

Residents who are making a difference through the collective impact of many personal changes.

PEARL HOMES

RESTORATION

Restoring oysters, living shorelines, riparian buffers, and wetlands – all vital to the health of our waterways.

PEARL FAITH COMMUNITIES

People of faith who are committed to protecting our natural resources and making our community better.

GET INVOLVED!

PEARL SCHOOLS

Inspiring and training the environmental stewards of the future.

ADVOCACY

A voice for the environment – working for good environmental policies on the local and state levels.

PEARL BUSINESSES

COMING SOON

Finding the double bottom line – good for business and good for the environment.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



LRNow.org

2015
VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
AWARDS



**Million Dollar
Volunteer of the Year**
Sid Vaughn

**Oyster Restoration
Volunteer of the Year**
Brent James

Shorelines Volunteer of the Year
Vince Bowhersh

Pearl Homes Volunteer of the Year
Cindy Caskey

Marketing Volunteer of the Year
Lesley Hildreth

Pearl Schools Volunteer of the Year
Barbara Imrich

Public Policy Volunteers of the Year
Ann Wright
Wendy Vaughn

**Pearl Faith Communities
Volunteer of the Year**
Alyssa Muhlendorf

**Stewardship and Access
Volunteers of the Year**
Laney Brown
Robert Brown

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
FANTASTIC VOLUNTEERS WHO
HELPED US IN A MILLION
WAYS DURING 2015.

WE COULD NOT DO
THIS WITHOUT YOU!

DEAR MEMBERS,

We had one of my favorite LRNow events on December 6, our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. It was a 70 degree December day and we were able to enjoy delicious Lynnhaven oysters and beautiful views of the river from the deck of the Brock Center while we celebrated our amazing volunteers. What could be better!

During 2015, Lynnhaven River NOW completed 156 programs, involving 21,500 participants and logged 3,348 volunteer hours. And these numbers may all be lower than they should be because at times we are too busy to remember to add things to the log. But these accomplishments are only possible because of the amazing people who volunteer their time and talents throughout the year to clean up thousands of pounds of marine debris, to replant wetlands and shorelines, to help us build oyster castle projects, to educate the public at our events and other festivals and meetings in the community, to serve on our committees and board, to assist with program preparation and administrative work, and a thousand other ways that our volunteers make the work of LRNow possible.

We appreciate all of you and recognize that we could not do this without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. To the left, you will see a few special people who were recognized for their volunteer contributions in 2015. We wish we could give everyone an award.

We hope this annual report will give you a good picture of the work we accomplished in 2015 and a few of the things we are planning for 2016.

Please note that you will find our Annual State of the River Report on pages 8–11. Throughout are overviews of each of our five major program areas: Pearl Homes, Restoration, Pearl Schools, Advocacy and Pearl Faith Communities.

This is a great time for you to consider how you may want to get more involved in 2016. Follow up on your New Year’s resolution, and become a member, come out to a cleanup, respond to a volunteer request or join one of our committees. Information can be found on all of our volunteer opportunities on our website and in our semi-monthly electronic E-News.

Thank you for all you do to restore and protect our natural environment.

Happy New Year,

Karen
Karen Forget
Executive Director



October, 2015 “high water” on the Eastern Branch.

PEARL HOMES

2015 was another successful year for our growing Pearl Homes Program. More than 300 new Virginia Beach residences became Pearl Homes last year! A new Pearl Homes Committee was established and went right to work developing a sleek, more user-friendly Pearl Home Application.



2015 also marked the second year of our Native Plant program. Southern Branch Nursery’s Eric Gunderson provided us with more than 400 beautiful native plants which are now spread throughout residents’ gardens. We are looking forward to helping both of these programs grow exponentially during the upcoming year.

Lynnhaven River Now Monthly River Cleanups:

In 2015, 4,809 pounds (nearly 2.5 tons!) of trash were collected by volunteers in the community. These enthusiastic volunteers generously dedicated three hours of their time every second Saturday. Friendships were forged and new memories made at the monthly cleanups, where our wonderful volunteers absolutely embody stewardship for our Lynnhaven River watershed.

We are proud to announce Beach Garden Park as our newest Adopt-A-Program here in Virginia Beach. This means we will regularly take responsibility for cleanup of this waterway area.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

NEW PEARL HOMES

JANUARY- DECEMBER 2015

The winner of the new Pearl Home drawing for tickets to our 2016 Oyster Roast is **CHARLES SILVERMAN** of Lynnwood. Congratulations to Charles and to all of our new Pearl Homes. If your flag is faded or torn, please bring it to our office and we will give you a bright and shiny new one.

Alanton

Miles B. Leon
Maureen Bernard
Taryn Payne
Linda Fox-Jarvis

Alexandria

Jenn Corack

Amberwood

Cynthia George

Aragona Village

Dawn Hinnard

Bay Cliff

Keith & Liz Maurer
Ashley Scifres
William Robbins
Jason Stick
Casey Tawfik

Bay Colony

Laura & Jay Rixey
Jane Booth
Emily Pusatere

Bay Island

William Schlemmer
Alan Jorts
Doug Heatrich
Alan Orts
Doug Heatrich
Marilyn Covington

Baylake Pines

Susan E. Marens

Bays Edge Condos

David Hill Jr.
Judy Sparrow

Bellamy Manor Estates

Heather Wren
Crystal DeGray
Helen Hart
Lisa Kingsbury
Nancy Moore
Steve Champion
Jeffrey Jensen
Sandy May
Mike & Debbie Wylie

Bellwood Estates

Mary Jo Burchard

Birdneck Point

Wayne & Theresa Sawyer
William Mager

Birdneck Village

Deanna Frantzen

Bow Creek

Shirley Baber
Potter Family

Brigadoon

Kelli Bradshaw
Pierre & Sandra Granger

Brighton on the Bay

Barbara DelDonna

Brookfield Crossing

Chip & Julia Claytor

Brookwood

Joan Schrecengost

Cape Arbor

Allen Check

Cape Henry Shores

Bill Baylor
Beth Camper
Stella Salyer
Don Swift
Marilyn Horvath
Susan Killion

Cape Story by the Sea

Joe & Marianne Judge
Ellen Endicott
Ann Marie Workman
Susan Flavin
Shelly Cleridence
Marti & Ellis Malabad
Kathy Benson

Captain's Walk

Dana Cox

Castleton

Jennifer Thomasson
Andrea Cabon
Anna Lott

Cavalier Shores

Laurie Dawson

Charlestowne Lakes

Mindee Weiss
Carson D. EntreKin
Duane Coolman
Ruth Turpin
James & Laureen Simmons
Frank & Susan Downs
Arwen Niles & Matt Herrygers
Carol Daniels
Corothy McCoskey
Mary Ann
Frank Milinazzo
Catherine & Charles Reid
Patricia Dolan

Chesapeake Beach

Holly & Mac Duff
Hope Beecher Wright

Chesopeian Colony

Gina Coss

Chicks Beach

Haunani Kalua
Jinni Newing

Church Point

Peggy Dickens
Lisa & David Cohen

College Park

Maureen Bernard

Colonial Oaks

Amy Sewell

Confederate Ridge

Thomas Bowman

Croatan

Lynette Reuss
Kay Troutman

Cromwell Farm

Harriet Ervin

Dam Neck Base

Crystal Rathke

Fairfield

Jean Gilbert
Jeneah Jordan

Fox Run

Ablina Paulino
Sandi Levi

Eastern Park

Cary Thompson

Friendship Village

Seson Britt

Gardenwood

Tami Casey
Angela Hanretty

Glenwood

Thomas Smith

Governor Square

Trudee Engelund

Great Bridge

Susan Fonseca

Great Neck

Judy Jessen

Green Hill Farms

Chris Workman

Green Run

Judy Kim

Greenbrier

Fenton Harsley Jr.

