

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Winter 2016

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a prosperous, healthy and safe 2015 and that 2016 is even better. During 2015 we dealt with many of the same issues as we did in 2014 including more discussion on pressure washing and the management of pressure wash wastewater at marinas. During the upcoming months this office will work to gather information on technologies and treatment systems that are currently available. The discussions are moving forward, albeit at a slow pace, but we continue to stay in contact with the regulating agencies and will keep all of you informed as the process moves forward.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Marine Advisory Services was once again honored to partner with and host the Virginia Marine Trades Association (VMTA) annual meeting on November 10, 2015, and we look forward to maintaining the working relationship for many years to come.

Another exciting project that we worked on in 2015 was planning the 2nd Virginia Marine Debris Summit that VIMS is hosting on March 7 – 9, 2016. The Summit is shaping up to include plenary sessions, breakout sessions and working sessions. As Clean Marina owners and operators, your expertise is always welcome and appreciated at these events.

As we have in previous years, we will partner with the Virginia Department of Health in 2016 to host four workshops in different regions of Virginia. All of the workshops will cover the application process for the Boating Infrastructure Grant, the Clean Vessel Act grant and the procedure to become a certified Virginia Clean Marina. When the dates are set for the workshops we will send out email notifications.

Once again, the highlight of the year was visiting with all of you at your facilities. Happy 2016!

Anne Smith, Virginia Clean Marina Program

Virginia Green Marinas

Virginia Green is a program that recognizes tourism related organizations and businesses that are committed to protecting the environment and Virginia's natural resources. As a Virginia Clean Marina, you may already qualify to be a Virginia Green facility.

The minimum expectations for a Virginia Green Marina require that in addition to meeting the criteria for a Virginia Clean Marina, a facility must provide recycling for cans, bottles, etc. In certain areas of the state a comprehensive recycling program is not available. If this is the case in your locality, you must provide a written explanation of the recycling opportunities you do provide and your staff should know how to address this issue with guests. A sign encouraging patrons to take their items home to recycle should be posted in a visible location.

Virginia Green facilities are listed on the Virginia Green website and are searchable through the Virginia is for Lovers website and through the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) website. All participating facilities receive a Virginia Green certificate for display and the use of the Virginia Green logo.

The process to join is easy and is now completely automated. You must be registered on Virginia.org to complete the Virginia Green application. If you are not already registered on Virginia.org, visit <http://admin.virginia.org/>, and create a new account. As noted on DEQ's website, it may take 1-2 days to activate your account. Once your account is activated, log in and add your facility

under the Attractions Category. Finally, visit DEQ's Office of Pollution Prevention Virginia Green Attractions site and click on How to Join for instructions on completing the application.¹

Participation in both the Virginia Clean Marina program and as a Virginia Green Attraction is a tool that you can use in marketing and to help your facility become more visible on the internet. Hope Springs Marina in Stafford County and Crown Point Marina in Hayes (Gloucester) are both certified as a Virginia Clean Marina and as a Virginia Green Attraction. To see their profiles as Virginia Green Attractions please visit Hope Springs Marina or Crown Point Marina.

Virginia Green is a partnership program supported by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, DEQ and the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association. To receive the latest information from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, sign up for the Virginia Travel Post here.



Funds Available

Remember that the Virginia Department of Health has funds available for the installation and maintenance of vessel sewage pump-out and dump stations. Marinas that find themselves with increasingly higher maintenance costs should consider applying for funding to replace their existing pump-out stations.

Please contact Scott Vogel, ScottM.Vogel@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7467, for more information on the Clean Vessel Act program and participation for Virginia marinas.

¹Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Pollution Prevention Program, Virginia Green, Green Attractions
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen/GreenAttractions.aspx#join>

Upcoming Events

Please save the dates for several upcoming events!

2nd Virginia Marine Debris Summit

March 7 – 9, 2016, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point. Click here for registration information!

Boating Infrastructure Grant, Clean Vessel Act and Virginia Clean Marina Program Workshops

Four workshops will be held in different areas of the coastal region; dates TBD but most likely the last two weeks in February.

