

Welcome to...

# OPCL

Ocean Park Civic League - Virginia Beach, VA



## Important Dates

### Ocean Park Civic League Meeting

Sept 11  
Nov 6  
Thursday  
7:30 p.m.  
Ocean Park  
Rescue Squad

### BAC Meeting

Sept 18  
Oct 23  
3:30 p.m.  
Virginia Beach  
Resort and  
Conference Center

### SDCC Meeting

Sept 29  
Monday  
7:30 p.m.  
Ocean Park  
Rescue Squad

### Ocean Park Fall Festival & Art Show

Oct 4  
Saturday  
OP Volunteer  
Rescue Squad

### Brock Environmental Center Party

Nov 16  
Saturday  
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
BEC

# Ocean Park Echo

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Brock Environmental Center



SAVE THE DATE  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock  
Environmental Center  
COMMUNITY GRAND OPENING  
It's a party!  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Building tour, music and activities for all ages.  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Brock Environmental Center  
3663 Marlin Bay Drive, Virginia Beach

### Brock Environmental Center Tour Guide Program

Interested in becoming a Brock Environmental Center (BEC) tour guide? CBF needs recruits for the first Brock Environmental Center Tour Guide Team.

Primary Training Session and Lunch: Saturday, October 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Abridged/Follow Up Training: Tuesday, October 28, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Abridged/Follow Up Training: Wednesday, October 29, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Become part of the team to educate others about green, sustainable building — in one of the greenest buildings in the world.

CBF will provide training, field testing, and ultimately designate official BEC tour guides. Ideal applicants will be outgoing and able to commit to tour guide shifts during the weekday (CBF will also have some evening and weekend tours.)

To register or learn more, please contact Tanner Council: [rsvp@cbf.org](mailto:rsvp@cbf.org) or call 757 622-1964.

## Chesapeake Bay Foundation/Ocean Park partnership



—Christy Everett, CBF

Progress continues on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Brock Environmental Center, the state-of-the-art green, environmental center under construction at Pleasure House Point.

As the Ocean Park Community well knows, for years the nearby neighborhoods, Virginia Beach, environmental groups and others fought a massive 1,100-home development called Indigo Dunes slated for Pleasure House Point. Before it could be built, however, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), city of Virginia Beach, and the Trust for Public Land collectively worked to acquire the 118 acres in July 2012.

The Trust for Public Land purchased the property for \$13 million. The city then acquired 108 acres from The Trust for \$12 million using federal and state funds, loans and city and corporate funds. CBF purchased the remaining 10 acres of the property for \$1 million.



—Christy Everett, CBF

*BEC will provide space for other local conservation partners, including Lynnhaven River NOW, and for community meetings and conservation trainings.*

### JOURNEY TOWARD NET-ZERO

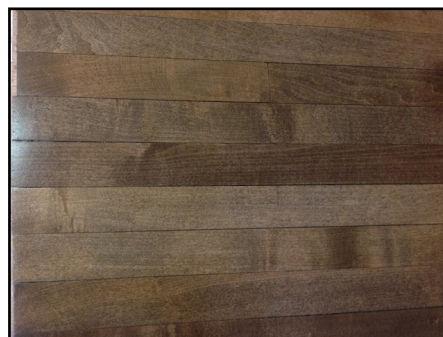
The Brock Environmental Center will produce all of its own power, treat its own water and utilize the most sustainable and locally-sourced materials available in construction. CBF’s Brock Environmental Center will inspire all to restore and protect our natural resources.

What makes this Virginia’s greenest building?

**Net-Zero Energy:** Producing as much energy as the building uses.

**Net-Zero Water:** Collecting, treating and using all rainwater, stormwater and greywater on site.

**Locally sourced, sustainable and salvaged materials:** Floors salvaged from an elementary school, window frames that used to be school bleachers and siding made from abandoned cypress logs.



