

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Fall 2019

BoatUS Foundation Courses

by Lisa Lawrence

BoatUS offers a number of courses on boating safety and clean boating, including the following free options:

Boating Safety Course – The BoatUS Foundation's Online Course is the only FREE online boating safety course approved by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The course, estimated to take 4-8 hours, contains 6 lessons, each with a quiz, and a final exam. After completing and passing the course, you can print out your certificate of completion.

Clean Boating Course – As boaters, we have a close connection to the health of our waterways. Clean water is an essential part of boating. This 1-2 hour free course will show you simple steps you can take to reduce the impact of boating activities on our waterways. The Clean Boating Course gives loads of great tips on fueling, boat care, waste & sewage disposal and more.

Spill Prevention for Marina Staff – Think your marina staff knows how to prevent and respond to fuel and oil spills? This 1-2 hour course will help marinas minimize risk, train staff and protect your marina and the environment. The free, online course features videos, interactive exercises and interviews with spill responders, marina owners and managers.

To access these free online courses, visit BoatUS.org/courses/.



Free online boating-related courses are available through Boat US.

Photo credit: BoatUS

13 Little Secrets to Winterizing a Boat

By BoatUS

SPRINGFIELD, Va., Sept. 30, 2019 –

Boaters across the country are getting ready to put their boats to bed for a long winter's nap, but not every boat owner knows all the secrets of winterizing a recreational boat. Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) shares some quick tips to ensure safe storage until next season.

≈ 1. California, Florida and Texas have the most engine winterizing claims. Boaters in northern climates know to winterize but all it takes is one deep freeze in a normally balmy state to cause major damage to your boat. Unless you're in an area that never freezes (like Key West or Hawaii) you probably need to winterize.

≈ 2. Water expands almost 10% by volume. That expansion means that any water left in your engine, potable water system, or refrigeration system can do some major damage over the winter. Even an engine block can crack open during cold weather. The key is making sure all water gets drained out or replaced by antifreeze.

≈ 3. Batteries are happier at home. Remove your batteries, bring them to the garage or basement and use a trickle charger to keep them topped off to protect them and extend their life.

≈ 4. It's easier to prevent mold than to stop it. Without some air circulation, your boat's interior can build up condensation, which can lead to a moldy mess next spring. Solar-powered

vents and boat covers that lets air circulate can help keep mold at bay.

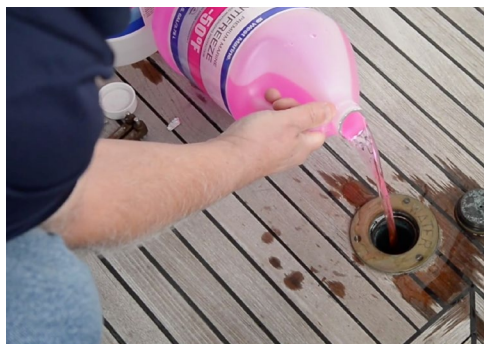
≈ 5. Waxing the hull now makes spring clean-up much easier. The grunge of sitting all winter at a boatyard comes off a lot quicker if you apply a coat of wax before you put your boat to bed.

≈ 6. There are two types of antifreeze. Ethylene glycol – the kind in your boat's cooling system works fine for

engines, but it's very toxic. Propylene glycol is safe for potable water systems and is also fine to use for the raw side of engine cooling systems – check the label. Make sure antifreeze is rated to protect down to the lowest possible expected temperatures.

≈ 7. Add fuel stabilizer before you fill your tank. That helps mix the stabilizer so it protects all of the gas. Running your engine for a few minutes after mixing it up will get some stabilized gas in the engine's fuel system, protecting it over the winter.

≈ 8. If enough water enters your fuel tank, gas with ethanol can phase separate over the long winter storage period. For boats with portable gas tanks, try to use up fuel now. Any remainder can be used (if unmixed with two-stroke oil) in your vehicle. If your boat has a built-in gas tank, fill the tank almost to the top, leaving a little room for expansion. This will minimize condensation on tank walls, stopping phase separation in its tracks. Never plug a fuel tank vent.



