

# NEWS RELEASE

717 General Booth Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23451



## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Joan Barns | 757-385-0252 | [jimbarns@VirginiaAquarium.com](mailto:jimbarns@VirginiaAquarium.com)

Images available upon request

February 2, 2011

## Winter Happenings at the Virginia Aquarium

### Seasonal Boat Trips

#### Winter Wildlife Boat Trips

Winter obviously changes our familiar landscape but the sea offers some amazing differences as well. To get a different perspective, the Virginia Aquarium offers two hour Winter Wildlife Boat Trips. Guests will find on the 65-foot catamaran Rudee Whaler, a heated cabin as well as outdoor seating on both the upper and lower decks. Guests can enjoy a hot beverage as they cruise along with knowledgeable Virginia Aquarium educators and scan the horizon looking for birds, harbor seals, harbor porpoises, and whales.

Winter Wildlife Boat Trips run through March 20. Admission costs are: adults \$28 (12 and older); children \$24 (ages 4-11); and children less than 3 years of age are free. Tickets may be purchased at either the Aquarium building or at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center. Visit [VirginiaAquarium.com](http://VirginiaAquarium.com) for a complete boat schedule. Boat trips may be cancelled due to weather which may affect safe boating conditions. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Call (757) 385-FISH for more information, and reservations.

#### 3D IMAX® Theater

Currently playing is the newly released film *Wild Ocean 3D* as well as *Under the Sea 3D* and *Sharks 3D*. For the Aquarium's film schedule, call (757) 385-FISH or visit: [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com). Call Guest Services at (757) 385-0300 for credit card charged reservations.

#### Volunteer Coffee

The Virginia Aquarium will host a coffee for prospective volunteers March 16, 1 – 3 p.m. Please visit the Aquarium website and search for the [Getting Involved](#) pull down tab to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

## 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](mailto:programs@VirginiaAquarium.com)

## I Love Animals

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

If you love animals, you will absolutely adore this program. We will have an early Valentine's Day Celebration as we meet and admire many of the Aquarium's Animal Ambassadors.

## The Skinny on Skin

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

From warm and fuzzy, smooth and slimy, and even scaly, animals have a variety of body coverings. Some even wear their skeleton on the outside of their body! Join us as we explore why different animals are dressed in their own unique ways.

## Investigating Invertebrates

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10**

What is an invertebrate? Where would you find one? We will answer these questions and more as well as meet some in person. Don't miss out on the fun!

## Bonus Experiences

### 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 January 18th, February 15th and March 15th.**

### 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 Theater on **February 12th** at 9:15 a.m. for a family film on the big screen. Then enjoy activities, games, and fun with Radio Disney hosts from 11 a.m.-12 noon.

### Reptiles Around the World

**February 26 & 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

#### Bay & Ocean Pavilion

Take a journey through the Aquarium in search of these remarkable animals that have survived for millions of years. Complete a reptile riddle and test your knowledge of these scaly skinned skedaddlers.

###