Harbor Club

Stacey Sykes

Haygood Point

Mary Kohlhoff

Hickory

Lynn Ramsey

Hillcrest Farms

Susan Clements

Homestead

Meghan Glynn

Hunt Club Forest

Wendy Reese
Nicole Maynard
Navasha O'Laughlin
Amber Turner

Indian Lakes

Rachael Correll
Gaylord Ventura

Indian River Point

Steve & Billie Miley

Inlynnview

Dave Belote

J.C. Hudgins Shores

Gerald & Faye Fudala

Kempsville

Ellen Grillo
Mike & Debbie Wright
Tim & Erin Ray
Laura Smart

Kings Forest

Nan Burns

Kings Grant

Rachelle Nowak
Elaine M. Polizos
Pat Tompkins
Kim Rye
Gay Lynn Rountree
Charles Abbott & Gillian Valentine
David B. Crouse Jr.
Laura Solomon
Bill Carson
Nancy Ann Good
Carol Kirwan
Capt. & Mrs. K. G. Craig
Beth & Mike McOsker

Kline Farms

Dawn Williams

Lake Placid

Matthew Mercer
Joanna Zavala

Lake Shores

Mary Hubbard
Paul M. Casteliano

Lake Smith

Laura Lumagui

Lakeview Shores

Marlene Hunnings
Kelly Young
Jennifer Gegan

Landstown

Ana Colon
Rusty & Wende Barton

Larkspur

Cheryl D. Dzengeleski
Carla Morris
Lynn Silvestris
Nancy Souldourian
S. Celeste Mohon

Laurel Cove

Nomi Reins

Little Neck

Chris Davis
Kathy Parsons
Michele Barnes
Susan Ryan
Paul G. Lankford

Lynn Acres

Kathryn N. Byler

Lynnhaven Acres

Phil & Grace Wellman

Lynn Shores

Jennifer & Chris

Lynnhaven Colony

Antoinette Guess
Tim & Louise Jeffries
Betty Oliver
Marguerite Duncan

Lynnhaven Woods

Kathy Christman

Lynnwood

Carine McCandless
Thomas Gillikin
Mike Dulinawkz
Charles Silverman
Richard & Elise Cofer
Jacqueline Anderson
Brandon & Catherine Wooton
Linda Radcliffe
Margaret Baumgerb
Carla & Bill Daniels

Magic Hollow

Victoria Cram

Malibu

Nicholas & Barbara Kimpan
Sharon Nieto
Kevin Goggin

Mayberry

Kim Russell

Meadowbridge

Karl & Nicole Linderman
C J Howell

Middle Plantation

Tom & Debbie Curran
Kevin & Karen Barney
Teri & Jeff Voltz

Naval Air Station Oceana

Kevin Pullin & Dana
VanVliet-Pullin

North End

Gayle Johnson
Terry Blevins

Sharon Ross

Kay Dixon
Cara Blume
Karen Woodard
Leslie & Eric Hodeen
Anne Abraham
Kathy McDowell
Amy Metzger
Jennifer Adams
Pat Briggs
Barbra Dudley

Ocean Lakes

Michael Anders
Mary Cousins
Sharon Bridges

Ocean Park

Herbert Hughes
Jan Pace
Peggy White
Luis G. Lerin
Kevin O'Hara
Kimberly Yanek
Crystal & Terry Gearhart

Pecan Gardens

Jessica Kelley
Connie Rawlings-Guy

Pelican Dunes

Terri Kraly
Terri Chappell

Pembroke

Sara Harlvorsen
Michelle Missy Vasquez
Jean Holman

Pine Meadows

Dawn Garvey
Lisa Prough

Pine Ridge

Melanie Penley

Point O'Woods

Amber Manoff

Princess Anne Commons

Peggy Economidis

Princess Anne Hills

Daniel Levy
Kate Michaels
Vicki Goldrich

Princess Anne Plaza

Margo DiMatteo

Red Mill

Brenda Anderson
Melissa Knight

Red Wing

Paul Seymour

Ridgely Manor

Francesca Gentile
Aniston & Kinley Dostie

Robin Hood Forest

Charles Davis

Roland Park

Terri Stanton

Rosemont Forest

Teresa Lugo

Salem

Arnold Wyss
Heather Beloff
Brent Taylor
Heather Driscoll

Salt Marsh Point

Lauren Gay

Saw Pen Point

Adrina Fischer
Lindley Fox
James E. Bussey III

Scarborough Square

Alicia Rhamy

Seabridge Square

Emelie Zueger

Shadowlawn

Tom Stahl
Joe Barakey
Lola Lapier
Mandy & Tim Spollen
Mathew Janes

Shannon Knoll

Rosemary & Brendan
Dougherty

Shelton Circle

Taylor Pernice

Shorehaven

Susan Olson Cox

Southhall

Karen Mueller
Michael Jaffe

Southern Points

Jim & Ellen Deppe

Strawbridge

Chris & Angela Henry

Tazewell

Dale Baker

Thalia

Kristen Zigrang
Ashley Askew

The Lakes

Rose Benson

The Landings

Robyn Hofheimer

Thoroughgood

Shirley & Brandon Cholek
Kathy Robinson
Barbara Ryan
Edward Kramer

Trant Berkshire

Richard & Judy Kyle

Trantwood

Callie Robinson
Helen & Shannon Jennings
Annette Reda

Washington Square

Monique Ludwig
Jeremy Caleb Johnson

Wellington Woods

Van & Rosie Reading



Wimbledon on the Bay

Joseph Feldman

Windsor Woods

Coleen Bowles
Mary Russell

Wingfield

Beverly Oliver

Witchduck Point

Marjorie Smallie
Crawford Anderson
Chris Dobzyniak

Woodstock

Karen Bramble

Other Neighborhoods (no neighborhood given)

Patty Friedman
Priscilla Haskins
Amelia West-Watson
Dorianne Villani
Tim & Susan Hill
Chris Barrett
Lou & Jeannette Paulson
Cathy Drake & Foster
Purrington
Matthew F. Ukleja
Saniya Muhammad
Stephanie Spencer
Howard Royster
Nancy Garrett
Kitty Brown
Donna & Michael Firestone
Terri Campbell
Mary & RJ Nutter
Roger Berry
Ken & Laura Yagelski
Alison
Robin Ezzell
Debbie Bell
Neal Smith
Courtney Mickeiewicz
Stephanie Summers
Sarah Hall
L. G. Peterson
Courtney Pharr
Liam Dean
Lewis R. White
Barbara Garcia

