



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018



LYNNHAVEN *River* NOW

*Restoring a legend.*



## 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## LYNNHAVEN RIVER NOW



From our beautiful ocean and bay beaches and the Lynnhaven River to Back Bay and the North Landing River, our waterways define our lives in Virginia Beach. They are a large part of why we chose Virginia Beach as our home. We love to kayak, surf, fish, swim, and simply enjoy a sunset over our favorite body of water while having some delicious local seafood.

Founded in 2002, Lynnhaven River NOW is dedicated to protecting and restoring our beautiful Virginia Beach waterways.

We work actively with many partners to help citizens learn how we can each contribute to conserving our valuable natural resources. LRNow has six key programs that help us to reach our goal of healthy and clean waterways.

- Pearl Homes
- Pearl Schools
- Pearl Businesses
- Pearl Faith Communities
- Restoration
- Advocacy

**You can read about all of these programs and more in this report. Thank you for being a part of this important work.**

## 2017-2018 STAFF

### Executive Director

Karen Forget

### Office Manager and SOS Program

Dana Sizemore

### Pearl Faith Communities Program

Penny Moulis

### Oyster Projects

Brent James

### Oyster Scientist

Laurie Sorabella

### Pearl Schools and Education

Jody Ullmann

### Pearl Homes and Pearl Businesses

Helen Kuhns

### Pearl Home BMPs and Restoration

Trista Imrich

### Event Coordinator

Terri Gorman

### Development and Communications

Emily Hatfield

### SOS Program

Joe Randall

## PROFILES

**PEOPLE ARE THE KEY  
TO OUR SUCCESS.**

Watch for these profiles of people important to LRNow throughout our 2017-2018 Annual Report.



## DEAR MEMBERS,

I am happy to say that 2017 was another great year. This is the 15th time we have been able to come to you at the end of the year and report that the previous year has been a good one for the Virginia Beach natural resources that we all cherish.

We have received many reports of oysters proliferating in areas where they had not been seen in decades. With the support of our members and donors, we have made remarkable progress in improving water quality and restoring healthy ecosystems in our waterways. The new sanctuary reef that you will read about in this Annual Report is an important step in restoring our oyster population in the Eastern Branch of the Lynnhaven. When we give mother nature a chance, she rewards us.

We look back on the past year with tremendous appreciation for all the ways that you have contributed to our successes. Our Pearl Home residents continually impress with their openness to learning new ways to be more sustainable and responsible, our ever-expanding Pearl Faith Communities continue to blow us away with their commitment to stewardship, and we deeply appreciate the businesses that worked with us this past year to develop a strong and effective new Pearl Business program.

I can also report that our children and grandchildren are growing up with a true understanding of how our ecosystems function and how we can each contribute to keeping our environment healthy and strong. They are learning how we can support healthy ecosystems and reduce the energy and water we use as well as the waste that we produce. Even more importantly, they are learning why this matters to all of us.

The biggest challenges we face now are climate change and sea level rise. The flooding with Hurricane Matthew taught us that we must learn everything that we can about this impending peril, and plan for the future. We need to find solutions to both continue to improve water quality and to deal with increasing flooding problems. But we look ahead to these challenges with the confidence that comes from knowing that our community members will continue to expand their understanding and are committed to supporting the necessary solutions.

Thank you for another great year and thank you for continuing to support this important work for us and for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

*Karen*

**Karen Forget**  
Executive Director



## LRNOW PROFILE: ANDREW FINE

Andrew is the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of Lynnhaven River NOW. He also adds to his list of LRNow positions "part-time bartender and part-time worrier about the budget."

He grew up on the river, fishing, enjoying its beauty, and even shooting a few ducks. He recalls, "I just sort of assumed that the river was in good health until I remember reading all the news reports to the contrary." That was where the mission began for him. He and Harry Lester "jointly concluded that the river had been degraded on [their] watch and it was time to do something about it." They set out to create an umbrella organization for the people already working on separate parts of the issue and to create serious coordination with the City.

Over the years he has been inspired by the passion and dedication of the staff and volunteers, citing specifically the contagious nature of their optimism and hard work. Of this he says, "The staff is so passionate and so dedicated, you just marvel at their accomplishments, their vision, and their determination. They are the perfect case of the little engine that could."

Fifteen years in, Andrew cites as his proudest accomplishment the satisfaction of seeing millions of luscious Lynnhaven oysters growing in places where they weren't growing before, and recognizing the resulting pride in the staff, the volunteers, and the City.



# OUR NEW COMMUNITY OYSTER REEF



What do you do with 19,000 bushels of oyster shells? You build two acres of sanctuary reef. After ten years of patient persistence in collecting oyster shells from local

Virginia Beach restaurants, oyster roasts, and private citizens, LRNow had finally accumulated over 19,000 bushels of shells which amounted to about a million pounds worth. All these shells were stored at the Virginia Beach city landfill site to cure in mammoth mounds which from a distance looked like large white snowdrifts.

With grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and with the assistance of the City of Virginia Beach, LRNow was able to arrange for movement of the shells from the landfill to the Lesner Bridge construction site where they were transferred to a barge which then further transported them to their final resting places. From these shells, we built three sanctuary reefs in the Eastern Branch of the Lynnhaven River.

These three sanctuary reef sites are located near Old House Cove and are the first sanctuary reefs in this part of the Eastern Branch. These sites were determined to be optimal for oyster growth by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and are all on oyster leases that were donated by the owner to LRNow.

The placement of the shells was done by water cannon which blasted the shells off the barge onto the reef sites. The three sites consist of approximately 2.15 acres of bottom divided into one 1.15-acre reef and 2-half acre reefs. These are the first three subtidal reefs constructed by LRNow, and will hopefully yield a bountiful growth of new Lynnhaven oysters on the deposited shell which will, in turn, contribute greatly to improved water quality in this part of the river.

To help jump-start this oyster settlement and growth, the Oyster Reefkeepers organization donated 40,000 one-year-old oysters which were placed on the sanctuary reef site.

LRNow continues to collect oyster shells from local restaurants, and at an increased rate which will allow for the next million pounds of shell to be ready for sanctuary reef building in about five years rather than the ten years which the first million pounds took to accumulate.

This kind of superb community support and involvement led us to select the name "Community Reefs" for this reef-building effort. These efforts will have a major impact on improving water quality and the abundance of marine life in the Lynnhaven Estuary.





# SAVE OYSTER SHELL



Some people collect shells because they are beautiful. We collect shells to make our waterways more beautiful and cleaner!

Our Save Oyster Shell program began as a pilot program in 2006 by Lynnhaven River NOW to help with oyster restoration in the Lynnhaven River. With a handful of restaurants in partnership with the City of Virginia Beach we began to collect the

used shell that would otherwise be thrown in the trash. Today this program continues to grow because of the support and extra effort our community has put into it. Over thirty businesses and restaurants participate and we have five public drop-off sites today. Why do we collect all that shell? Below are some fun facts that should help explain how much our SOS program is helping our waterways.

## Fun Facts:

- Over 150,000 pounds of shells were collected in the first eleven months of 2017.
- 150,000 pounds is equal to approximately 3,000 bushels.
- 3,000 bushels can build 1,200 square meters of oyster reef.
- Approximately 600 live oysters will settle on each square meter of shell. That is a total of 720,000 oysters in 1,200 square meters.
- A single oyster can filter about 50 gallons of water per day!
- 720,000 oysters can filter 36 million gallons of water per day. That is equal to fifty-five Olympic sized swimming pools filtered by these oysters every day.

And that is just what we have collected in eleven months.

If you already participate in our SOS program personally or work with one of our partner restaurants, thank you!

Your extra effort to save that shell instead of throwing it in the trash has an incredible impact on our waterways and in your community.

Your support and participation is helping us to restore the native oysters that are so important to the health of our waters.

Please contact Dana at [Dana@LRNow.org](mailto:Dana@LRNow.org) for more information or if you would like to participate in this amazing program.

**IT REALLY DOES TAKE A COMMUNITY TO RAISE AN OYSTER REEF!**

## SOS PROGRAM PARTNERS

### Restaurant Partners

21st Street Seafood Company  
 Abbey Road Restaurant  
 Blue Seafood and Spirits  
 Bubba's Seafood Restaurant and Shellfish Company  
 CP Shucker's Cafe and Raw Bar at Bayside  
 CP Shucker's Cafe and Raw Bar at the Oceanfront  
 Captain George's Seafood Restaurant  
 Coastal Grill  
 Croaker's Neighborhood Grill  
 Croc's 19th Street Bistro  
 Dockside Restaurant  
 Fin McCool's  
 Harpoon Larry's Oyster Bar  
 Hot Tuna  
 Lucky Oyster Seafood Grill  
 Lynnhaven Fish House  
 Mahi Mah's  
 Ocean Eddie's Seafood Restaurant  
 Rockefeller's Restaurant  
 Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel  
 Simple Eats  
 Tautog's Restaurant  
 Welton's Seafood Market  
 Yukai Seafood Buffet

### Oyster Roast Events

Eastern Shore Chapel  
 Holiday Trav-L-Park  
 Knights of Columbus Council 3548  
 LRNow Oyster Roast  
 Norfolk Plumbing  
 Old Coast Guard Museum  
 Old Donation Episcopal Church  
 Virginia Beach Education Foundation  
 Shucked in the Park

### Public Drop-Off Sites

LRNow Office at 1608 Pleasure House Road, Suite 108  
 Brock Environmental Office, 3663 Marlin Bay Drive  
 (by the entrance to the parking lot)  
 Welton's Seafood, 940 Laskin Road  
 Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center  
 (in the east parking lot)  
 Virginia Beach Resource Recovery Center,  
 1989 Jake Sears Road





## CITIZEN SCIENCE ON THE LYNNHAVEN

Healthy waters are critical to a viable, local economy and a healthy community. Clean water drives the purchase of homes, supports our thriving tourism and is the foundation of a growing seafood market. Yet, determining the health of a waterway cannot be done by simple observation. A can bobbing along the edge of a marsh may suggest a waterway is challenged or unclear but the real proof lies below the surface.

