

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT: OYSTER RESTORATION COMMITTEE

The work of Lynnhaven River NOW is centered around our various committees. Each committee has a different area of focus and offers volunteers an opportunity to get involved in the area that most interests them. A complete list of committees is available on our website. Check it out if you want to know more or are interested in getting more involved.

In each of our newsletters, we are doing a focus piece on one of our committees so you can learn more about their great work. In this issue, we are highlighting the good work of our Oyster Restoration Committee. In past issues, we have described the work of our Public Relations & Marketing Committee, our Stewardship & Access Committee, our Public Policy Committee and our Wetlands Committee.

Oysters are a keystone species in our marine ecosystem, a valuable water filtering organism and oyster restoration has been a major area of focus for LRNow since the beginning of our organization. The Oyster Restoration Committee was one of the first committees formed in 2003 and has been meeting regularly and overseeing oyster restoration work in the Lynnhaven for the past nine years.

The Oyster Restoration committee helps to coordinate the Oyster Gardening and Spat Catcher programs described in

the insert in this newsletter. In addition, they oversee the construction of sanctuary oyster reefs and promote oyster shoreline work including our new oyster castle shoreline project on Broad Bay Island, which is also described in the insert.

One of the many strengths of the Oyster Restoration Committee is that it brings together the expertise and various perspectives of the many different agencies and organizations interested in oyster restoration in the Lynnhaven River and provides a forum for discussion and planning. The City of Virginia Beach, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Virginia Marine Resources Commission are some of the groups who participate on our Oyster Restoration Committee. The work of restoring our oysters benefits from this collaboration.

The Oyster Restoration Committee meets every other month on the last Friday of the month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Serpe Law Firm offices in downtown Norfolk. The next meeting is Friday, July 27th. Please contact Joe Scalf at Joe@lrnow.org or 757-962-5398, for more information or to find out about joining this committee.

LYNNHAVEN River NOW

PLEASURE HOUSE POINT

There is only one large piece of property left in the Lynnhaven watershed with maritime forest, with scrub shrub habitat for migrating birds, with shoreline for diamondback terrapin nests and natural oyster reefs and the potential for acres of healthy, productive wetlands. Now that last piece of open space on the Lynnhaven River, Pleasure House Point, is going to belong to all of us to protect, restore, learn from and enjoy.

Congratulations, this has been a magnificent collaborative effort and the river and citizens of Virginia Beach today and into the future will benefit. It is both a tremendous opportunity and a big responsibility. We need to plan carefully and really do this right. We need to find the perfect balance of public access, restoration of important habitats and protection of the flora and fauna that make Pleasure House Point home. That careful planning process is already underway and will continue. Everyone wants to do this right.

Vision and hard work have gone into making this happen. The City of Virginia Beach stepped up and led the effort to find the funding to reach the \$13 million price through a combination of Open Space funds, both public and private grants and a very low interest loan from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries through the Water Quality Improvement Fund. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is contributing \$1 million for the land for their new education center and was the catalyst for involving the Trust for Public Land in brokering the whole arrangement with Wells Fargo bank.

But none of this would have happened if the community hadn't been engaged and let everyone know how important it was to preserve this open space on the river and in one of the most densely populated parts of our city. Your interest, willingness to help, to raise funds and to raise awareness kept this project going. Thank you and we hope to see all of you at the Grand Opening and Celebration of Pleasure House Point in October.



LRNOW FALL FESTIVAL 2012 at Pleasure House Point

Mark your calendar now for the Grand Opening of Pleasure House Point. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, October 12th, and the Community Celebration for Saturday, October 13th. LRNow's Fall Festival is morphing into the Pleasure House Point Festival for this very special day.

This will be a fun day for all ages with activities for children, good local foods, guided walks of the property, kayak tours of Pleasure House Creek, informative exhibits by each of our committees, and many other interesting and fun activities.

Plan to be there. Learn more about this wonderful property and why it was so important that it be protected and enjoyed. Learn more about LRNow and how you can get involved and simply have a fun day on the river!

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Thank You!

