

NAPS News

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

Spring 2014

Volume 23, Issue 2



Welcome to the spring issue of NAPS News. It has been a busy season. Here's what's on tap:

- **NAPS Sponsors First Eco-Tour.** Lee Allain reports on a beautiful spring day to be on the water with 18 seventh graders, their teacher, Dr. Sisk, and of course, Capt. David Rowe, skipper of the Bay Quest.
- **NAPS Awards Six Scholarships.** There were so many outstanding applications, that the Scholarship Committee, headed by Myrtle Phillips, requested an increase in the number of winners.
- **NHS Seniors Demo Solar Project.** With a lot of help and encouragement from Lee Allain, the 13 Senior Math Capstone class members caught some rays at the high school to recharge – yes – cell phones. ➤ ➤ ➤
- **Climate Change Impacts.** Dr. Greg Haugan puts the topic in a nutshell: Sea level, temperature, precipitation, ocean and Bay acidity, Bay fishing, storms, season shifts, plants and animals.
- **STEM Boost Proposal.** NAPS has submitted a proposal to the River Counties Community Foundation to support a STEM project for Elementary School students.
- **Adopt-a-Highway Team Scores.** Team captain Janice Mahoney reports how they did on Earth Day. Next year, look for a coordinated tie-in to Earth Day.
- **CCL Update: Spring 2014.** Dr. Greg Haugan outlines what the Citizens Climate Lobby is doing locally and in Washington, D.C.
- **Wetlands Summer Conference Recap.** Ida Hall and Greg Haugan represented NAPS at this educational meeting attended by many Northern Neck organizations
- **Out and About with NAPS.** Outreach is in full swing. Here's where to see and hear NAPS this summer.
- **Memo from Bill.** Our fearless leader underscores how NAPS is fulfilling its objectives. Also, check the NAPS Calendar to find out what's coming.
- **Help Wanted: Little Wicomico Captains.** NAPS cannot have a creek clean-up this year without captains to ferry the workers along the shore. Time for skippers to step forward.
- **Financial/Membership Reports.** Yes, there's good news. But, here it comes again dear readers, if you have not renewed your membership, do so.

Remember: NAPS does not take naps.

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

– Jay Walker, Editor

ENERGY

NHS Seniors Demo Solar Project

By Lee Allain

Thirteen members of the Northumberland High School Senior Math Capstone class on April 2 demonstrated the successful conclusion of the "Solar Application Project." With the support and encouragement of Javonda Ashton, the project was broken down into three sub-groups.

The first task was to renovate the solar panel built last year. It required replacing cells and configuring the output to recharge cell phones and hand-held devices. (The cell phone app was the students' idea.) The second objective was to acquire the instruments needed for a charging station. Finally,

a charging station had to be assembled.

The project took 10 class sessions to complete. There were delays along the way due to snow-days and waiting for

(Continued on page 2...)



The sun came out for the Senior Math Capstone class to demonstrate its "Solar Application Project" at Northumberland High School with teacher Javonda Ashton and engineering instructor Lee Allain.

ECOLOGY

NAPS Sponsors First Eco-Tour*By Lee Allain*

Saturday, April 26: Wow! A beautiful spring day on the water. 18 seventh-grade students and Captain David Rowe of the Bay Quest got underway to tong some oysters, pull some crab traps, run a trawl and talk about both the ecology and the “good old days.”

And we did! Captain David Rowe, out of the Coan River Marina, and Middle School Teacher, Dr. Mathieu Sisk, kept up a line of patter describing both ecology of the Bay and history of Northumberland County waters. As if they had rehearsed, their comments were neatly interspersed weaving a verbal fabric that captivated the students.

First stop was on a public oyster reef to tong a few oysters. Even the students had a chance at tonging. “Hey, this is hard work,” said one. Then an oyster knife appeared from Captain Rowe’s storehouse and students were challenged: “Eat one.” A few were swallowed but most were mouthed and spat overboard. At least they tried!

*“Hold it like this”*

Then it was time to pull a crab trap. First, what are these fish? Bait. Oh, Menhaden. And look, we got three crabs – two females and one male. How do you tell the difference? Something about the Capitol dome and the Washington monument. And this is how you hold them so as to not get bitten. What fun. “Ouch.”

After a fun morning, it was time to head back to the Marina for lunch and a restroom that wasn’t rocking. Pizza showed up shortly and quickly disappeared – every slice. Then, back to work.

ENERGY (...from page 1)

delivery of new parts. The seniors became very involved with the design and construction. One class member said that the result raised her interest in ecology and prompted her to look into courses at her college.