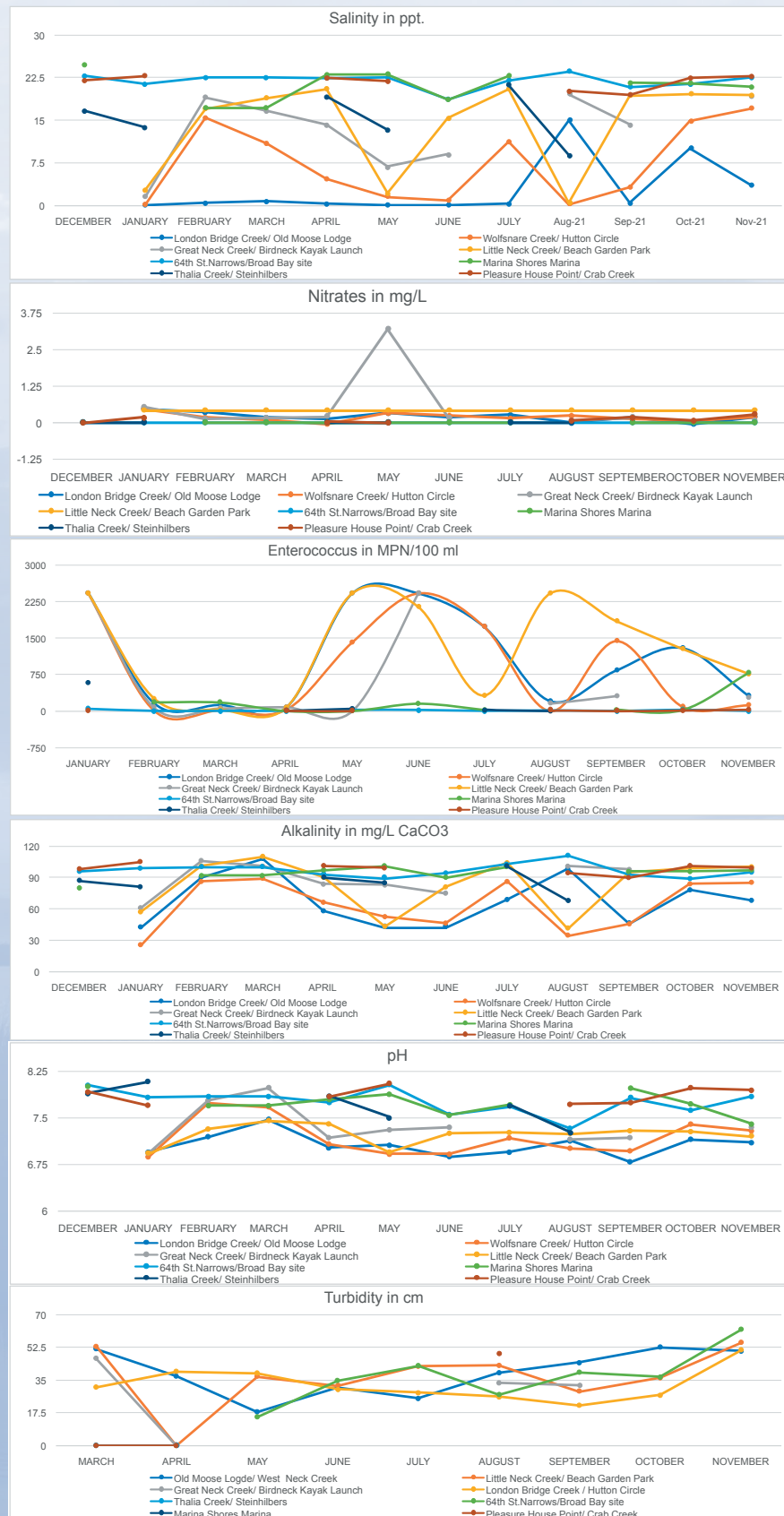
A group of dedicated Lynnhaven River NOW Citizen Scientists capture this proof on a monthly basis. These scientists have been sampling, testing and observing with the goal of watching the river over time to see if there are any problems or trends that need to be addressed. Every month they can be found with their test equipment in hand, making their way to the dock or launch site to take the water samples that will be analyzed by our partner lab.

Each volunteer pulls a sample from the river, records a variety of parameters, checks the water clarity (turbidity) and finally takes the samples to our partners at the Virginia Aquarium to be analyzed. The results, in addition to the field results from the Citizen scientists, give us an educated look at the river each month.

While one month provides only a one-day snapshot of the river, the real value is in the body of data that accumulates providing a view of trends that may indicate areas of issue or concern. Measurements of salinity, pH, alkalinity, nitrates, turbidity, and bacteria will tell the story of the river over time. These measures help to determine health and safety for our schools, residents and the community at large.



## CITIZEN SCIENTISTS/VIRGINIA AQUARIUM RESULTS





# NEW PEARL HOMES

DECEMBER 1, 2016-NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Pearl Homes are residences where our great Virginia Beach citizens are asking what they can do to make our city more sustainable and keep our waterways clean. We are happy to have welcomed over 600 new residences to our Pearl Homes program during the past year, bringing the total to 3,800. Congratulations to our new Pearl Homes.

<b>Alanton</b> Lori Perkinson Frank & Barb Tierney	<b>Baylake Pines</b> Sonya Grossgold Debbie Blankman	<b>Buckner Farms (continued)</b> LouAnn Fuls Simply Gomez Chelyse Miller Kerry A Peters, Jr Brian & Ana Stratton Melissa Yurasko	<b>Cavalier Park</b> William Yearick William Yearick Jr	<b>Croatan (continued)</b> Joan and Joe Neely Hallie Sears Carol Skarbek
<b>Alexandria</b> Cora Menkes Anne Tribble Aragona Village Kristie Holmes Elizabeth Riordan Audrey Whitmore	<b>Bellamy Manor</b> Tom Deppe	<b>Cape Henry Arbors</b> Linda Sawyer	<b>Chapel Lake</b> Shannon Gardner	<b>Cypress Point</b> Linda Robus Kelly Stubbs
<b>Arbors at Cape Henry</b> George Deindorfer	<b>Bellamy Manor Estates</b> Rebecca Fenska	<b>Cape Henry Shores</b> Page Gritte Leslie Wildman	<b>Chic's Beach</b> Matthew Bitter Amy Chewey Audra Dement Erin Mason Sarah Robertson	<b>Eagles Nest</b> The Finger family
<b>Arrowhead</b> Eric & Brenda Hinkley Katie Jimenez Jessica Melton Rebecca Ventura-Perez William Zawistowski II	<b>Bellamy Plantation</b> Christina Dizon	<b>Cape Story by the Sea</b> Shirley Adams Deborah Burd Jeannie Gray Christine Macchia Bonnie Molloy Mary C Moore Empsey Munden Niki Parnell	<b>Church Point</b> Sherin Conery Jennifer Jacovides Evelyn Kalagayan Pat Steele	<b>Elizabeth River Shores</b> Lindsay Sheppard
<b>Ashville Park</b> Janine Anderson Joe Andrew Sathish Arcot Lori Baird Sheila Bobrowitz Michael Holava Karen Kwasny	<b>Bellamy Woods</b> Vanessa Anderson	<b>Carolanne Farms</b> Holly DelDonna Utt	<b>Colonial Oaks</b> Chris & Darlene Nelson	<b>Estates at Munden Farms</b> Lex Wolf
<b>Atlantic Shores</b> Jayne Sullivan	<b>Bentely Park</b> Angela Toney	<b>Carriage Hill</b> Michael Matthias	<b>Colony Acres</b> Tyler Dayson	<b>Fairfield</b> Leya Macchi
<b>Avalon Hills</b> Krista & Roger Mackintire	<b>Bernard Farms</b> Hilary Saylor	<b>Cason Farms</b> Gina Barco Diane Hollobaugh	<b>Colony Acres</b> Tyler Dayson	<b>Fairfield Forest</b> Roberta Bernardini Greg Falls
<b>Backbay at Lago Mar</b> Pam Wiltshire	<b>Birchwood</b> Jennifer Stadsvold	<b>Castleton</b> Shirley Alexander Maria Arnett Jake Barry Fred Beredo Jennifer Cotnoir Christine Deroner Dana Estes Tim Gregory Thomas Morgan Lisa Nagle Micki Wall Amy White Chris Wood Jessica & Michael Zacha Jessica	<b>Coral Condominiums</b> X'andria K. Gammage	<b>Forest Lakes</b> Shannon LaCross
<b>Bay Colony</b> Jessica Copeland Leslie Cutchins Nancy L. Lowe Susan Rooney Carrie Watts	<b>Birdneck Lake</b> Michael Gillikin	<b>Creeds</b> Sandra Snider	<b>Courthouse Estates</b> Phyllis Callahan Colohan Family Jackie McCormack Jacqueline Sargent	<b>Foxfire</b> Melissa Chifokoyo Lisa Giles Teagan Hilbert Yvette Lagares Ruth Pence Jennifer Pruitt Christie Rother Jennifer Schmidt Melissa Shawver
<b>Bay Island</b> Debbie & Kent Ross	<b>Bow Creek</b> Tegan Dixon	<b>Crescent Condominiums</b> Nicole & Caden Marble	<b>Coventry</b> Jessica Anderson	<b>Ghent</b> Megan O Connell
<b>Baycliff</b> Laura Frank	<b>Brigadoon</b> Anne Velaso Corsino	<b>Croatan</b> James Craig Jim & Susan Dullea William Frye Ethan Gilbert	<b>Creeds</b> Sandra Snider	<b>Glenwood</b> Carra Doyle Michelle Ellis
	<b>Brighton on the Bay</b> John Bain		<b>Croatan</b> James Craig Jim & Susan Dullea William Frye Ethan Gilbert	<b>Gracetown</b> Teresa Lupien
	<b>Broad Bay Estates</b> Christine Hayes			<b>Grassland Farms</b> Elena Bersani
	<b>Broad Bay Point Greens</b> Janet Bacuzzi Dr. Caryl S. Felty Linda Lilley			
	<b>Brookgreene Commons</b> Heather Knoll			
	<b>Buckner Farms</b> Adamson Family Leah Cuthbertson Katherine Fok			



**Great Neck**

Jenifer Taylor

**Great Neck Estates**

Jeff &amp; Danielle Randolph

**Great Neck Farms**

Carl &amp; Gail VonMosch

**Great Neck Meadows**

Melissa Disher  
Catherine Vann  
Deborah Vollsborth  
Lisa Wrenn  
Great Neck Villas  
Lorene Trimble

**Green Hill Farms**

Kathryn &amp; Stephen Keck

**Green Run**

Norman Clark  
Joanna Delaney  
Sherelle Ogden

**Groveland Park**

Mr &amp; Mrs David Lundquist

**Haywood Point**

Mic Truong

**Heritage Park**

Katherine Brophy  
Ben Curulla  
Anna Maria Johnson  
Jessica Lindsey  
Marle Family  
Jodi & Scott Miller  
Neil & Carolyn Stamm  
Angela Steele  
Laura Voces

**Heron Ridge**

Pritchett Family  
May Robertston

**Heron's Cove**

Kristen Herring  
Tanya Conley  
Heron's Ridge Estates  
Linda Reese

**Highgate Greens**

Heather Grabb  
Morgan & Chris Wolfe

**Highland Park**

Mariah Cratty

**Hillcrest**

Carol Miller

**Historic Cavalier Shores**

Anne Bennett

**Holland Oaks**

Leanna Landry

**Hunt Club**

Cara Bryant  
Jenny Burke  
Melissa Cushing  
Tommy Harrison  
Jennifer Hulick  
Jocelyn Morken  
Olivia Nagle  
Bridget Ramos  
Anita Ridge  
Kathy Scott  
Colleen Spirelis  
Linda Strain