Pearl Schools 2014-2015

Pre-K/Elementary

- Alanton Elementary School
- Barefoot Kids Christian Day School
- Bayside Elementary School
- Brookwood Elementary School
- Christopher Farms Elementary School
- College Park Elementary School
- W. T. Cooke Elementary School
- Corporate Landing Elementary School
- Creeds Elementary School
- Fairfield Elementary School
- Glenwood Elementary School
- Hermitage Elementary School
- John B. Dey Elementary School
- Kempsville Elementary School
- King's Grant Elementary School
- Kingston Elementary School
- Linkhorn Park Elementary School
- Lynnhaven Elementary School
- New Castle Elementary School
- Newtown Elementary School
- Norfolk Academy Lower School
- Norfolk Christian School - Beach Lower School
- North Landing Elementary School
- Ocean Lakes Elementary School
- Old Donation Episcopal Day School
- Parkway Elementary School
- Pembroke Elementary School
- Pembroke Meadows Elementary School
- Princess Anne Elementary School
- Providence Elementary School
- Red Mill Elementary School
- Rosemont Elementary School
- Salem Elementary School
- Seatack Elementary School
- Shelton Park Elementary School
- Strawbridge Elementary School
- Tallwood Elementary School
- Thalia Elementary School
- Thoroughgood Elementary School
- Three Oaks Elementary School
- Trantwood Elementary School
- White Oaks Elementary School
- Williams Elementary School
- Windsor Oaks Elementary School
- Windsor Woods Elementary School



Schools Working Hard and Making a Difference

The word is out! It is now easier than ever to become one of the schools in Virginia Beach creating great environmental education lessons, becoming more sustainable and carrying out those great cleanups in and around the community. The Pearl School Award application is now on-line and we have added more ideas that mesh with the Standards of Learning to get the schools to their goals. This past school year, we awarded the Pearl School banner to 11 new schools, bringing the total number of Pearl Schools in Virginia Beach to 70, including our first ever Pre-schools: Old Donation Pre-school and Barefoot Kids Christian Day School.

Newtown Elementary School is one of those schools new to the Pearl School Award. They worked hard to earn that award by taking part in the Urban Tree Program. Through this city-lead program, they learned about trees and their importance to the environment. They expressed this knowledge and their feelings about trees through artworks from repurposed materials displayed at the National Green Schools Conference, and then planted trees on the school grounds. Many of the students attended the National Green Schools Conference and added their voices to the discussions held for students. In addition to the trees, the school added a Wildlife friendly garden which will feed and nurture many pollinators.

Independence Middle School is another of the new schools. Working closely with experts in water quality, birds, aquatic animals, plants and insects, a class of 7th grade Life Science students completed a one day assessment of life at Pleasure House Point Natural Area. This "bio-blitz" gave the students an opportunity to meet and work with scientists and naturalists in

many different fields. It also gave them a glimpse of the treasure in their own neighborhood, Pleasure House Point, and what it had to offer to all who come to visit. Students then produced movies about the project areas and showed them to an audience of parents, students and the public at a special movie screening night. In addition, many other teachers and students helped win this award. They created artwork from repurposed materials that was on display at the National Green Schools Conference, participated in environmental workshops, started new recycling programs, executed Pearl Home and Scoop the Poop campaigns and supported a Green Club. Independence MS also participated in the Growing Wetlands in the Classroom and raised oysters. With all these efforts, Independence is really making a difference in the Lynnhaven River watershed.

First Colonial High School, a five year Pearl School, launched a new initiative to help earn their Pearl School Award points. The Green Club did research on the impact of plastic water bottles on the environment and came up with a plan to educate the other students and raise money to install a water bottle refill station in the school. First Colonial HS students also participated in the 2nd annual TRASHion Show at Lynnhaven Mall in February. The students came back to school with the coveted Principal's Award for Excellence on and off the runway. They have already signed up to participate in the TRASHion Show on February 27, 2016.

Thanks to all of our Pearl Schools for making a difference in their schools and in their communities. If your school is not yet a Pearl School, please check out the website (<http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/pearl-schools/>) and start adding up the points. If you need assistance or would like to sit down with LRNow staff, please contact Jody Ullmann, Pearl School Coordinator at jody@LRNow.org.



Pearl Schools 2014-2015 (continued)

Middle Schools

- Bayside Middle School – 7th & 8th grade campus
- Brandon Middle School
- Corporate Landing Middle School
- Great Neck Middle School
- Independence Middle School
- Landstown Middle School
- Lynnhaven Middle School
- Plaza Middle School
- Princess Anne Middle School
- Virginia Beach Middle School

High Schools

- Bayside High School
- First Colonial High School
- Frank W. Cox High School
- Green Run High School
- Kellam High School
- Kempsville High School
- Landstown High School
- Ocean Lakes High School
- Princess Anne High School
- Salem High School
- Tallwood High School

Schools with Multiple Levels

- Cape Henry Collegiate
- Kemps Landing/Old Donation School
- Renaissance Academy
- Virginia Beach Friends School

Our Pearl School program began in 2007 with seven schools. Over the past eight years, it has grown very rapidly. In 2015, we had 71 participating schools.



Thank You Mary Picardi

A special Thank You

to Mary Picardi for her tireless work as our Public Policy Committee chair. Mary thoroughly researched issues related to water quality and protecting our environment at the local, state and federal levels. She spent much time communicating with our partner organizations, our committee members and our elected officials on issues that affected us locally. We appreciate all she did for our Public Policy Committee and for the awareness she raised to protect our environment. We are happy that Mary will be continuing as a committee member and want to thank her for her hard work serving as our committee chair.

ADVOCACY

Lynnhaven River NOW is actively involved in two local public policy issues and will be advocating for two issues in the General Assembly session this year.

ON THE LOCAL LEVEL:

Offshore Drilling poses huge threats to our waterways and beaches and all of the progress we have made to clean up our environment. It is not just the possibility of a disastrous spill that poses a risk, but the smaller spills that occur as a result of the day-to-day operations also foul the waters and kill wildlife. Oyster larvae is particularly vulnerable to oil and gas contamination. We are joined on this position by many other groups in Virginia Beach including the Restaurant and Hotel Associations and the Princess Anne and Virginia Beach Garden Clubs. We are all working together to have our concerns heard at the state and federal levels. We thank our City Council for rescinding their support of offshore oil and gas drilling.

Extending **light rail** is the first step to a multi-modal public transportation system for Virginia Beach and our region will have multiple benefits including environmental benefits. Impervious surface does not allow water to soak into the ground when it rains and is a major component of water quality problems. Much of our existing and anticipated impervious surface exists to serve cars, roadways, driveways and parking lots. A multi-modal transportation system will reduce the need to add further impervious surfaces for cars. In addition, as much as 25-30% of the excess nitrogen in our waterways, a major pollutant, is air-deposited from vehicles. Reducing driving miles in our city will reduce the excess nitrogen that leads to algal blooms and dead zones in our waterways.

