



Mark your calendars now for two important upcoming events:

**March 21** – Virginia Beach Watersheds Day and  
**April 20** – LRNow's Annual Oyster Roast

# LYNNHAVEN River NOW



## LRNOW RECEIVES AWARD FROM THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

On Monday, November 12, 2012, at the Jepson Alumni Center of the University of Richmond, Lynn Haven River NOW was awarded the

Garden Club of Virginia's prestigious Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for meritorious achievement in conservation.

Our work to restore the Lynn Haven River was honored including our oyster restoration programs and our community education and outreach. We appreciate the Princess Anne Garden Club and the Virginia Beach Garden Club nominating us and co-sponsoring our annual Candidates Forum. LRNow highly values our partnerships with all of the Garden Clubs in Virginia Beach. The Garden Clubs have been among the strongest supporters of our Pearl Home program.

From its beginning in 1920, the Garden Club of Virginia has directed public attention to conservation issues around the state by establishing Conservation as its first standing committee. Through that committee, the GVC pledged to conserve natural resources, plant trees and deal with pests and pesticides. Today, the GVC is still leading the way by focusing attention on conservation issues through educational leadership initiatives and legislative involvement.

The Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation was first presented in 1974, and in 1989 was named for Mrs. Arthur A. Dugdale of the Ashland Garden Club, an outstanding member of the GCV who originated the Conservation Forum. It is presented to an organization, industry or an individual who is not a GVC member for outstanding work in conservation. LRNow is honored to be the 2012 recipient.

## GROWING WETLANDS IN THE CLASSROOM RECEIVES AWARD

Our Growing Wetlands in the Classroom program received the Best New Environmental Sustainability Award from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society. This successful program is in its seventh year and has been funded by Dollar Tree's Corporate Giving Program from the beginning. The Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation has partnered with us each year on selection of appropriate planting areas.

Last year alone, 1,500 students and teachers had the opportunity to learn about the value of our wetlands and contribute to restoring a wetland area. Teachers received training and curriculum materials to take back to the classroom to help their students learn about our wetlands. Each classroom also receives a grow lab, a wet box, and native wetland plants to grow with their students. In the spring, the students have the opportunity to transplant their native plants in a wetland restoration area in Virginia Beach.

The past two years, the students have been helping to restore the shoreline of the lake at Mt. Trashmore Park. Before that, the classes transplanted *Spartina Alterniflora* along the shoreline of Crab Creek. As the plants grow and



flourish, students are able to come to the site with their families to see the results of their work and to explain to their parents the value of these wetland areas.

We are looking forward to a great, new year of learning and action with even more teachers and students in Virginia Beach through this program and appreciate the continuing support of Dollar Tree.

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

One of LRNow's newest programs is our book discussion groups. You do not have to join, like a book club, but can sign up for any of the discussion groups that are interesting to you. The first book we enjoyed was *Beautiful Swimmers*, by William Warner. This is a Chesapeake Bay classic. Written in the late 1970's, William Warner was commissioned by the Smithsonian to write a book about the Chesapeake Bay blue crab. In his book, he not only captures the life cycle and beauty of the blue crab, but also the culture that developed around the blue crab fishery and shaped life on the Chesapeake Bay for a very long time.

Our second discussion group is scheduled for March 26th, and the book is Michael Pollan's *"The Omnivore's Dilemma."* What should we have for dinner? The question has confronted us since humans discovered fire, but according to Michael Pollan, how we answer it today, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, may well determine our very survival as a species. What's at stake in our eating choices, according to Pollan, is not only our own

and our children's health, but the health of the environment that sustains life on earth. *The Omnivore's Dilemma* promises to change the way we think about the politics and pleasure of eating. Dinner will never again look, or taste, quite the same. There is also a "Young Readers" edition of this book available that may be just right for your son or daughter.

You can join us again on June 25, when we will be exploring several environmental books for children. From Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* to beautiful picture books to inspiring stories and biographies, the selection of wonderful nature books for children will make you wish you were still a youngster.

