing a decline of \$1,645.53 since the last report in the spring 2017 newsletter.

Major expenses since the spring report include \$600 for an Eco-Tour for fifth graders, and \$1,545 to expand our support for the fall SeaPerch program and to send middle-school students on a "Dolphin Discoveries" sea adventure organized by the Virginia Aquarium. We also bought 200 pairs of eclipse glasses, which we distributed through the Northumberland County Library.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Starting Balance 1/1/2017 | \$4,290.28 |
| REVENUES: | |
| Dues | \$4,934.00 |
| Endowment | \$385.00 |
| Other | \$9,576.97 |
| Total Revenues | \$14,895.97 |
| EXPENSES: | |
| Administration | \$1,235.43 |
| Donations & Scholarships | \$2,885.00 |
| Membership & Newsletter | \$294.12 |
| Events | \$110.00 |
| Projects | \$3,115.75 |
| Other | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$7,640.30 |
| CURRENT YEAR NET | \$7,255.67 |
| Current Cash Balance | \$11,545.95 |
| Other Assets | |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$0.00 |
| Endowment | \$20,102.88 |
| Total Other Assets: | \$20,102.88 |
| Total Assets | \$31,648.83 |
| <i>Submitted by: Roger Gruben, Treasurer; August 29, 2017</i> | |



ENVIRONMENT

Creek Clean-up Set for October 1

By Jay Walker

The NAPS Board has scheduled the 2017 Creek Clean-up on Sunday, October 1, along the Little Wicomico River starting at 12 noon. The boats will deploy from Cockrell’s Marine Railway, which will also be the landing to deliver trash to be sorted for recycling.

NAPS Board Member Lynton Land is organizing the boats and captains. “We are asking captains to take responsibility for specific arms of the river,” he said.

For boat crews, Shauna McCranie from the NAPS Board is looking to bring perhaps a dozen fifth grade TAG (Talented and Gifted) students who she directs at Northumberland Public School. In addition, NAPS is enlisting Beta Club members from the school, as well as Boy Scouts. NAPS volunteers will be on hand to set up the

lunch at the start of the day and sort the trash at the end. T-shirts will be presented to all participants.

In addition to the clean-up, Lynton Land will lead a tour of the oyster aquaculture operation on the site.

A generous donation from Omega Protein will help offset the expense of the event.

Cockrell’s Marine Railway, in its fourth generation of family ownership, has rest room facilities and other amenities. To reach the marina by land, from Route 360 in Burgess, turn onto State Route 644/Hack’s Neck Rd. Go 4.9 miles and turn right onto State Route 648/Wicomico Point Rd., which runs into Railway Road. The marina is located at the terminus of Railway Road. By boat, the GPS coordinates are 37.54.11 N; 076.17.7 W.

For more information, contact Lynton Land at (804) 453-6605 or email to: lsl@vabayblues.org.



Cockrell's Marine Railway on the Little Wicomico River.



Memo from Mike

I hope you have had a great summer! NAPS has been busy helping our community as it has done for nearly three decades.

One of the standard features over the years has been NAPS’ “Stewardship Tips” in local newspapers, on local radio broadcasts, and online at napsva.org. We have recently added a “Stewardship Tips” section to the new website and will continue to add new tips along with ones from past years – see the “Stewardship Tips” link under the “Resources” menu and watch for more updates.

NAPS has three important events coming up in October and we would love for you to participate!

- Sunday Oct. 1: Little Wicomico River Cleanup
- Saturday, Oct. 14: Annual Fall Social
- Monday, Oct. 23: Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

Sign-up information and contacts for each are listed in articles in this NAPS News issue – enjoy a few hours with your fellow NAPS members. I look forward to seeing you!

If you plan to attend the Boots & BBQ event in Warsaw, Sept. 24, please visit the NAPS booth and say “hi.”

Best to you and yours.

Sincerely, Mike Ahart, President

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------|--|
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NAPS Board of Directors

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