Salvaged floors from *Campostella Elementary School* in Norfolk—Christy Everett, CBF

The Brock Environmental Center now under construction on one-acre of the track continues this positive partnership approach —

providing office space for local conservation groups, offering training and meeting space for community and conservation organizations, and providing environmental education for students and teachers from across the region.

The Brock Environmental Center is nearly complete!

—Christy Everett,  
director Hampton Roads  
Chesapeake

## Ocean Park lost two active residents this summer.

### Leo Wardrup

Leo C. Wardup, Jr., died July 2, 2014, succumbing to metastatic melanoma. As a naval officer who rose to the rank of captain, adjunct professor, businessman and 16-year member of the Virginia House of Delegates, Leo was known for hard work, being prepared, attention to detail and always being a man of his word. Sometimes irascible, often witty, never boring, Leo was a voice of reason for so many and he carried a powerful sense of duty of family, country and the great Commonwealth of Virginia.

Born in Middlesboro, Kentucky to Leo and Kathryn Wardrup, he grew up the precocious brother to six equally precocious siblings. Leo attended Castle Heights Military Academy and graduated class valedictorian. At UNC Chapel Hill, he was a Morehead Scholar. He later earned a master of business administration in economics from GWU and a post graduate degree at Georgetown.

Having taught sailing at the Naval Academy, it was one of his greatest loves. He captained and co-owned the "Black Widow," a 38' Irwin Bermuda sloop—a force to be reckoned with in Chesapeake Bay racing circles.

During Leo's years as a delegate, he and Gloria lived in Aeries on the Bay and then built a home in Ocean Park. Having earlier served on the Virginia Beach Planning Commission, Leo regularly worked on community concerns. In the 1990's he was instrumental in keeping a property on Shore Drive at Ocean Park from obtaining an ABC license and becoming Lovely Ladies, a strip club that threatened our family-friendly community. Leo, famously never at a loss for words, responding to the business owner's attempt to hide his plans during the hearing quipped, "Somehow I don't think you are planning to land a 747 on that runway!" The permit was denied.

If the OP Civic League asked, Leo went to bat. He focused most often on issues involving protecting the primary dunes, he also researched legal issues and assisted in audits of the civic league finances. Leo, who loved nothing better than "Mother Chesapeake" as he called the Bay, was a life-long skip of racing sailboats and had a huge respect for our "front yard." He considered himself a lucky guy to live here, where Mother Chesapeake was always right over a dune. And he liked nothing better than seeing the never-ending parade of families and dogs happily heading to and from the beach each day.

Our neighbor was a symbol of hard work, integrity, ingenuity and reason. His temperament was a rare fusion of intelligence, focus and that touch of irascibility, but what stands out among all the vivid memories that reel through my consciousness is how easily he could laugh—and how much he enjoyed making us do so. Sail On, Leo. You did OP proud.

—Information obtained from the official obituary and amended by Gloria Wardrup



### Bob Leavenworth

Robert Alan Leavenworth, 79, captain United States Navy, retired, died on June 30, 2014 after an eight month battle with cancer. Bob was born on December 12, 1934 in Concord, New Hampshire to Ammie Leavenworth Magliano and Lester Stanley Leavenworth.

Bob enjoyed a nomadic youth as a camp chaser of heavy engineering projects or military bases. Settling in southern California after WWII, Bob graduated from Oxnard, California high school, then attended one year at Stanford, before transferring to UVA with an NROTC scholarship graduating with a bachelor of electrical engineering degree and ensign USN. After active duty, Bob returned to graduate school at The University of Pennsylvania and received his master of science in electrical engineering degree. He then joined IBM Federal Systems Division in Oswego, New York in 1962, engaged in defense weapon system integration and development. He retired from Oswego, New York in September 1995.

In the 1950's, Bob developed an enthusiasm for skiing which led him to join the National Ski Patrol from 1986 to the present. He patrolled at Greek Peak Resort, in Cortland, New York and Wintergreen Resort in Nellysford, Virginia. Additionally, he offered volunteer services for the Virginia Beach Community Response Team and the Medical Reserve Corp as a citizen's corps volunteer. After surviving a heart attack in 2006 he also became a volunteer for Mended Hearts providing comfort and support to other heart attack survivors.