**Hunt Club Forest**

Brunell Family  
Shani Dear  
Deborah Foeller  
Amanda Fuller  
Melanie Johnston  
Trevor Jones  
Tracy Kreer  
Ken & Carey Pierce  
Holly Poe  
Claudia Walsh  
Ann Windsor

**Indian Lakes**

Eileen Ecalner  
William Fuller  
Ethan Wentzell

**Inlynnview**

Jennifer Fox

**Kempshire Manor**

Deb Stacey

**Kempsville Lakes**

Hillary Beristain  
Tonya Cochran  
Sven Hellmoth  
Lynnasia Walden  
Alicia Wilson  
Kiln Creek  
Alexia Preston

**Kings Forest**

Lauran Henderson  
Debbie Impervento  
Brandon Rice

**Kings Grant**

Patricia E Cameron  
Mariana Crocker  
Joel & Therese Fink  
Molly Hundley  
Sally & Lev Huntington  
Karen & John Lasley  
Donna Montgomery  
Vivian Zingarelli

**Lago Mar**

Tom Sutton &amp; family

**Lake Christopher**

Olivia Kinert

**Lake Edwards**

Stephanie Gossett

**Lake James**

Jennalyn Sadsad  
Lake Placid  
Michael Brasko  
Rhe Greenwood  
Josh Leach  
Chris Ramsokk  
Charles Ruby  
Dominic & Gavin Hardey  
Schinning  
Brandon & Jenna Slicer  
Michele Wende  
Tatina Whitmarsh  
Alexandra Yale  
Chandra (No Last Name)  
Lake Smith Terrace  
Jill & Dean DeCarlis  
Rebecca Harris  
Chris, Carrie, & Josie William  
Lake Trant  
Elizabeth Brown  
Lakes of Greenbrier  
Karen Anderson

**Lakeview Park**

Beth Hurst  
Jax Nichols

**Lakeview Shores**

Karra A Shikimachi

**Landstown**

Bob &amp; Loma Cullinham

**Landstown Lakes**

Kristie Stogner  
Mary Lyles

**Larkspur**

Kim Bedinger  
Marley Johnson  
Kim Miller

**Laurel Cove**

Karen & Derrick Kier  
Sally & Mike McMahon  
Marleigh Shannon

**Layden Cove**

Maury &amp; Rick Joy

**Le Cove Point**

Jeanelle Paden

**Linkhorn Bay Condos**

Carol Thomson

**Linkhorn Point**

Betsy Reece

**Linlear**

Rick Simmons

**Litchfield Manor**

Steve &amp; Susan Pniewski

**Little Neck**

Cynthia Horn & Jon Shochet  
Olivia Manke  
Stanley Kozub

**Little Neck Cove**

Lisa Dexter & David Dexter  
Betsy Kainer

**Little Neck Point**

Elaine &amp; Gerald Yagen

**London Bridge**

Jasmin Neville

**Lynnhaven Colony**

Trish Mims  
Debbie Warfield

**Magic Hallow**

Ashley Anderson  
Melanie Jones  
Olivia Peterson  
Rhonda (No Last Name)

**Malibu**

Paula Finlayson

**Mayberry**

McKinley Berkenfield  
Gerald & Karen Engel

**Middle Oaks Plantation**

Christen Brewer

**Middle Oaks Plantations**

Bobby Daniels  
Victoria Spears

**Midway Manor**

Israel Figureoa

**Mill Dam Pointe**

Lynne & David Bouden  
Kellee Worth

**Mirasol**

Shannon R George

**Morgans Walke**

Vanessa Flors

**Mulberry**

DJ Elrod &amp; Cameron Hall

**Munden Farms**

Krish Reddy

**New Light**

Nicholas Burkett

**Newsome Farms Estates**

Karl & Jessica Ludwig  
Winnie Vitug

**Nimmo**

Beverly Sawyer

**North End**

William Ashman  
Douglas Cooperman  
Robert & Sherry Gibson  
Bob & Sherry Gilson  
Sally Herr  
Jane Hofferbert  
Robert P Kerr  
Brenda McHorney  
Marcella Ryan  
Windsor Shewbridge  
Tricia Shotton

**North Landing**

Laurel Dick

**Ocean Hills**

Peggy Yerby Holmes

**Ocean Lakes**

Kamea Averilla  
Diana Beachboard  
Michelle Bershers  
Pamela Breen  
Madison Crowell  
Charlene Dobson  
Ray Garduque  
Tracy Harmon  
Leah Dourvres & Matthew  
Koerner  
Carly Monahan  
Diana Nalevanko  
Wendy Nyamweya  
Allison Paradise  
Kristene Potes  
Coralee Reese  
David Rodriguez  
Jennifer Sneller  
Camille Snellinger  
Andrew VLCEK  
James Watson  
Tracey Woodberry  
Susan Yeatts

**Ocean Park**

Carly Swift & Roy Clement  
John & Paula Demosthenes  
Sharon Grossman  
Jenny Snyder

**Oceanfront**

Pauletta Anglin  
Stacey Bellioti  
Tom Hoffer

**Old Beach**

Lou Ferraro  
Danielle Gotha  
Lauren Truslow

**Pelican Watch Apts.**

Jennifer Johns

**Pembroke Shore**

Lawrence Fiorillo

**Pembroke Manor**

Elizabeth Metheny  
Sarah Russell

**Pembroke Meadows**

Virginia & Joseph Avoli  
Wendy Walton

**Pine Meadows**

Christina Kernutt  
Harriet Lindenberg  
Lori A Stiles

**Pine Ridge**

Courtney Healy  
Briana Hicks  
Dianna Kilduff  
Jennifer Lask  
Emrie Marl  
Kelly Millard  
Molly & Pete Owen  
Jake Ullom  
Janet Zitt

**Plaza Anne**

Hall Family  
Lisa & Mark Hicks  
Decoula Schwab

**Pocohantas Village**

Chloe Minuiz

**Point o' Woods**

Zachary Kane  
Monica McFerrin

**Point of View**

Shannon Van Alst  
Linda Johnson  
Willie Strickland

**Portsmouth**

Cheryl Solady-Johnson

**Prince George Estates**

Melanie Butler  
Skogen Family  
Angela Johnson  
Neely Lindsey  
Shelby Lindsey  
Keagan & Logan Hall  
Naomi Massaro  
Chrissy Stemarie

**Princess Anne**

Leslie Allman  
Crystal Argila  
Jeanette Moen  
Carolyn Walker

**Princess Anne Hills**

Beth Kulas

**Princess Anne Plaza**

Michele R Ewing  
Felicia Hamilton  
Krystal Hirsch  
Virginia F. Mulligan  
Julia & Louise Rowland  
Rachel Woods

**Princess Anne Quarter**

Lisa Whitney

**Providence**

Melissa Ream

**Pungo**

Wendy Anvia  
Kitty Boshier  
Posie Magurn  
Sally Torgler

**Red Mill**

Carolee Fleming  
Colin Knights  
Nicol Family  
Olivia Oneil  
Jenny Walker

**Red Mill Farm**

Montero Family  
Gary & Kristen Grey  
Bradley Kemick  
Josh & Kura Kruger

**Red Wing**

Pat Edwards  
Jamie Hizer  
Nancy Mella  
Becky Wallace

**Redwood Farms**

Amy Robinson  
Nona M Lipsey

**Regency**

Michelle Haskell

**Ridgecrest**

Carol Reinagel

**River Haven**

Cindy Earhart & Jan Dillard

**Riverton**

Heather & Todd McGovern

**Rock Creek**

Vivian Alibah  
Daisy Aranas  
Stephanie Brazen  
Chris Elam  
Astrid Eyzacquirre  
Barb Francisco  
Tomeka Gross  
Stephanie Kelly  
Kempville Lake

**Rock Creek (continued)**

Lauren Truslow  
Patty Worthy

**Rock Lake Loop**

Krystal Goldie

**Rosemont Forest**

Lindsey West

**Salem Lakes**

Jason & Nicole Renteria

**Salem Lakes South**

Trish Madden

**Salem Woods**

Susanne Bass

**Sandbridge**

Rebecca Debnam  
Edward Yale

**Sawyers Mill**

Lucresha Groth

**Seaboard Acres**

Rebecca Joseph

**Shadowlawn**

Karen S Adams  
Rebecca A Davison  
Patricia Gill  
Rachelle Nagel  
Andrea Tomlin  
Douglas Wydra

**Sherwood Lakes**

Caeleb Hicks  
Kaylee Lee  
Adele Stroyeck

**Southgate**

Edward & Edith Compo  
Richard & Christy Flanagan  
Sun Temple Helgren  
Kate Pittman  
Lucille

**Spence Crossing**

Nikhil Family

**Stratford Chase**

Lauren Truslow  
Barb Francisco  
Patty Worthy

**Strawbridge**

Tiffany Ahmed  
Tracy Alexander  
Jennifer Boyle  
Maggie Cary  
Sandra Coates  
Briahna Colvin  
Mishele Diehl  
Jayden Egan  
Stephanie Farlow

**Strawbridge (continued)**

Ronald A. Johnson Jr.  
Chrissy Love  
Nicole Moritz  
Christine Nonnemaker  
Aiden & Anna O'Hara  
Kristie Osborne  
Christa Pickrell  
Yaimelee Ponce  
Renee Richards  
Lauren Spagnuolo  
Melissa Spencer  
Alexis Stewart  
Erin C. Tokajer

**Tallwood**

Cole Aydar  
Corbin Birge  
Angelina Boatright  
Mallory Dossett  
Noah Dowe  
Kaytlynn Hinson  
Jing Lacson  
Gina Loreda  
Frances Lu  
Molly Mansfield  
Garrett Mugler  
Haley Renshaw  
Carlos Reyes  
Ashley Sanico  
Kathryn Williams  
Camille Wolfe

**Thalia**

Angela Cabello  
Brenda Nunez  
Erykah Sampson  
David Tuttle

**The Commons**

Frankie Sneed

**Thoroughgood**

Dr. & Mrs. Truman D. Baxter, Jr.  
Stephanie Cook  
Barb Francisco  
Vickie Fisher  
Philip & Dawn Jacobs  
Kempville Lake  
Lane Mueller  
Andrea Rand  
Irene Sandstrum  
Camilla Savin  
Jim Schmidt  
Courtney Snyder  
Lauren Truslow  
Patty Worthy  
Christina Wyman  
Anne & Dave Zobel

**Three Oaks**

Elana Ruggles & Family

**Timberlake**

Rejee Artajo  
Jannie Poynton  
Jo Starcher

**Traditions**

Rafael Garcia

**Trant Berkshire**

Kathy Dugan  
Robert Glover

**Trantwood**

Vitaoe Lee Anne

**Trantwood Shores**

Jamie Frederick

**Waterside at Lynnhaven**

Elena Malatamban

**Wellington Woods**

Karen Lucka Beristain  
Katie Schatti

**Westmoreland Estate**

Marlo Balot

**Westwinds**

Katelyn Ourada

**Whitehurst Grove**

Marianna Pollock

**Wimbledon on the Bay**

Jon and Rex Kibler

**Windsor Oaks**

Jane Bass

**Windsor Woods**

Kelly & John Boyd  
Asia Castilloux

**Wishart Cove**

Marvin Darrell Nolen

**Witchduck Point**

Jenifer Barefoot

**Wolfsnare**

Karen & Clay Harris  
Matt & Becky Slater

**Wolfsnare Plantation**

Gael R. Daugherty  
Jeremy & Yory Downs

**Woodbridge Point**

Aileen Joyner

**Woodhurst**

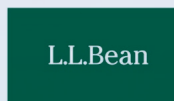
Marguerite Alley  
& Janette Melton

**Wynd Crest**

Lynn Gibson



# PEARLS OF THE BUSINESS WORLD



Encouraging sustainable actions and recognizing the good work being done in our community is the platform of Lynnhaven River NOW's Pearl programs. Residents, schools and faith-based communities are moving towards greener practices through the Pearl Homes, Pearl Schools and Pearl Faith Community programs. In addition, local businesses are fundamental to the vitality of our beautiful city and can have a lasting impact on our local waterways. This summer Lynnhaven River NOW launched the pilot for its Pearl Business program to round out the compliment of Pearl recognitions.