Solar Charge Station Team. Note cell phone charge station just left of array. It will handle up to 16 phones.

All 13 students, ten girls and three boys, plan to attend college. They will study an array of subjects ranging from medicine to criminal justice. Two members of the class have received NAPS Scholar-

ships. NAPS also paid for the parts needed to upgrade the panel.

From the first turn-on the panel worked. It provided 120 Watts of power, not smoke. The next step was to connect the solar panel to a charging station in the new STEM room. According to Mrs. Ashton, word has spread to the up-coming senior class and they are excited about putting their own stamp on the solar application project.

Both School Superintendent Dr. Gates and High School Principal Dr. Burns attended the demonstration. Dr. Gates said that she was proud of their achievement.

Dr. Burns said, “This was an excellent example of project-based learning. It was exciting and fun.”

*Baiting a crab trap**“All Aboard” the Bay Quest*

The afternoon session was occupied setting up, towing, and then, pulling in a trawl. Students did the “heavy lifting” with the yo-heave-ho bit to help Captain Rowe. There wasn’t much out there in the cold spring water, but we did catch a few small Bay anchovies.

After cruising past Cowart’s oyster operation, we headed back to the marina and home. It was a great day on the water. And a day to be remembered.

The next eco-tour is scheduled for Monday, June 30. Boy Scout Troop 250 will be the main passengers with Capt. Rowe out of the Coan River Marina aboard the Bay Quest.

“Oysters are good!”

EDUCATION

NAPS Awards Six Scholarships

By Myrtle Phillips

At the presentation ceremony, May 19, NAPS President Bill Estell and I awarded



Bill Estell and Myrtle Phillips present scholarships to six outstanding Northumberland High School graduates.

\$500 scholarships to six graduating seniors at Northumberland High School. The Scholarship Committee received so many outstanding applications, that we requested the NAPS Board to increase the number from four to six.

Committee members Sue Haugan, Joe Thompson and I spent an entire day interviewing the top contenders to make the final selections.

The winners were Bria Barbour, Wicomico Church; Dierra Shena Green, Burgess ; Bridgette Anne McLaughlin, Heathsville; Brandy Nicole Robinson, Heathsville; Sydney Lane Setser, Reedville; and Emily Erin Sprague, Heathsville. 🍷



Congratulations NAPS Scholarship Winners – Bria Barbour, Dierra Shena Green, Bridgette Anne McLaughlin, Brandy Nicole Robinson, Sydney Lane Setser, and Emily Erin Sprague.

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change Impacts

By Dr. Greg Haugan

Here in the Northern Neck we are most fortunate in that by reason of geography we are insulated from the most extreme aspects of climate change – at least in our lifetimes. Following is a summary of the latest scientific information regarding expected impacts:

SEA LEVEL RISE:

- Major problems for Norfolk and Virginia Beach where they already have flooding at king tides.
- VA Senate Recurrent Flooding Study: Next 20–50 years 1.5+ feet of sea level rise plus 3+ feet of storm surge above king tide for tidewater area.
- 5- 8 feet increase by 2100 under “Business As Usual.”

TEMPERATURE:

- From year 2025 – 2049 expect 3 degrees F average increase in maximum and minimum temperatures.
- From year 2050 – 2074 expect 5+ degrees F average increase in maximum temperature and slightly higher increase in minimum temperature.
- By 2070 the annual average low temperature will be higher than the record annual high temperature since record-keeping began.

PRECIPITATION:

- Some increase in total precipitation e.g. increase from 40 inches to 43 inches per year. (Low certainty) but high certainty that it will come in the form of a few very heavy downpours,

OCEAN AND BAY ACIDITY:

The pH is dropping steadily – down some 40% since pre-industrial- more acidic and will continue to drop. Oysters are at risk.

CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHING:

- Species shifting due to warming; more black drum, grouper and southern flounder.
- Problems for rockfish.
- Anoxic area, algae and red tide and vibrio increasing.

STORMS- HURRICANES:

- Frequency relatively unchanged – intensity expected to increase.

SEASON SHIFTS- GROWING PERIODS:

- Spring earlier; winter later. Moving toward North Carolina climate.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS:

- Loblolly range extended north and west.
- Northern hardwoods at risk from temperature changes.
- Monarch butterflies disappearing. 🍷

EDUCATION

STEM Boost Proposal

In collaboration with the Northumberland Schools, NAPS has submitted a proposal to the River Counties Community Foundation for a \$3,500 grant to support a STEM Boost Project. Organized and written by Lee Allain, the grant would serve to increase student interest in science and math at early ages.