During his time in Ocean Park, he enjoyed being outdoors and was often observed working on his garden and lawn at his residence on Jefferson Boulevard. He was also known to finish the day, enjoying a cold beer in his seat at the top of the dune watching the sunset. Always friendly and looking out for neighbors, Bob will be missed by many.

—Information obtained from the official obituary and amended by Mike Wills

## Lynnhaven River NOW Tree Giveaway: 500 Trees, Free to Good VA Beach Homes!

Lynnhaven River NOW has a wide variety of trees available for various size spaces and environmental conditions. If you are uncertain what tree might be appropriate for your yard (or faith community or school), please contact us or check out [plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov) or [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

To order your tree(s), contact Trista or Dana at 757-962-5398 or email [Trista@LRNow.org](mailto:Trista@LRNow.org). We will accept orders until late summer/early fall, so that we can get everything planted before winter temperatures set in.

—Trista Imrich  
Lynnhaven River NOW

### Small trees (Remember, “small” is relative when it comes to trees. These start 12-15’, and go up to 35’):

#### Eastern Redbud, *Cercis Canadensis*

20-30’ height/25-35’ spread 3-4’ shipped  
Light: Partial/Shade, Soil type: Loam/Sand

Habitat: Riverbottoms/streambanks

#### Downy Serviceberry, *Amelanchier Canadensis*

25-30’ height/15-20’ spread 2-3’ shipped  
Light: Partial/Shade, Soil type: Loam/Sand

Habitat: wooded river bank/swamps/rocky slopes

#### Sweetbay Magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*

10-20’ height/10-20’ spread 6-10” shipped  
Light: Full/Partial/Shade, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: Forested wetlands, seeps, stream and pond edges, sandy woods

### Medium trees:

#### Black Gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*

30-50’ height/20-30’ spread 1.5’ shipped  
Light: Full/Partial, Soil type: Loam/Sand

Habitat: forested seasonal wetlands, swamp borders, upland woods, dry slopes

#### Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*

40-50’ height/8-2’ spread .5-1’ shipped  
Light: Full, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: broad range

#### Virginia Pine, *Pinus virginiana*

Light: Full, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: well drained sites, often a pioneer species

#### Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*

30-60’ height 2-3’ shipped

Light: Full/Partial, Soil type: Loam/Sand, Habitat: moist, open woods

### Large trees:

#### Atlantic White Cedar, *Chamaecyparis thyoides*

Light: Partial/Shade, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand  
Habitat: freshwater swamps, woods

#### American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*

50-70’ height/40’ spread 2-3’ shipped  
Light: Full/Partial, Soil type: Loam/Sand

#### Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*

60-70’ height/45’ spread 2-3’ shipped  
Light: Full/Partial, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: upland woods, slopes, ravines, floodplains, streambanks

#### Loblolly Pine, *Pinus taeda*

60-100’ height/25-35’ spread .5-1’ shipped



—Lynnhaven River NOW

Light: Full, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: floodplains fields, slopes

#### White Oak, *Quercus alba*

50-70’ height/spread 2-3’ shipped

Light: Full/Partial, Soil type: Loam Sand

Habitat: dry to moist woods

#### Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*

40-80’ height/80-100’ spread 1-2’ shipped

Light: Full/partial, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: rivers, lake and pond margins, swamps, coastal marshes, pocosins, river bottoms

#### Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*

40-80’ height/80-100’ spread 1-2’ shipped

Light: Partial/Shade, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: coastal plain, moist to dry sites

#### Tulip Poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*

70-90’ height/40’ spread 3-4’ shipped

Light: Full/partial, Soil type: Loam/Sand

Habitat: bottomland woods, mountain coves, lower slopes

#### Longleaf Pine, *Pinus palustris*

Light: Full, Soil type: Clay/Loam/Sand

Habitat: subtropical coastal plains, foothills



**LYNNHAVEN River NOW**  
**Fall Fest 2014**  
at Rosemont Elementary

**Saturday, October 11 | 12 pm - 5 pm**  
1257 Rosemont Rd | parking onsite at school

Celebrate the coming of fall in the Lynnhaven watershed!