Eight local businesses of varying industries and sizes came together and worked with Lynnhaven River NOW to lay the groundwork for the Pearl Business program.

- Edgar Cayce's A. R. E.
- Great Outdoor Provision Co.
- Kerr Environmental Services Corp.
- L. L. Bean Store #1170
- Matt Abbott State Farm Insurance
- MSA, P.C.
- The Runnymede Corporation
- Westminster Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay

These businesses will represent the first Pearl Businesses recognized by Lynnhaven River NOW. Their dedication to the Pearl Business Pilot Project has provided a sound basis for the new program. The Pearl Business Program will launch in the spring of 2018. For more information on how your business can become a Pearl Business, visit our website at [LRNow.org](http://LRNow.org) or email [Helen@LRNow.org](mailto:Helen@LRNow.org).



## LRNOW PROFILE:

### RICHARD SERPE:

Richard is Co-Chair of the LRNow Oyster Committee and a Member of the Board of Directors. He first became involved with the organization in 2003 after reading an article in the newspaper about the closure of another section of the river. With a home on the river and four young children, he needed to see what he could do to help.

Through the years, Richard's passion has grown and been inspired by the "focus and selfless engagement of the staff and volunteers." He takes pride in the number of acres of sanctuary oyster reef and shoreline oyster castle projects we have achieved. Richard's guiding philosophy: "We did not inherit the river from our parents. We are keeping it in trust for our children and grandchildren."

# ADVOCACY

## Not Worth the Risk — Continuing the Fight Against Offshore Drilling



At the end of last year, we were able to report to you that all seismic testing permits for the Atlantic Ocean had been rescinded and that the planned sale of leases off the coast of Virginia had been stopped.

We thought that we had successfully stopped the threat of drilling for gas and oil off the coast of Virginia.

Then the new administration took office in Washington and all of our victories were reversed. The fight started again. LRNow has been working throughout 2017 with a coalition of organizations including the Southern Environmental Law Center, Virginia Conservation Network, Oceana, and others to prevent the release of new seismic testing permits and to prevent the planned lease sale from going forward.

A major oil spill off our coast would destroy our oyster reefs and Virginia's fisheries industry. But that is not the only threat. Small spills happen regularly in areas where drilling is happening. And these small spills have the same cumulative impact as a large spill. Tourism does not flourish with oil on the beach; neither does our quality of life. In addition, both Wallops Island and the U.S. Navy have said that drilling off the coast of Virginia would interfere with their critical operations areas. Lastly, seismic testing is dangerous, possibly deadly, to ocean life especially, but not limited to, our whales and dolphin. It is not worth the risk!

Watch for updates in our E-News and on our Facebook page about this threat to our ocean and our communities.

## Candidates Forum

Thank you to our Delegate candidates for participating in our Candidates Forum and to you for coming to learn more about the issues that are important to us and where our candidates stand.

In fall 2018, we will be electing six members to our City Council. Decisions made by our City Council often have the biggest impact on our lives. I hope each of you will attend our City Council Candidates Forum in fall 2018 to hear the views of the candidates and to help you make good decisions about the candidates for City Council.

Watch our E-News in the fall for the date and location.

## Virginia Conservation Network

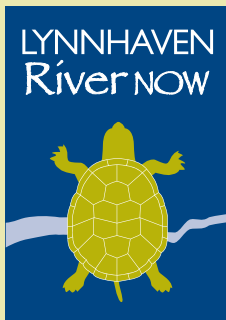
LRNow is a proud member of the Virginia Conservation Network, a group of over 100 environmental organizations across the state. VCN works closely with our delegates and senators in Richmond to promote good environmental policy for our state. Things happen quickly in Richmond during the session and VCN helps us all stay up to date on progress.

You can download a copy of the 2018 Briefing Book at [www.vcnva.org](http://www.vcnva.org) ([http://www.vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BriefingBook2018\\_Online.pdf](http://www.vcnva.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BriefingBook2018_Online.pdf)) It will provide you with overviews on all the issues of importance to the environmental community across the state. Our LRNow Public Policy members meet with our senators and delegates to promote the policies that will help LRNow and the City of Virginia Beach do a better job of restoring and protecting our natural resources and deal with the challenges that lie ahead for us.





# LYNNHAVEN RIVER NOW PRESENTS THE 2017 State of the River Report



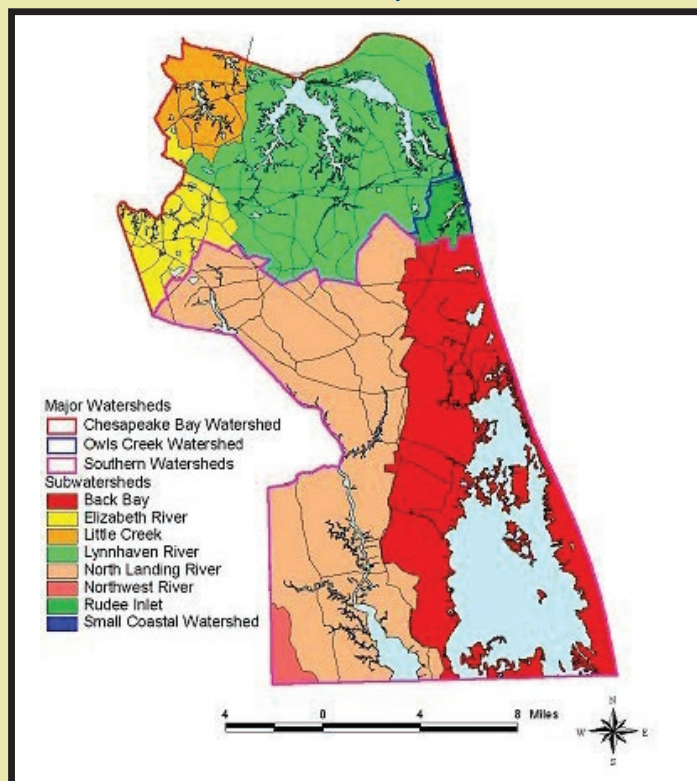
A watershed is the area that drains into any particular body of water. In Virginia Beach, we have a rather complex system of eight different watersheds: Back Bay, Elizabeth River, Little Creek, Lynnhaven, North Landing, Northwest River, Rudee Inlet, and the Atlantic. The largest in land area is the North Landing and the most densely populated is the Lynnhaven. The watersheds are shown in different colors on this map of Virginia Beach.

Each watershed has distinctive characteristics, but water quality in all of our waterways is a direct result of how well we manage the land area that drains into that body of water, the watershed. And the same factors affect all of our watersheds and the health and vitality of all of our waterways. In our State of the River Report for the Lynnhaven, we explain and grade those factors.

It all comes down to how we manage the rain that falls. We have high levels of rainfall, approximately 45 inches per year, and when it rains, the water can either soak into the ground where it recharges the ground water, is taken up by the plants, or is filtered by the soil itself before running into our creeks, rivers and the ocean. Or that rain can fall on a hard surface like a rooftop, driveway, roadway or parking lot where it runs off at a high velocity and carries with it whatever it encounters on the way: dog waste, litter, fertilizer, pesticides or the oil and gas from our cars. Lawns are only marginally better than a hard surface. Very little rain is able to soak into the ground in a turf area and grass has very shallow roots that do not allow it to take up and store much water. Trees, shrubs and beds planted with native vegetation function much better to manage the rain and protect our waterways.

As the population of the Lynnhaven watershed grows and the developed area increases, we must be ever more vigilant to protect the gains that we have made in water quality and to continue to move forward. In this 2017 report, you will see a few areas where progress has been difficult. We still struggle to lower our nutrient levels and increase dissolved oxygen. Both of these affect water clarity and the viability of our underwater grasses that both add oxygen to the water and provide habitat for marine animals.

In other areas, we are making progress. We continue to increase our oyster population and are doing a better job every year of managing our shorelines responsibly. There are fewer bulkheads being constructed, more wetlands, more riparian buffers and



more oyster reef shoreline. All of this helps to prevent erosion, make our shorelines more resilient as water levels rise, and create habitat for healthy fish and crab populations.

**Our overall grade for 2017 remains a B.** This is good news given that we continue to raise our goals to reflect new information and higher expectations. With increased impervious surface, a larger population, and the challenges of sea level rise and increased flooding, we are holding the line on water quality in the Lynnhaven River.



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

**B**

Bacteria testing is done regularly by the Virginia Department of Health, Shellfish Sanitation Division. The areas open to shellfish harvest remained the same in 2017, 48% of the river, approximately 2,500 acres of the river. This is a significant improvement in areas of the river that have been closed for a long time. It requires continuing diligence to maintain this improvement. 91%, all but some of our upstream shallow areas highly impacted by stormwater runoff, meet the swimmable/fishable bacteria 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.*

## 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, promoting bacteria growth, and possibly producing toxins from algal blooms. Water clarity in the winter months is improving. However, we need to be able to maintain that clarity throughout the summer months for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) to thrive.

*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; get a professional nutrient management plan for your property.*

## DISSOLVED OXYGEN

**D**

The 2016 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 consumes oxygen. All marine animals require dissolved oxygen to live and thrive. A new 303(D) report will be issued in 2018 and we will hope for an improvement.

*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; install a rain barrel or rain garden to reduce runoff.*

## WATER CLARITY

**D**

You may have noticed that these health indicators are all connected. That is how things work in a biological system. Nitrogen and phosphorus levels as well as the amount of sediment in the water directly affects water clarity, and water clarity directly affects the viability of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Water clarity in the summer months is still too low to support the growth of SAV. Areas of opportunity for restoration trials have been identified.