Specifically, the money would go to acquire STEM Starter Kits (SS Ks), construction toys like Lego, to be distributed with appropriate instruction to up to 75 Elementary School students this summer.

The proposal states, in part, “These SS Ks will be ‘provided to/launched’ with ‘at risk’ elementary level students as part of our summer planned ‘Extended School’ initiative. Further, this is just a segment of our overall STEM Boost Program.” 🍷

NAPS MEMBERSHIP

We had a total of 140 paid-up memberships in 2013, so we are running slightly behind this year. We still have 24 members from 2013 that have not renewed.

Member Report	2014
Business	4
Family	63
Individual	36
Patron	3
Sustaining	24
Total	130

ENVIRONMENT

Adopt-a-Highway Team Scores*By Janice Mahoney*

Our devoted crew picked up 25 bags of trash on a warmer-than-usual afternoon, April 22, which coincided with Earth Day. The highway was Route 200, starting at Wicomico Church.

New crew member, John Lunsford, even pulled a tire out from a ravine. As this was his first time out, John did not know that we do not expect people to go down into the ravines. One ravine is clean now, thanks to John. This was Joe Thompson's first pick up, as well. He was amazed at how physical the job is. (Hope we didn't scare him off future pick-ups.)

I hope to use Earth Day again for the spring clean-up next year. And maybe that will bring out more volunteers to support the regulars. ♣



The Earth Day pick-up participants were (left to right) Joe Thompson, Charles Smith, Andy Kauders, Janice Mahoney, John Lunsford, Bill Estell, Walter Brodtman, Lynton Land and Bryna Brennan in front. Alice Imbur is not pictured but picked up the drive to the pier on the Great Wicomico River. Photo and cheerleading by Dr. Greg Haugan.

ECOLOGY

CCL Update Spring 2014*By Dr. Greg Haugan*

The Citizens Climate Lobby, CCL, is a grass-roots, volunteer organization. While NAPS is focusing on Northumberland County and helping it grow "...with order and beauty," the CCL mission is to achieve a stable climate so that the children and grandchildren of the County population can continue to live and enjoy the waters, air and land in the same way as us.

It is an international organization. According to the Iroquois Indian philosophy we should be looking seven generations ahead in our planning and our husbandry of the lands and waters. At present our elected representatives and our business leaders seem to be looking no more than seven days or weeks ahead with little or no concern about the future generations.

We want to change that. We must change that. We need your help. Since the last newsletter, CCL members have met with Congressional staff, wrote letters to editors, attended conferences, tabled at events and gave presentations to educate the population of the Northern Neck on the issues and solutions to the climate changes and disruptions. We are available as speakers on the topic of climate

change mitigation solutions.

We have a major conference coming up at the end of June and the Northern Neck and will have two persons attending, one from Northumberland and one from Mathews County. Over 600 persons from around the country will be attending the conference and explaining to all members of Congress why it is important to put a price on carbon and shift away from fossil fuels. Remember: "The climate is changing, it is caused by humans, it is bad, but we can do something about it if we act soon."

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Northumberland Public Library at 7:00 pm. Call Greg Haugan at 804-580-2166 for information on participating at the meetings or the conference. Next newsletter we will report on the June Convention and our meetings with Congressman Wittman and Senators Warner and Kaine and others. ♣

ENVIRONMENT

Wetlands Summit Conference Recap*By Ida Hall*

Greg Haugan and I were NAPS representatives at a day-long "Wetlands Summit" program sponsored by a group known as "The Wetlands Project." They are a small corporation whose vision is to help communities strengthen programs that create long-term economic value for protecting fragile wetland ecosystems.

The meeting was moderated by the Executive Director, Kate Daniel, and included speakers from the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District, VIMS, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Virginia DEQ, Northern Neck Land Conservancy, and VMRC. Attend-

ees included persons from the Northern Neck Master Gardeners, Menokin, TOGA, Northern Neck Master Naturalists, Ducks Unlimited, Native Plant Society, Chesapeake Environmental Communications, and members of Wetlands Boards from all NNK counties except Northumberland. The topics included various subjects all related to the future of wetlands and their protection in the Northern Neck.

The Wetlands Summit focused on educating landowners about protecting and creating wetlands through the use of "living shorelines" instead of hardening shorelines with stone or bulkheads. Living shorelines work best in low wave energy locations.

Hull Springs Farm in Westmoreland County is an example of a successful living shoreline and demonstrates the partnerships and resources necessary to develop and maintain this wetlands habitat.