- Hands-on nature activities
- Fun and Educational Booths
- Native Plant Sale
- Eco-Friendly Craft Vendors
- Farmer’s Market and Seafood Market
- Delicious Locally-Sourced Food
- Live Music



Questions? | Visit [www.LRNow.org](http://www.LRNow.org), call 757.962.5398, or email [Trista@LRNow.org](mailto:Trista@LRNow.org)

# Lynnhaven River NOW partnership: Volunteer and event opportunities

## River Cleanup

Saturday, September 13—9 a.m.

Join LRNow to help clean up the shoreline. Volunteers will need access to a canoe or kayak to participate in this water-based cleanup. If you are interested but do not have a vessel, please still contact the LRNow office since extra seats sometimes become available. Locations to be announced.

Next Cleanup: Saturday, November 8

## Hampton Roads Sustainable Living Expo

Saturday, September 13—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free to the public, no registration required.

Explore the balance between social, economic and environmental responsibility. Enjoy door prizes, Goodwill e-cycle station, rain barrel workshop, tour the LEEDS certified Kellam High School, food trucks and more.

More information coming soon to the LRNow website. Call (757) 962-5398 for more information or to register.

Energy Fun Interact Educate Environment Opportunity Grow

Community Hydro E-cycle Knowledge Home Social Solar Government WIND Future

### Energy & Sustainability

Join Us As We Explore The Balance Between **Social, Economic & Environmental** Responsibility



Free & Open to the Public  
#HRSExpo14

## HAMPTON ROADS SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO

SOCIAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

**September 13, 2014**  
10am - 4pm  
Kellam High School

[www.HRSustainableLivingExpo.com](http://www.HRSustainableLivingExpo.com)

Virginia Green Door Prizes! E-cycle with Goodwill  
Rain Barrel Workshop  
Workout! with the YMCA Children's Activities  
Food Trucks  
Tour the new LEEDS Certified Kellam High School Energy Star Certification for Business and Energy Yardstick for Homes

Organized with the collaboration of all Hampton Roads localities.  
Special thanks to the following sponsors:

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## Fireworks Update

### Please volunteer with OPCL Volunteer Positions (Annual Hourly Needs)

- Newsletter Graphic Designer (30)
- Fireworks Committee (10-50)
- Scholarship Committee (5)
- Audit Committee (3)
- Safety and Traffic Committee Member (5)
- Meeting Coordinator (6)
- Social Committee Member (5)
- Social Committee Chair (30)
- Door Prize Coordinator (6)
- Business Liaison (10)
- Membership Committee Member (5)

The fireworks contract always had a rain date—we just never anticipated the need for a hurricane date. The show went off spectacularly even with the one-week delay, and once residents understood the process of loading 24 hours before the actual show, not one complaint about the delay surfaced.

The city has requested a proactive meeting amongst the permitting agencies to help with future similar scenarios.

Thanks to the three civic leagues that work hard to provide the show every year. The following communities raise funds for the show: Ocean Park (including Pelican Dunes, Chesapeake House, BayVista, 3356 on the Bay, Aeries on the Bay, Three Ships Landing), Baylake Pines and Chesapeake Beach. Active participation in your community provides events like these for you, your family and friends to enjoy. Thank you for your support.