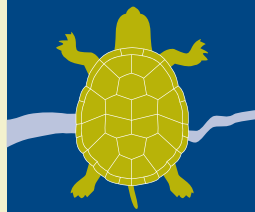
AT THE STATE LEVEL:

Climate change, sea level rise, and increased flooding are complex topics. But one thing we know in Virginia Beach is that dealing with rising water levels and more flooding is going to be both difficult and expensive. The **Coastal Protection Act** being sponsored by Delegate Villanueva offers a market-based approach to providing an ongoing source of funds for our region to deal with climate change and adapt to sea level rise. This legislation has been endorsed by our City Council and is part of the Virginia Beach 2016 Legislative Package.

Funding for the **Stormwater Local Assistance Fund** was eliminated from last year's state budget and needs to be restored. The only area of pollutants to our waterways and the Chesapeake Bay that continues to increase is urban stormwater. Localities, like Virginia Beach, are faced with massive retrofits to our stormwater sewer system to curb the flow of stormwater and the pollutants that it carries. The Stormwater Local Assistance Fund provides grant funding (on a 1/1 match basis) to assist localities in upgrading their systems. This funding is very important for Virginia Beach and we are advocating for \$50 million in funding in 2016.

If you are interested in joining the Public Policy Committee, please contact Karen@LRNow.org.

LYNNHAVEN
River NOW

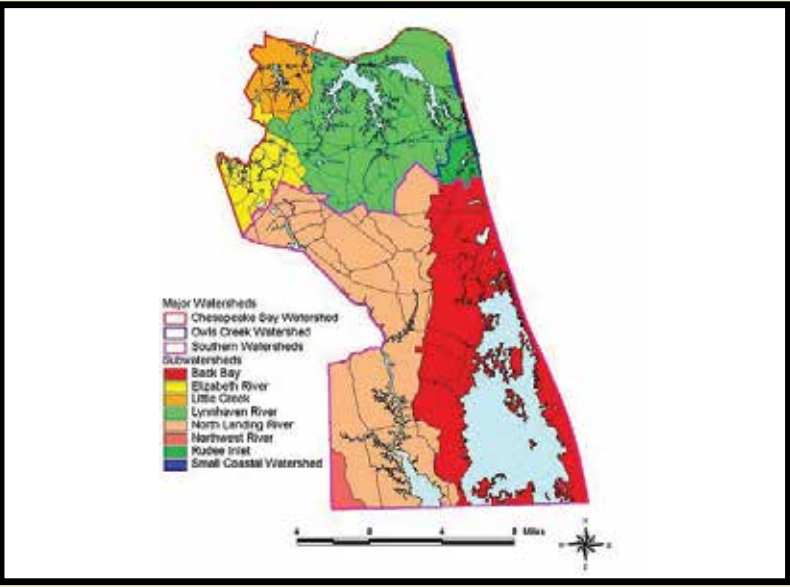


Is restoring and protecting our environment important? You know that we at Lynnhaven River NOW believe that it is. We prefer to call our natural environment our life support system because that may be a more appropriate way to think about it. We have clear reminders every day of the many ways we depend on our built environment. We wake up in a climate controlled home, dress in human designed clothing, prepare our breakfast in our human engineered and constructed kitchen, and this continues throughout our day. What we may not be as aware of are the many ways we are dependent on the natural world. The air we breathe, the water we use to bathe, brush our teeth, and make our morning coffee, the coffee itself and all of the food we eat, the materials to make our clothing and build our homes all come from our natural environment. And that is just the beginning.

Researchers are learning more about how important time in nature is to our health and well-being. People heal faster, students learn better, and everyone handles the everyday stress of life better when they have a connection to the natural world. How many of us take a walk on the beach or in a park or wooded area when we need to decompress or wrestle with a particularly difficult question or problem? Researchers are documenting all of the ways that a connection to the natural world not only makes us healthier but also supports clear thinking and problem solving.

This life support system around us is vitally important, but also can present challenges. How do we meet our needs without damaging the natural environment? Do we as individuals really make a difference? We are learning more every day about how to live responsibly, meeting our needs in a way that does not threaten the ability of future generations to meet their needs. That is the definition of sustainability. And moving

LYNNHAVEN RIVER NOW PRESENTS THE 2015 State of the River Report



to a more sustainable world happens one individual and one decision at a time. The cumulative impact is powerful and can change the world.

In our community, one of the best measures of how well we are doing in caring for our natural environment is water quality. We have water everywhere and we love it. But how well are we taking care of it? Part of the answer to that question can be found in this State of the River Report. We are getting better all the time but many challenges remain. We are learning that every choice that we make has an impact. How can we lessen our negative impacts and increase our positive contributions?

As you read our 2015 State of the River Report, pay attention to the evaluations in each area, but also take note of the things that you can do to help us reach our goal of good water quality in our Virginia Beach waterways. Clean water is good for all of us and we can all be a part of insuring that we are leaving a clean and healthy natural world for our children and grandchildren. Nature is resilient and will work with us if we give her a chance.

With some gains and losses, our overall grade for 2015 remains a B-.

Stormwater runoff is the main vector that brings **POLLUTION** to the Lynnhaven River. During rain events, pollutants are washed from the watershed and carried by rainwater into storm drains that dump directly into the river.

BACTERIA C+

Bacteria testing is done regularly by the Virginia Department of Health, Shellfish Sanitation Division. There were no significant changes in 2015. However, to maintain 42% of the river at the shellfish standard required vigilance and commitment. Expanding open areas would accommodate our growing oyster farming businesses. 91% of the river continues to meet the swimmable/fishable standard.

What you can do to help: always scoop the poop, even in your own yard; do not feed wildlife including ducks, geese and seagulls; regularly pump out your boat’s holding tank; if you have a septic tank, have it maintained regularly.

DISSOLVED OXYGEN D

The Virginia 303(D) list of impaired waterways lists 7.9 square miles of the Lynnhaven as impaired for dissolved oxygen. This constitutes approximately 90% of the river. The keys to increasing dissolved oxygen are to reduce sediment runoff allowing our underwater grasses to return and to reduce the excess nutrients entering our river and stimulating the growth of algae that both reduces water clarity and increases aquatic bacteria that consume oxygen. All marine animals require dissolved oxygen to live and thrive.

What you can do to help: reduce or eliminate your use of lawn fertilizer; reduce sediment runoff by keeping the gutter area in front of your home free of soil, sand, leaves, and pine needles; never put grass clippings or leaves down the storm drain.

Water quality can be improved through **POLLUTION CONTROL** measures that treat or reduce the sources of sediments, nutrients and bacteria before these pollutants reach the river.

CLEAN BOATING A-

Six pump-out facilities are available on the Lynnhaven including a self-service pump-out at the City Marina that is free and available 24 hours and 7 days per week. The gallons reported are the pump-outs provided by HRSD. Every year, there has been an increase in the number of gallons handled responsibly through this program. There was a 34% increase in 2015 for a total of 18,416 gallons since the no Discharge Zone took effect. The Lynnhaven NDZ continues to be one of the only NDZ’s in Virginia.

