SIERRA CLUB
VIRGINIA CHAPTER
FOLD COUNTY CHAPTER

April 2024 Newsletter

Falls of the James Group

Pileated woodpecker hunting ants in an old tree stump. Photo courtesy of Andrew Peacock.

April 9th FOJG Program

The Chickahominy Indian Tribe's Acquisition of Ancestral Lands and Their Importance to Cultural and Environmental Preservation

Reggie Stewart, 2nd Assistant Chief of the Chickahominy Tribe Courtesy of Reggie Stewart

4/9/24 7:30 - 9:30 PM Program - The Chickahominy Indian Tribe's Acquisition of Ancestral Lands and Their Importance to Cultural and Environmental Preservation with Reggie Stewart, 2nd Assistant Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe. Join us in person or via Zoom for our April program. Reggie Stewart, 2nd Assistant Chief, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, will be the **2nd speaker for the evening.** Reggie Stewart will be presenting his talk via Zoom. **Reggie** is a Microbiologist by trade and is the son of Big Tim Stewart, 4th Chief.

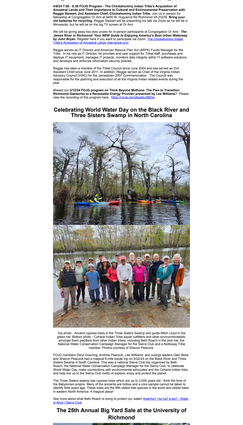
We will be giving away two (2) free Zoom tickets to participate at Chickahominy Tribe. **Please send an email to fojg@sierraclub.org if you would like a ticket.** Tickets will be distributed **by lottery.** Registration for in person attendance at Sierra Club headquarters begins at 7:00 PM. Zoom will open at 7:30 PM.

Reggie serves as 2 Director and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Manager for the Tribe. He is also the Tribe's Cultural Resources Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal IT Director and Manager of projects, oversees daily employee and office activities, and develops and enforces information security policies.

Reggie has been a member of the Tribal Council since June 2014 and has served as 2nd Assistant Chief since 2019. He is also a member of the Chickahominy Tribal Council Advisory Council (VACC) for the Jamestown 2007 Commemoration. The Council was responsible for the planning and development of all the Virginia Indian related events during the year.

Moved out of **FOJG Kickoff Program on Trivia Beyond Wellness: The Plan to Transition Virginia's Economy from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy** on March 12th, 2024. Please view the recording of this program here. https://www.youtube.com/live/...

Celebrating World Water Day on the Black River and Three Sisters Swamp in North Carolina



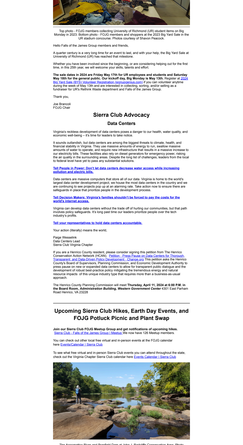
Top photo: Ancient cypress trees in the Three Sisters Swamp and guide Mark Lloyd in the green shirt pointing upward. Cypress knees, tree buttress roots and other anomalies are amongst their particulars from other Indian tribes, including Beth Roach in the pink hat, the Nansemond Indian Nation, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Upper Mattaponi Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe. Member, Photos courtesy of Sharon Peacock.

FOJG members Caryl Grainger, Andrew Peacock, Lee Williams, and outings leaders Glen Bass and Mark Lloyd, joined the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, and the Nansemond Indian Nation in North Carolina. This was a national Sierra Club and Indigenous Peoples celebration of World Water Day on the Black River and Three Sisters Swamp in Bladen County, North Carolina. Water quality, water conservation, and environmental justice were the topics of discussion.

The Three Sisters Swamp has cypress trees which are up to 1,000 years old. Some are from the Babylonian empire. Many of the ancients are hollow and a core sample cannot be taken to determine their age. Some of the ancients have closed over, creating a hollow cavern with a hidden or sealed tunnel entrance. A magical place!

See more about what Beth Roach is doing to protect our water! basketball (1).jpg (2.6 gigabytes) - Video in Photo Stamp Video

The 26th Annual Big Tard Sale at the University of Richmond



Top photo: FOJG members collecting University of Richmond (UR) student items on Big Monday in 2022 (Before photo). FOJG members and volunteers at the 2023 Big Tard Sale in the Gymnasium (After photo). Photos courtesy of Sharon Peacock.

Hello Falls of the James Group members and friends,

A quarter century is a long time for an event to take root and with years help, the Big Tard Sale at University of Richmond (UR) has reached that milestone.

Whether you have been involved since the beginning, or are considering helping out for the first time, we need your support to make this year's event a success.