Do you know what type of antifreeze should be used to winterize a boat's engine?

Photo credit: BoatUS

Continued on next page

VCMP Participates in 7th Annual James River Fest

by Celia Cackowski

On Saturday, September 30th, the Virginia Clean Marina Program (VCMP) hosted an exhibit booth at the James River Association's 7th annual James RiverFest. This family-oriented event promotes the environmental, recreational, and cultural significance of the James River. Visitors to the VCMP booth were able to test their knowledge of marine debris, learn about responsible marina stewardship, and take the Clean Boater Pledge. In addition to exhibitor booths from several organizations, the event included paddle tours on the river and a live archaeological dig.

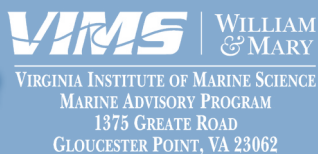


VCMP exhibits at James RiverFest at the James City County Marina.

Photo credit: Celia Cackowski

Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads Available

Oil absorbent bilge pads are available for distribution. The bilge pads were purchased with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Please email askVCMP@vims.edu, if you would like bilge pads for your slip holders



Virginia Marine Trades Association Annual Conference

by Lisa Lawrence

The Virginia Marine Trades Association's (VMTA) Annual Conference will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, VA. The conference, which will run from 8 am to 3:15 pm, is your opportunity to hear from key speakers with timely updates for Virginia's recreational marine industry. Registration fees are \$50 for Members and \$100 for Non-members.



National Recycling Day

By Lisa Lawrence

Friday, November 15th is National Recycling Day. Many marinas already have recycling bins for cans, bottles and paper, but that's not all that can be recycled. Used oil, oil filters, shrink wrap, antifreeze and fishing line are other marine-related items that can be recycled. Consider providing your patrons with recycling opportunities for these items as well.

Shrink wrap – Dr. Shrink sells REBAG Recycling Kits available within the continental U.S. Simply bag up used shrink wrap covers and scraps and ship off with a prepaid FedEx label. Each REBAG can hold up to 600 sq ft of plastic – about

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 am	Registration & exhibits
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome
8:45 – 9:15	Keynote Address
9:45 – 11:00	Workforce Round Table
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:45 – 12:30	Marina Electrical Systems: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
12:30 – 1:15	Lunch & exhibits
1:15 – 1:45	What's coming down from Capitol Hill
1:45 – 2:30	Upshot from the Southern New England Marine Industry Environmental Conference
2:30 – 3:15	VMTA Board and Member Meeting

To register for the conference, visit the VMTA Annual Conference webpage at virginiaboatlovers.com.

the size of a cover for a 26' power boat.

Fishing line – Build your own fishing line recycling bin with PVC pipe and adhesive. Instructions can be found at <https://www.boatus.org/monofilament/build-a-bin/>.

Used oil, oil filters & antifreeze – Used oil, oil filters and marine-related antifreeze can be kept out of landfills by taking to local businesses that recycle these items. Visit Earth911.com for more information and to find locations near you.

13 Little Secrets to Winterizing a Boat, continued from previous page

- ≈ 9. Write down what you did or had your shop do. That way, next spring you won't wonder if the lower unit lube was changed or the spark plugs replaced.
- ≈ 10. Take home any removable electronics, small outboards and even alcohol. The dark days of winter are when boats are most frequently broken in to. Not every thief is a professional – some may just want to raid your boat's liquor cabinet.
- ≈ 11. Remove all food. Not only might it spoil, but it can attract rodents and other pests, leaving you with a nasty spring surprise.
- ≈ 12. Using a heater as alternative to winterizing is a really bad idea. Not only can the power go out during a big winter storm leaving the boat unpro-

tected, the heater, extension cord or connections can (and do) overheat and cause a fire.

