

Thank You!

12/19/2010 – 3/3/2011

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 Chesapeake Bay Foundation
 Great Neck Middle School

Environmental Club
 Alanton Garden Club
 North Virginia Beach Civic League

MEMORIAL & HONOR DONATIONS

In Honor of the members of the Virginia Beach City Council
 Sykes, Bourdon, Ahern & Levy/
 Mr. Edward Bourdon

In Honor of Helen Kuhns
 Great Neck Middle School
 Environmental Club

In Memory of Peter Howes
 Patricia K. Smith

In Memory of Cameron Munden
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In Memory of Betty McKown
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Chalmers

In Memory of Peter Howes
 Mr. & Mrs. Todd McGee
 Mr. Bill Todd
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Cobb



LYNNHAVEN River NOW



9TH ANNUAL Oyster Roast

Saturday, April 16, Noon – 3:00 PM

Join the fun
 Celebrate our Progress Restoring the Lynnhaven River
 Lynnhaven Aqua-cultured Oysters, Barbeque and all the fixins',
 Oyster Stew, Chesapeake Ray, Beer and Wine
 More Perfect Jones Bluegrass Band and Oyster Shucking Contest
 Premiere of *The Lynnhaven, Restoring a Legend*
 Our beautiful new book of essays, photographs and paintings
 celebrating the Lynnhaven River

Tickets are \$50 each and are available from our office, call 757-962-5398,
 or on our website, www.LRNnow.org

See you there – You don't want to miss it!

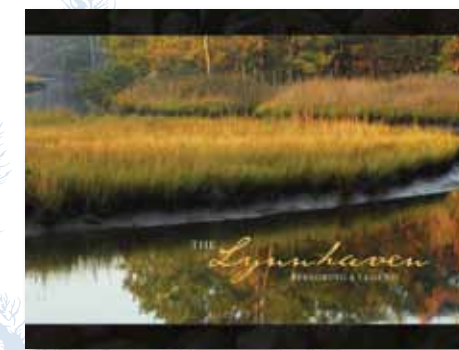


THE PREMIERE OF THE LYNNHAVEN, RESTORING A LEGEND

Sometimes a really good idea comes along. An idea that takes hold of your imagination and you know you have to do it. The idea for *The Lynnhaven, Restoring a Legend* was like that.

For many years, the Lynnhaven River has been a local treasure, cherished by old timers and new comers alike. There are so many wonderful stories about people's experiences with the Lynnhaven River, so many beautiful photographs and paintings that celebrate the artist's experience of the river. In this stunning new book, we have tried to capture that love. The essays and images will delight you as you enjoy the book over and over.

The 10 x 14 inch full color coffee table book will premiere at



our 9th Annual Oyster Roast where many of the authors and artists will be present to autograph their essays and pictures. You will be able to purchase a copy of the book at the Oyster Roast or you can place a book order with your Oyster Roast ticket order and your book will be ready for you when you arrive at the Oyster Roast. Pre-orders and on site purchase at event, \$40.

Working on this book has been a labor of love. The depth of appreciation and respect shown for our beautiful Lynnhaven River through people's personal stories, recollections and lovely pictures will move you. You will want a copy for yourself and copies to give at gifts.

Thank you for helping make this book possible.

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ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR LRNOW'S
 9TH ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST
 757-962-5398 OR WWW.LRNOW.ORG

1608 PLEASURE HOUSE ROAD SUITE 108
 VIRGINIA BEACH VA 23455 • 757-962-5398





PHOTO BY CHUCK GUTHRIE

 **DEAR MEMBERS,**

When Lynnhaven River NOW began in December, 2002, our first goal was to be able to eat an oyster from the Lynnhaven River again. It had been decades since a large enough area of the Lynnhaven was open to shellfish harvest to make it viable for commercial oyster harvesting. The famous Lynnhaven oyster, a part of our local culture, had been lost.

To reach that goal, we had to reduce bacteria levels in the water to the 14 parts per thousand shellfish standard, a standard most areas of the river had not met in decades. As a comparison, the swimmable-fishable level that determines beach closures in 200 parts per thousand.

The dangerous bacteria in the river has several potential sources. It comes from septic tanks, sanitary sewer overflows, boat discharges, dog waste left on our yards, beaches and parks and waste contributed by the ducks and geese calling the Lynnhaven home.

