

This is a "Save Oyster Shell" Restaurant



Thank you for helping to RESTORE THE LEGEND



www.lynnhavenrivernow.org

S.O.S. for the Lynnhaven

SOS stands for Save Oyster Shell and LRNow has been running this program in Virginia Beach for five years. Saving our oyster and clam shells to be used for reef restoration is a great way that you can help to rebuild the oyster population in the Lynnhaven River.

Two locations are available for you to drop off your shells:

- The east parking lot of the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center on General Booth Boulevard and now,
- In the Bayside area, the public drop off will be in front of the Lynnhaven River NOW office at 1608 Pleasure House Road, Suite 108.



In addition, I hope you will thank the following restaurants for their participation in our shell collection program:

- Bubba's
- CP Shuckers on Pacific Avenue
- CP Shuckers on Shore Drive
- Dockside Restaurant
- Harpoon Larry's
- Lucky Oyster
- Rockafellers
- Seaside Raw Bar
- Steinhilber's Restaurant

We will also make arrangements to collect the shells from private events and fundraisers. Please call us in advance and we can provide baskets for the shells and pick them up after your event.

This program is funded by the City of Virginia Beach.

If you are not receiving our semi-monthly electronic newsletter, the E-News, please call our office to sign up or sign up on our website, www.LRNow.org.

LYNNHAVEN River NOW

Lynnhaven Oysters

The Virginia Department of Health, Shellfish Sanitation Division determines where it is safe to eat oysters in the Lynnhaven River. Their only interest is the health of the public and the factor they consider is the bacteria level in the area of the river where the oysters are growing.

The standard for shellfish harvest is very rigorous. The standard for swimmable/fishable is 200 and the standard for shellfish harvest is only 14. Many areas of the Lynnhaven hover right around 14, some months a little over, some months a little under. To determine the open areas, the Shellfish Sanitation Division averages 30 months of data from their monthly testing.

In 2005, only 1% of the Lynnhaven River met this rigorous standard. Today 35% of the river is open to oyster growing and harvesting for human consumption. We have been as high as 38% in the past few years. This year, we gained some new open areas in Linkhorn Bay and Broad Bay and lost some acreage in the Inlet area.

To see this level of improvement in the bacterial levels in the river over the past five years is truly a testament to the efforts of the City of Virginia Beach to improve our stormwater and sanitary sewer systems and to eliminate septic tanks. But this alone cannot explain the level of improvement we have seen. The compliance of boaters to the No Discharge Zone in the Lynnhaven has also positively contributed to these improvements. And so have each of you. If you are picking up



PHOTO BY CHUCK GUTHRIE

after your dog and not feeding wildlife, you are also helping. If you have installed a waterway or street buffer garden or put in rain barrels to reduce your stormwater runoff, you are helping.

To maintain this progress and to move this number up to 40% or 50%, will require everyone's help. Thanks for doing your part and I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some tasty Lynnhaven oysters this past year.

The maps are available on our website.

Help Save our Waters and Scoop the Poop

Dog waste that is not picked up and disposed of properly is a significant contributor to high levels of bacteria in our waterways. That bacteria leads to shellfish closures, beach closures and unsafe waterways—conditions that none of us want. As pet owners, we must be responsible and always carry a bag with us and dispose of the waste in the proper way. Most of us do that all of the time. However, everyone hasn't caught on yet and some need a reminder.



LRNow has a new large Scoop the Poop sticker that we are distributing free to homeowners and asking them to put the sticker on their large black trash can. One day each week, when our trash cans are out by the street, we will be reminding pet owners of their responsibility to clean up after their pets.

If you would like a sticker for your trash can, stop by our office or pick one up at any of our events. Thank you for helping us get the message out to all pet owners.

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DEAR MEMBERS,

In reflecting on the condition of the Chesapeake Bay in 1995, Tom Horton wrote: "The best of both worlds is what we seem really to crave. A little farm on Frazee Ridge with excellent schools and a large shopping center not too far away; trackless wilderness with a return each evening to a first-class hotel; and a sweeping view of unspoiled ocean coast in all directions—from the deck of our condominium. The best of both worlds, the natural and the manufactured—who could argue with the pursuit of that; and, by extension, with the extraordinary technological and economic progress that has enabled it?"