*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; install a rain barrel or rain garden to reduce runoff.*

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

**B**

Six pump-out facilities are available on the Lynnhaven, including a self-service pump-out with deep water access at the City Marina that is free and available 24 hours. However, because of needed repairs to the bulkhead, this pump-out facility has been closed for two years. Repairs need to be made to not impact our No Discharge Zone status. The No Discharge Zone requires that all boats pump out their holding tanks.

*What you can do to help: pump out your boat's holding tank regularly; never fill your boat's fuel 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.*

## NEW FUNDS FOR WATER QUALITY

**A**

For fiscal year FY18, the total amount of dollars allocated to water quality improvements for the City was \$8.6 million. Of that, approximately, \$1.2 million was allocated for the Lynnhaven watershed. Specifics about this funding can be found on the city website: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/budget-office-management-services/budget-archives/Documents/fy18-adopted-budget/fy18-adopted-capital-improvement.pdf>

*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.*

## STORMWATER TREATMENT

**C-**

During the past year, the Department of Public Works has completed the following projects: created a stormwater management facility inspection and maintenance manual; developed a floatables litter reduction plan; updated mapping of stormwater infrastructure; completed dry weather screening for potential illicit discharges; identified potential high priority pollutant sources; and initiated an Adopt-A-Drain program. They are developing plans for making required reductions in nutrients and sediments in the Lynnhaven to meet the Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements.

*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.*

## SANITARY SEWERS

**B-**

In 2017, \$6.6 million was spent on nine completed projects in the Lynnhaven watershed. The two most significant are the complete rehab of the Thalia Manor sanitary sewer system and the beginning of the replacement and upgrade of the Pine Tree pump station in the North Lynnhaven Road area. The improved pump station should reduce the incidence of overflows and will be completed in November, 2018.

*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 the river's marine life.

## OYSTERS

C+

Oysters are critical to the health of the river, and providing suitable habitat for oyster settlement is critical to support the growth of our oyster population. During 2017, we constructed 2.15 acres of new sanctuary reef, the first sanctuary reef area in the Eastern Branch. This reef was constructed with 19,000 bushels of shells from our Save Our Shell program with residents and restaurants. We also continue to monitor and maintain our existing sanctuary reefs. And continue to work the waterfront property owners to help them make responsible decisions about the management of their shorelines.

**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.**

## OPEN SPACE & PUBLIC ACCESS

B-

Our Lynnhaven watershed is very densely populated and very highly developed. Open space is essential to the health of a watershed and to our own health. In 2017 the Thalia Kayak launch was opened. LRNow held 87 programs for residents to help us all learn more about the plants and animals that share this space with us, to enjoy the outdoors, and to receive all the benefits of healthy outdoor activities for the whole family including our annual Fall Festival and our monthly plant and bird walks. Our volunteer cleanup crews have removed 6,200 pounds of trash during the past year. And our student volunteers planted 1,100 square feet of meadow and removed invasive plants at Pleasure House Point.

**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.**

## WETLANDS

A-

Wetlands are essential to the health of our river and our marine animals. Many species of fish, crabs and our Diamondback Terrapin depend upon wetlands as essential habitat during at least part of their lifespan. We have made important strides in slowing the pace of the hardening of our shorelines and understanding the multiple benefits of a living shoreline that includes both a healthy wetland and a protective riparian buffer area. Not only is this better for the health of our waterways and our marine life, it also protects the property from erosion and has the capacity to provide resilience to the effects of sea level rise.

**What you can do to help: if you live on the water, please consider a living shoreline as an alternative to a bulkhead or rip rap; 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.**

## 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 helps sediments to settle, puts oxygen into the water, slows erosion by slowing wave action, and provides habitat for many marine species. We are working to identify some prime areas where SAV restoration again can be attempted.

**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, reduce boat traffic and adhere to no wake zones.**

## RIPARIAN BUFFERS

B

Riparian buffers are the vegetated areas along our shorelines between the wetlands and the uplands. Riparian buffers are amazingly effective at filtering pollutants from runoff, provide habitat for many land animals, birds, and insects, and stabilize the shoreline. The area within 100 feet of tidal waters of the Lynnhaven is protected from development. A variance from the CBPA Board is required to build in this area. And all disturbed areas should be replaced at a 2 to 1 ratio. If one tree is removed, two should be planted. This year's data is our baseline.

**What you can do to help: if you live on the waterfront, plan your lot development to avoid impacts to the areas within 100 feet of the water. Restore your buffer area with native trees, shrubs and plants. Move your pool to the side yard to avoid impacts to these protected areas.**

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+

Education and Outreach is the core of our work at LRNow and is accomplished through our Pearl Home, Pearl Faith Communities, and Pearl Business programs. We also educate residents on important public policy issues through our Advocacy programs. During 2017, we offered 87 programs for residents. Through those programs, we educated 16,193 people. We enrolled 652 new Pearl Homes and logged 5,671 hours of service from our volunteers. In addition to our monthly Bird and Plant Walks, we offered kayak tours, the Landscape for Life series of workshops, our annual Fall Festival, our Candidates Forum and many other opportunities for residents to learn more and appreciate our natural resources. Our regular cleanups removed 6,200 pounds of trash from our waterways.

**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.**

## MEDIA ATTENTION

A

Media is an ever-changing world. LRNow is moving away from print media and putting more emphasis on our electronic communications and publications. We regularly update our website and added two new blogs this year. Our E-News was distributed to over 7,000 subscribers 25 times during 2017. We did more than 400 Facebook posts for over 3,000 followers and post regularly to Instagram. We started the Water Wednesday Facebook posts in 2017. In addition, we had excellent newspaper coverage of our new Eastern Branch reef and had an op-ed piece published in the Virginian-Pilot in fall 2017. We published the 2016-2017 Annual Report and distributed 4,000 print copies.

**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.**

## MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT

A+

Our membership is 10,260 and 16,193 people were involved in programs offered by LRNow in 2017. We continually seek to increase our membership and reach out to new stakeholder groups. We launched the pilot of our Pearl Business program in 2017 and will be doing a broader launch of this program in 2018 and encouraging and rewarding sustainable practices among more and more Virginia Beach businesses.

**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; encourage your business or company to become a part of our Pearl Business program.**

## SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

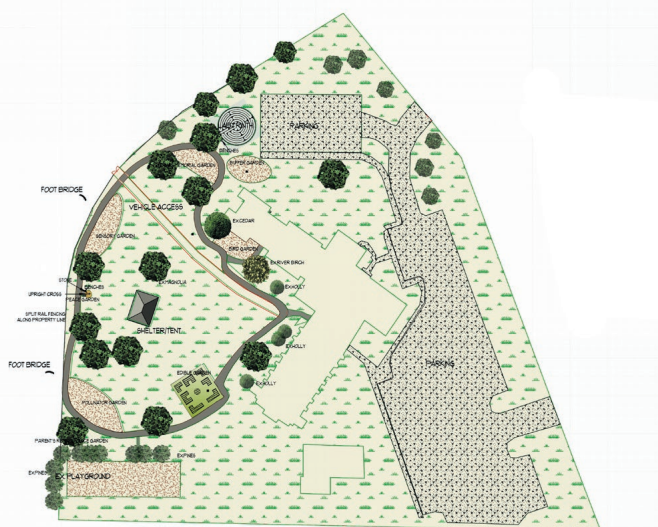
A+

Our Pearl School program grows each year. During 2017, 83 schools in Virginia Beach earned the Pearl School Award including 5 schools new to the program. We offered 72 programs to teachers and students reaching 9,250 children and adults. In addition, our student volunteers completed several restoration projects including 150 linear feet along the shoreline at Pleasure House Point, 130 linear feet at Back Bay Refuge, and planted 1,100-square-foot meadow. In addition, they removed 390 square feet of invasive plants and 350 linear feet of invasive plants along the paths at Pleasure House Point. And Jody Ullmann, our Pearl School Coordinator, was named the Environmental Educator of the Year by the Garden Club of Virginia!

**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; join the Junior Master Naturalist Program; enroll your preschooler in our SPAT classes.**

POLLUTION	INDICATOR	2017 GRADE	2016 GRADE	WHERE WE ARE IN 2017	WHERE WE WANT TO BE
	BACTERIA	B	B	48% of the river meets the shellfish harvest standard and 91% meets the swimmable/fishable standard	100% of river meets the shellfish harvest standard and 100% swimmable/fishable
	NITROGEN & PHOSPHORUS	D	D	Nitrogen and Phosphorus remain the most difficult pollutant to significantly reduce	Nitrogen & Phosphorus levels that meet SAV habitat requirements
	DISSOLVED OXYGEN	D	D	7.9 impaired square miles—DEQ 2016 report	0 impaired square miles
	WATER CLARITY	D	D	No new SAV detected. Areas are being identified to try restoration again.	Sediment and Algae levels that meet SAV habitat standards
POLLUTION CONTROL	CLEAN BOATING	B	A-	NDZ in effect, 8 certified marinas, the number of gallons pumped not provided. The self-service pump at city marina out of service	NDZ in effect, 8 certified marinas, annually increasing gallons pumped out
	NEW FUNDS FOR WATER QUALITY	A	A-	\$8.6 million allocated; \$1.2 million in Lynnhaven watershed	\$3 million per year
	STORMWATER TREATMENT	C-	C-	No significant change from 2016. New projects are being planned.	100% of total watershed treated with stormwater management
	SANITARY SEWERS	B-	B-	5 sewer overflows involving 2,950 gallons; 193 tanks remaining; \$6.3 million spent on 9 completed projects	Zero sewer overflows per year, zero gallons spilled, & zero septic tanks remaining of 11,600
HABITAT	OYSTERS	C+	A-	176,042 oysters transplanted, 64 acres of sanctuary reef, 881 linear feet of new oyster shoreline	250,000 oysters per year transplanted, 150 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, 6 public access sites.	Open spaces: 4,000 acres, Public Access: 15 Public Access Sites
	WETLANDS	A-	A-	6,068 sq feet of loss of non-vegetated wetlands; 7,726 sq feet of new vegetated wetlands. 2 living shoreline projects.	Zero permitted losses per year, increasing number of living shoreline projects each year
	UNDERWATER GRASSES	F	F	No new beds of SAV detected.	175 total acres
	RIPARIAN BUFFERS	B	—	77 variances granted; 83,000 sq feet of development in RPA/RMA; 187,000 sq ft of turf converted to buffer; 280 linear feet planted by LRNow students; 1100 sq ft of meadow planted by LRNow students	Reduced number of variances per year; 2/1 net gain of buffer in RPA/RMA; 100 linear feet of new buffer each year. This is the first year we are tracking this factor
AWARENESS	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS	A+	A	87 programs involving 16,193 people. 15 Pearl Faith Communities participating; 8 Pearl Businesses; Fall Festival; Candidates Forum	80 programs per year, 10 Pearl Faith Communities (5 new year), Annual Fall Festival, Candidates Forum
	MEDIA ATTENTION	A	A	Regular updates and revisions to website. 25 editions of the E-News: 7,145 subscribers; 400 plus Face-book posts; 3,172 followers. Newspaper coverage of Oyster Reef and Op-Ed.	Outreach 18 times per year, 10 new publications, print or electronic per year, Face-book followers: 400 new per year, E-News Subscribers: 400 new per year
	MEMBERSHIP & INVOLVEMENT	A+	A-	Membership: 10,260 Involvement: 5,671 Volunteer Hours Pearl Homes: 652 new Pearl Homes	Membership: 5,000 Involvement: 3,000 Volunteer Hours Pearl Homes: 500 new per year
	SCHOOL PARTICIPATION	A+	A+	83 Pearl Schools; 72 classes, workshops, and field activities; 64,767 students and 7,177 staff in Pearl Schools	50 Pearl Schools, 10 Teacher Training and Student Field Trips per year, Participation from all watershed schools





## God's Garden at All Saints' Episcopal Church

About two years ago Anne Zobel, Christian Formation Director at All Saints', met with Pam Northam of Lynnhaven River NOW to begin talking about becoming a Pearl Faith Community. Pam planted the seed of a dream for the wide expanse of lawn beside the church. Anne furthered the dream with more detailed concepts, gained support of the vestry, and worked with other committees concerning their missions. The congregation was asked "What excites?" and "What concerns?" Feedback from them was carefully considered as the project moved forward. Preparing the application for a grant from the national church produced more specific plans for God's Garden.