—Jill Doczi, fireworks committee chair

## OPCL Sponsors

- The UPS Store Shore Drive: 10 percent off all services except United States Postal Service postage and UPS shipping.
- Tidewater Insulators: 10 percent off any attic or crawlspace insulation package.
- The Royal Chocolate: 10 percent off product purchases. Does not apply to gift cards, shipping or delivery. One per person, per visit.
- Lend a Hand Massage Therapy Free half hour reflexology added onto your 60-minute massage. Not valid with other discounts.
- Froggie's Cantina by the Bay: five percent discount for all OPCL members. Not valid with other discounts/coupons.
- Ampmor Electric Corporation: Buy a one year Energy Saving Maintenance Agreement and get a year free. (\$140 value). Receive \$30 off service calls. Receive \$350 off a HVAC system replacement, home generator or tankless water heater installation.
- Happy at Home Professional Pet Care: 50 percent off pet care and dog walking services. Not valid with other offers.
- Salon De Bella: 25 percent to first-time customers and a 15 percent on subsequent visits. See coupon ad for more.
- Complete Automotive, Inc.: Ten percent off any work up to \$100.

Consider becoming a business sponsor. Contact **Ryan McCawley** at [Ryan.mccawley@me.com](mailto:Ryan.mccawley@me.com). You may need to show your OPCL membership card to receive discounts.



PROTECT THE BAYFRONT SAFETY FIRST PLEASURE HOUSE POINT

Now is the time to join - or renew your membership in - the Ocean Park Civic League. Pay now and get credit for all of 2014!! Dues are just \$15 a year per family. If you are not a member, become one now. Just fill in the Membership Application and mail to the P.O. Box listed below. Or join on-line at [www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org). You will be helping your community and keeping yourself informed.

Name:	_____	
Street Address (and City/State/Zip if not 23455)	_____ _____	
Email:	_____	
Phone:	H: _____	C: _____
Do You Own or Rent?	<input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent	
Areas Of Interest (Check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter (contributions/distribution/solicitation for ads) <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Shore Drive Community Coalition Liaison <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning <input type="checkbox"/> Social Committee		
Mail this application and your dues of \$15.00 (check made to OPCL) for calendar year 2014 to: Ocean Park Civic League P.O. Box 55385 Virginia Beach, VA 23471		

## As seen on OP Facebook

- Regarding an impromptu post-Labor-Day cleanup of Pleasure House Point: “Thanks to: Sid Vaughn, Andrew Broyles, Beth and Sloan Hall, Donna Putnam for coming out to pick up trash on PHP! Special thanks to Lenka Girtelschmid for setting off the spark! (She wasn’t kidding when she said she had gloves and bags and water!!) 120 pounds of trash removed! Yay!”—*Mary Ellen Faust*
- **For at least two weeks a 1998-ish blue Honda Civic has remained parked without tags at the corner of Raleigh and West Stratford. Neighbors have attempted to locate the owner.**
- Neighbors reported porch furniture cushions stolen from a front porch in Ocean Park as well as bicycles stolen from the Baylake Pines Civic League meeting and Froggies.
- **Froggies Cantina by the Bay reported a ring found in the restroom. If you can describe your missing ring, please call Debbie at 333-2268.**
- A nine-year-old girl recently died on an Oregon Beach from a sand hole collapse. Please remember that holes deeper than your knees can crush or asphyxiate. As little as one foot of sand can kill a child. Dry sand weighs 100 pounds per square foot.

*Posting to the OPCL Facebook page requires joining the site. Valuable real-time information about OP residents. These are summarizations of posts.*

## Crime Update

Officer Marcus Johnson, Third Precinct liaison to Ocean Park, will speak at the September meeting about crime and safety in Ocean Park. The following crime reports reflect the summer activity in Ocean Park.

### June 1-August 23:

- 6/9/14 Embezzlement Marina 3500 Block Piedmont Cir.
- 6/18/14 Larceny Highway/Road/Alley/Street 3700 Block Chesterfield Ave.
- 7/1/14 Fraud, Trick, False Pretenses Residence, Single-Family 3900 Block West Stratford Rd.
- 7/3/14 Assault, Simple Highway/Road/Alley/Street 2100 Block Dinwiddie Rd
- 7/5/14 Larceny, Parking Lot/Garage 3600 Block Shore Dr.
- 7/24/14 Destruction of Property, Private Property 3700 Block East Stratford Rd.
- 7/29/14 Destruction of Property, Private Property 3700 Block Chesterfield Ave.
- 8/15/14 Larceny, From Building Residence, Single-family 3900 Block West Stratford Rd.