The best of both worlds. How could anyone argue with that? This frames what we are trying to do in Virginia Beach. A quarter million of us share this sixty-four square mile Lynnhaven River watershed and we treasure its beauty, its wildlife and its bounty of seafood, but we also want an easy commute to work and convenient shopping, good schools and all the amenities of urban-suburban life. Can we have both?

It requires striking a balance. A delicate balance that we must always be reevaluating and adjusting. It means limiting our encroachment on the natural world. If we want fish, oysters, osprey and eagles, we must provide them with the habitat they need to survive and prosper. Are we willing to give up anything to achieve that balance?

I am optimistic that we are honestly searching for that balance in Virginia Beach. That we are willing to make changes, significant changes, in the way we do things to protect the water, beaches and wildlife that are so important to our quality of life.

As we start a new year, don't overlook the environment in your resolutions. Commit yourself once again to a cleaner Lynnhaven River. Can you consider trying a year without fertilizing your lawn? Can you reduce your turf grass and put in more planted beds? Can you think about restoring the buffer along your property and the river or between your lawn and the street? Can you install rain barrels? Are we willing to drive our cars a little less?

No one would question that we all want clean water and to protect our natural areas. It is, after all, what makes the Lynnhaven watershed the "best of both worlds."

Thank you for all you have already done and for what you will do in this new year to help restore and protect the Lynnhaven River. This is good work that we are doing.

Happy New Year,

KAREN WILSON FORGET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


Thank You!
08/10/10 – 12/18/10
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Mr. John W. "Jack"
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Mr. & Mrs. Donald Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Preston White
Mr. Mark Prock
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and Extension Center/
Dr. Laurie Fox
Mike's Rain Barrels/
Michael Minor

MEMORIAL & HONOR DONATIONS**In Honor of the Great Neck Middle School**

Earthhuggers
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew &
Anita Ward

In Honor of Mary Reid Barrow

Lynnhaven River
Garden Club

In Honor of Morris Fine's Birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wells

In Honor of Dr. George Kemp, Chris, and Ginny
Ms. Beth Ann Lynk

In Honor of Andrew Fine and Harry Lester

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest
Buchanan

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Watson and Ms. Lisa Donnelly Watson

Mr. Robert B. "Bruce"
Watson

In Memory of Mr. Peter Howes

Mr. Kenneth Eigenbrod
Mr. Brant Cox &
Department of
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Ms. Aimee Curley
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Ms. Delma Jo Prince
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Mr. Richard Todd
Ms. Jessica Barnabei
Ms. Lynn Jarman
Ms. Summer Whiting
Ms. Sherry Brogan
Mr. Michael Cravotta
Ms. Shirley Steele

In Memory of Banshee the Cat

Mr. Sean Fahey

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. RL Watson & Lisa Donnelly Watson

Mr. Robert B. "Bruce"
Watson

In Memory of Norman Chalmers and In Honor of Frances J. Chalmers

Ms. Dea Chalmers

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. William Pasano

Ms. Anne Addington

In Honor of Butch Butt

Mr. & Mrs. Bill
Shepherd

In Memory of Mr. Roy M. Newton

Mr. & Mrs. Steve
Herbert



Buffer Plant Sale Success!

Lynnhaven River Now's first Buffer Plant Sale and Fall Fest in November was a great success. Hundreds of native plants found new homes here in the Lynnhaven River watershed and will be helping to clean the stormwater before it takes pollutants into our waterways. The LRNow Landscape Practices Committee would like to thank our partners and volunteers for all of their donations and support during our sale:

Bay Lake Pines Private School

Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center

Kemps Landing Magnet School

London Bridge Greenhouses and Nursery

Mike's Rain Barrels

Rick Kuhns

Virginia Beach Master Gardener Water Stewards

Wild River Outfitters and Lillie Gilbert

Wild Woods Farm and Vickie Shufer

Wild Flower Jewelry

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

2 – World Wetlands Day

17 – Project Learning Tree Pre-school
Workshop, 4 – 9 p.m.

MARCH

4 - 6 – Mid-Atlantic Home & Flower Show
VB Convention Center

17 – Back Bay Forum, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

APRIL

16 – 9th Annual Oyster Roast
Noon – 3 p.m.

20 – Historic Garden Week Tour

22 – Earth Day

For a complete list of programs and events, visit our website, www.LRNow.org and subscribe to our semi-monthly E-NEWS.

Our office needs a four drawer filing cabinet and a scanner. If you have one you would like to donate, please call our office, 757-962-5398 or email Karen at kforget@lynnhaven2007.com. Thank you!