We will work to get all of our marinas certified as part of the state’s Clean Marina Program.

What you can do to help: pump out your boat’s holding tank regularly; never fill your boat’s tank more than ¾ full to avoid spills; use only marine approved cleaning products on your boat; have your boat motor/engine maintained regularly; adhere to no wake zones.

STORMWATER TREATMENT C-

Two stormwater projects were completed in 2015: the parking lot renovations at Princess Anne High School on Thalia Creek and the stream restoration work on Mill Dam Creek. Four lake restoration projects have been designed and construction is planned for next year. The city continues to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to move the Lynnhaven Restoration Plan forward.

What you can do to help: be careful about what runs off your property; install a rain barrel, a rain garden or a buffer garden between your property and the street or creek; keep your gutters clear of leaves, grass clippings and litter; keep pollutants like dog waste, fertilizer, cleaning products, and pesticides out of our stormwater.

NITROGEN & PHOSPHORUS D

Nitrogen and phosphorus are organic substances found in fertilizer, pet waste, organic debris like grass clippings and leaves, and human waste. In the water, these nutrients lead to algal growth, clouding of the water, bacteria growth, and possible toxins from algal blooms. Anecdotal evidence suggests that water clarity is improving, yet we still experience algal blooms in the summer months and water clarity is too poor to support underwater grasses.

What you can do to help: reduce or eliminate your use of lawn fertilizer; reduce the turf area of your yard and replace it with planted beds; plant a buffer garden between your lawn and the street or waterway; use native plants in your landscape; plant a tree; never put grass clippings or leaves into a storm drain.

WATER CLARITY F

Though anecdotal evidence suggest that water clarity in the Lynnhaven is improving, until it reaches a level that supports the growth of underwater grasses, it is still inadequate. Water clarity is affected by sedimentation, algal growth, and the boat traffic. Power boats stir up the sediments on the bottom and re-suspend them in the water column.

What you can do to help: reduce or eliminate lawn fertilizer; handle sediments from any land disturbance properly keeping them out of the storm drain and our waterways; keep the gutter area in front of your home free of sand, soil, leaves, and pine needles; plant a tree; observe no-wake zones and keep power boats out of shallow water areas.

NEW FUNDS FOR WATER QUALITY A

In 2015, \$3,444,828 was spent on stormwater improvement projects in the Lynnhaven watershed. This brings the total since 2003 to \$21.6 million. The City received their new MS4 permit in 2015. The new permit set the following annual pollutant removal goals for the city: 9,801 lbs. of phosphorus, 18,585 lbs. of nitrogen, and 3,355,165 pounds of sediment.

What can you do to help: become informed about legislation affecting our watershed; attend the Candidates Forum to see where our elected officials stand; talk to your city council representatives and your state delegates and senators about your interest in clean water. They need to know that you support efforts to restore and protect all of our waterways.

SANITARY SEWERS C

The decrease in the Sanitary Sewer grade is related to the number of gallons in overflow in 2015. 20,060 gallons is a large increase. All but 1,500 gallons were recovered, but 1,500 gallons of sewage overflow is still unacceptable. \$5.5 million spent in 2015 on 33 different sanitary sewer projects for a total of \$90.1 million since 2003. The largest project anticipated in 2016 is the sanitary sewer replacement project in Green Hill Farms.

What you can do to help: make sure the lateral line that connects your house to the sanitary sewer pipe in the street is in good condition; if you have a septic tank, have it maintained regularly.

Protection and restoration of beneficial natural **HABITAT** is critical for a healthy Lynnhaven River. These natural habitats improve water quality in the river by filtering out pollutants and they provide homes for river’s marine life.

OYSTERS A-

There are several exciting developments in our oyster restoration efforts. We continue to work with homeowners on oyster castle projects and the early data on settlement and shoreline protection for our Laila Reef Oyster Castle project is very positive. We built 868 linear feet of shoreline in 2015 for a total of 2,001 linear feet. In addition, we began a research project in cooperation with VIMS to determine the denitrification potential of sanctuary oyster reefs and we did the preliminary work to construct a sanctuary reef in the Eastern Branch in 2016. We are also working with our oyster farmers and some of our homeowners to help resolve the conflicts that exist between the two groups

What you can do to help: if you have a waterfront lot, evaluate it for an oyster castle project; talk with your teacher about helping them become oyster gardeners; consider joining our spat catcher program; buy sustainably harvested local Lynnhaven oysters.

WETLANDS A

Good progress continues to be made in shoreline management. In 2015, we saw the new General Permit Application for Living Shoreline projects established by VMRC. In the Lynnhaven 9, living shoreline projects were permitted in 2015. We are hopeful that the new permitting process will enable that number to continue to increase. In 2015, 10,403 square feet of wetlands were impacted by development, but 18,675 square feet of wetlands were constructed for a net gain of 8,272 sq ft. In addition, 1,665 square feet of floating wetlands were constructed and deployed.

What you can do to help: if you live on the water, please consider a living shoreline as an alternative to a bulkhead or riprap; consider installing oyster castles on your shoreline; make sure you are not mowing a natural wetland area on your property; support a strong Wetlands Board and a strong Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Board and good regulatory processes.

Lynnhaven River NOW is raising environmental **AWARENESS** in the watershed because community education is one of the only strategies for reducing pollution from private residential and commercial properties in the Lynnhaven watershed.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS A

Community education and outreach is the core of our LRNow work. Through our Pearl Home and Pearl Faith Community programs and our other educational events, we reached 21,500 people last year. The cumulative impact of all of our individual decisions is the reason for success or failure in restoring and protecting the river. Our Native Plant of the Month program was very successful in 2015 and continues to grow every month. We enrolled 382 new homes in the Pearl Home program and saw an increase in our E-News and Facebook followers. Our Pearl Faith outreach continues to grow and the enrolled communities are completing inspiring projects.

What you can do to help: subscribe to LRNow’s electronic newsletter; attend an LRNow workshop or event; volunteer to help with one of LRNow’s events; attend the Candidates’ Forum or our Fall Festival; incorporate a new practice into your daily routines.

MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT A

In 2015, our members donated 3,348 volunteer hours to our work at LRNow. We could not do what we do without these volunteers. Our committee system continues to work well to inspire new ideas and grow our various programs. We are grateful to our dedicated volunteer committee members. We are also dependent on the membership fees and donations from our members that financially support our work and help us to keep growing and getting stronger.

What you can do to help: become a member and support our Annual Giving Campaign; join a committee; become a Pearl Home; encourage your faith community to become a Pearl Faith Community; volunteer to help with one of our events; attend an LRNow educational program; invite LRNow to do a presentation for your civic league, garden club or other community organization.

OPEN SPACE & PUBLIC ACCESS B-

There were no significant changes to open space or public access in the Lynnhaven in 2015. However, there are a couple of things to note. The new Parks and Recreation facility at Lake Lawson opened in 2015 with good access for kayaks and canoes. We will be working on trail repairs and improvements at Pleasure House Point in 2016 and the design work for the new kayak launch in Thalia Creek is progressing with construction planned for 2016.