The Wetlands Project will continue to educate the public, landowners, real estate agents, and contractors on this alternative means of restoring wetlands. It will seek financial resources, better availability of plants, and plans to develop an advisory committee to coordinate these efforts. For more information on the summit, the Wetlands Project, and wetlands, go to: <http://www.thewetlandsproject.org/projects/wetlands-summit/>. ♣

OUTREACH

Out and About with NAPS

NAPS outreach effort is in full swing. In March, NAPS had a table at the annual Northern Neck Master Gardener's Seminar.

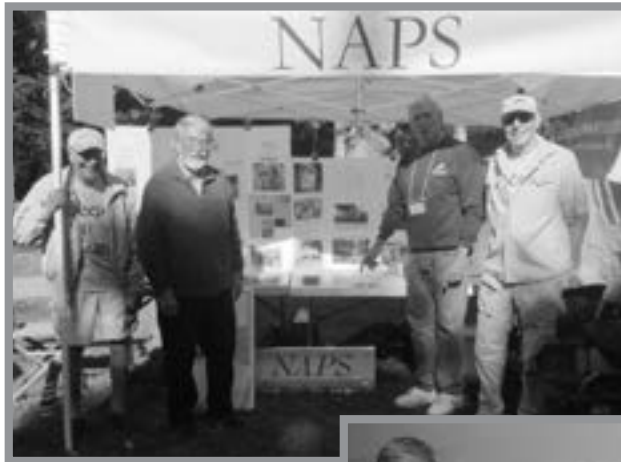
Ida Hall and Greg Haugan were high profile participants at the Wetlands Project Summit in Warsaw.

NAPS had a booth at the Annual Strawberry Festival at St. Stephens Church, May 24.

And look for NAPS at the July and August Tavern Farmers Market in Heathsville.

Also in August, NAPS will have a display at the Northumberland Library.

On Sunday, September 14, NAPS will be at the Boots & BBQ event, sponsored by the Northern Neck Land Conservancy. 🌿



NAPS booth at the St. Stephens Strawberry Festival



NAPS at the Northern Neck Master Gardener's Seminar



Congressman Rob Wittman visited the NAPS booth at the Strawberry Festival to learn about the various NAPS projects.

NAPS FINANCIAL REPORT – MAY 14, 2014

The total NAPS working budget is approximately \$7,000.00. Of that amount, \$3,000 was provided to Northumberland High School scholarships and the \$2,000.00 has been committed to two EcoTours, one has been already successfully completed. Other projects are discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. As shown below we currently have \$6821.38 in the checking account and \$20,550.22 in two CDs for a total of \$27,371.60. Based on the revenues to date

we are running behind on our income and we are probably going to have to dip into our carryover to balance our budget unless the revenues pick up. The reason we are overrunning was the fortunate situation of more very highly qualified scholarship candidates so we awarded two more than our original budget of four.

We have added a note to the copies of this newsletter going to the members who have mis-

placed their dues envelopes and provided a new envelope for them. Please help us continue to support programs to help the environment of Northumberland County and the Northern Neck.

Starting Balance 1/1/2014	\$6,631.03
REVENUES:	
Dues	\$5,050.00
Donations	\$5.00
Other	\$25.00
Total Revenues	\$5,080.00
EXPENSES:	
Administration	\$758.52
Donations & Scholarships	\$3,000.00
Membership & Newsletter	\$206.87
Events	\$721.00
Projects	\$203.26
Other	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$4,889.65
Current Year Net	\$190.35
Current Cash Balance	\$6,821.38
Other Assets - Certificates of Deposit (12/31/2013)	
CD-NNSB#1	\$9,112.23
CD-NNSB#2	\$11,437.99
Total Other Assets:	\$20,550.22
Total Assets	\$27,371.60
<i>Submitted by: Gregory T. Haugan, Treasurer; May 14, 2014</i>	

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.