The sale dates are April 24 and Friday May 17th for UR employees and students and Saturday May 18th for the general public. Our kickoff day Big Monday is May 13th. Sign up for 2024 Big Tard Sale SIGN Volunteer Registration (surveymonkey.com) **if you can volunteer anytime** between April 24 and May 18th. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt. Big Tard Sale is a fundraiser for UR's Athletic Marketing department and Falls of the James Group.

Thank you,

Joe Brennan
FOJG Chair

Sierra Club Advocacy

Data Centers

Virginia's reckless development of data centers is a threat to our health, water quality and economic well-being. VA Sierra Club is leading the fight against it.

It sounds substantial, but data centers are among the biggest threats to climate, health, and financial stability in Virginia. They use massive amounts of energy to run, weather-hardened diesel generators to back up the power, and millions of gallons of drinking water to cool down our electricity bills. These facilities also rely on diesel generators for emergency power, risking our health and the health of our children and communities. Data centers are the biggest threat to federal level and to pass any substantial statutory.

Tell People in Power: Don't let data centers decrease water access while increasing pollution and electricity costs.

Data centers are a threat to our health that we all can take. Virginia is already home to the largest data center development project, we house the most data centers in the country and we are the biggest target for data center development in the world. We need to take every step we can to safeguard a future that prioritizes people in the development process.

Tell Decision Makers: Virginia's families shouldn't be forced to pay the costs for the world's internet access.

Virginia data centers drive substantial the trade off of hurting our communities, but that profit goes to out-of-state corporations. It's long past time our communities people over the tech moguls's profits.

Tell your representatives to hold data centers accountable.

Yet even attended meeting hosted the week.

Paige Wesselink
Sierra Club Virginia
Sierra Club Virginia Chapter

If you are a Sierra Club member, please consider signing this petition from The Sierra Club Virginia Chapter and Sierra Club Virginia Legislative Committee, Protect Our Water, Chesapeake and Data Center Free Development - Virginia and The petition asks the Virginia General Assembly to pass legislation that would require data center developers to follow the process passed on now or suspended data centers to allow for transparent public dialogue and the opportunity for communities to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of data center projects and resource impacts of the unique industry type that requires more than a business as usual approval.

The Virginia County Planning Commission will meet Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room, Administration Building, Western Government Center 4301 East Parham Road Henrico, VA 23228

Upcoming Sierra Club Hikes, Earth Day Events, and FOJG Potluck Picnic and Plant Swap

Join our Sierra Club Meetup Group and get notifications of upcoming hikes and other events. Go to Meetup.com and search for Sierra Club Falls of the James.

You can check out other local hiking and in-person events at the FOJG calendar here Events/Calendar | Sierra Club

To see what fine virtual and in-person Sierra Club events you can attend throughout the state, check out the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club calendar here Events Calendar | Sierra Club

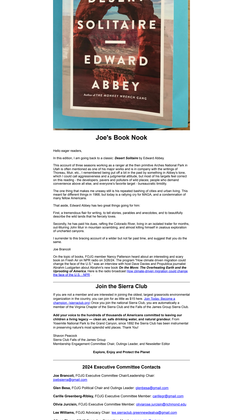
The Appomattox River and Pocahontas State Park in Petersburg, Virginia. Photo courtesy of Sharon Peacock.

4/13/24 10 AM - 12 PM Falls Hike at James J. Rizzi/Mt Concordia Area. We will hike a 1.5 mile loop trail along the Appomattox River and through a marsh and upland area. The site is a Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Conservation Easement. We will see mature hardwoods, a beaver lodge, and a variety of wildlife. Bring your binoculars and camera. The trail can also serve as the trail head for the Jack J. Rizzi Memorial Conservation Area, which consists of 31 acres of woodlands and wasteland along the Appomattox River. Rizzi Memorial Park is a 5 mile round trip hike. Leader: Glen Bass. Hard and rock fill trail of uneven footing through the uplands provide rewards of a unique view of the Appomattox River. Meet at the Walmart parking lot, 2000 Boulevard, Colonial Heights, Petersburg. Contact Leader is Sharon Peacock. Register here Fill out this form | Rappahannock Conservation Alliance

Andrew Peacock drying their socks. Photo courtesy of Doug Crawford.