Please send us your News!

Do you have a new and exciting method for managing recyclables at your facility? Are there any regulatory items that you would like addressed? Has your facility won an award, hired a new manager or purchased a fancy pump-out boat? If you have any news that you would like included in the Clean Marina Newsletter, Smart Harbors, please let us know. This is a quarterly newsletter with the next issue scheduled for Spring 2016 and we would like to include information from the marina community.

Comments or questions:

Anne Smith
annesmith@vims.edu
804-684-7768



Virginia's Marine Industry Holds Annual Conference

By Wendy Larimer

The Virginia Marine Trades Association (VMTA) hosted their fifth annual conference on the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's campus in Gloucester Point, Virginia in November. With over 60 attendees, the event exceeded crowds from past years.

The event is held each year to give those working in the marine industry a chance to learn from national and local experts as well as their peers. This year's speakers were from national groups such as the Marine Retailers Association of America, National Marine Manufacturers, American Boat and Yacht Council, MYMIC Marine Technologies and New Jersey Sea Grant.

"We were really pleased to have such well-known presenters share their knowledge and experience with our group. Their interest in coming to our meeting reinforces that Virginia is a player in the marine industry on a national level and the VMTA is a valuable resource for all marine businesses in the state," said Don McCann VMTA President.

This year's educational sessions provided information on upcoming regulations and requirements for pressure washing, an overview of the current prosperity and pitfalls of the entire industry, tips for being a better manager, OSHA rules that are affecting marinas and boatyards, and why certified technicians are so valuable and important.

"I greatly enjoyed the presentations, talking with the vendors and seeing other owner/operators of marine related businesses. Keeping up on the regulatory landscape, while daunting at first, allows a knowledgeable owner to become and stay compliant. It is my hope that those that do not participate understand the challenges to their business and our industry, and are putting effort into their practices rather than hoping for the best," commented Andy Gurkin owner of Dandy Haven Marina.

The VMTA is a non-profit organized to promote and support Virginia's recreational marine industries. The association represents its members before elected officials and state agencies, keeps them informed on legislative and regulatory issues, and develops and promotes educational opportunities for those seeking work in the industry.

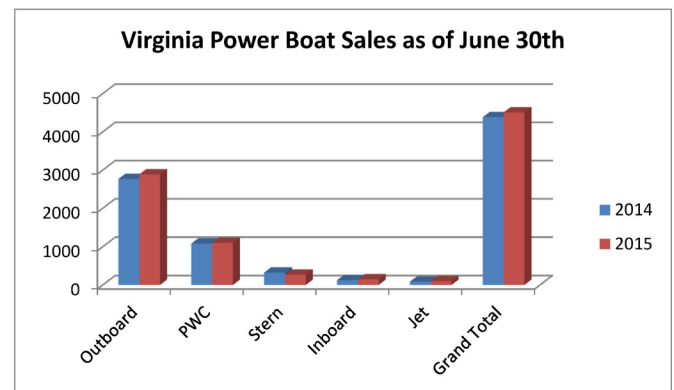
Comprised of more than 100 members, the VMTA consists of dealerships, boatyards, builders, marinas, sales brokers, boating-service providers, marine technicians, and individuals committed to the development of the marine industry and the strength of each member business.

Wendy Larimer – State Coordinator 804-823-3993; info@vamarinetrades.org

2015 Virginia Boat Sales

Virginia new boat sales grew by 2.9% during the first 9 months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Nationwide the growth was 7.7%. Regionally, Maryland was 4.7% ahead, North Carolina 12.8%. Florida was ahead 21.5% year over year.

This information is reflected on the graph and includes new fiberglass and aluminum powerboats only. Sailboats, canoes, kayaks and other non-powered boats are excluded, as are inflatables and plastic boats, even if they have an engine. This information is provided by Info-link Technologies, Inc.



For additional information on the Virginia Clean Marina program please click on the logo to visit our website.