What you can do to help: evaluate your neighborhood for available land that may be suitable for a public kayak launch site; support efforts to expand public access to the river; volunteer for one of our cleanups; use our natural areas responsibly by keeping your dog on a leash, scooping the poop, removing all trash and staying on designated paths.

UNDERWATER GRASSES F

We still have no evidence of any significant underwater grasses (SAV) in the Lynnhaven. Water clarity, especially in the summer months, must be improved before our grasses will be able to thrive. SAV help sediments to settle, put oxygen into the water, slow erosion by slowing wave action, and provide habitat for many marine species.

What you can do to help: reduce or eliminate your use of lawn fertilizer; reduce sediment runoff by keeping the gutter area in front of your home free of soil, sand, leaves, and pine needles; never put grass clippings or leaves down the storm drain; handle sediments from any land disturbance properly keeping them out of the storm drain and out of our waterways. Observe no-wake zones and do not take power boats into shallow waters.

MEDIA ATTENTION A

Electronic media is expanding and taking over some roles formerly filled by print. In 2015, we launched a new and improved website to better meet your needs and the needs of our growing programs. We post regularly to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and have seen our number of followers growing. We are transitioning from four print newsletters per year to 26 electronic newsletters and one printed annual report and printed State of the River Report. Even with these changes, we will continue to provide copies of our handouts and appreciate the importance of newspaper coverage.

What you can do to help: subscribe to our E-News; follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram; subscribe to our blog; read our publications and pass them on to a friend; visit our website for more information.

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION A

We had 71 Pearl Schools in 2015. For the first time, we had 100% participation from our Virginia Beach high schools. More than 200 people attended the Trashion Show and the 2016 show promises to be even bigger. The Principal’s Award for 2015 went to First Colonial High School for outstanding support for environmental education throughout the school. Girl Scout Troop 22 installed more than 1,000 storm drain markers and Independence Middle School students participated in a Bioblitz at Pleasure House Point. These are just a few of the highlights from the 2015 Pearl School Program.

What you can do to help: encourage your child’s school to become a Pearl School; volunteer to help with one of our school programs; participate as a family in a river cleanup or other event; attend our Fall Festival.

| POLLUTION | INDICATOR | 2015 GRADE | 2014 GRADE | WHERE WE ARE IN 2015 | WHERE WE WANT TO BE |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| | BACTERIA | C+ | C+ | 42% of the river meets the shellfish harvest standards, 91% meets the swimmable/fishable standards | 100% of river meets the shellfish harvest standard and 100% swimmable/fishable |
| | NITROGEN & PHOSPHORUS | D | D | Nitrogen & Phosphorus levels bring about summer algal blooms and prevent SAV | Nitrogen & Phosphorus levels that meet SAV habitat requirements |
| | DISSOLVED OXYGEN | D | D | 7.9 impaired sq miles (approx. 90% of the river) | Zero impaired square miles |
| | WATER CLARITY | F | F | Although anecdotal evidence indicates that water clarity has improved, it still fails to meet the standards for SAV in the summer months | Sediment and Algal levels that meet SAV habitat standards |
| POLLUTION CONTROL | CLEAN BOATING | A- | A- | NDZ in effect; 4 certified marinas; 4,332 gallons pumped through HRSD, 1,108 gallons increase from 2014 | NDZ in effect, 8 certified marinas, annually increasing gallons pumped out |
| | NEW FUNDS FOR WATER QUALITY | A | A | \$ 3,444,828 were spent in 2015 stormwater improvements | \$3 million per year |
| | STORMWATER TREATMENT | C- | C- | 24% of the stormwater in the Lynnhaven watershed benefits from stormwater treatment | 100% of total watershed treated with stormwater management |
| | SANITARY SEWERS | C | A- | 7 sewer overflows; 20,060 gallons spilled; & 196 septic tanks remaining of 11,600 | Zero sewer overflows per year, 0 gallons spilled, & 0 septic tanks remaining of 11,600 |
| HABITAT | OYSTERS | A- | A- | 203,195 oysters transplanted; 63 acres of sanctuary reef; 868 linear feet of oyster shoreline in 2015 | 250,000 oyster per year transplanted, 100 total acres of sanctuary reef, 300 linear feet of new oyster shoreline per year |
| | OPEN SPACES & PUBLIC ACCESS | B- | B- | 3,104 acres of Open Space, 5 public access sites. New Lake Lawson facility opened in 2015 | Open spaces: 4,000 acres, Public Access: 15 Public Access Sites |
| | WETLANDS | A | A | 10,403 sq ft of wetlands impacted; 18,675 sq ft of wetlands restored; 9 living shoreline projects | Zero permitted losses per year, increasing number of living shoreline projects each year |
| | UNDERWATER GRASSES | F | F | 0 acres of underwater grasses detected in 2015 | 175 total acres |
| AWARENESS | EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS | A | A | 156 programs in 2015; 12 Pearl Faith Communities; Fall Festival; Candidates Forum and various workshops | 80 programs per year, 10 Pearl Faith Communities (5 new this year), Annual Fall Festival, Candidates Forum |
| | MEDIA ATTENTION | A- | A | Coverage 14 times in media; 6 new publications in 2015; 600 new Facebook followers; 502 new E-News subscribers | Coverage 18 times per year, 10 new publications per year, Facebook followers: 400 new per year, E-News Subscribers: 400 new per year |
| | MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT | A- | A | Membership: 8,400 Involvement in 2015: 21,500 Volunteer Hours in 2015: 3,348 New Pearl Homes in 2015: 382 | Membership: 5,000 Involvement: 30,000 3,000 Volunteer Hours Pearl Homes: 500 new per year |
| | SCHOOL PARTICIPATION | A | A | 71 Pearl Schools in 2015, 8 Teacher Trainings, Participation from all watershed schools | 50 Pearl Schools, 10 Teacher Trainings per year, Participation from all watershed schools |

Restoration

This year has been another successful one for restoration in the Lynnhaven, from relatively simple projects to world record-breaking projects!

SIMPLE PROJECTS

Last spring, we received a call from a homeowner who noticed that the shoreline of his new home seemed barren and was experiencing mild erosion. After scheduling a free shoreline consultation with us, there did not appear to be any reason why there was no healthy wetland vegetation. It appeared that the previous owner may have applied a systemic herbicide (likely Round-Up, which is incredibly dangerous for use near water), killing all the vegetation and leaving nothing but dead stumps and twigs.



We recommended minor limbing of trees along the shoreline to allow a bit more light to reach the shoreline, and planting wetland grass plugs, specifically *Spartina alterniflora*, or Smooth Cordgrass, and *Spartina patens*, or Salt Meadow Hay to repopulate the area with healthy wetland grasses. The family spent a couple days together outside, planting 1,000 plugs along their shoreline. After only three months (Jun-Sept), the results are spectacular! This shoreline will help provide a habitat to oysters, crabs, fish, birds and many other critters, in addition to aiding in nutrient removal (cleaner water!) and providing a barrier against shoreline erosion (good news for the homeowner!).