Anne formed a Creation Care Committee which attracted two Master Gardeners and home gardeners, including both younger and very seasoned ones. This team is very interested in helping parish families live as greenly as they can at home, taking small steps in a greener direction. Anne then met with Lynnhaven River NOW's landscape designer, Trista Imrich, for a detailed design.

This last summer children attending Vacation Bible School used their emerging planned green space, God's Garden, for our outdoor classroom, labyrinth walking, recreation and water play. Staff at Lynnhaven River NOW provided training to older youth to lead in teaching during the VBS week.

The Creation Care Committee oversaw their first garden installation, the Peace Garden. It includes native plants, two comfortable resting benches, a large beautiful beacon cross, and the Peace Stone created by All Saints' young people at the Brock Environmental Center in conjunction with youth from a local mosque and a temple. This part of the project was possible though a grant arranged by LRNow from a local business which included providing their labor and equipment.

In September All Saints' had their first Creation Celebration outside in honor of both their parish's 50th anniversary and in celebration of God's gifts in creation. Lynnhaven River NOW awarded the Pearl Faith banner to the Rev. Dr. Stan Sawyer as recognition of becoming our newest Pearl Faith Community.

## PEARL FAITH COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE RECEIVED BANNERS

All Saints Episcopal Church

Bayside Christian Church

Church of the Holy Family

Courthouse Community United  
Methodist Church

Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church

First Presbyterian Church  
of Virginia Beach

Lynnhaven Colony Congregation

Ohel Shalom Temple

Old Donation Episcopal Church

St. Aidan's Episcopal



## LRNOW PROFILE: WHIT PEACE

Whit is a longtime member of the LRNow Stewardship and Access Committee.

When asked about his proudest moments with LRNow, he couldn't name just one, instead comparing it to asking Jerry Garcia to remember his favorite show. Getting muddy at the River Cleanups is his favorite part of the job, something he looks forward to passing on to the next generation of river stewards. "I'm not so much remembering all that we've accomplished, more looking forward to the next river cleanup."

# Pearl Schools 2017

## Pre-K/Elementary

Alanton Elementary School  
 All Saints' Episcopal Day School  
 Arrowhead Elementary School  
 Barefoot Kids Christian Day School  
 Bayside Elementary School  
 Brookwood Elementary School  
 Centerville Elementary School  
 Christopher Farms Elementary School  
 College Park Elementary School  
 Cooke Elementary School  
 Corporate Landing Elementary School  
 Creeds Elementary School  
 Dey Elementary School  
 Fairfield Elementary School  
 Glenwood Elementary School  
 Green Run Elementary School  
 Hebrew Academy of Tidewater  
 Hermitage Elementary School  
 Kempsville Elementary School  
 King's Grant Elementary School  
 Kingston Elementary School  
 Landstown Elementary School  
 Linkhorn Park Elementary School  
 Luxford Elementary School  
 Lynnhaven Elementary School  
 Malibu 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  
 Point O' View Elementary School  
 Princess Anne Elementary School  
 Providence Elementary School  
 Red Mill Elementary School  
 Rosemont Elementary School  
 Rosemont Forest Elementary School  
 Salem Elementary School  
 Seatack Elementary School  
 Shelton Park Elementary School  
 Strelitz Early Childhood Education  
 Center  
 Strawbridge Elementary School



## The Pearl School Program: A Decade of Change

The Pearl School Program has been growing for more than a decade, noting a 33% increase over the last 5 years. This year was no exception as Arrowhead, Green Run, Landstown, Luxford and Woodstock elementary schools were recognized with their prestigious Pearl School Awards, bringing the number of public and private school participants to 83. In addition, the Pearl School Award is a qualifying step to the Superintendent's Sustainability Award and is a valuable tool in guiding schools towards better stewardship of the earth.

Our goal for the 2017-2018 school year is to add a minimum of three private schools and the last eight Virginia Beach public schools: Birdneck, Diamond Springs, Holland, Indian Lakes, and Kempsville Meadows Elementary Schools; Bayside 6th Grade Campus and Larkspur Middle School; and Green Run Collegiate. Please help us to reach our goal of 100% of the Virginia Beach Public Schools proudly displaying the Pearl School banner. If your school is not a Pearl School, contact Jody Ullmann ([jody@LRNNow.org](mailto:jody@LRNNow.org)) to schedule a meeting and learn how easy it is to join the growing ranks of schools proudly displaying the Pearl School Banner.

## BEEing Good Stewards the Landstown Way

With the addition of Landstown Elementary School in 2017, all three of the Landstown schools proudly display the Pearl School Award banner. This award was truly a joint effort involving students, staff, and the Virginia Beach community. With the help of various community partners and a \$5,000 grant from the school, the students built a garden complex that will support bees, butterflies and moths, pollinating wasps and other important pollinators. They did all the planning, research and even developed a budget for the project. The gifted cluster of 2nd-5th graders worked on the raised vegetable gardens, while the 4th graders worked on the pollinator garden. They added an "insect hotel" built of cinder blocks stuffed with grasses and pinecones to encourage the pollinators to winter over. Using upcycled glass from the doors of a firehouse in Ocracoke, NC, the students created a greenhouse/storage shed complete with a living roof. A dedication of the garden complex this June gave the students an opportunity to show off their knowledge of bats, hummingbirds and other lesser known pollinators. The complex handles all aspects of gardening, including a composter, so the children can see the entire cycle from soil to plant to soil.



## Ten Years and Counting...Celebrating Growing Wetlands in the Classroom Project

Happy 10th Anniversary to the Growing Wetlands in the Classroom Project (GWIC)! Ten years ago, Dollar Tree funded a program jointly with Lynnhaven River NOW and the Elizabeth River Project to grow wetland plants in classrooms and use them to restore the shorelines of the Virginia Beach watersheds. As of today over 87,000 plants have been placed not only along shorelines, but in meadows, floating wetland islands, rain gardens and school gardens helping to protect the shorelines from erosion, filtering out garbage and pollutants and acting as a sponge to soak up excess water during heavy rains. The parking lot at the Brock Center is a great example. The first year the building was open, the parking lot would tend to flood when there were heavy rain and wind events. Since the meadow and swale in front of the parking lot have been planted with GWIC student-grown plants, there has been no flooding in the parking lot!

Another wonderful result of the plantings has been the increase in biodiversity in the planted areas. Songbirds, frogs and lots of different species of butterflies are now common sights along the shoreline at Mt. Trashmore that was once a mudflat; while tree frogs and damselflies are making their homes on the floating wetland islands.

Thanks to the generosity of Dollar Tree and our great partnerships with the schools, the watersheds of Virginia Beach are cleaner and friendlier to wildlife. That's a great thing to celebrate.

## The Treasures at Your Feet



Many people visit Pleasure House Point to see the Brock Environmental Center and then leave, never really seeing some of the most beautiful inhabitants of the property—the native wildflowers. Some of them are small and inconspicuous, like the Blue Toadflax, while others are beautiful surprises like the lemon yellow flower of the Prickly Pear Cactus, but all have their time and place to shine. To help people identify these beauties, a group of students from four different high schools, collaborated on

the task of developing a Field Guide to the Flowering Plants at Pleasure House Point. First students from Princess Anne High School visited the Pleasure House Point Property and walked the trails photographing and mapping out the locations of the native wildflowers. With the help of Trista Imrich, Restoration Coordinator and Certified Horticulturalist, they learned how to key out and identify the various flowers. Then students from Ocean Lakes, Landstown, and Cox High Schools joined the Princess Anne team to help research the bloom times, characteristics and fun facts about the plants; as well as help with the layout and design of the publication. Mary Cochran from Princess Anne High School designed the cover, and Carolina Rios and Katie Liakos created the beautiful layout of the guide. This illustrated guide is divided by flower color in order to help the user ID twenty-five different native and non-native wildflowers. With the addition of a bloom time schedule at the back, this book is the perfect companion to have as you walk the trails and take in all the beauty that is Pleasure House Point Natural Area. The books are on sale at the LRNow office in the Brock Environmental Center for \$5. Monies raised from the sale of the book, will allow us to expand the publication to include even more plants in 2018.

### Pre-K/Elementary Continued

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  
Woodstock Elementary School

### Middle

Bayside Middle School  
Brandon Middle School  
Corporate Landing Middle School  
Independence Middle School  
Kempsville Middle School  
Landstown Middle School  
Lynnhaven Middle School  
Plaza Middle School  
Princess Anne Middle School  
Salem Middle School  
Virginia Beach Middle School

### High

Bayside High School  
Cox High School  
First Colonial 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

### Schools with Multiple Levels

Cape Henry Collegiate  
Old Donation School  
Renaissance Academy  
Virginia Beach Friends School

**Our Pearl School program began in 2007 with seven schools. Over the past ten years, it has grown very rapidly. In 2017, we had 83 participating schools.**





## RIVER CLEANUPS

Every 2nd Saturday, LRNow has a river cleanup going on some place in the city. Sometimes more than one.

Last year our hardy and committed volunteers removed over 6,000 pounds of debris from our waterways and marshes.

You, your family, or your company can help with this effort. To find out how, contact Helen Kuhns at [helen@LRNow.org](mailto:helen@LRNow.org).







## LRNOW PROFILE:

### WENDY VAUGHN



Wendy is on the LRNow Public Policy Committee, is a longtime volunteer, and serves as Chair of the Garden Club of Virginia Conservation Committee. She first became involved after attending the annual Oyster Roast in 2005 where she was impressed by the mission and goals of LRNow.

