

Calendar of Events

—May—

- 4, 11, 18, 25 - Public Tour, VIMS Campus, 2pm.
Teaching Marsh Tour, 3pm.
13- College of William and Mary Graduation
15-17 - Wetlands ID Delineation Workshop
17 - VIMS Council Meeting
20 - Watermen's Heritage Day at the Watermen's Museum in Yorktown.
VIMS exhibits and activities

For more information call 804/684-7101 or 804/684-7011.

—June—

- 2 - Gloucester County Riverfest. Exhibits and activities. 10am - 5pm.
VIMS Boat Basin. Aquarium Visitors Center in Watermens Hall open.
9 - Aquarium Open 10am - 2pm

—July—

- 1-6 - Graduate Education Course MS 548.
Eastern Shore Laboratory, Wachapreague, VA

See below for complete Public Tour information.

Visit our website at: www.vims.edu

Stranded Sea Turtle Program Underway

The season for sea turtles in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is here again and VIMS scientists urge anyone who finds a stranded sea turtle to call the sea turtle stranding hotline (804) 684-7313. "We need your help," says Kate Mansfield of VIMS, "we can't continue collecting this valuable data without help from our local residents, visitors and fishermen. All information is important to us and helps us learn more about these marine animals." VIMS scientists have been collecting data on sea turtles in Virginia waters for 22 years and respond to any stranded sea turtle (alive or dead) found north of the James River.

Up to 10,000 loggerhead sea turtles are in the Bay during the summer. Turtles start to arrive in the Bay when the water temperature approaches 66 degrees F, and migrate out of the Bay to wintering grounds off of North Carolina or as far south as the Florida coast when temperatures drop to around 60 degrees F. Chesapeake Bay provides summer feeding grounds for both adult and juvenile loggerheads and juvenile Kemp's

ridleys. Kemp's are the most endangered of all sea turtles and one of the most endangered animals in the world. Ridleys forage in the shallow waters around the margins of the Bay while loggerheads most often utilize deeper water, near channels. Green and leatherback turtles have on occasion been found in Bay waters.

If you see a stranded sea turtle anywhere north of the James River, please contact: VIMS Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline (804) 684-7313. If you find a LIVE stranded sea turtle after business hours, please contact the stranding pager (804) 684-6197. Both numbers are checked frequently during the day and after hours. When calling, please leave your name, phone number, date, description of the turtle and information on the location of the turtle.



Public Tours of VIMS Campus

Beginning in May, walking tours of the VIMS campus will be offered each Friday. The docent led tours will begin in the Aquarium Visitor Center and conclude in the Teaching Marsh. Groups of more than 6 should call in advance. For additional information, please contact Christine Evans at (804) 684-7735 or Susan Polk at (804) 684-7846.

Tour Schedule - every Friday:
April 27 - June 15: 2pm
June 22 - September 14: 10:30am
September 21 - Nov. 16: 2pm

Saturday Schedule

June 2 - September 1
Visitor Center and Lobby open
10am - 2pm

VIMS Auction

A week on the French Riviera brought the most lively bidding at the third VIMS auction on Saturday, March 3, 2001. Nearly 200 people attended to bid on items including a kayak, antique chairs, dinners, spa passes, art and jewelry. More than 140 local merchants and individuals supported the event with their donations. Proceeds support the Hargis Library Endowment. Auction Chair, Carrie Garland and more than a dozen volunteers and VIMS personnel began working in the fall to plan and organize the event. "We exceeded our goal this year and are very happy to be able to provide nearly \$30,000 to the Hargis Library Endowment to support all aspects of library operations. It was a pleasure to work with everyone here and I would like to personally thank all the great volunteers and VIMS people who contributed so much of their time and energy to make this the best auction ever," said Garland.



More than 200 guests attended the Third Annual VIMS Auction.