This project is proof that in some cases, the solution to an improved shoreline isn't necessarily time-intensive permitting and expensive riprap or bulkhead installation. Every shoreline is unique however, and we'd be happy to look at yours!

OYSTER CASTLE SHORELINES

Oyster restoration continues to be one of LRNow's priorities because the famed Lynnhaven oyster is a symbol of the river's history and of the river's renewed health. Oysters and the reefs they form provide habitat, water filtration, nitrogen removal, and shoreline protection in the Lynnhaven River. Last spring, we worked with several environmentally-minded waterfront homeowners to install oyster castles along their shorelines. These innovative structures are easily built by hand into any configuration. They protect the shoreline by baffling wave energy while they concurrently provide a habitat for oysters, crabs, shrimp, fish and other river species. We have even seen sand accumulating behind the castles in our original oyster castle project (built in 2012) allowing marsh grasses to rebound with the added elevation and protection. Oyster castles do require a permit to install, but they are truly worth the investment since they benefit both the river and the property owner. Visit our newly installed demonstration project at the Virginia Aquarium and call us if you would be interested in creating oyster castles on your shoreline.



WORLD RECORD-BREAKING!

We also worked with the Green Teens to help plan and assemble the longest stretch of oyster castles ever built by teens! They assembled 30 oyster castles in just four days at Great Neck Park. This was quite a feat and an amazing exhibit of the strong stewardship these teens feel toward our river! We hope many baby oyster spat find homes at this "teen-made" reef and continue to clean and filter our water for generations to come.

Recreation and Oyster Farming



Many of you may be aware of the conflict between some of our homeowners and some of our oyster farmers. Lynnhaven River NOW is actively working to find a solution to this issue that will satisfy all parties. We have attended the community meetings, participated as a panelist in a community forum, spoken with many of the individuals involved, and proposed a committee structure for working through this issue. The Lynnhaven River is a public resource and it belongs to all of us. With consideration and compromise, we can balance recreational interests with thriving oyster aquaculture. LRNow is starting its 14th year of work to restore and protect our Virginia Beach waterways. We have had some celebrated success in reducing bacteria levels in the Lynnhaven River including Broad Bay and Linkhorn Bay because of the cooperation of many residents and the City of Virginia Beach. In 2002 when we began our work, only 1% of the Lynnhaven met the rigorous Health Department water quality standard that allows oysters to be consumed from the water by humans. Many of these areas were closed as far back as the 1930's because of pollution coming from the land. Today, 42% of the river meets that rigorous standard. This phenomenal progress is the result of community collaboration between the City, homeowners, students, citizens and environmental organizations. LRNow with its partners, the City of Virginia, Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the US Army Corps of Engineers, has constructed 63 acres of sanctuary reef. These areas of restored reef are helping to rebuild our native oyster population and increase the water filtering capacity of the oysters in the river. Approximately 58 acres of that reef are in Linkhorn and Broad Bays. In addition, our oyster farmers have millions of oysters growing in Linkhorn and Broad Bays. These oysters are also helping to keep our waters clean.

All development on land increases pollutants in the water. In the Lynnhaven watershed, 38% of the land area is impervious surface, rooftops, driveways, roadways, etc. And 30% is managed turf. That leaves only 32% of the land area where rain water is able to infiltrate and be naturally cleaned by the soil and plants and not run off into the river carrying pollutants that must then be filtered from the water if it is to remain healthy. This is not unique to the Lynnhaven River. This is what affects water quality in all densely populated urban areas. Many waterfront property owners have asked me what they can do to protect our waterways. The most important things that a waterfront property owner can do to protect the river from the pollutants are to install a living shoreline, plant a vegetated buffer between the developed area of their property and the edge of the water, convert turf areas to planted beds and stop fertilizing the turf areas on their property. A short boat cruise on the river and you will know this is not the norm. Much of our shoreline is hardened with bulkhead and turf grass proliferates and goes to the water's edge. It will take a long time and much effort to change these conditions. If we are going to have the clean and healthy waterway that we all desire, we need to increase our efforts to reduce pollutants from the land and keep a thriving population of oysters to filter the pollutants that will make it into the water. Nothing that we have accomplished in the Lynnhaven River has been easy. Each step has taken the concentrated efforts of many, but we have surprised everyone with what we have been able to do. It has happened because we worked together. We can work together to deal with this challenge and come up with a solution that respects everyone's desires and manages this valuable resource in a way that allows for recreational use, allows for oyster farming, and keeps the river we love, clean and healthy. I hope that all parties will be willing to sit down together, listen to each other and work to find a compromise that will work for all.



Pearl Faith Community

“We received this world as an inheritance from past generations but also as a loan from future generations to whom we will have to return it.”

– Pope Francis, July 7, 2015

Our Pearl Faith family is growing! From the original five in 2014, there are currently 16 congregations in the process of becoming Pearl Faith Community members and 78 congregations involved in the Pearl Faith programming. In the spring we hosted our first prayer breakfast where clergy from all faiths came to be inspired by the beautiful sunrise over the Lynnhaven River, learn from tours of the Brock Environmental Center, and hear comments by our special guest speaker, Lieutenant Governor Northam. This fall we cosponsored the Living Waters Interfaith Summit with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Virginia Interfaith Center. This day-long event was planned to help people of faith learn how to protect our waterways and become better stewards of our common home. From the moving opening ceremony with procession to the riverbank, to the practical and engaging presentations, participants came away with many useful ideas. The summit was attended by congregations from all around the region and 90 government representatives. During the summer, several congregations came out to the Brock Center for fun and fellowship with educational picnics, tours, and green coffee hours after services. With the increasing interest on the part of religious groups to merge environmental stewardship with spirituality, environmental groups are looking for ways to help. We have been invited to present several workshops on our Pearl Faith Community, to share what we have learned. Our wonderful congregations have come up with so many innovative ways to care for creation from beekeeping and native plant gardens, to solar panels and community vegetable gardens. In this New Year, we are so grateful for all of our faith partners and thank them for the many ways they are working to help. Please contact us if your congregation would like to know more about the care of creation, protection of our waterways, and how to join the faithful who are making a difference.