She has been continually rewarded by the improvement she has seen in the Lynnhaven from her kayak and paddleboard. To potential volunteers she had this to say, "The care of our environment directly relates to the care for our children and grandchildren. I want them to have clean water and clean air, and to have the passion, the knowledge, and the sense of responsibility to pass that on."

## LRNOW PROFILE:

### DAVE IWANS

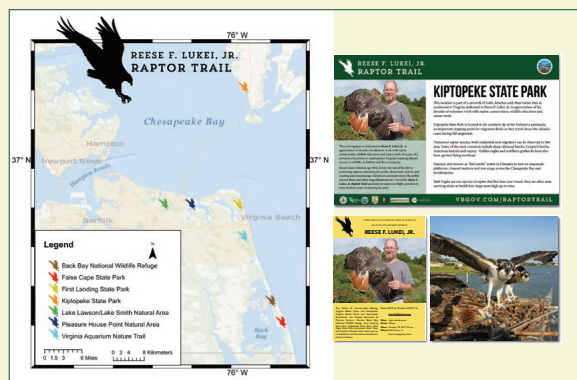


*Dave Iwans' Wife, Gail and cat, Kato*

Dave is the owner of DIA Inc., the public relations firm that provides communications and marketing services for Lynnhaven River NOW. DIA Inc has donated all of their work from the very beginning of LR2007 and even helped us choose LRNow when we needed to change our name. Dave helped us develop our very first logo and our 15th Anniversary logo. He and his staff put together our beautiful book a few years ago and have made all of our publications shine!

Dave grew up sailing on the Great South Bay on Long Island and he and his wife have lived on the Lafayette River for thirty-three years. Waterways have always been an integral part of his life, which has made his work with LRNow even more rewarding. "Being a part of the staff and volunteers over all these years — watching their accomplishments and admiring their commitment makes me very proud. We've been eating Lynnhaven River oysters for over eleven years now! When we started, that simply wasn't possible."





## Reese F. Lukei Raptor Trails

Recently Lynnhaven River NOW with a group of citizens and representatives of city, state and federal agencies established a network of hiking trails to honor Virginia Beach conservationist Reese F. Lukei, Jr.

Reese, a longtime supporter and member of LRNow, has devoted the last 30 years to protecting raptors, educating the public about these birds of prey, and creating and maintaining wild places and trails for nature lovers.

The trails are in prime raptor viewing areas across southeastern Virginia at three state parks, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the Virginia Aquarium.

Benches in Lukei's honor were installed at Virginia Beach's Pleasure House Point and Lake Lawson/Lake Smith natural areas and at First Landing State Park.

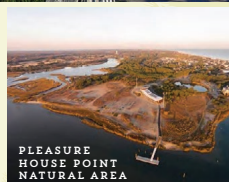
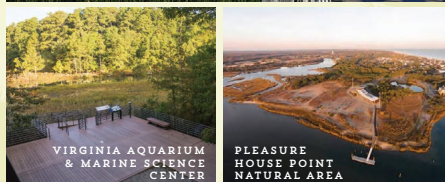
As a volunteer research associate with the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary since 1991, Reese has monitored eagle and osprey populations in southeastern Virginia, banded raptors, conducted bird counts and assisted in wildlife rescues.

Reese also has been a dedicated trails volunteer, assisting trail construction projects in local parks and refuges as well as further afield.

Trista Imrich, Lynnhaven River NOW's Restoration Coordinator, is training with Reese and aquarium staff to assist with osprey banding and research on the Lynnhaven River.

More about Reese, the trails, benches and a map can be found at [www.VBgov.com/raptortrail](http://www.VBgov.com/raptortrail).

Our beautiful cover photo was donated by Reese Lukei, Jr.







## LRNOW PROFILE:

### JIM SPORE

Jim is a former Virginia Beach City Manager and current President and CEO of Reinvent Hampton Roads, an organization focused on helping Hampton Roads reinvigorate its economy and position itself to thrive now and into the future.

He was first introduced to Lynnhaven River NOW at a lunch meeting in a popular oceanfront seafood restaurant. The goal was put on the table to clean the river up enough to eat Lynnhaven oysters by Virginia's Quadricentennial, a goal that he thought at the time to be bold to the point of madness. But now he can indulge in Lynnhaven oysters over that very same lunch table.

"Today, LRNow stands as the most successful national exemplar of the power of a clearly focused and dedicated nonprofit organizational effort in environmental restoration, preservation and education. We can all point with well deserved pride to the increasing professionalism of the LRNow organization and the amazing results that have been achieved."



## LRNOW PROFILE:

### AMIELE BARAKEY

Amiele is a regular volunteer with LRNow. He has a commitment to the education of the younger generation, seeing that as the path forward toward a cleaner environment. Amiele believes that, "the future of the earth depends on an educated youth, and that's what we do at LRNow. The young educate their parents and the young are our future leaders."

# HATS OFF TO OUR DONORS

DECEMBER 1, 2016-NOVEMBER 30, 2017

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DIA, Inc.  
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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Runnymede Corporation

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Hampton Roads Sanitation District  
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Ocean Park Civic League  
Princess Anne Garden Club  
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Yukai Seafood Buffet

### Oyster (\$250-\$499)

Coastal Grill  
Lynnhaven Fish House  
MEDIC  
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Rockafellers  
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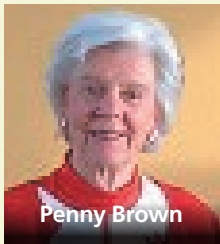
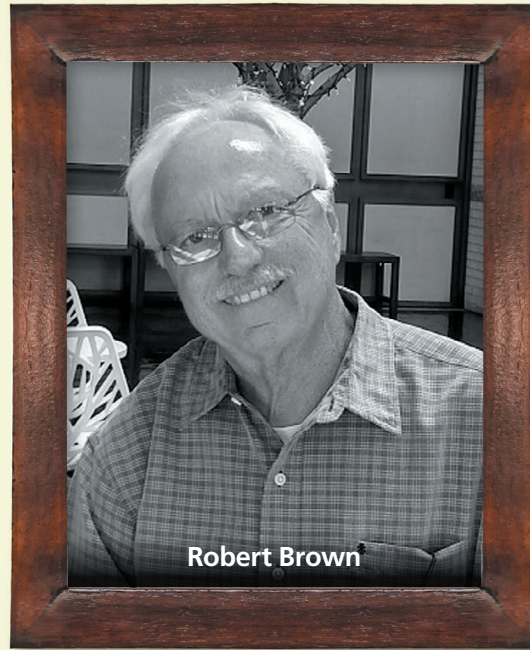
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 Steve and Lyn Davidson  
 Steve Ryan  
 Steven and Nancy Freeman  
 Steven Ralph  
 Steven Smith  
 Sue Beth Hudson and W. Kevin Hu....  
 Sue Royster  
 Susan and Rod Hersberger  
 Susan Brittingham  
 Susan Clements  
 Susan Ippolito  
 Suzanne Stevens  
 Ted Hanson and Sue Bowser  
 Teresa Mapp  
 Terre Ittner  
 Terri Chappell  
 Terry and Linda Ritter  
 The Randalls  
 Thomas and Ann Barton  
 Thomas and Bev Fortenberry  
 Tim and Louise Jeffries  
 Tim and Page Barrow  
 Tim and Sarah Kidd  
 Tim and Sharon Devlin  
 Tom and Ann Ackiss  
 Tom and Karen Prochilo  
 Tom and Lisa Kennedy  
 Tom and Patricia Hostutler  
 Tom Deppe  
 Tommy and Miriam Callahan  
 Tony and Joan Kreimer  
 Ty and Penny Brown  
 Vince Bowhens  
 Virginia Jenkot  
 Walida Miller  
 Walter and Barbara Priest  
 Wayne and Theresa Sawyer  
 William A. Cox, III  
 William and Aileen Petty  
 William and Joan Miller  
 William and Sarah Warden  
 William D. Sessoms  
 William Schlemmer  
 William Thomas  
 Winston and Anne Bibee  
 Winston Polhamus  
 Zia Marie

## 2017 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



**Office Assistant Volunteer of the Year**  
Penny Brown



**Steward and Access  
Volunteer of the Year**  
Don Runyon

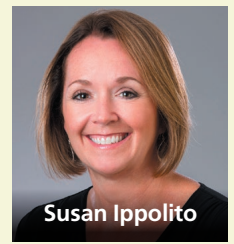


**Oyster Restoration  
Volunteer of the Year**  
Richard Serpe

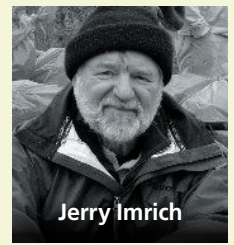


**For Your Amazing Support  
for Fifteen Years**  
Dave Iwans and Associates Inc.

**Education Volunteer of the Year**  
Susan Ippolito



**Behind the Scenes  
Volunteer of the Year**  
Jerry Imrich



**Public Policy Volunteer of the Year**  
Laura Wood Habr

**LRNext Volunteer of the Year**  
Mike Fine



**Thank you to everyone who helped at events, with education activities, served on a committee, helped with office work, participated in our cleanups, or helped in a thousand other ways throughout the year.**

**We tracked over 5,600 hours of volunteer time during 2017.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!**





## LRNOW PROFILE:

### BEV LUDFORD

Bev and her son, Chris, own and operate Ludford Brothers Oyster Company. Bev has been fishing, crabbing, and oyster farming on the Lynnhaven for more years than she can count. She recalls, "I wouldn't let my son swim in the river when he was young because it wasn't clean enough for me as a mom. I didn't want him to jump off the boat and go for a little swim because it was so polluted. Most of it was condemned. That's why we became so engaged and supportive. We wanted a cleaner river for our grandchildren than we had for our children."

Bev and Chris returned to oyster farming on the Lynnhaven in 2010. She acknowledges that one cannot personally take on every task to help the river, but that she has found her role. "There are many important volunteer opportunities in the community and you can't do them all. You have to pick the ones you can do and the ones where you can make a difference. Not everyone is suited to growing oysters; it's cold, it's hard, it's wonderful."



## LRNOW PROFILE:

### SID VAUGHN

Sid serves on the Stewardship and Access Committee and is a longtime volunteer with LRNow. He is an avid kayaker and first became involved with the organization in 2005 as a way to give back and help clean up his beloved waterways. His particular points of pride in the organization are "the percent of the Lynnhaven now fit for shellfish harvesting," and "all the trash our committee has been able to remove from the river." He is also a strong advocate for the volunteer program, touting it to others as "a very rewarding and worthwhile experience."



## LRNOW PROFILE:

### KEVIN DUBOIS

Kevin is a volunteer on the LRNow Shorelines Committee. He initially started volunteering back when the organization was still going by the name Lynnhaven River 2007 as a member of the Buffer Committee.

