

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Spring 2017

National Marina Day(s)

In previous years, National Marina Day was held on a Saturday during the height of the boating season. The purpose was to invite the general public, elected officials and non-boating members of the community to marinas across the nation. As stewards of the environment and gateways to our nation's waterways, marinas are an important economic and recreational asset.

This year, National Marina Day will be National Marina Days: Summer of Giving. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, marinas are asked to give back to the charity of their choice (National Marina Day website). For more information on National Marina Days: Summer of Giving and to register an event at your facility please [visit their website](#).

Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads Available

We still have oil absorbent bilge pads available for distribution. The bilge pads were purchased with a grant through the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation's License Plate Fund](#). Please contact Anne Smith, annesmith@vims.edu, 804-684-7768 if you would like bilge pads for your slip holders.

Resilient Marinas Survey

If you have not done so yet, please take the resilient marinas survey. A link to the survey can be found [here](#).



Dandy Haven Marina wins the Hampton Clean & Green Businesses Award!

The award was presented by Councilwoman Teresa Schmidt and Clean City Coordinator Debbie Blanton at the Hampton Waterways Restoration Project meeting, at Fort Monroe Community Center, on May 11.

[Dandy Haven Marina](#) was established in 1964, by Lesley Gurkin and has been family owned since then. Their environmental creed has been that recreational and commercial fishing are the two industries that are most affected by clean or dirty waterways. Therefore, they do as much as possible to ensure and promote clean waterways.

The Marina has supported environmentally friendly initiatives including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation since 1984, and the Hampton watershed restoration, in all its efforts, for many years. The Marina hosts two shoreline clean-ups each year (weather permitting) and oyster-in-cage from seed-to-reef for volunteers that don't otherwise have access to suitable waterways. Subaquatic grass transplantation/restoration (in association with The National Aquarium in Baltimore), sea horse habitat surveys, underwater bomb detection validations, and donation of concrete drainage pipe to Virginia's Back River reef program are among a few of the efforts the Marina has supported. Since



Dandy Haven Marina

1985, the Marina has provided transportation for Ruth Beck, an Ornithology Professor at William & Mary, her interns, and volunteers who survey and protect the sea bird nesting sites on Grandview Beach and Factory Point. We host Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Back River Tide Gauge that reports and predicts tide levels that is very helpful in storm surge events.

The Marina is a man-made harbor that protects vessels moored here. Approximately 50% of the shoreline and surrounding marsh and wooded area is left in its natural state. The marina leases 49 acres of oyster grounds in support of restoration.

That's not all! The Marina repurposes materials wherever possible. This includes the primary workshop, which was a baby boom high school building located in Newport News, and the use of imperfect concrete drainage pipe for bulk heading and other purposes. The Marina was the first recreational boyard in the area to install a power wash water recycling system, which led to accreditation by the Virginia Clean Marina Program in 2012. The Marina employees scrape off all viable oysters during washing and return them to Back River, and collect clean shell wherever possible. They even keep an eye out for invasive species, though they've rarely encountered them.

The Marina places filter cloth under each boat in for bottom scraping and painting. They require and provide dustless sanders for use at no additional



Andrew Gurkin accepts the Hampton Clean and Green Award.

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Working Waterfront Legislation in Virginia

The [2016 Virginia's Working Waterfront Master Plan](#) (Master Plan) contained several recommendations to guide Virginia communities in protecting, restoring and enhancing their water-dependent activities ([2016 Virginia's Working Waterfront Master Plan, 2-Page Summary](#)). Among the recommendations set forth in the Master Plan was to enable localities to establish "Working Waterfront Development Areas".

Senate Bill 1203, Working waterfronts development areas; establishment, effective July 1, 2017, does just that. Introduced by Senator Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr., Senate District 6, the bill in part reads that "Any locality may establish by ordinance one or more working waterfront development areas for the purpose of providing incentives to private entities to purchase real property and interests in real property to assemble parcels suitable for working waterfront development". For the full text of the bill, please visit the [Virginia Legislative Information System](#) website.

Dandy Haven Marina Wins Award continued from previous page

charge to reduce copper based paint from reentering the environment. They participate in curbside recycling twice a month, and collect all viable metals for recycling along with oils, fuels, anti-freeze, filters, etc. We participated in the Federal Clean Vessel Act grant (through the Department of Health) for sewage pump-out facilities.

Andrew Gurkin, who received the award at the presentation, is a graduate of Chesapeake Bay foundation VoiCeS Program and has attended several other educational seminars. He volunteered for the stormwater portion of the Hampton Visioning procedure, is a novice vessel operator trainer for the National Safe Boating Council's "Marina Pro" program, is a certified CERT emergency preparedness trainee, and is Past Vice-President of the Virginia Marine Trades Association.

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



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Continuing Funding Opportunities

BoatUS Foundation Grass Roots Grants and Lifejacket Loaner Programs



BoatUS Foundation has changed the way they are administering two of their popular programs: the Life Jacket Loaner Program and the Grass Roots Grants Program. In the past the programs were administered of a set application deadline. They are now accepting applications for both programs on a year round basis with applications being reviewed within a month of submission. For more information on both of these programs please visit the [BoatUS Foundation website](#) and follow the Community Outreach link.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The National Weather Service (NWS) designated May 7-13, 2017 as Hurricane Preparedness Week. The NWS provides some excellent general tips for hurricane and tropical storm preparation on their [Hurricane Preparedness Week 2017](#) web page.

As marinas, you all face the added risk of close proximity to the water and associated dangers of storm surge and strong winds. So, with hurricane season almost upon us (June 1-November 30), here are a few links specifically for marina and boating facility resources to assist with your preparations.

- ≈ [Hurricane Tracking and Resource Center](#), BoatU.S. Foundation
- ≈ [Hurricane Preparation for Boaters](#), BoatU.S. Foundation
- ≈ [Virginia Institute of Marine Science Tidewatch](#), Reference the Smart Harbors Summer 2015 newsletter for the article [VIMS Tidewatch: Predicting Storm Tides](#) for an explanation on how Tidewatch works.
- ≈ [Virginia Clean Marina Program Guidebook](#), page 113

As always, stay safe and enjoy a prosperous and fun boating season.

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

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.



2018 Boating Infrastructure Grant Applications due July 24, 2017

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is now accepting applications for the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) through Monday, July 24, 2017. The BIG program is administered on the national level by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and on the state level by VDH. The program is funded through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

The BIG program is authorized to provide and enhance infrastructure at boating facilities for transient recreational vessels 26 feet or more in length. The enhanced infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, day docks, mooring buoys, docks and other equipment and services that benefit eligible users of the facility. There are two types of grants available, Tier 1 – State and Tier 2 – National. Tier 1 – State BIG is administered on the state level and provides up to \$200,000 per state for eligible projects. BIG Tier 2 – National competes on a national level with an award ceiling for eligible projects typically set at \$1,500,000.

See [50 CFR Part 86, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program; Final Rule](#), published May 6, 2015, for guidance on proposal preparation. Please note that the scoring criterion was updated in 2015. Please do not hesitate to contact Preston Smith, [Preston.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov](#), 804-864-7468, or Anne Smith, [annesmith@vims.edu](#), 804-684-7768 with any questions.