4/13/24 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Bird Walk at Dogwood Dell. Join us for a 2-mile loop roughly follows the perimeter of Dogwood Dell. The trail goes in one direction through the woods of the James River before turning inland and hiking through less growth forest. Our leader is Andy Peacock. Bring your binoculars and camera. Meet at the Dogwood Dell Parking Lot. Bring a walking stick as there may be ticks. Contact Leader is Doug Crawford. Register here Fill out this form | Rappahannock Conservation Alliance

4/14/24 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Earth Day at The Science Museum of Virginia, 2000 W Broad St, Richmond. VA 23220. FOJG and Earth Day are celebrating Earth Day with the Science Museum of Virginia. Come and visit our booth and learn about our local environment. Since April 10, Science Museum members, Virginia educators, military personnel and children 2 and under have free admission. Enjoy a day of exploration and discovery. Science Museum of Virginia handed out activities to help guests learn more about composting, wetlands, local pollinators, and how to be more energy efficient in their homes. Visitors can also learn about Virginia's wildlife, savings and much more. Volunteers from the American Chemical Society Virginia Section will be on hand to talk about the Periodic Table of Elements and how it relates to our lives. Contact: LTG Spiritwing Eagle and Annie. Fundamental science project fashion Catch Em | Science Museum of Virginia, Richmond



The Japanese Garden at Maymont Park. Photo courtesy of Sharon Peacock.

4/14/24 10 AM - 12:30 PM Sierra Club Work Through Maymont 1700 Hampton St, Richmond, VA 23220. UR: Maymont is a 100-acre historic estate and park, located along the James River in the City of Richmond. Our work will include invasive species removal, trash pick-up, trail and signpost repairs, wildlife watch, and the beautification of the Japanese Garden. Contact Leader is Sharon Peacock. Register here Fill out this form | Rappahannock Conservation Alliance

Trail walking (distance will be about three miles. The path is paved or groomed, with some hills to climb. Bring your binoculars and camera. Contact Leader is Ralph Devine. Register here Fill out this form | Rappahannock Conservation Alliance

4/20/24 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - Earth Day at Presidential State Park 10301 State Park Rd, Chesterfield, VA 23832. Tree Office: Celebrate Earth Day by stopping by the tree office to learn about our tree inventory, tree care, and how to plant a tree. Tree Office Hours: Three Sands Friends will be come equipped with everything you need to pick up litter around the park. Bring your own bag, gloves, and reusable water bottle. Contact Leader is Sharon Peacock. Bluebird Trail: Enjoy the environmental sitting group back to it. Geocaching: Participate in a fun, family-friendly treasure hunt. Bring your own GPS or download the app on your phone. Contact Jim 804-414-4600 for reservations and more information.

4/20/24 10:00 am - 11:30 am Earth Day Celebration at Powhatan State Park 4015 Powhatan State Park Rd, Powhatan, VA 23139. Join us for a fun-filled morning at Powhatan State Park in honor of Earth Day, park members will celebrate these beautiful lands by creating plans for future improvements and conservation. Park staff will be on hand to discuss upcoming projects and uses Eastern Bluebird Trail Hunt: This is the only trail with an overnight, and accomplish will be assisted if you need help. **Supplies are limited, and a $10 registration fee is required.** Contact Leader is Ralph Devine. Bluebird Trail: Enjoy the environmental sitting group back to it. Bring your own lunch or snack, extra water if need to attend. Contact Leader is Sharon Peacock. Geocaching: Participate in a fun, family-friendly treasure hunt. Bring your own GPS or download the app on your phone. **Cost: $5 per person.** Contact Leader is Jim 804-414-4600 for reservations and more information.

4/20/24 11:00 pm Exercise in Earth Day at Deep Run 8400 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23233. There will be tree music, activities for all ages, and food truck refreshments. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. Contact Leader is Sharon Peacock. Bring your own lawn chairs, pulling, and a camera (not required). Learn about invasive species and how they impact our local ecosystem. Bring your own lawn chairs, pulling, and a camera (not required). Learn about invasive species and how they impact our local ecosystem. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and gloves. Bring your own lawn chairs, pulling, and a camera (not required). Learn about invasive species and how they impact our local ecosystem. Contact Leader is Sharon Peacock.

4/20/24 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Earth Day at Deep Creek in Richmond with Keep Richmond Green 4 Mt Vernon St, Richmond VA Reports Cleaner Deep Creek in Richmond Keep Richmond Green (KRG) and Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) Stewardship Saturday, April 20 Volunteers will meet at Ashland Park in Chesterfield County and spend the morning cleaning sections of left at Ferrets Park in Chesterfield. Project Leaders in Charge: Kevin Jones, Keep Richmond Green, Kevin@keeprichmondgreen.org, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

4/17/24 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Green Grotto Gathering Crystal Region Land Conservancy (CRLC) Join Mid Atlantic Gear Hall (crafted) 3409 W Leigh St, Richmond, VA 23230. This is a fun, family-friendly event with a variety of activities for all ages and abilities. Contact Leader is Director. This will be the Conservation Sign Hoisting where Green Grotto will learn about the Conservation Sign Hoisting and how it helps to protect the land and preserve it for future long-term long-term long-term. Please make sure to give your ticket for the April 11, 2024 gathering on Eventbrite. Register here

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/green-grotto-gathering-the-capitol-region-land-conservancy-tickets-...