—Officer Marcus Johnson  
Virginia Beach Police Department

## OPCL official business

### OPCL Finance Committee Update:

The Robbins Legacy account held investments valued at approximately \$224,250 as of July 31, 2014—up from \$216,900 January 1. The portfolio allocation is 75 percent fixed income/cash and 25 percent equity investments. In addition to the growth of the original \$180,000 investment, the account generates approximately \$6000 per year

in interest and dividends, which are available for distribution

Since 2008, over \$32,000 has been distributed in support of civic league functions and community organizations.

If you have ideas for funding of community projects and improvements in Ocean Park, please contact any officer of OPCL listed in the newsletter.

### OPCL Zoning Committee Update:

Michael Taylor will speak at the September general

membership meeting about the newly organized Ad Hoc Committee on Governmental Affairs and Zoning.

### OPCL News:

After doing a wonderful job for many years, Lauren Bennis has resigned as the Social Activities Committee chairperson for the civic league. **Parties interested in filling the position:** The job consists of coordinating three social events each year: Spring Crawl Out (March/April), Crawl Into Hibernation/Holiday Party (November/December) and Holiday Lights Contest (December). Contact Lauren Bennis at laurenbennis@verizon.net for more information or to volunteer.

**OPCL seeks nominees. Elections occur in November for all two-year civic league positions.** The positions of president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, northside representative and southside representative have interested parties, but additional nominees may come forward. The two at-large positions need nominees. Anyone interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Todd Parker at dulca89@hotmail.com for more information or to throw your hat into the ring.

## Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad



USS Wasp volunteers — Jill Doczi

The Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad staff invites all neighbors to a cookout every other Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The final cookouts of the year take place September 12 and 26. They provide burgers and hotdogs, and you may bring whatever you like to contribute or add to your meal. Walking and biking encouraged due to limited parking.

Volunteers from the USS Wasp Helped spruce up the day room quarters with a coat of fresh paint. A recent donor requested

improvements to the volunteer's living space.

**The American Red Cross** will hold a blood drive tentatively scheduled for October 3 between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. More details will follow at [www.vbrescue1.com](http://www.vbrescue1.com).

**The Ocean Park Fall Festival and Art Show** will take place Saturday, October 4 on the rescue station property and at surrounding businesses.

**The Columbus Day Golf Tournament Fundraiser** will take place tentatively on Monday, October 13. More information to follow at [www.vbrescue1.com](http://www.vbrescue1.com).

## Lesner Bridge Updates



New eastbound bridge lane construction — Jill Doczi

Traffic patterns on Shore Drive have changed as you approach the Lesner Bridge. Work over the next few weeks will consist of preparing both the eastbound and westbound bridge approaches for the lane shifts as Stage Two construction of the bridge begins.

The eastbound lanes on Shore Drive approaching the bridge have already shifted to the south. Workers placed asphalt, temporary pavement markings and delineators on Shore Drive between the bridge and East Stratford Road in preparation of the lane shift of the westbound Shore Drive traffic towards the Sushi Coast and away from 3556 On the Bay Condominiums. This traffic move will provide the required space needed to install the utilities,

temporary retaining walls, grading and infrastructure required for the new westbound bridge abutment.

A similar lane shift will also occur on the east side of the bridge towards the Lesner Inn. The sidewalk on westbound Shore Drive will remain closed to pedestrians and cyclists between Page Avenue and East Stratford Road. If pedestrians need to cross the bridge, they will cross at the eastbound bridge using the temporary four-foot-wide pedestrian/cyclist passage.

Public Works has created a project website at [www.vbgov.com/lesner-bridge](http://www.vbgov.com/lesner-bridge) with current information, background information and a Twitter feed. The public may view images of the bridge construction, with images updated every 30 minutes.