March 20, 2012 – May 25, 2012

INDIVIDUALS

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Hap Chalmers
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lester
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sasser
Ms. Lyman Speckheuer
Mr. Gus Lorber

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Mr. & Mrs. Chris French
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Ms. Jane Yates

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Mr. & Mrs. David Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Schroppe
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Mr. & Mrs. Mike Murray
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fortenberry
Mr. & Mrs. George Grinnan
Ms. Eleanor Marshall
Ms. Paula McCann
Mr. & Mrs. John Whitbeck
Mr. & Mrs. Sandie Campbell, II
Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Marroni
Ms. Patricia Terry
Mr. McChesney Gray
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Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Henley
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Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Alig
Ms. Dawn Bodinski
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pfeiffer
Mr. Ron Adamson
Mr. & Mrs. Ty Brown
Mr. Gale Bryant
Ms. Katherine Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Al Chewning
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin DuBois
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ferrebee
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fleming
Ms. Terri Gorman
Mr. Robert Guess



DEAR MEMBERS,

This year's Oyster Roast was the best one yet and a great way to celebrate our tenth year of working to restore and protect the Lynnhaven River.

We sold all 500 tickets before the event. Sold all of our raffle tickets and had really good participation in the Art Auction, and didn't we have the most perfect weather! And the most perfect guests!

To pull together an event like this requires the contributions of many people. We appreciate what everyone contributed to making this day a success. Kris McKinnon, our Administrative and Communications Assistant, managed all of the details of this day in such an organized, professional manner, you would never guess that it was her first year. And our crew of volunteers is top notch and makes this event hum.

To be on the Lynnhaven in such a beautiful location is truly a privilege and we greatly appreciate the hospitality of Bob and Eleanor Stanton who share their beautiful lawn and gorgeous view with us each year.

We also want to give a big thank you to our corporate sponsors: 71st Street Anglers, Breeden, DIA Inc, Harry & Calvert Lester, McPhillips, Roberts & Deans, Runnymede Corporation, Sentara, Hap & Becky Chalmers, WPL Site Design and STIHL Inc. It is because of your contributions that this event is a fund raiser that we can count on each year to help support our restoration and education programs. We also thank everyone, too numerous to list here, who contributed to our Art Auction and those of you who bid on items in the auction. We look forward to an even bigger Art Auction next year. And a big thank you to our vendors who have taken good care of our needs through many Oyster Roasts.

And lastly, but certainly first in importance, we thank the oystermen, Cameron Chalmers, Chris Ludford and Chris Pace, who donated oysters fresh from the Lynnhaven River for us to enjoy.

An event like our Oyster Roast can have a pretty large environmental footprint. One of our goals as a staff has been to conscientiously reduce the impact of this event. Every year, we learn new ways to reduce the trash we generate and to source more of our food and other products locally.

This year, through your cooperation in the bussing process, I am pleased to tell you that we served more than 500 people and ended the day with only four bags of trash! The plates, bowls and utensils that you used were made from sugar cane and were composted. The cups and glasses were all reusable. I hope your cup comes in handy at the beach or by the pool this summer. The beer was in reusable kegs and all of the soft drink cans and wine bottles were recycled. We use cloth table linens that are laundered and used at many more events and all the table decorations went home with volunteers who enjoyed them throughout the next week.

In addition, the beer was all from local and environmentally friendly breweries and as much of the food as possible was locally sourced including the delicious oysters from the Lynnhaven River.

But most of all, it was great to spend an afternoon with all of you who have believed in the goals of Lynnhaven River NOW, supported our work to restore and protect the river over the past decade and are the reason for our success.

Karen

Karen W. Forget

Executive Director



The three Ludford boys

Challenge

Chris Ludford, of Ludford Brothers Oyster Company, understands that his continuing to harvest oysters from his lease in the Lynnhaven River is dependent on water quality continuing to meet the rigorous oyster harvest standard.

He has committed to donating a percentage of all profits from the Ludford Brothers Oyster Company to Lynnhaven River NOW and is challenging all businesses that depend upon the river and profit from improved water quality to also consider a regular donation to help continue the work of Lynnhaven River NOW.

Thank you Chris!

Rain Barrels

Rain Barrels are an easy way to reduce the runoff from your property and make use of that water when it is needed. Your plants will love rain water when they are dry and in need of a drink and you will enjoy not paying for treated water to irrigate your gardens.

LRNow began doing rain barrel workshops and selling rain barrels in 2007. Since that time, you have made and purchased more than 600 rain barrels. So every time we get one of the big rain events that we experience frequently in the warm months, that is potentially 33,000 gallons of water that are not going into the storm water system and not polluting our river.

Thank you for your support of this effort. We are working on expanding our rain barrel selection to offer you some larger barrels and more variety. Look for more information soon.



GENERAL MEMBERS

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MEMORIAL & HONOR DONATIONS

In Honor of Richard Serpe

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In Honor of Karen Forget

Eastern Shore Chapel

In Honor of Ms. Oriana McKinnon

Martha McKinnon