For further information or to register for any of the book discussions, please contact our office, Kris@LRNow.org or 757-962-5398 and happy reading!



# Thank You!

August 23 - December 15, 2012

## INDIVIDUALS

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Preston White  
Mr. & Mrs. Macon Brock  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Magoon  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Prueher

### PEARL MEMBERS

Ms. Marina Liacouris

### REEF MEMBERS

Mr. Whit Peace  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Gentry, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Cope  
Mr. & Mrs. David Arias

### GENERAL MEMBERS

Ms. Marcy Bennett  
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. John Huenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar MacKinley  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ackiss  
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Kuhns  
Ms. Aimee Curley  
Ms. Rena Coughlin  
Mr. & Mrs. Tarek Zaki  
Mr. Arthur Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lloyd  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Birk  
Mr. & Mrs. George Coleman  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Howes  
Ms. Deborah Otis  
Ms. Melissa Buffington  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Ennis  
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Polk  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Serpe  
Mr. & Mrs. Carter Valentine  
Ms. Ann Dayton  
Ms. Karen Wolff  
Ms. Jessica Conway  
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Ward  
Ms. Demaris Yearick  
Mr. John Pritchard

## BUSINESSES & GROUPS

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Whole Foods Market  
Dave Iwans & Associates  
Runnymede Corp  
Bubba's Restaurant and Marina

### PEARL MEMBERS

Hoffman Beverages  
Princess Anne Garden Club

### REEF MEMBERS

Leaping Lizard Cafe  
Doc Taylor's and TauTog's Restaurants

### GENERAL MEMBERS

Country Gardeners Guild  
Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach  
May Farm Garden Club  
Olef Sholom Temple

## MEMORIAL & HONOR DONATIONS

In Memory of Ms. Jean Wells  
Mr. Bill Wells  
In Memory of Mr. Peter Howes  
Mrs. Aimee Curley

## DEAR MEMBERS,

Wow, here we are at the beginning of a new year and the beginning of a new decade for Lynnhaven River NOW and our work to restore and protect the Lynnhaven River. With your help and support, we have come a long way in the past decade. Here are a few highlights from 2012:

- The opening of Pleasure House Point was definitely one of the highlights of 2012. Not only does this property add 108 acres of open space to our watershed, but it was also the last remaining open space of significant size on the river and now it is protected for all of us to enjoy. More than 2,000 of you helped us celebrate this new Virginia Beach Natural Area at our Fall Festival in October.
- This is the first year, since we have been tracking, that we have had a net gain in wetlands. We completed our first living shoreline project in the Lynnhaven this year and hope we are beginning to turn the tide from increased shoreline hardening with bulkheads to more natural and beneficial ways of protecting our shorelines from erosion while we also provide vital wetland habitat.
- We built our first oyster castle shoreline project this year. You can read about the exciting early results on page three of this newsletter.
- LRNow was honored to be recognized by two different groups this year for our work. We received the Dugdale Award from the Garden Club of Virginia (page one) and an award from the Virginia Recreation and Park Society (page four).
- Our membership and involvement continues to grow. More than 800 homes are now enrolled in our Pearl Home program and 44 of our schools earned the Pearl School Award.

You are the reason for this success.

But, as I have said before, our work is far from finished. With your help and support during 2013, we will continue to work hard to restore our oyster population and keep our shellfish beds open with exciting new oyster restoration projects in the works. We will continue education and outreach into our schools and will be launching a new Nurturing Natives pilot program with Virginia Beach students through funding from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation. We will work with more waterfront property owners on new and better shoreline management options and living shorelines. We will continue to grow our Pearl Homes program to encourage and recognize all of the good work you are doing to protect water quality in the Lynnhaven. And much, much more – stay tuned.