—Information provided by Drew Lankford, media and communications, Virginia Beach Department of Public Works and Chris Wojtowicz, P.E., project manager, Virginia Beach Department of Public Works



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## Need Computer Help?

Slow or outdated computer  
 Home network security/WiFi advice  
 Website design or update  
 Digital photo safety

**Ryan McCawley - OP Resident**  
 757.708.2225  
 ryan.mccawley@me.com

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**The UPS Store**



# What in Ocean Park is that?

## Greenbrier (*Smilax*)

**Greenbrier clumps provide protection for over 40 different species of birds and an important diet component for deer, black bear and rabbits.**

*Smilax* plants, also known by the common names of greenbrier, saw greenbrier, catbrier, bullbrier, chinabrier and tramp's trouble, have shiny, heart-shaped, green leaves, sometimes with variegation and sharp, little curved thorns on the stems.

Even the leaves have small prickles. The plant climbs through the use of tendrils coming out of the leaf axils.

Left to grow naturally, the *Smilax* plants grow from vines into a shrubs forming an impenetrable thicket.

Plants flower in May and June with small white/green clustered flowers. Red to blue-black berries form in the fall.

Animals and birds eat the berries, which pass through their digestive tracts and reemerge in the droppings to reproduce the plant. The plant's other method of propagation is through rhizomes, making it very damage-tolerant. Because of this, the species can become invasive and difficult to control. Digging deeply, following the root up to a foot to find the rhizome remains the best method of chemical-free eradication.



*Smilax bona-nox*— Jill Doczi

*Smilax rotundifolia*— Jill Doczi

Regular herbicides do little to control the plant, however, karbutilate offers a chemical control solution.

The plant tolerates a wide variety of soils and conditions, most often found in disturbed sites and along forest edges.

Edible portions of the plant include the fruit, root and stem. Extracts from the roots of some *Smilax* species, such as Jamaican Sarsaparilla (*S. regelii*) is used to make the sarsaparilla drink. Naturalists eat young shoots raw or cooked (they taste like asparagus) as well as the berries raw or cooked. Traditional use of the roots in soups and stews. American settlers mixed a powder made from the roots of native *Smilax* with molasses, herbs and corn, brewing a home-made root beer. Grinding the root to powder creates a pectin-like gelatin. Native peoples used the leaves in tea form to treat rheumatism and stomach problems, and the wilted leaves as a poultice for boils and ulcers. They used the vines to weave into baskets, and the leaves to wrap tobacco or other herbs for smoking.



Underground rhizome of Greenbrier plant – Jill Doczi

## Fast Facts

**Type:** Climbing shrub

**Location:** Along the Atlantic Coast of the eastern United States from Maryland to the Florida Keys and west from Texas to the east coast.

**Habitat:** shade and part shade

**Size:** Vine can grow to 20 feet.

**Did you know?** The curly tendrils the vines use to cling to plants and structures are thigmotropic (sensitive to touch). When the tendril cells come in contact with a solid object, they grow toward it in a wrapping motion.

—Jill Doczi

Information from Hilton Pond Center, The Papershell, Herbe Rowe Herbal Medicine, United States Forest Service, Plants for a Future,

## BAC Meeting Wrap Up

Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting notes: McLean Construction, the company awarded the Lesner Bridge construction contract, has installed a camera to view hourly images of the bridge construction at <http://www.workzonecam.com/projects/rshcs/rshcs>. Highlights of the bridge construction include:

- Now: Construction of the first drilled shafts of the new bridge
- Now: Stage Two of traffic control established
- September 2014: Temporary bulkhead at the dredge spoils site constructed
- November 2014: Casting of the bridge segments
- March 2015: The first bridge segment in the new bridge completed.
- November 2015: Construction of the westbound bridge completed
- November 2015-March 2016: Demolition of the current bridges
- April 2016: Construction of the eastbound bridge begins
- May 2017 Construction completion

## Bridge Naming Project

In the near future residents may voice their opinions on the name for the new bridge over Lynnhaven Inlet. The committee has commissioned the development of a web site where you can opt for keeping the name Lesner Bridge, or submit a name of your choosing. Once completed and functioning, the BAC newsletter, on the committee's page on the city website, in the Virginia Beach Beacon and "It's a Shore Thing" website will promote the opportunity.

