



## Conserving the Land You Love

January 2020 Edition

It's a New Year for the Northern Neck Land Conservancy!

Happy New Year! As we begin 2020, The Northern Neck Land Conservancy Board of Directors and staff are off to a busy start!

As of January 1, 2020, NNLC has an Endowment! Thanks to the hard work of Board member Jean Light, the Endowment Bylaws and the Endowment Board of Trustees of Dwight Clarke, Bob Fox, Jack Moore, Mary Louisa Pollard and Bob Wayland are in place. Jean Light will serve as the liaison between the Endowment and the NNLC Boards. The two Boards are collaborating to develop financial policies which will enable NNLC to fulfill our responsibility of forever protecting our easements. A picture of the Endowment Trustees is below.



NNLC Endowment Trustee members (Left to Right) Bob Fox, Bob Wayland, Mary Louisa Pollard, Jack Moore, Dwight Clarke and Jean Light

We are planning for our next "Preservation of Farmlands" outreach event for interested individuals on Thursday February 20 at the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative building in Warsaw. These presentations are a casual open house format that work to share information about the conservation easement process. The events are held throughout the Northern Neck, most recently in Northumberland, King George and Westmoreland counties. This one is for Richmond County but all interested NNK residents are invited to attend!

The meeting is from 6–8 pm. We will present information on and answer questions about conservation easements. Current easement holders will be available to discuss the benefits of a conservation easement. Light refreshments will be provided. Call the office (804–462–0979) or email [execdir@nnconserve.org](mailto:execdir@nnconserve.org) to make a reservation. Specific room location in the NNEC building will be provided as the date gets closer.



Our Board will hold its annual planning retreat in February. We will use this time to update our Strategic Plan and refine our 2020 Vision, fundraising and communication plans. We welcome other suggestions from our members.

We are looking forward to seeing and working with you in the community.

Kirwan King, President  
Elizabeth Friel, Executive Director

#### Conservation Corner by Allison Burgess, NNLC Intern

##### How do Oysters Grow?

Oysters require saltwater to grow and generally grow best between 10 and 28 parts per thousand (ppt). When the salinity drops too low, the growth of the oysters is significantly inhibited. Adult oysters can live through some changes in salinity better than younger oyster larvae, though they will both die if the salinity is too low for too long. An oyster begins its life swimming around as a tiny larva. After about two weeks it is ready to "strike" or stick onto a surface that it will grow on for the rest of its life, oftentimes other oyster shells. If the salinity is too low, the oyster larvae do not grow enough to strike and therefore die. The excess rainfall in 2018/2019 resulted in low salinity throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay, which then resulted in declining oyster populations and poor production in oyster hatcheries.