Kevin's engagement with the organization comes both from his own connection to a river that plays a large role in his life as well as his respect for the broad efforts of LRNow and its many volunteers. "I'm constantly encouraged and impressed by the efforts of my watershed neighbors and I stay engaged to honor their work and sacrifice."

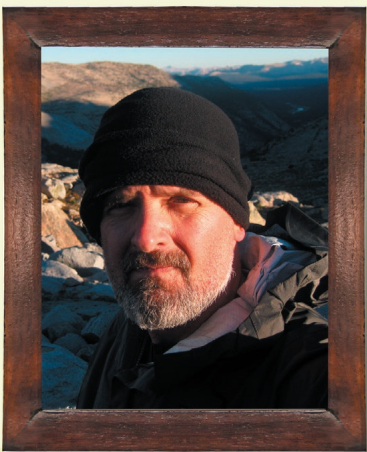


## LRNOW PROFILE:

### CLAY BERNICK

Clay is the former Environment and Sustainability Administrator for the City of Virginia Beach and serves on the LRNow Program Partners Committee representing Friends of Live Oaks. He has been involved with the organization from its inception, and has been a valuable partner and ally throughout LRNow's history. Clay draws his purpose from a sense of stewardship for the natural resources we have been given.

Clay notes, "I am particularly proud of having played a role in helping LRNow accomplish the remarkable level of oyster habitat restoration and reopening of marketable shellfish areas after over 70 years of public health closures. This seemed a herculean goal when Lynnhaven River 2007 first took it on, but the determination, focused efforts, and strategic thinking coupled with actions of many partners have resulted in what has been achieved to date – and is still being achieved as the effort is not yet done. What is truly unique is that this success has spread beyond its original environmental objective to being a major source of pride and accomplishment throughout the larger community and City."



## LRNOW PROFILE:

### TIM COLE

Tim is the Sustainability Officer for the Virginia Beach City Public Schools. He and Tony Arnold are the masterminds behind the wonderful new sustainable buildings that the Virginia Beach School system has been building over the past decade.

He was first introduced to LRNow through the Pearl School program, where he was impressed by the organization as educators and advocates in the field of water quality initiatives both within and beyond the Lynnhaven River. "LRNow has been integral to the success of Virginia Beach Public Schools sustainability initiatives over the last ten years. My first impression was that of a very dedicated and professional organization. That initial impression hasn't changed. My admiration has only grown."



# IN MEMORY OF DONATIONS

## NOVEMBER 2016-DECEMBER 2017

### *In Memory of Tina Minter*

Michael Minter  
Sandra Burroughs  
Edward & Kay Shiflett  
Edgar & Julie Mackinlay  
Constance Owen  
Demaris Yearick  
Jan Eaton  
Cathy & Grey Martin, Jr.  
John & Elizabeth Cromwell  
David Woollen & Sherry Potts  
Jack & Joan Stumborg  
Deborah Gibbs  
Gigi Calvert  
Margaret Dunnington  
Petra Edwards  
Rita Hughes  
Marti & Ellis Malabad  
Jaclyn & Brian Witthoefft  
Melodie and Tom Middlebrooks  
Barbara Price  
Gary, Cheryl & Kristen Swingle  
Bill & Patty VonOhlen  
Vivian Swingle  
Douglas Swingle  
Mac and Steve Houfek

### *In Memory of Deborah Ford*

William Ford

### *In Memory of Robert Pownall*

Deborah & Pedro Nunez

### *In Memory of John E Bray*

Rendy Adams  
William & Ann McCardell  
Ann & Thomas Ackiss  
James & Maryann Nicholson  
Lowery & Nani Finley  
Reed & Kitty Knight  
Lisa Parks, Patrick, John & David

### *In Memory of Anne & Irvin Gentry*

James Gentry

### *In Memory of Joyce Webber*

Caroline Webber

### *In Memory of Dr. Carson E. Wiedeman*

David & Martha Dennis

### *In Memory of Roy Newton*

Steve & Sally Herbert

### *In Memory of Deidre Dean*

The Sizemore Family

### *In Memory of Brian Bailey Deans*

Douglas & Patricia Bowles

### *In Memory of Grover Wright*

John & Joyce Fain  
Mary Reid Barrow  
Meg & Bill French  
Cheryl Price  
Louise Wright Blocher Westfall  
Joan & Macon Brock  
Fred & Nancy Lowe  
Old Beach Farmers Market  
Barbra Lyle  
William Ford  
Oscar & Carol Everett  
Karen Forget  
Blaine & Mary Denny, III  
Richard Housand  
Kelly Loyd  
Chris Lamy  
Mac and Steve Houfek  
Alex & Fleecy Smith

### *In Memory of Edwin Lee LeCompte*

Colin & Barbara Hamilton  
George & Kathleen Bahen  
Hubert Kiser  
Kathy Mears  
Madeline Finney  
Betsy Keen  
John Tierney

### *In Memory of Edwin Lee LeCompte continued*

Ann Taylor  
Carol Fitzgerald  
Michael & Deborah Via  
Carol & Billy Bernstein

### *In Memory of John Harris*

Sue Royster

### *In Memory of Jane Brown*

Miriam Vaughn

### *In Memory of Marjorie Smallie*

Tony & Joan Kreimer  
Harriet Frenzel  
Diana Quinn  
Joann Burge  
Laura Alley  
Gayle Reske  
Alice Rosazza  
Jeremy Johnson  
Rebecca Whitson  
David and Marti Jackson

### *In Memory of Laverne Crown*

Samuel Crown

### *In Memory of Carolyn Wilson*

Klee Wilson

### *In Memory of Deb Ford*

Bill Ford

### *In Memory of William Wilcox*

Mike & Ashley Wilcox

### *In Memory of Bob Sufficool*

Mary Jane Sufficool

### *In Memory of Karen Louise Wilcox*

Clyde Wilcox, Jr.

### *In Memory of David Johnson, Jr.*

Dana Sizemore

# IN HONOR OF DONATIONS

## NOVEMBER 2016-DECEMBER 2017

### *In Honor of Suzanne O'Donnell*

May Lynn Mansbach

### *In Honor of Joan & Macon Brock*

Michael & Mary Taylor  
John & Janet Ellis  
Dave Jester

### *In Honor of The People Who Came Before*

Carolyn & William Scullion, Jr.

### *In Honor of Mayor William D. Sessoms, Jr. & City Council Members*

Sykes, Bourdon, Ahern & Levy, P.C.  
R. Edward Bourdon

### *In Honor of Andrew & Barbara Fine*

Tidewater Jewish Foundation  
Matthew & Karen Fine

### *In Honor of Those Who Save Our Environment*

Beverly & Robert Burchette

### *In Honor of All who tirelessly work to restore our Planet*

John & Julia Parker

### *In Honor of Tom Ackiss*

George & Joy Lyon

### *In Honor of Tim Cole*

Broad Bay Point Greens Garden Club

### *In Honor of Andy James*

Brent James

### *In Honor of George Lyon*

Bill Wells & Susan Lyon

### *In Honor of Robert & Laney Brown*

John Payne

### *In Honor of Joy Lyon*

Tom & Ann Ackiss

### *In Honor of Karen Forget & Pam Northam*

Gamma Pi Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma

### *In Honor of John Schmidt*

Bruce & Nancy Doyle

### *In Honor of Jane Brown*

Virginia Beach Silver Tappers

### *In Honor of Reese Lukej, Jr.*

Joe & Lillie Gilbert

### *In Honor of Pam Northam*

James Kibler

### *In Honor of Milan Jester*

Mary & Lucy Swingle

### *In Honor of Bill Johnston*

Gamble Sisson

### *In Honor of Biggie Tucker*

Jeff & Debbie Lou Hague

### *In Honor of Vince Bowhersh & Pamela Jacobson*

John Bowhersh

### *In Honor of Philip Hester*

Lawrence Hester

### *In Honor of Harry & Calvert Lester*

Dorothy Lester

### *In Honor of Rod Rogge*

Bee Friedlander  
Ellen Graham

### *In Honor of Stephen & Lynda Strickler*

Lynn Coleman

### *In Honor of Heather Whitehurst*

Shawn Anderson

### *In Honor of Greg Takacs*

Bruce & Nancy Doyle

### *In Honor of Charles C. Plummer*

Larry & Penny Moulis

### *In Honor of Mildred Allen*

Linda Allen Clifton

### *In Honor of Suzie Walston*

Mac Walston

### *In Honor of VB Master Gardeners*

Betty & Jim Villers

### *In Honor of Chuck Guthrie*

Paul Hirschbiel

### *In Honor of Nancy Harrell & Rick Mapp*

Teresa Mapp

### *In Honor of Karen Forget*

Carol Shrader





## LRNOW PROFILE:

### MARY REID BARROW:

Mary Reid is the Chair of the LRNow Outreach Committee and a Former Member of the Board of Directors. Mary Reid Barrow has been an active member of Lynnhaven River NOW from the beginning. There is not any volunteer job that she has not done. "We consider her an honorary member of our staff," states Karen Forget. She has been a part of the organization from the very beginning.

Looking back at her years with the organization she said simply, "every step of the way has been rewarding." As for her proudest achievements with LRNow, "I am proud that almost fifty percent of the river is open to oystering now. That means so much more than just a good oyster. It means we have a healthier environment all around for the people and critters that live in Virginia Beach."



## LRNOW PROFILE:

### BOB WELLS

Bob is the Chair of the LRNow Board of Directors. He got involved with the organization only six months after formation. Having grown up on Long Creek, he had a deep love for the Lynnhaven River and the environment that we all share.

His top four accomplishments with LRNow are the increase in buffer and garden awareness throughout the city to encourage water runoff mitigation, the no discharge zone, the Pearl School programs increasing environmental awareness of our youth, and the improved water quality and harvestable oyster acreage.

His explanation of his continued engagement and drive within LRNow is simple: "the success of our organization. The people who work there and all our volunteers."



# COMING SOON

## NOTABLE TREE PROGRAM

In scouting for trees that might qualify for the Virginia Big Tree Program, Brent James identified twenty-two exceptional trees in Virginia Beach. None qualified for the state program, but his efforts led to the creation of the Virginia Beach Notable Tree Program. This program is still under development and will be made public in 2018. It will recognize those old-growth trees in Virginia Beach which do not quite qualify for statewide or national recognition, but are still large and majestic representatives of their species. This program has already gained the support of the City of Virginia Beach, the Department of the Navy, and the Virginia Master Naturalist organization, as well as Lynnhaven River NOW. Watch for more information soon. You may help us find the next Notable Tree!

## CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATIONS

Sea level rise, one of the results of climate change, is going to have profound impacts on our region. Understanding those impacts and how we will adapt to what is coming, is complex, but essential. LRNow is holding a series of public meetings throughout 2018 to dig into these issues. We started in January with a report from the Dewberry Group and the City of Virginia Beach. Watch for more programs throughout the year. We owe it to ourselves and our community to understand these challenges.



BROCK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER  
3663 Marlin Bay Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

PHOTO COURTESY OF REESE F. LUKEI, JR.