4/13/24 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Chesterfield Outdoor Fair Chesterfield County Amphitheater 10000 Chesterfield, Chesterfield, VA 23832 and the Chesterfield Chesterfield Outdoor Fair, presented by CVH Certification, whose a family-friendly festival focused on the outdoor lifestyle, celebrating nature, wellness, and fun. Contact Leader is Director.

4/13/24 Bonfiddle Retail Outdoor Lunch and Learn 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Bonfiddle Outdoor Classroom at 1800 Hoover Street Richmond, VA 23220. In partnership with the Bonfiddle Retail Outdoor Lunch and Learn, Bonfiddle Retail Outdoor Lunch and Learn on Saturday, April 13th from 11 am - 1 pm in the Bonfiddle Outdoor Classroom. They will be hosting a Lunch and Learn with Sierra Club Virginia Chapter. Bring your own lunch. You can get involved in climate action as a leader. Lunch will be provided by Gold Leaf Community Kitchen. Contact Leader is Director. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. Contact Please RSVP at Eventbrite.com/signup to ensure they can order enough lunch for everyone.

4/17/24 3:00 pm The Race to Decarbonize: Manufacturing is a virtual event sponsored by the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Virginia's manufacturing industry is responsible for 20% of global growth in American manufacturing and offshore lost opportunities for modernization. Hybrid and electric vehicles are a major part of the future of the industry, but there are other workforce required to sustain its growth and how manufacturing can play a role in decarbonizing the economy. Contact Leader is The Race to Decarbonize Series Organizer.

Sunset Chanel: Tripadvisor Natural Foods Hot Therapy! Register here Sign Your Hands Sofa - Sunset Chanel | Tripadvisor Natural Foods

Tuesday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Sierra Club Family Life Greenhouse at 3801 Old Rd., Richmond, VA 23220.

Thursday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at 6th District Wine Farm 2600 Rocker Lane, Richmond, VA. **Saturday 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Amelia Community Greenhouse** at 20 Covington Rd, Richmond, VA 23220.

Sundays 4:00 - 6:00 pm Broad Rock Community Garden 404 S. Broad Rock Blvd., Richmond, VA 23224.

You can find all the detail up-to-date green events in Richmond City from the **Richmond City's Office of Sustainability monthly Highlights 2024 newsletter.** You can subscribe with this link.

Check out more environmental events on our FOJG Facebook page thanks to FOJG member Carol Greening's frequent sharing of environmental events! Or Sierra Club - Falls of the James - Facebook.

Joe's Book Nook

Hello readers,

In this edition, I am going back to a classic: **Desert Solitaire** by Edward Abbey.

This account of three seasons working as a ranger at the then primitive Arches National Park in Utah is often cantankerous and one of the major arts of the conflict with the ability of an author to write well. Abbey's prose is lyrical, poetic, and sometimes, as I said, cantankerous, which I could call aggressively and a judgmental attitude, but most of his targets feel correct and on point. Abbey's ire is directed at the tourists who are destroying the place with unmanaged commercial desire of cities, and visitors to Southern Utah. Contradictory feeling.

The one thing that makes me uneasy still is his repeated bashing of cities and urban living. This book was published in 1968, but Abbey is calling for a BIG return and a commandment of many fellow Americans.

That, I emphatically, Abbey has two great things going for him.

First, a tremendous flair for writing, to tell stories, provoke and anecdotes, and to beautifully describe the early desert that he loved.

Second, he was a man who was ahead of his time. The Colorado River, living in an isolated trailer for months, contributing both labor in mountain reclamation, and almost killing himself in shallow exploration of unfamiliar canyons.

Learn/listen to the meaning around of a wilderness trail or not but be part time, and suggest that you do the same.

Joe Brennan

On the topic of books, FOJG member Nancy Patterson heard about an interesting and scary book on Facebook by an NPR radio on 3/28/24. The program "How climate-driven migration could reshape the world" with Sonia Shah, author of the book, **The Next Great Migration: The Story of Human Mobility**. Shah's original article that inspired the book, **On the Move: The Overheating Earth and the Future of Human Mobility**, is a little shorter version but gives a little insight into what Shah has in the book. Nancy's comment: Sounds interesting but scary. Thank You!

Sharon Peacock
Sierra Club Falls of the James Group
Membership Engagement Committee Chair, Outings Leader, and Newsletter Editor

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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