- ≈ 13. In addition to snowstorms knocking-out power to heated indoor boat storage facilities, do-it-yourselfers sometimes make mistakes when winterizing. Either way, for boaters who live in northern states, protecting yourself with ice and freeze coverage insurance may be a smart option. It's often very affordable, but there's a deadline to purchase, typically by the end of October.

For more information on how to properly store a boat over the winter, including how to cover a boat, winterize plumbing, store ashore or in the water, and to get a free downloadable BoatUS Boater's Guide to Winterizing checklist, go to BoatUS.com/seaworthy/winter.

National Working Waterfront Network Website

The National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN) is a nationwide network of businesses, industry associations, nonprofits, local governments and communities, state and federal agencies, universities, Sea Grant programs, and individuals dedicated to supporting, preserving, and enhancing our nation's working waterfronts and waterways. Participation in the NWWN is open to all individuals and organizations involved in working waterfront issues at the federal, state, and local level. Their mission is to increase the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of their working waterfronts and waterways.

Their newly renovated website and online toolkit contains lots of information, data, and tools that individuals, communities, and governments at all levels can use to develop, inform, and enhance their sustainable working waterfront initiatives. On their site, you can find information on financing, law and policy, economics and historic trends, and read case studies on successful projects solving problems that impact marinas. To visit the site, go to <https://nationalworkingwaterfronts.com>.

The NWWN website and Sustainable Working Waterfronts Toolkit was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

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



Congrats to our Newly Recertified Clean Marinas

by Lisa Lawrence

This past spring, the Virginia Clean Marina Program began the process of recertifying our 74 Virginia Clean Marinas. We are proud to announce that more than two-thirds have completed the recertification process. Congratulations to the following on their Virginia Clean Marina recertification:

Belle Haven Marina
Belmont Bay Harbor
Bethpage Camp-Resort Marina
Bluewater Yachting Center
Cape Charles Town Harbor
Carters Cove Marina
Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club
Chesapeake Boat Basin Inc.
Cobb's Marina
Colonial Beach Yacht Center
JEB Little Creek MWR Cove Marina
Deltaville Marina
Deltaville Yachting Center
Dozier's Regatta Point Yachting Ctr.
Fairfax Yacht Club Marina
Fishing Bay Marina
Garrett's Marina Boat Storage
Ginney Point Marina
Morningstar Marinas
Downtown Hampton Public Piers
Hope Springs Marina LLC
Ingram Bay Marina
Jordan Point Yacht Haven
Kingsmill Marina

Knitting Mill Creek Yacht Club
Leesylvania State Park
Leeward Municipal Marina
Lynnhaven Marine
Marina Shores
Norfolk Yacht & Country Club
Norton's Yacht Sales
Norview Marina
Queens Creek Marina
Regent Point Marina
Riverwalk Landing
Salt Ponds Marina
Seaford Yacht Club
Severn Yachting Center
Smith Point Marina
Smithfield Station
Southall Landing Marina
Stingray Harbor Marina
Tides Marina
Two Rivers Yacht Club
Urbanna Town Marina at Upton's Point
Volvo Penta Test Center
Washington Sailing Marina
Whitehouse Cove Marina
Wormley Creek Marina
Yankee Point Sailboat Marina, Inc.
York River Yacht Haven

If you have been a Virginia Clean Marina but have not yet recertified this year, or if you would like to become a Virginia Clean Marina, please visit our Virginia Clean Marina Certification website.

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

The Virginia Department of Health has funds available for the installation and maintenance of vessel sewage pump-out and dump stations. The program is funded through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. Marinas that find themselves with increasingly higher maintenance costs should consider

applying for funding to replace their existing pump-out stations. Please contact Litta Paulson, Litta.Paulson@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7457 or Preston Smith, Preston.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7468, for more information on the Clean Vessel Act program and participation for Virginia marinas.