HATS OFF TO OUR DONORS

JANUARY 1, 2015 - DECEMBER 31, 2015

INDIVIDUALS

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HERE’S TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

JANUARY 1, 2015 - DECEMBER 31, 2015

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LEGACY – \$2,500 AND UP

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71st Street Anglers
Bubba’s Restaurant and Marina
Dominion Resources
Waterfront Marine

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Central Business District Association
Checkered Flag Motor Car Company
Breedon Corporation
Norfolk Southern Corporation
Hoffman Beverages
Langley and McDonald, Inc.
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OYSTER – \$500 - \$999

Ludford Brothers Oyster Company
Dupre’s Inc.
Holman’s Photography
Ocean Park Civic League
Miller Stevenson Associates (MSA)
Princess Anne Garden Club
Steinhilber’s Restaurant

REEF – \$250 - \$499

Leaping Lizard Cafe
Kimley-Horn Foundation
Andes Importers, Inc.
Little Neck Garden Club
Terrapin Restaurant
Landstown High School

GENERAL – Up to \$250

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Spence Marine Construction, Inc.
GFWC Women’s Club of Tidewater
Great Neck Meadows Garden Club
Great Neck Meadows Greater Area
Civic League
Country Gardeners Guild
May Farm Garden Club
Virginia Native Plant Society –
SHR Chapter
Skinner’s Frames and Art, Inc.
Smartmouth Brewery
Cape Henry Collegiate School
Civic League of Pembroke Meadows
and Shores
Birdneck Point Garden Club
Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach
The Meridian Group
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W.T. Cooke Elementary School
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Cavalier Sportswear
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Virginia Aquarium
Virginia Beach Garden Club

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Karen Forget
In Honor of the LRNow Staff: Jody
Ullmann, Laurie Sorabella, Trista
Imrich, Pam Northam, Dana
Sizemore, Emily Bodsford, Michael
Minor, and Joseph Randall

Donor Highlights

Ann Marie Dori and SOLitude

SOLitude Lake Management has named Ann Marie Dori as their 2015 Volunteer of the Year. In recognition of her volunteering efforts last year, SOLitude Lake Management made a charitable donation of \$3,000 to Lynnhaven River NOW. Ann Marie, Project Coordinator at SOLitude Lake Management, spent 191 hours volunteering in 2015 and also encouraged friends to join her efforts, totaling an additional 105 volunteer hours for the year. She volunteered for a number of organizations including Lynnhaven River NOW. Ann Marie is a regular at our monthly cleanups and impresses everyone with her enthusiasm and commitment. You may also find her on the beach in her neighborhood, bag-in-hand, cleaning up the trash that others leave behind. Thank you Ann Marie for your commitment and example and thank you SOLitude for supporting the community involvement of your employees.

Bubba’s and the Shellfish Company

A beautiful setting on the Lynnhaven River, delicious and bountiful seafood, cold drinks and good music – that is a winning combination. For nine years, Dimitri Ionis, the owner of the Shellfish Company and Bubba’s Restaurant, has hosted a Seafood Festival every fall and donated the proceeds to Lynnhaven River NOW. This great fall event has become a community favorite and LRNow is appreciative of the generous support from the Ionis family and the staff of the Shellfish Company and Bubba’s. Be sure to watch for this event next fall and get your tickets early.

Brown Forman

1% for the Planet – what a great concept. A decade ago, two entrepreneurs had a vision: to join forces and use their business as the engine of positive environmental change. They started 1% for the Planet and today there are more than 1,200 member companies who are giving 1% of their sales to organizations that are working to restore and protect our planet. LRNow is happy to partner with Brown Forman, one of the 1% for the Planet companies. Brown Forman has been a great partner and has helped us to increase our outreach and get closer to meeting our goal of 100 acres of sanctuary oyster reef.

OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

One of our three strategic objectives at LRNow is to educate and engage the community and partner organizations in this work of restoring and protecting our natural resources. With that in mind and inclusion as a strong organizational value, we revamped our Program Committee meetings last year to include not only our staff, board members, and committee chairs, but also representatives from many of our partner organizations and some key individuals in our community. We were excited to welcome these people into our discussions about issues that affect our natural environment in Virginia Beach.

Our new members include:

Bayfront Advisory Commission – Kal Kassir
Resort Advisory Commission – Laura Habr
Central Business District Association – Bob Miller
Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Christy Everett
Back Bay Restoration Foundation
Council of Civic Organizations – Dottie Hampton and Sam Reid
Council of Garden Clubs – Audrey Kelly
VB Restaurant Association – Bill Gambrell
Virginia Beach Hotel Association
Bay Island Community – Bob Magoon
VB Public Schools – Tim Cole
Ocean Park – Wendy Vaughn
VB Parks and Recreation – Barbara Duke
VB Landscape Management – Frank Fentress
VB Environment and Sustainability Office – Clay Bernick
Audubon Society – Steve Coari
HRPDC Go Green – Katie Culipher
VB City Arborist – Susan French
Marinas – Chuck Guthrie
Aquaculture – Chris Ludford
VB Public Works – Melanie Coffey and Sue Kriebel
VB Public Utilities – Rich Nettleton
Coastal Resilience Research, ODU – Emily Steinhilber

They are joining our LRNow Staff and Board Members and the Chairs and Representatives from our LRNow Committees:

PR and Marketing – Mary Reid Barrow
Oyster Restoration – Richard Serpe
Shorelines – Kevin DuBois
Stewardship and Access – Sid Vaughn
Pearl Homes – Darcy Stephan
Pearl Faith Communities – Rev. Tom Deppe
Public Policy – Wendy Vaughn and Ann Wright
Pearl School Committee – Ashleigh Cake

Our 2016 Executive Program Committee meeting schedule is:

Monday, March 21, 4-6 PM, Brock Environmental Center
Monday, May 16, 4-6 PM, Brock Environmental Center
Monday, September 19, 4-6 PM, Brock Environmental Center
Monday, November 21, 4-6 PM, Brock Environmental Center

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Wells, President
Andrew Fine, Co-Chair
Harry Lester, Co-Chair
Karen Forget, Secretary
Lillie Gilbert
Steve Herbert
Brent James
Cathy Maston
Bob Miller
Richard Serpe

THANK YOU

Mary Reid Barrow, Susan French, Marina Liacouris who rotated off of the Board at the end of 2015. All had served for 13 years! Thank you for your many years of leadership and inspiration.

STAFF

Pearl School Coordinator

Jody Ullmann, Jody@LRNow.org

Restoration Coordinator

Trista Imrich, Trista@LRNow.org

Oyster Scientist

Laurie Sorabella, Laurie@LRNow.org

Pearl Homes and Pearl Faith Communities Coordinator

Pam Northam, Pam@LRNow.org

Pearl Homes and Pearl Faith Communities Assistant Coordinator

Emily Bodsford, Emily@LRNow.org

Save Oyster Shell Program Technician

Joe Randall, Joe@LRNow.org

Administrative Assistant

Dana Sizemore, Dana@LRNow.org

Executive Director

Karen Forget, Karen@LRNow.org

COMING IN 2016

PEARL BUSINESSES

What is missing from our array of Pearl Programs? Pearl Businesses of course. Through this new program, we hope to meet the needs of small and large businesses in Virginia Beach who want to green their practices and move toward more sustainable operations. That is the double bottom line – good for business and good for the environment. We know you can do both and we want to help you discover how this can work for you. Watch for information on how you can get involved.

LRNEXT

We are so fortunate to have a growing number of young professional men and women in Virginia Beach who want to make Virginia Beach their home and want to help shape the future of our city. They appreciate all the wonderful things about living in Virginia Beach and want to see our city grow and prosper without losing the beautiful beaches, clean waterways, open space, and connections to nature that make this such a special place to live and raise a family. In January 2016, we will be launching our new young professional board, LRNext, and are excited for the energy and inspiration they will bring.



BROCK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
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