



TOGA Annual Meeting Program and Schedule
Saturday, February 8, 2025 – 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Virginia Institute of Marine Science – Gloucester Campus
Waterman’s Hall Auditorium
As of January 15, 2025

1:00 –1:30 pm Check-in

Meet with agency representatives from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Department of Health and informal Q&A with experienced Master Oyster Gardeners and other oyster enthusiasts

1:30 pm Welcome

Sue Borra, President TOGA, Karen Hudson, VIMS

1:30 – 2:05 pm TOGA Business Meeting

- Treasurer’s Report - Brian Ingram, Treasurer
- 2024 TOGA Highlights - Sue Borra, President
- Oyster Gardening 101- A tremendous resource for TOGA Members- Richard Siciliano
- Election of Officers – Carl Zulick, Secretary
- Madison Board Award 2024 – Carl Zulick
- 2025 TOGA Goals – Carl Zulick
- Other TOGA Business (TBD)

**2:05 -2:20 pm Update from Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)
And the Master Oyster Gardener Program for 2025**

Karen Hudson, Science Advisor and VIMS Liaison to TOGA, VIMS

2:20– 2:30 pm TOGA Fellowship Endowment at VIMS Update-

Crystal Booker, Assistant Director of Donor Relations, Stewardship, and Alumni Engagement, VIMS

**2:30– 3:00 pm Presentations from the 2024 TOGA VIMS Fellowship Endowment
Recipients**

Investigating oyster reef resiliency in the Chesapeake Bay

Madison Griffin, Master’s Student, VIMS

***Workforce demands in shellfish culture for both Virginia and Florida
Eastern oyster and hard clam aquaculture industries***

Caela Gilsinan, Master’ s Student, VIMS

3:00– 4:00 pm Education Session

The Latest Information for Oyster Enthusiasts

Presenting The New 2025 Virginia Oyster Gardening Guide

Whether you are an experienced or beginning oyster gardener, this session will provide the most up-to-date facts you need to know!

Moderators:

Russell Mait and Carl Zulick, TOGA

Panel Presentation and Discussion with collaborators:

Savannah Longest, Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)

Adam Wood, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Karen Hudson, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, (VIMS)

Carl Zulick, MOG, TOGA

4:00 – 5:00 pm Social Hour with your Oyster Enthusiast Friends

Potluck- Please bring an oyster dish or favorite appetizer to share

Special Feature - **TOGA Basic Oyster Gardening 101**
from 10:00 – 11 45 AM at Waterman's Hall at VIMS.

This session provides beginning oyster gardeners and enthusiasts an introduction to setting up your own oyster garden. Conducted by Dr. Richard Siciliano, Master Oyster Gardeners, this program will touch on topics such as starting and maintaining your garden, health and safety considerations, understanding oyster anatomy and where to find all the resources you need. You can sign up for this special session on the Annual Meeting Registration form.

REGISTER FOR THE TOGA ANNUAL MEETING TODAY: To let us know that you plan to attend, please pre-register for the meeting, using this link: <https://forms.gle/qfZJoAmhX8adVkyG7>

If you plan to participate virtually in the annual meeting, a link will be sent to the email address on your registration form.