*A city-council-appointed advisory board, the Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) serves in an advisory capacity to city council with respect to development and improvement to the bayfront area. The committee promotes the Shore Drive Corridor and implements the recommendations of the Urban Land Institute's 1997 study of the area. The committee advises city council on all matters relating to the Shore Drive Corridor. Members*



—McLean Construction webcam image

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## SDCC Meeting Wrap Up

Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) meeting notes:

- Dave Williams gave a presentation on hurricane recovery preparation.
- The area east of the Lesner Bridge will have four phases of drainage improvements. Phase One includes five backflow preventers installed in Lynnhaven Colony and three sluice gates installed in Cape Henry ditch between January and June 2015. Phase Two has the area between Lesner and West Great Neck receiving new pump stations and piping to Long Creek. Phase Three includes the area between West Great Neck and First Landing State Park upgrading the Cape Story pump station and piping. Phase Four consists of Areas north of Shore Drive receiving canned pumps and piping to Chesapeake Bay Beach.
- The city funded and received bids to dredge the western and eastern branches of the Lynnhaven River between the inlet and Virginia Beach Boulevard. The western branch will use the already built transfer station at Thalia. The eastern branch will use a yet-to-be-built transfer station at the PEP Boys parking lot. After these projects, all neighborhood dredging projects should transfer spoils using the new stations and deeper channels. Cape Henry beaches will continue to receive inlet dredge spoils. Proper scheduling of neighborhood dredging on the branches should eliminate any need for a permanent transfer station at Crab Creek.

—Todd Solomon, SDCC

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# Message from the president

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you have had a great summer!

I have stepped down as president due to personal reasons. Mike Wills will fill the remainder of my term ending in December.

Thank you for all your support. It has been my pleasure to serve and be part of making our community better.

Best Wishes,

*Susie Walston*

*OPCL president, December 2013—July 2014*

The board wants to thank Susie for the fantastic job she has done leading the Ocean Park Civic League over the past 18 months while also dealing with family health issues. Her leadership and organization as president will be missed, but we look forward to her continued participation when she can and wish her and her family well.

As announced previously, I will continue to serve as president of the OPCL for the remainder of the term which ends in December. Having already served one full term before and two partials, I will not be running for election in November in hopes that others who wish to be involved and take on a leadership position in the OPCL have the opportunity to do so. If you, or someone you know has an interest in serving, please forward names to Todd Parker or any board member. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

—Mike Wills, president

## September 11 OPCL Meeting

### AGENDA

#### **Call Meeting to Order**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Presentations**

OP Crime Report (Officer Marcus Johnson, Third Precinct)

Ad Hoc Committee on Governmental Affairs & Zoning (Michael Taylor)

President's Remarks

Establishment of Quorum

Minutes Approval of the May 8, 2014 Meeting (Kristie Zeiler)

Treasurer's Report (Todd Parker)

#### **Old Business**

Annual Audit of Civic League Funds—2013

Vote on \$10,000 Naming Rights Donation to CBF

#### **New Business**

Nominating Committee Report—Slate of Nominees for 2015 Officers

CBF Report (Christy Everett)

#### **Committee & Liaison Reports—As Needed**

Finance (Mike Wills)

Fireworks (Jill Doczi)

Membership (Ryan McCawley)

Scholarship (Lauren Harrington)

Social Activities (Lauren Bennis)

BAC Bayfront Advisory Committee (Martin Thomas)

CAC 3rd Precinct Community Advisory Committee (JP Cormier)

CCO Council of Civic Organizations (Susie Walston)

SDCC Shore Drive Community Coalition (Rick Mercadante)

Web site (Ryan McCawley) *Will respond if questions asked*

#### **Announcements**

Next Meeting—November 6 and Election of 2015 Officers

#### **Adjourn Meeting**