- June 11, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- June 30, Mon. Boy Scout Eco-Tour, Coan River Marina
- July 9, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- July 19, Sat. NAPS Booth at Tavern Farmers Market
- Aug. 1, Fri. Northumberland Library Display
- Aug. 13, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Aug. 16, Sat. NAPS Booth at Tavern Farmers Market
- Sept. 10, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Sept. 14, Sun. NAPS Booth at NNLC Boots & BBQ
- Sept., TBD. NAPS Creek Clean-Up
- Oct. 8, Wed. NAPS Board Meeting
- Oct. 18, Wed. NAPS Fall Social and Distinguished Citizen Award

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 HEATHSVILLE, VA
 PERMIT NO. 37

P.O. Box 567 • Heathsville, VA 22473

N
 A
 S
 P
 R
 O
 G
 R
 E
 S
 S
 I
 V
 E
 S
 T
 E
 W
 A
 R
 D
 S
 H
 I
 P



Memo from Bill

Spring is a most welcome season after this past winter's snow and cold temperatures. NAPS continued our emphasis on education and the environment with two related projects with the Northumberland School District. The first was the successful operation of the solar cell phone-charging station demonstrated in the courtyard of the high school by Mrs. Ashton's Senior Capstone Math Class. The effort was the follow-on to the solar panel built by the students the previous year. NAPS vice-president and project leader Lee Allain along with Mrs. Ashton and 13 Capstone students demonstrated the successful operation to the school superintendent, several NAPS members and the local press. The NHS seniors can now proudly say their cell phones are "powered by the sun."

The second was the first Bay Ecology Tour for 18 middle school students, along with their science teacher Dr. Mathieu Sisk and sponsor Lee Allain. NAPS with a generous grant from Omega Protein provided the first of two tours on board Capt. David Rowe's fishing boat Bay Quest. Students spent the day on the water with experts to connect to our priceless Bay environment. A follow-on tour is scheduled this summer for local scouts.

Earth Day provided a perfect opportunity to continue NAPS effort with our Roadside Pick-Up under the superb guidance and leadership of Janice Mahoney and her merry band of picker-uppers. We had sufficient teams for the effort but can always use help in this important endeavor. Look for the notices this fall and come and join us.

NAPS was well represented at the Wetlands Project Summit in Warsaw with Ida Hall and Greg Haugan adding their expertise to the gathering of "who's who" in wetlands conservation. The program topics included the importance of protecting wetlands and their role in comprehensive planning. The impact of sea level rise on wetlands was major topic of interest.

NAPS awarded six scholarships to graduating seniors at the Senior Chapel Scholarship Awards program this year. The selection committee headed by Myrtle Phillips with NAPS members Sue Haugan and Joe Thompson spent many long hours reviewing applications and interviewing candidates. These six were selected on academic achievement and community service. See the accompanying article.

NAPS Officers & Board Members

NAPS Officers

- President.....Bill Estell..... 580-6609.....billestell62@gmail.com
- Vice President.....Lee Allain..... 529-5491.....leeallain7@gmail.com
- Secretary.....Ida Hall 804-761-2342.....ida@northernneck.com
- Treasurer.....Greg Haugan..... 580-2166.....greghaugan@gmail.com

NAPS Board of Directors

- Greg Haugan(Term Expires 2/2015)..... 580-2166.....greghaugan@gmail.com
- Myrtle Phillips.....(Term Expires 2/2015)..... 580-8097.....myrloophil@gmail.com
- Jay Walker(Term Expires 2/2015)..... 529-9362.....wjaywkr@aol.com
- John Lunsford(Term Expires 2/2016)..... 580-2085.....jlunsford@nnwi.com
- Monty Deihl(Term Expires 2/2016)..... 453-4493.....mdeihl@omegaproteininc.com
- Bill Estell(Term Expires 2/2016)..... 580-6609.....billestell62@gmail.com
- Lee Allain(Term Expires 2/2017)..... 529-5491.....leeallain7@gmail.com
- Ida Hall(Term Expires 2/2017)..... 804-761-2342.....ida@northernneck.com
- Lynton Land(Term Expires 2/2017)..... 453-6605.....jandl@nnwifi.com

News Editor.....Jay Walker..... 529-9362.....wjaywkr@aol.com

WebmasterMike Ahart 580-9289.....mikeahart@kaballero.com

CLEAN-UP

Help Wanted: Little Wicomico Captains

For a number of years, NAPS has conducted creek clean-ups with the help of eager high school students and Boy Scouts. But we cannot get 'er done without the participation of boat captains to ferry the workers along the shore line to collect and return the trash to the staging point.

This year the target is the Little Wicomico in September. Ideally, six boats would make up the armada. So, captains, contact Lynton Land for details at jandl@nnwifi.com or call 453-6605.

If we don't get replies for this help wanted posting, NAPS will have to cancel this year's creek clean-up. ♣

Projects for the summer include completion of the tree markers for the elementary school trail and participation with the Heathsville Farmer's Market and the Land Conservancy Boots and Bar-B-Q annual event. Volunteers are always welcome and we need your support and help for these projects.

As always, thanks for your continued support of NAPS in all of our programs. Best to you and yours,

Sincerely, Bill Estell, President