Since 2002, the City of Virginia Beach has invested millions of dollars in expanding and improving our sanitary sewer system and we have made significant improvements in management of storm water. The No Discharge Zone for all boats took effect four years ago and pet owners are doing a much better job of cleaning up pet waste. We now have an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of ducks and geese on public property and we are doing a better job of controlling the runoff of sediments that frequently carry bacteria. And through vigorous restoration efforts, we have seen our oyster population grow exponentially. All of these things combined have effected amazing reductions in bacteria levels.

What we are doing is making a difference. **Today, 41.6% of the Lynnhaven River, 2007.8 acres, meets the rigorous shellfish standard and is open for oyster harvest.** This is greater progress than anyone thought was possible. It is something to celebrate.

Please come and celebrate with us at our 9th Annual Oyster Roast on April 16th. Tomorrow we will talk about the tough challenges that still lie ahead.

KAREN WILSON FORGET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



OYSTERS IN PLEASURE HOUSE CREEK BY CHRISTOPHER NELSON

Upcoming Events

APRIL

- 14 – Rain Barrel Workshop
- 16 – 9th Annual Oyster Roast
- 20 – Historic Garden Week Tour
- 22 – Earth Day
- 30 – River Cleanup

MAY

- 1 – Virginia Beach Earth Day Celebration at Mt. Trashmore
- 10 – Pearl School Application Due
- 21 – 3rd Annual Bayside History Day Bicycle Tour
- 26 – Sustainable Seafood Festival at the Aquarium

JUNE

- 4 – Clean the Bay Day Cleanups

Information on summer oyster gardening and teacher workshops will be available soon. Check our website or E-News.

For more complete information on all LRNow and related community events, please subscribe to our semi-monthly electronic newsletter, the E-News. Call our office at 962-5398, or subscribe on our website.

Sustainable Landscape Management



The key to restoring water quality is restoring our watershed. What we do on the land determines water quality. And few things are more important than our landscaping practices. The largest landscaper in Virginia Beach is our City Landscape Services Department controlling almost 6200 acres of city owned land and they are leading the way in adopting new environmentally responsible practices that are not only helping us take better care of our waterways but also supporting our native flora and fauna and saving taxpayers money.

Reducing fertilizer runoff is key to improving water quality and one of our most stubborn challenges. The City has carefully reviewed their fertilizer usage and made big reductions. Of the 6000 acres being mowed regularly, only 178 acres of turf was fertilized last year, less than 3% and fertilizer is applied only after an annual soil test and a nutrient management plan has been created. Nine out of ten fertilizer applications contained no phosphorus and 1/3 of all nitrogen applied was organic slow release.

Another major advancement has been the designation of more than 150 acres for meadow management. This includes the shorelines bordering our waterways where 20 foot buffers are helping to filter pollutants and inhibit geese.

All of the City's suggested plant lists for developers and homeowners were updated in 2010 to include more native species. The meadow management program also encourages the re-emergence of native habitat as they regenerate naturally without tilling, seeding and supplemental planting. Natives are used in the landscape whenever possible, and even planned landscapes like divided roadways and new city buildings are experimenting with more naturalistic plant arrangements and more native plants.

In addition, no grass clippings are collected and most leaves are mulched and left in place. Finally, last year, woody vegetation was chipped and recycled and provided all of the mulch needed throughout the City.

The next time you enjoy a city park, visit a recreation center, public library or the municipal center, take a second look at the landscaping. There may be lessons there for all of us.



Important Fertilizer Legislation

The Virginia General Assembly passed important fertilizer legislation during the session that ended in February. This new legislation will eliminate phosphorus from all lawn maintenance fertilizer, require nutrient management plans for golf courses and certification for commercial fertilizer applications. We applaud this legislation and look forward to similar controls on soluble nitrogen.



3rd Annual Bayside History Day Bicycle Tour

Did you know that the earliest English settlement in Virginia Beach was along the Western Branch of the Lynnhaven River and that the river was both the main thoroughfare and an integral part of all aspects of their lives? Join us for the 3rd Annual Bayside History Day Bicycle Tour and take a trip back in time. The total route is less than 11 miles and you will have five stops along the way. The pace is leisurely and accessible to all, young and old alike. You will tour the Ferry Plantation House, the Old Donation Church and Thoroughgood House as well as enjoy a delicious box lunch and a view of the river at Church Point Manor.

The date is Saturday, May 21st and this is a family friendly event. The time is 9:15 to 2:30 and the meeting place is the Bayside Branch Library on Independence Boulevard. Bring your bicycle and make sure you have a helmet. The cost is \$20 and that includes a delicious box lunch and a drink. You may register with Helen by calling our office at 757-962-5398, or by email, hkuhns@lynhaven2007.com.

See you there!