As we begin this new year, take time to enjoy the beauty, serenity and restorative power of the natural world around us. When the days are short and the temperatures drop, we sometimes forget how beautiful the winter can be. Take a walk in First Landing or at Pleasure House Point and enjoy the leafless trees and the variety of birds and waterfowl. Catch a sunset on the river or enjoy a clear winter sky full of stars. It has the power to rejuvenate and inspire us all. Thank you for all you do for the Lynnhaven River and our community.

Happy New Year,

**KAREN**

## 2013 Legislative Session

Our Delegates and Senators have reassembled in Richmond for the 2013 legislative session. Two issues stand out this year for many in Virginia Beach.

### Uranium Mining Ban

For 30 years, Virginia has had a ban prohibiting uranium mining in our state. Virginia Uranium, Inc. (VUI) is now asking lawmakers to repeal that longstanding ban. VUI's efforts have focused on a major uranium deposit in Southside Virginia, known as Coles Hill. The potential for uranium exploration, however, exists statewide. The Virginia Beach City Council has passed a resolution in opposition to lifting the ban on uranium because the area where mining is being proposed is immediately upstream from Lake Gaston where much of the drinking water for Norfolk and Virginia Beach originates. The Garden Club of Virginia, along with a wide variety of other organizations, is also opposing the lifting of the ban on uranium mining in Virginia. Please go to the Virginia Conservation Network website, [www.vcnva.org](http://www.vcnva.org), for further information on this important issue. Background information, including the National Academy of Sciences study are also available on the Keep the Ban website, [www.keeptheban.org](http://www.keeptheban.org).

### Menhaden Fishery Management

Menhaden are a small, bony fish considered inedible by humans but incredibly important in the diets of many other critters people care passionately about—striped bass, weakfish, summer flounder, dolphin, whales, ospreys, loons, pelicans and other sea birds. Menhaden are filter feeders, swimming with mouths agape to consume floating microscopic plants and animals and converting them into oily, energy-packed fish flesh that other animals higher on the food chain depend upon for food. As a filter-feeder, they also play an important role in keeping algae from overpopulating and depleting our waters of necessary oxygen.

In addition, menhaden play an important commercial role. They are the target of an industrial "reduction" fishery in Reedville, VA, that catches great quantities of menhaden and processes them into oil and meal. About 80% of the menhaden netted up and down the east coast wind up in Reedville. The other 20% of the menhaden harvest is used as bait, mainly by Chesapeake Bay crabbers and New England lobstermen.

Atlantic menhaden abundance has declined steadily since a peak in the early 1980's. The latest stock assessment indicates that the menhaden population is at its lowest recorded level since 1955. An Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission study determined that menhaden have been overfished for 32 of the last 54 years resulting in a current menhaden population that is only 8% of what it would be if there was no pressure from fishing. In response to concern about the viability of the fishery, in November 2012, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission adopted new reference points on fishing mortality that seek to reduce harvest pressure and increase the menhaden population. Menhaden is the only fishery in Virginia managed by the legislature, not by the scientists at the Virginia Marine Fisheries Commission. Since Virginia's menhaden fishery is regulated directly by the legislature, the General Assembly will have to pass legislation to bring Virginia into compliance with the new regulations. Please urge Governor McDonnell and our legislators to adopt the ASMFC plan to protect this little fish that has been called the "most important fish in the sea." For further information on menhaden and the questions before us this legislative session, go to the Virginia Conservation Network website, [www.vcnva.org](http://www.vcnva.org), or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation website, [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org).

## Oyster Castles in Long Creek

You may remember the story in our summer newsletter about the oyster castles project we installed in June, 2012, on the northwest shoreline of Broad Bay Island in Long Creek. We want to report to you on the progress of oyster settlement on the castles. The pictures below tell the whole story.



1. June, 2012, The Oyster Castles are Installed
2. September 27, 2012, After Four Months in the Water the Oyster Settlement is Good
3. and 4. December 10, 2012, After Six Months in the Water the Oyster Settlement and Growth is Amazing!