

NEWS RELEASE

717 General Booth Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23451



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Joan Barns | 757-385-0252 | jimbarns@VirginiaAquarium.com

Images available upon request

March 15, 2011

Spring Happenings at the Virginia Aquarium

Seasonal Boat Trips

Dolphin Watching

Observe bottlenose dolphins and their dynamic behaviors during a 90-minute ocean excursion. Experienced educators on board will introduce you to Virginia's favorite spring and summer guests. Call 757 385-FISH for more information or visit www.virginiaaquarium.com for the schedule. FEE: \$20 per adult (12 years & over); \$14 per child (4 – 11 years old)
Dolphin sightings are not guaranteed. Trips may be cancelled due to boating conditions.

Cruise the Creek

Explore Owls Creek during a gentle 30-minute pontoon cruise focused on salt marsh ecology. Scan the mudflats for fiddler crabs and animal tracks, listen for the calls of osprey and kingfishers, and look for signs of muskrat and otter activities. FEE: \$7 per person; \$5 for members or combo tickets

3D IMAX® Theater

Currently playing is the newly released film *Wild Ocean 3D* as well as *Under the Sea 3D* and *Sharks 3D*.

Wild Ocean is an action-packed giant screen adventure exploring the interplay between man and our endangered ocean ecosystem of the Wild Coast of South Africa. The film highlights one of nature's greatest migration spectacles, plunging viewers into an underwater feeding frenzy, an epic struggle for survival where whales, sharks, dolphins, seals, gannets and billions of fish collide with the most voracious sea predator, mankind. *Wild Ocean* was produced by the creators of the international sensation STOMP and directors of the award-winning giant screen film *Pulse: a STOMP Odyssey*.

For the Aquarium's film schedule, call (757) 385-FISH or visit: www.virginiaaquarium.com. Call Guest Services at (757) 385-0300 for credit card charged reservations.

(more)

Discovery Days, ages 4 - 6

Programs include age appropriate discussions, activities and crafts. All programs are from 2-3:15 p.m. in the Marsh Pavilion Discovery Room unless otherwise noted.

Fee: \$7 members, \$10 non-members

Pre-registration is strongly recommended: call 385-0278 or email:

programs@VirginiaAquarium.com

Windy Weather, THURSDAY, March 24

March is known for being a windy time of year. Examine how wind is created and why it is important to many plants and animals.

Bug'N Out, THURSDAY, APRIL 14

It's spring and bugs are creeping, crawling, and flying all around. Investigate all the different kinds of bugs there are and the habitats in which they live.

Beach Day, THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Take a trip to the beach and learn about shells in the classroom at the Bay & Ocean Pavilion. *Please note location change.*

MARVELOUS MOMMIES, THURSDAY, MAY 12

Mother's Day is approaching. Today is a day to celebrate our moms and the moms of the animal world.

TURTLE TIME, THURSDAY, MAY 26

Never seen a turtle scute? Come discover what makes turtles unique.

Bonus Experiences

These are free with Aquarium admission.

Toddler Tuesdays, Ages 2 - 5

Join us on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the Marsh Pavilion. This 30-minute program creates not only an environment of fun and play, but also one of learning. Children will explore animals through stories, songs and movement. **For an extra treat, join us for our puppet shows on March 15, April 19 and May 17.**

Toddler Trek Thursdays, Ages 2 - 5

Join us for Toddler Trek Thursdays, an outdoor exploration session for early learners and their parents. Every Thursday at 11 a.m. take an easy 30-minute stroll along the Nature Trail to discover a new animal, color, or shape. *This program meets in the Marsh Pavilion and will take place inside during inclement weather.*

Member Mornings:

Celebrate the Magic of the Ocean with Radio Disney

Join us in the Marsh Pavilion Interactive Theater on **May 14 at 9:15 a.m.** for a family film on a big screen. Then enjoy activities and games with Radio Disney hosts from 11 a.m.-12 noon.

Sensational Snakes

March 19 & 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Discover the intriguing world of these slithery reptiles. Learn about the myths and mystery surrounding these amazing animals. Live animal programs will take place throughout the day in the Conservation Station and at the Marsh Pavilion.

Coastal Trends Weekend

April 2 & 3, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bay & Ocean Pavilion

Did you know that people living as far away as New York live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Do you know your “watershed address?” Learn this and other fun environmental facts during Coastal Trends Weekend. This event will highlight year-long projects developed by Mentoring Young Scientists and Hampton University students.

Party for the Planet

April 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bay & Ocean Pavilion

Discover ways to connect to the local environment and how we can all make a difference at this nationwide celebration. Activity stations will include live animal programs in the Conservation Station, making a Toad Abode, and creating your own Conservation Catcher.

Play, Explore, Learn! Enrichment Weekend

April 30 & May 1

Discover how treats, treasures, and training encourage the Aquarium’s critters to create comfy homes, eat right, play well with others, explore their environment, and stay healthy. Watch animal training sessions and make enrichment toys for the animals to play with later. Test your wild skills with animal adventure activities and learn how you can help make our animals’ lives better.

###